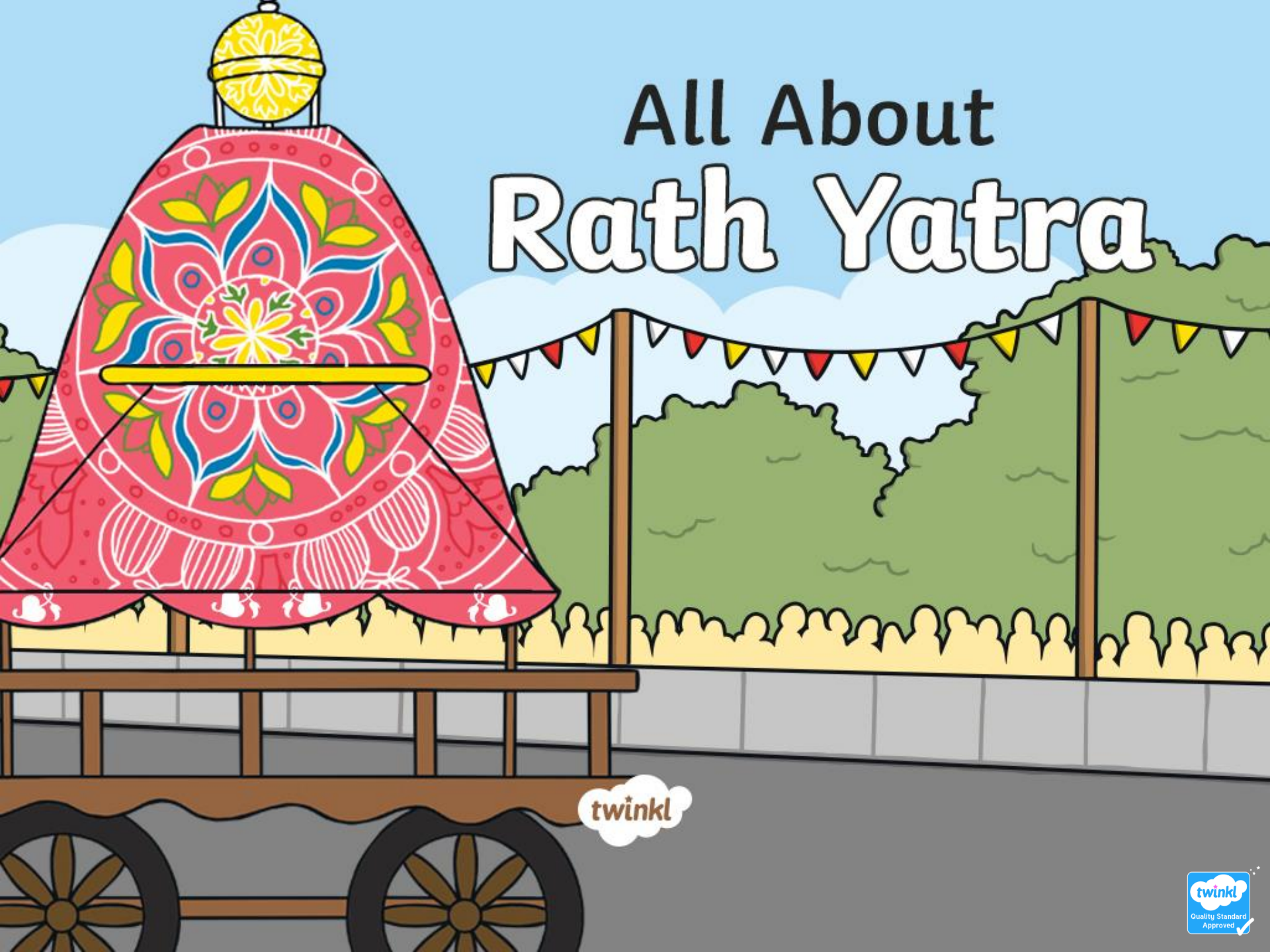
All About
Rath Yatra
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The Chariot Festival

Rath Yatra is an important Hindu festival, which takes place during the summer.

- Rath means 'chariot', so the name of the event means chariot festival.
- It is celebrated worldwide, but the most famous festival is in Puri, India.

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Lord Jagannath

The festival is in celebration of the god, Lord Jagannath, and his sister and brother.

- Three statues of the gods are taken from their temple in Puri, to a temple 2km away, in the countryside.

- The statues are made of wood and decorated with bright colours.

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The Chariots

The three statues travel on brightly-coloured chariots, or 'rath'. The chariots are as big as a temple.

- They are pulled by thousands of people who believe they are blessed if they carry out this job.

- The chariots are built using special measurements, which have religious meaning. They are also made from wood.

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The Parade

It is very exciting when the chariots actually begin to move!

It is an impressive parade, with people coming from miles around to join in.

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Everyone Joins In

Many people are involved with making the chariots, including artists and carpenters.

Traditional songs are sung and tambourines, drums and trumpets are played. The procession is huge and it can be dangerous when pulling the chariots.

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A Festival for All

People from all countries and religions are welcome to join the festivities.

It is a wonderful time for people to unite around the world.

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