Venture into Purim
A jkidphilly Holiday Toolkit

Purim Celebrations around the World

In a Sephardic synagogue in London, **England**, congregants write the name of Haman on a paper and erase it when his name is read.

In **France**, children took smooth stones and would write or engrave Haman's name on them, and strike them together during the Megillah reading whenever Haman's name was mentioned, in order to erase it.

Jews in Salonika, a city in **Greece**, bake "Haman-shaped" cakes on the eve of the Shabbat before Purim and place them on the window ledges until the festive Purim meal. During the meal, the cakes resliced so that participants can "devour Haman".

In Bukhara, **Uzbekistan**, the ground is usually covered with snow at Purim. A snow-Haman is built next to the synagogue. After the Purim meal, the community gathers around the Haman and a A large fire is made of wood, rags and paper. They stand and watch until Haman melts in the heat and disappears, singing until it is completely melted.

In **North America,** Purim is traditionally celebrated with the reading of the megillah (Purim story), carnivals with prizes and games for children, and festive costume parades.

In Mumbai, **India** Purim is celebrated by singing, 'Esther Ranichi Katha' — the tale of Queen Esther – sung to Hindu temple tunes accompanied by musical instruments like Dholak and Harmonium.

The Festival of Santa Esterica is a holiday that was created as a substitute for Purim by the Sephardic Jews forced to convert to Catholicism after their expulsion from Spain in the late 15th century. It is still celebrated today in parts of the **Southwestern United States** and **Latin America.** The festival is about a fictional "Catholic" saint called "Esterica" who was heavily based upon Queen Esther.

Jews in **Morocco** bake challahs called *Ojos de Haman* (Haman's eyes), which include almonds and two unpeeled hard-boiled eggs.

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