

HIGHSCHOOL

HISTORY: The Origins of Easter Celebrations

The word "Easter" is named after Easter, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. A festival was held in her honor every year at the vernal equinox.

People celebrate Easter according to their beliefs and their religious denominations. Christians commemorate Good Friday as the day that Jesus Christ died and Easter Sunday as the day that He was resurrected. Protestant settlers brought the custom of a sunrise service, a religious gathering at dawn, to the United States.

Who is the Easter Bunny?

Today on Easter Sunday, many children wake up to find that the Easter Bunny has left them baskets of candy. He has also hidden the eggs that they decorated earlier that week. Children hunt for the eggs all around the house. Neighborhoods and organizations hold Easter egg hunts, and the child who finds the most eggs wins a prize.

The Easter Bunny is a rabbit-spirit. Long ago, he was called the "Easter Hare", hares and rabbits have frequent multiple births so they became a symbol of fertility. The custom of an Easter egg hunt began because children believed that hares laid eggs in the grass. The Romans believed that "All life comes from an egg." Christians consider eggs to be "the seed of life" and so they are symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Why we dye, or color, and decorate eggs is not certain. In ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome and Persia eggs were dyed for spring festivals. In medieval Europe, beautifully decorated eggs were given as gifts.

In England, Germany and some other countries, children rolled eggs down hills on Easter morning, a game which has been connected to the rolling away of the rock from Jesus Christ's tomb when he was resurrected. British settlers brought this custom to the New World.

Reading Comprehension Activity: Read the text and answer the following questions.

1. When is Easter celebrated?
2. Why is it called Easter?
3. How do Christian people celebrate Easter?
4. What does the Bunny represent in the story?
5. What do “eggs” symbolize in this tradition?

VIDEOS

Easter history: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL8R158Ujp4>

Why do we eat eggs on Easter?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHONMx7cJK0>

What does a bunny have to do with Easter?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfeViXa45aw>

Creative Easter Egg Coloring Tips! 25 Ways to Dye Easter Eggs!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjpWM6ds6K0>

Crossword activity:



CHOCOLATE WORD SEARCH

Chocolate bunnies may be popular during Easter Holidays, but there are many more kinds of chocolate delights that people enjoy all year 'round. Search the puzzle below to find twenty-one chocolate treats!

CHOCOLATE WORD LIST

BAR
 BUNNY
 CAKE
 CANDY
 CHIPS
 COOKIES
 DROPS
 EGGS
 FONDUE
 FOUNTAIN
 FUDGE
 ICECREAM
 MILK
 PIE
 PRETZELS
 SAUCE
 SPRINKLES
 SYRUP
 TART
 TRUFFLE
 WAFERS

