



The Magical Land of the Snake

By Archit Korke (9 Years Old)

Once upon a time there was a group of friends, Greeny the brave Green tree snake, Pythagorus the brainy small small Python, Sandy the cool Sand boa and Fangy the shy King cobra lived in a city called Snakeville.

Fangy had very long fangs which stuck out of his mouth which the bullies made fun of when he was alone away from his friends. His friends always protected him but still Fangy felt always targeted and was getting angrier and quieter.

Once in the school a bullies called ratty the rat snake and rattly the rattle snake found Fangy alone and caught him and put him upside down. They started teasing him loudly - fangy the big fat fang snakes - Ha Ha Ha!! Fangy was getting angrier and angrier.

His friends heard the teasing and started slithering towards him. Somehow, Pythagoras tripped over a stone and tumbled. Greeny and Sandy laughed at him. Unfortunately Fangy saw only their laughter and thought that even my friends were making fun of me. Fangy got so angry that he broke the rope and slithered away.

Fangy slithered the whole day wishing to take revenge against all the snakes in Snakeville. It became night and he came to a cold and dark place near the edge of the city. There he said loudly 'I am going to make all of the snakes in Snakeville pay.' Then a loud voice said, 'I can help you with



that'. A creature with limbs and big red eyes came out of the shadows. Fangy, slightly scared asked who are you? The creature said that I am The HUMAN! The creature said that take this potion and you can take the revenge you want. You will become stronger and you can turn all the snakes to stone. Boiling with anger, Fangy took the potion and he turned into a monster. Fangy said what have you done to me! The Human said tomorrow is Snak-o-ween. Everybody will think that you are wearing a costume.

Greeny and the gang were searching for Fangy the whole night and the next whole day as well. It started becoming dark, when Ratty and Rattly were teasing other snakes. Suddenly, they saw a monster slithering towards them. They thought that it was

another snake and started laughing at his ugly face. Fangy laughed and bit them, turning them into stone. The smaller snakes started screaming, even though they were innocent, in the anger Fangy turned them into stones as well.

Fangy then went to Greeny's house. Greeny was not at home, still looking for Fangy, but his Father and Mother thinking Fangy to be another trick or treater looked at him and smiled. However, Fangy thought that they were laughing at him and turned them into stones.

Fangy got more angrier and was turning everyone into stone. Greeny and the gang, tired looking, came back home. They thought that the street was very quiet for

Snake-o-ween. When he came home he saw that his parents were like a stone statue. He was in Shock!! Then they went out and saw that everyone had turned to stone.

Greeny said that this is not good! We need to stop whoever is doing this. They started following the trail of destruction created by Fangy. They reached the town square where they saw a monster snake biting everyone.

Greeny said that we need to stop this monster. Pythagoras built a slingshot with which they could throw stones at the monster. Greeny and the gang then started throwing stones at Fangy! Pythagoras had designed it so well that all the stones hit Fangy. Fangy was getting dizzy with every hit but when he looked at who was throwing them, he got more angrier and ran towards them. As Fangy came closer to them, Greeny and the gang realized that he was Fangy. Greeny stopped the firing, and started cheering to have found Fangy. But before they could realize Fangy bit Sandy and turned them into stone.

Greeny and Pythagoras were shocked and ran away and hid. They couldn't believe what had happened. However, now they realized that they had first save the town snake and also Fangy. Pythagoras designed a rope throwing gun. Then they went again behind Fangy and from a long distance threw the rope. The aim of Greeny was accurate but unfortunately Fangy couldn't be tied. But Greeny being the Bravest of the lot leaped and held Fangy down and quickly tied him down.

Fangy started screaming and shouting and yelling! And tried to wiggle out. However,

eventually he got tired and gave up. Then Greeny asked very caringly, "Fangy what has gotten into you?" Fangy replied because you all laughed at me when I was upside down being bullied by Ratty and Rattly. Greeny, realising what had happened explained to him the whole story. Now Fangy felt really bad and realised his mistake! He felt guilty that he did such bad things in the fit of anger.

Fangy told Greeny how he got this power and they decided to go to The Human. Thankfully, Pythagoras had invented a gun that shoots electricity. They then reached the edge of the city where Fangy had found the Human. The Human thinking that Fangy had returned alone asked 'Is Snakeville now a Stoneville! Ha Ha Ha!! But Fangy said No!!! And my friends are going to show you what we Snakes can do to you! With that Greeny fired the gun and electrocuted The Human. He fell down and Greeny said give us the antidote for Fangy and others. The Human laughed 'Never!!!' but then Greeny shot another electric beam at him. The Human said 'Aaaaa... Alright I will give it to you!' Greeny took the antidote and warned The Human to never come back to Snakeville.

Fangy drank the antidote and turned back to his self. Then the heroes went back to Snakeville and one by one turned everyone back to normal.

The End -

Moral of the story: **'Don't jump to conclusions without knowing the facts. One should not get blinded by anger.'**

The Dragon and the apple

By Reyansh Baraley
(8 years old)



Once upon a time, there was a dragon named Max. He wanted to eat an orange so he went to the orange tree and he ate one orange. It was very very bad so he went to the banana tree and he ate a banana. The banana was also very very very bad and so like that he didn't like a single fruit. Then, his mother told him "You have to eat a fruit". So Max said he wanted to try the Apple. He ate an apple but he didn't like it. So Max decided to keep on eating apples until he liked one. Finally, he came across a green apple and when he bit into it, and he loved it!

Moral of the story: **if you don't like something, keep on trying and don't give up until you get something you like.**



Fun Quiz On Animals

By Himani Bhaktani (13 Years Old)

1. Which is the National aquatic animal of India?

- a. Shark
- b. Dolphin
- c. Whale

2. Water pollution creates problems for aquatic animals to survive.

- a. True
- b. False

3. DNA

- a. is a material that carries all information about how a living thing will look and function.
- b. Cell membrane

4. Animals use

- a. gills or
- b. lungs for breathing?
- c. Both (i) and (ii)



5. Are the claws of the cats retractile?

- a. Yes
- b. No

6. Does a cat's retina have a layer which reflects light?

- a. Yes
- b. No

7. Which cat likes to live in a large family?

- a. Tiger
- b. Persian
- c. Lion

8. Are cats generally nocturnal in habit?

- a. Yes
- b. No

9. Do snakes use their scales and muscles to move?

- a. Yes
- b. No



10. Snakes do not have external ears, so how do they hear? Sense vibration through their jaw, nerve receptors under the skin, and receptors connecting to their inner ears.

11. What are the types of venom used by snakes?

- a. Hemotoxin
- b. Neurotoxins
- c. Both

12. Are snakes important for maintaining ecological balance?

- a. Yes
- b. No

13. Leopards can hear five times as many noises as humans?

- a. Yes
- b. No

14. Do panthers have swimming ability?

- a. Yes
- b. no

15. What types of noises amongst the vocalizations made by leopards?

- a. Grunts
- b. Roars
- c. Growls
- d. Meows
- e. Sawings
- f. All of the above



16. Panthers can survive for how many years if not in captivity?

- a. 12 years
- b. 20 years

17. What does the word amphibians mean?

18. Amphibians were the first vertebrates to appear on land?

- a. Yes

b. No

19. Baby amphibians look completely different from their parents?

a. True

b. False

20. Most amphibians breathe through their skins though some might have gills in their younger years?

a. True

b. False

21. What is the average lifespan of peafowls in the wild?

a. 15 years

b. 20 years



22. Peafowls have feathers on their tail which are beautiful and bright in color?

a. Only Male peafowls or

b. Only Female peafowls

23. Which is the national Bird of India?

a. Peafowl

b. Peacock

24. What are the eating habits of peafowls?

a. Omnivorous

b. Carnivorous

25. What is the normal lifespan of a snow leopard in the wild?

a. 10 to 12 years

b. 20 to 22 years

26. Whale is a -

a. mammal or

b. amphibian

27. An adult Whale can eat up how many tons of food daily?

a. 2 ton

b. 1 ton

28. A lion sleeps up to how many hours a day?

a. 18

b. 15



आकाशाशी जडवा नाते !!



निरभ्र आकाशात.. अंधाऱ्या रात्री.. शहरापासून दूर.. काळोख्या ठिकाणावरून आकाशदर्शन करताना असंख्य चांदण्यांचा सडा पडलेला दिसतो. निसर्गाच्या या अनोख्या आणि अभिजात अविष्काराला काय उपमा द्यावी हे समजतच नाही. निसर्गाचा हा अविष्कार मानव फार पूर्वीपासून अनुभवत आला आहे. आजच्या खगोलशास्त्रीय परिभाषेत याला " नाइट स्काय ऑब्झर्वेशन " असे म्हणतात. जगभरात याला " स्टार पार्टी " असेही म्हणतात.

साधारणपणे " नाइट स्काय ऑब्झर्वेशन " म्हटले की आपल्या डोळ्यांसमोर आदल्या दिवशीच्या सूर्यास्तापासून ते दुसऱ्या दिवशीच्या सूर्योदयापर्यंतचा काळ येतो. या अंदाजे १२ तासांच्या काळात खूप काही बघण्यासारखे व शिकण्यासारखे असते. खगोलशास्त्राची गोडी लागण्यासाठी व गोडी लागल्यानंतर त्याचा अधिक उत्तम अभ्यास करण्यासाठी आकाशदर्शनाइतके प्रभावी दुसरे कोणतेही साधन नाही. खगोलशास्त्रात आकाशदर्शनाला पर्याय नाही.

आकाशदर्शन कधी करावे? याला काही ठराविक नियम नाहीत. दर ऋतूमानानुसार आकाशस्थ गोष्टी बदलताना दिसतात. साधारणपणे पावसाळ्यानंतर आकाशदर्शनाला सुरुवात करावी. पावसामुळे वातावरणातील धूळ खाली बसते आणि त्यानंतर येणाऱ्या हिवाळ्यामध्ये दिवस लहान व रात्री मोठ्या होत जातात. त्यामुळे हा काळ आकाशदर्शनासाठी वर्षातील सर्वोत्तम काळ होय. या काळात आकाशदर्शनास सुरुवात केल्यास तुमची ही आवड आयुष्यभरासाठी वृद्धिंगत होऊ शकते. ही गोष्ट मी स्वानुभवावरून सांगू शकतो.

आकाशदर्शनासाठी दुर्बिण हवीच, असा एक गैरसमज आढळून येतो.

आकाशदर्शन हे नुसत्या डोळ्यांनी, द्विनेत्रीमधून (बायनॉक्युलर्स), तसेच दुर्बिणीच्या (टेलिस्कोपच्या) माध्यमातून करावे. नुसत्या डोळ्यांच्या व द्विनेत्रिच्या माध्यमातून आधी आकाशाशी उत्तम नाते जडवावे आणि मगच दुर्बिणीचा आग्रह धरावा.

कृत्रिम उपग्रह, चंद्राच्या कला, सुंदर धूमकेतू, डोळ्यांची पारणे फेडणारा सुंदर उल्कावर्षाव, सूर्य - चंद्राची ग्रहणे, ग्रहांच्या युत्या, बुध - शुक्राची अधिक्रमणे, सौरडागांचे निरीक्षण, सूर्याच्या प्रकाशात शुक्र ग्रह शोधणे, नक्षत्रदर्शन, इत्यादी अनेक सुंदर खगोलिय घटनांचा आकाशदर्शनात समावेश होतो. उन्हाळ्यात आपल्याकडून म्हणजेच खगोलिय उत्तर गोलार्धातून आपल्या आकाशांगेचा खूप सुंदर असा पट्टा काळोख्या ठिकाणांवरून दिसू शकतो. याला आपण " समर मिल्की वे " असे संबोधतो. बुध, शुक्र, मंगळ, गुरु, शनी आणि अंधाऱ्या जागेवरून युरेनस हे ग्रह नुसत्या डोळ्यांनी दिसू शकतात. पाच इंच किंवा त्यापेक्षा मोठ्या व्यासाच्या दुर्बिणीचा वापर केल्यास बुध - शुक्राच्या कला, मंगळावरील बर्फाच्या टोप्या, गुरु व त्याच्या भोवती पिंगा घालणारे त्याचे उपग्रह, शनी व त्याची विलोभनीय कडी, इत्यादी गोष्टी व्यवस्थितपणे दिसू शकतात.

आकाशदर्शन करणे म्हणजेच आपल्या भूतकाळाचा अभ्यास करणे होय. अगदी सर्वात जवळ असणाऱ्या आपल्या चंद्रा पासून ते मानवाने आत्तापर्यंत शोधलेली सर्वात दूरची खगोलिय वस्तू आपण भूतकाळातच पहात असतो. तसेच अंतराळातील अफाट अंतरे मोजण्याकरता आपण प्रकाशवर्ष अर्थात लाइटइयर या परिमाणाचा प्रभावीपणे वापर करतो. एका सेकंदाला तीन लाख कि. मी. एवढ्या प्रचंड वेगाने प्रवास करणारा प्रकाश एका वर्षात किती अंतर पार करून गेला त्याला एक प्रकाशवर्ष असे म्हणतात. सूर्या पासून निघालेला प्रकाश पृथ्वी पर्यंत पोहोचण्यासाठी साधारणपणे ८ मि. २० सें. लागतात. याचाच अर्थ आपण रोज ८ मि. २० सें. जूना सूर्य बघत असतो. म्हणजेच सूर्य जर अचानकपणे प्रकाशाचा थांबल्यास आपल्याला ८ मि.२० सें. समजेल. अशा प्रकारे आपण भूतकाळात पहात असतो.

पुण्याचा विस्तार झपाट्याने होत आहे. धूर, धूळ, प्रदूषण, दिव्यांचा झगमगाट यामुळे शहरी भागातून आकाशदर्शन करणे जवळपास अशक्य झाले आहे. तरीही आपल्याला रात्रीच्या आकाशात दिसणारे व्याध,



अगस्ती, मित्र, स्वाती, अभिजीत, डेनेब, असे २४ तेजस्वी तारे व्यवस्थितपणे दिसू शकतात. अमावस्येच्या रात्री अंधाऱ्या ठिकाणावरून आपणास जवळपास तीन हजार तारे दिसू शकतात.

काळोख्या ठिकाणावरून डोळ्यांना थोडा त्रास दिल्यास आपणास देवयानी आकाशागंगा, पुष्य नक्षत्र, ओमेगा सेंटॉवरी, इत्यादी आकाशस्थ गोष्टी दिसल्यामुळे आकाशदर्शनाची ऊर्मी अजून वाढत जाते. देवयानी आकाशागंगा हा पृथ्वीवरून आकाशदर्शन करताना नुसत्या डोळ्यांना दिसणारा सर्वात दूरचा खगोलिय घटक आहे. त्याचे आपल्यापासूनचे अंतर फक्त साडेबावीस लाख प्रकाशवर्षे आहे. यावरूनच तुम्हाला आकाशदर्शन करताना येणाऱ्या आनंदाची कल्पना यावी. आकाशदर्शन व्यवस्थित करण्यासाठी निरीक्षकाने जर " सेलेस्टियल कोऑर्डिनेट सिस्टिम " (सोप्या भाषेत आकाश निरीक्षणासाठी आवश्यक असणारी शास्त्रीय व गणिती पद्धत) योग्य पद्धतीने शिकून घेतल्यास त्याला जगभरातून कोणत्याही ठिकाणावरून आकाशदर्शन करता येऊ शकेल. याकरिता निरीक्षक अॅस्ट्रॉनॉमी क्लबचा सभासद होऊ शकतो.

आकाशातील विविध तारकासमूहांना लक्षात ठेवण्यासाठी विविध मायथॉलॉजिकल आकारांचा व गोष्टींचा उपयोग केल्यास ते तारकासमूह कायमचे लक्षात राहू शकतात. आकाशनिरीक्षणासाठी निरीक्षकाने स्वतःची नोंद वही (लॉग बुक) जरूर वापरावी. कारण याचा उपयोग आयुष्यभरासाठी होतो.

आकाशदर्शनाला चालना मिळावी यासाठी वर्षातून दोन वेळा " अॅस्ट्रॉनॉमी डे " साजरा करण्यात येतो. यावर्षी ७ मे आणि १ ऑक्टोबर रोजी " अॅस्ट्रॉनॉमी डे " साजरे करण्यात येतील. त्यासाठी हा लेखनप्रपंच. आकाशदर्शनाची मनापासून आवड निर्माण झाल्यास असे वेगळे " अॅस्ट्रॉनॉमी डेज " साजरे करण्याची वेळ येणार नाही. त्यामुळेच, आकाशाशी नाते जडवा आणि निसर्गाच्या या अनोख्या अविष्काराचे साक्षी बना.

- अमित वि. पुरंदरे

खगोलशास्त्र अभ्यासक

The Iron Lady

By Shubha Pradhan

On the occasion of "Women's Day", I would like to salute the "Iron Lady", the Mother Teresa of Maharashtra or "Anantanchi Mai", Sindhutai Sapkal who passed away this year on the 4th of January.

Having adopted and nurtured more than thousand orphans picked up from the railway stations and garbage dumps, she mothered the old, the needy and the helpless abandoned children as well as elders although she herself was a beggar.

At the age of 20 she was driven away by her husband in the ninth month of her pregnancy. She delivered her baby in a cow shed on her own in an unconscious state.

Twice she tried to commit suicide but was saved miraculously.

Having failed in that attempt she then decided to live only for others and not for herself. She would sing songs and bhajans in her melodious voice in the railway boggies, like any other beggar. She would then share her food and money with other helpless and needy beggars on the platform at the end of the day. Her hard and noble work was slowly recognised by various social workers and philanthropic organizations.

She would be invited by them for narrating her heart-wrenching experiences of life. All the money she got she contributed to her



orphanage.

People started donating for her noble cause.

For her exemplary noble work of caring for the needy, Sindhutai received more than 750 awards from the various National and international organisations including the "Nari Shakti" award and the "Padma Shri" Award that was conferred upon her in 2021.

Today her trust has a building of their own in Pune where her orphanage is run. It has facilities like computer room, big hall for cultural activities, study room, library all that works on solar system.

Sindhutai would care for these orphans until they became independent or got married and became independent financially.

Her family today, consists of 1050 orphaned children. She has 207 sons and 36 daughters in law who are taking ahead the Noble work of this unique Iron Lady of Maharashtra,

Mother of Orphans or Anantanchi Mai.. Sindhutai Sapkal.

I pay tribute to this strongest lady I have ever seen, who had absolutely nothing in her hands and has yet done so much for the noble, social cause.

There is a lot to learn from this true to life FIGHTER WOMAN.

- Never to give up, even in the most adverse conditions.
- God helps those who help others.
- If you live only to give, you are never short of any thing in life.
- If you live for others you forget your own sorrows.
- Have a purpose to your life.

All these are actual teachings of Bhagwad Gita that she practically lived all her life. A small tribute to this true Karma Yogi.

सुभाषित मौक्तिकम्

Nainesh Kuchekar

सुभाषित हमारे जीवन का एक अंग है। वह हमें अच्छी बातों के लिए प्रेरित करता है और बुरी बातों से बचाता है। सुभाषितों में छोटे-छोटे वाक्यों से और छोटे-छोटे उदाहरणों से जीवन का सार समझाया जाता है। अपने पूर्वजों का बहुत बड़ा ज्ञान सुभाषित केवल दो वाक्यों में ही समझाता है। इस कारण यह कहा जाता है कि,

सुभाषित जैसे गागर में सागर देखने जैसा है।

सुभाषित शब्द का अर्थ है : सु - भाषित अर्थात्

१) ऐसी बात, वचन या उक्ति जो अच्छी लगे।

२) वह उक्ति या कथन जो बहुत ही प्रिय और सुंदर लगे।

३) वह उक्ति जो अच्छे प्रकार से कथित या परिभाषित हो।

तो आज से हम ऐसे ही कुछ सुभाषितों का सार ग्रहण करेंगे।

सुभाषित बंधनं वर्तते यावत् तावत्सम्मार्जनी शुभा।

बंधमुक्ता यदि स्यात् चेत्भवेत्तवकरः स्वयम्।।

पदविग्रह बंधनं वर्तते यावत् तावत् सम्मार्जनी शुभा।

बंधमुक्ता यदि स्यात् चेत् भवेत् अवकरः स्वयम्।।

शब्दार्थ यावत् - जब तक, तावत् - तब तक, सम्मार्जनी - झाड़ू, अवकर - कचरा

भावार्थ मनुष्य जीवन में बंधनों का बहुत महत्व है। विविध बंधनों से ही मनुष्य जीवन विकसित होता है। जैसे इस श्लोक में कहा गया है कि, जब तक झाड़ू बंधा हुआ होता है तब तक वह कचरा निकालने के काम आता है। परंतु उसका बंधन टूट जाने पर वह स्वयं कचरा बन जाता है।

Celebrate holi with homemade eco-friendly colors

By Sayali Rajebahadur

Holi, 'the festival of colors', is celebrated in the spring season, which is a period between end of winter and advent of summer.

Traditionally, Holi colours were derived from natural sources. Our forefathers knew what & how to use which was locally available for making colors. The colours used by them were made from plants & plant parts like Neem, Haldi, Bilva, Palash (etc) and bright flowers that blossomed during the spring season.

These days, the market is mostly flooded with synthetic colors, which are cheaper & readily available. These colors not only impacts humans but also the environment at large.

They usually comprise of toxic components/industrial dyes such as lead oxide, diesel, chromium iodine, and copper sulphate which lead to rashes on the skin, allergies, pigmentation, and eye irritation.

To mention few, artificial green color might contain copper sulphate and can cause problems like eye allergy and temporary blindness, red color have mercury sulphite, a highly toxic which can cause skin cancer.

The environmental impact of these toxic & chemicals are beyond words. Soil & water pollution seems to be irreversible & a major threat.

So, let us do our part & make eco-friendly holi colors at home this year & enjoy the festival of colors.

(A) How to make dry powdered natural colors-

Yellow, pink and green color.

Ingredients:

(1) Pinkish/ reddish holi color powder:

- 1 small beetroot
- 1 cup cornflour
- 1/4-1/2cup water
- To make the pinkish color, grind beetroot in to fine purée without adding water to it.
- Mix cornflour to this paste, spread it in a plate, let it dry under shade for a 1 day, then grind it in to a fine powder and we have natural pinkish holi color ready for use.

(2) Green powder:

- 10-15 spinach leaves □
- 1 cup cornflour
- 1/4-1/2 cup water
- To make the green color, boil the spinach for 5 minutes in water. Drain and grind without adding water to get a fine puree.
- Mix everything well, spread it in a plate & let it dry under shade for a 1 day, then grind it & fine powdered natural green holi color is ready.

(3) Yellow powder:

- 3-4 tablespoon turmeric powder
- 1 cup chick pea flour (besan)/cornflour
- 1/4-1/2 cup water
- Mix everything well, spread it in a plate & let it dry under shade for a 1 day then grind it & fine powdered yellow natural holi color is ready.



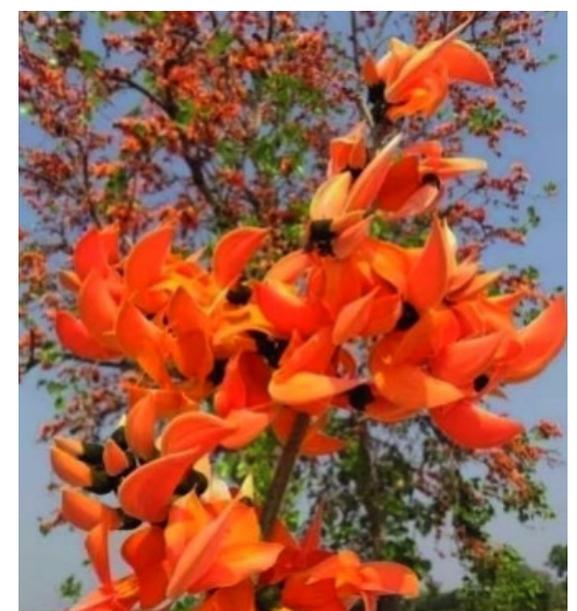
(4) If you are lucky to have Palash trees (Flame of forest) near by as I do, dry it's flowers, make powder, mix it with cornflour & water in above proportion to get bright natural saffron color.

(5) I made liquid saffron holi color by soaking Palash flowers overnight and then boiling it. What a beautiful saffron splash!

(B) Alternative options

If you find the above process difficult, you can simply buy liquid or powdered food colouring from the market.

Liquid eco-friendly holi colors Liquid food colours like yellow, blue, red, green, etc can be easily mixed with water to obtain wet colours.



- (1) Take 2 bowl of corn starch powder.
- (2) 1-2 table spoon of dry powdered food color of your choice.
- (3) 1 table spoon of talcum powder to it.
- (4) Now mix all this with 1 bowl of water or rose water, spread it in a plate & leave it to dry in shade for 5-6 hours.
- (5) When the mixture dries up, grind it into a fine powder using a mixer grinder. Your eco-friendly holi is ready.



I have been making such colors since 4-5 years. Have made with my kids & in society, with UnSchool kids & everyone loves it.

Do take a step, refuse chemical holi colors. Try these color & see the change.

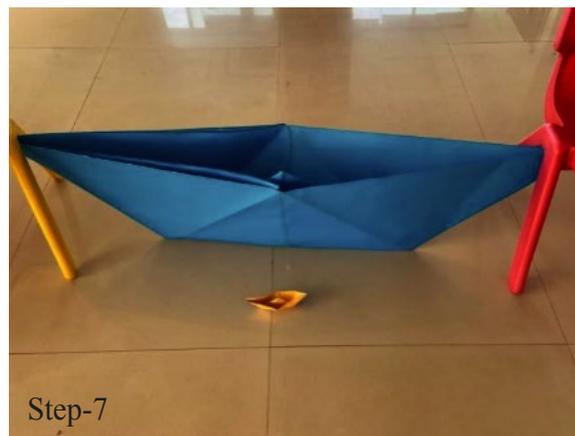
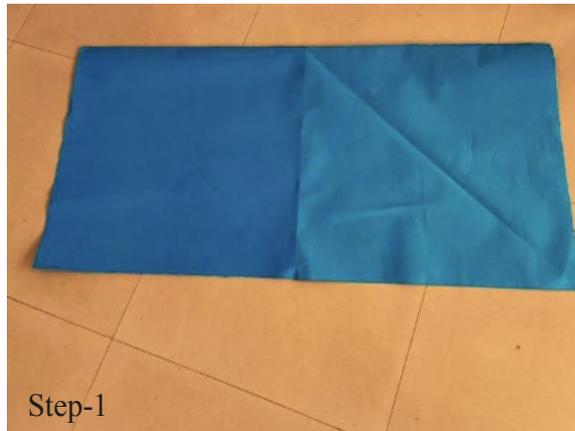
Best part is not only making it but post-celebration cleanup, it's lot more easier & less fuzzy! :)

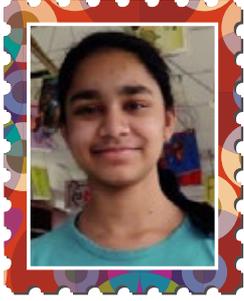


Origami Giant Boat

By Madhav & Ayaansh

- 1) Used 120 cm square blue tinted paper for making gaint origami boat as against normal 15 cm square origami paper (yellow in color)





*Pragma – Team Swaroop
(Age 12)*

Hi I am Pragma...Painting is my passion.
I like to listen to music as well



Vaidik Team Swaroop (Age 9)

Hi I am Vaidik , I like to do saili with Kapil.
I like to paint as well.



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