

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

To understand more about Purim and the story behind the festival.

**CURRICULUM LINKS**

Religious education: QCA Unit 1D 'Beliefs and practice' – to understand that festivals are celebrations of symbolic significance for believers; Unit 2C 'Celebrations' – to understand that festivals are occasions for remembering particular events.  
Design and technology: KS1 2d – to assemble and join components accurately.

# Purim

**What you need**

Materials to make a 'gragger' including: cardboard tubes, card, dried peas or rice; copies of 'The story of Purim' and 'Make your own gragger' photocopiable pages 74 and 75.

**Background**

Purim is one of the liveliest and most entertaining of Jewish holidays. It celebrates the time when the Jewish people were saved by a young woman called Esther. It is usually held in the first weeks of March and there is lots of eating and drinking. Baskets of sweets, fruit, nuts, bagels and wine are sold and there are different types of pastries to eat. There are also carnivals and parades. One of the most important events during Purim is when the story of Esther is told in the synagogue. It is a noisy and rowdy occasion. The synagogue is crowded and many children dress up in costumes and masks. The Purim story has an evil character called Haman and, during the storytelling, everyone in the synagogue boos, hisses and rattles their 'graggers' whenever Haman's name is mentioned.

**What to do**

- Talk about the background to Purim and tell the children that they will be making 'graggers'.
- 'Graggers' make a rattling noise. Ask the children to think about what objects they might use to make this sound.
- Let the children work in small groups to experiment with various objects and containers to see which make the loudest rattle.
- They can then use photocopiable page 75 to design their own gragger. The children may want to substitute dried peas for some of the materials they tested earlier.
- The children should plan how they will decorate them, stressing that the graggers should be as bright and colourful as possible.
- The children can then make their instruments. These can be used to accompany a retelling of the story of Esther on photocopiable page 74. Remind the children that they must rattle their 'graggers' to make as much noise as possible every time Haman's name is mentioned.

**Differentiation**

More able children will be able to write their own version of the story of Esther or they could write their own instructions for making a gragger. Less able children will need help making their graggers.

