

EASTER TRADITIONS

Watch the [video](#) "Unique Easter Traditions Around the World" by Brilliant Thinking.

1 WARM UP: EASTER WORDS

Task 1: Can you name the Easter-related things shown in the pictures? **Open to students ideas as they could go into more detail into the representation etc. of each image.**



1. **Easter Bunny.**



2. **Church.**



3. **Crucifixion.**



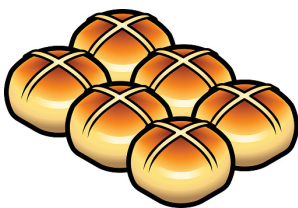
4. **Resurrection.**



5. **Easter eggs.**



6. **Spring.**



7. **Hot cross bun.**



8. **Parade.**



9. **Cross.**

Task 2: Answer the following questions:

1. How do the words relate to Easter? Give a brief description for each one.
2. What comes to mind when you hear the word 'Easter'?
3. Is Easter a national holiday in your country?
4. How do you think Easter is similar to or different from other religious holidays?
5. What do you normally do on Easter?

2 VIDEO: EASTER TRADITIONS

Task 1: Match the country from the box to their traditions detailed in the [video](#).

Guatemala	New Zealand	Czech Republic
Poland	Israel	Italy

1. **Guatemala.**

During Holy Week, locals create vibrant carpets from flowers, fruits, vegetables, and sawdust, depicting stories from the country's and Mayan religious history. On Good Friday, heavy floats with statues of Jesus and Mary are carried by 50-100 people.

2. **Jamaica.**

Instead of traditional hot cross buns, they enjoy Easter buns and cheese. On Holy Thursday, elders perform "egg setting" to predict the future. Easter Sunday transforms into a vibrant celebration with church services and carnival "jumping" festivities.

3. **Czech Republic.**

On Easter Monday in this country, a unique tradition happens as boys make whips from willow branches, adorned with ribbons. They then run through the town and whip girls for luck and fertility, all while singing a disturbing nursery rhyme about an egg.

4. **Italy.**

In this country, Easter is traditionally solemn, but one of their cities has a unique custom dating back 350 years. Called Scoppio del Carro, locals push a cart filled with fireworks to the cathedral. The archbishop lights the fireworks, symbolising prosperity for the year.

5. **Poland.**

This country celebrates 'Wet Monday'. In this nationwide day-long water fight, people try to drench others with buckets of water, hoses, and water guns! This tradition isn't just to annoy other people, legend says that women who get wet will get married soon!

6. **New Zealand.**

In this country, Easter bunnies aren't loved like they are in other parts of the world. In fact, rabbits were a problem in the past, so there is now an Easter tradition of hunting rabbits. Adults compete, and the winner gets a trophy and \$3500.

7. **Israel.**

In this country where Easter began, the Christian people on Good Friday carry huge crosses on their backs while walking the same path Jesus did. This route is known as the 'Twelve Stations' of the Cross, and walking this path is seen as a holy practice.

3 VIDEO: TRUE OR FALSE

Task 1: Decide if the following statements, based on the [video](#), are true or false.

1. During Holy Week in Guatemala, locals create colourful carpets made of flowers, fruits, and sawdust on Good Friday.
a. **True.** b. False.
2. In Guatemala, the entire city, including the carpets, is draped in black by the afternoon of Good Friday.
a. **True.** b. False.
3. In New Zealand, Easter bunnies are cherished like in other parts of the world.
a. True. b. **False.**
4. The Jamaican tradition of "egg setting" involves dropping an egg yolk into water.
a. True. b. **False.**
5. Good Friday in Jamaica is marked by celebrations and bright, colourful clothing.
a. True. b. False.
6. In the Czech Republic, boys decorate willow branches and use them to whip girls for luck and fertility on Easter Monday.
a. **True.** b. False.
7. In Poland, the tradition of Scoppio del Carro involves a cart filled with fireworks being pushed to the cathedral and lit by the Archbishop of Florence.
a. True. b. **False.**
8. In Italy, Easter Monday is celebrated as 'Wet Monday', a day-long water fight where getting wet is believed to bring marriage in the next year.
a. True. b. **False.**
9. In Israel, on Good Friday, Christian people carry huge crosses on their backs while walking the same path Jesus did, known as the 'Twelve Stations' of the Cross.
a. **True.** b. False.
10. On Easter Sunday in Israel, Christians gather at the Garden Tomb, believed to be the burial place of Jesus, for a church service.
a. **True.** b. False.

4 FREE TALK: COUNTRY TRADITIONS

Task 1: Use the information from the video and what you learned in today's lesson to describe the Easter traditions of each country below.

1. Guatemala.

2. New Zealand.

3. Jamaica.

4. Czech Republic.

5. Italy.

6. Poland.

7. Israel.

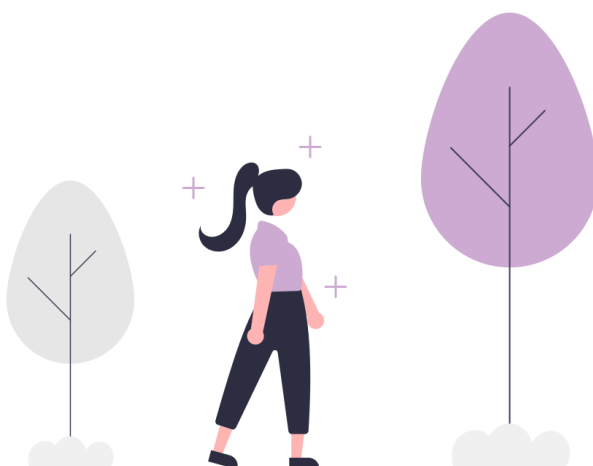
8. Your own country.



5 EASTER: DISCUSSION

Task: Discuss the following Easter-based questions as a class.

1. Which country's Easter tradition do you find the most interesting? Explain.
2. Which country's Easter tradition do you not like? Explain.
3. What are some traditional Easter symbols in your culture, and how do they reflect the holiday's significance?
4. How do people celebrate Easter in your country? What are some unique traditions?
5. Can you explain why Easter Sunday is considered a special day in many cultures?
6. Can you share any special Easter foods or dishes that are popular in your culture?
7. How do you decorate for Easter in your home or community?
8. Do you have any Easter-related superstitions in your culture?
9. What are some common Easter activities for families?
10. How does the meaning of Easter differ between religious and non-religious people?
11. Have you ever participated in an Easter egg hunt? Describe your experience.
12. What are some common Easter gifts exchanged in your culture?
13. How do you think the commercialisation of Easter has changed over time?
14. Share a memorable Easter story or experience from your childhood.



6 EASTER: DEBATE

Study the statements, then decide if you agree or disagree with them, explaining why. Use the language in the table at the bottom of the page to help structure your answer.

John

 I think Easter is a great time of year because it encourages generosity and charity through giving to others, volunteering, and spreading kindness, creating a sense of community and compassion.

Oli

 In my opinion, some Easter traditions should be banned because they contribute to environmental harm through excessive production and consumption of items like plastic eggs, packaging, and decorations.

Beth

 In my opinion, Easter is the only time of year when people can come together in celebration. Whether through attending church services, sharing meals, or participating in Easter egg hunts, Easter creates a sense of unity and connection among people.

Amy

 I believe that, like many holidays, Easter has become commercialised, with an emphasis on buying decorations, candy, and other consumer goods, which can ruin its religious and spiritual significance.

<p style="text-align: center;">Express an opinion</p> <p>It seems to me that... I feel that... I'm absolutely convinced that... In my opinion,... I believe / suppose / feel (that)...</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Express disagreement</p> <p>I don't agree with you about... I can't accept your view that... I have a different opinion... I'm not sure if... I'm not convinced that...</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Express pro's and con's</p> <p>There are two sides to this point... On the one hand...,on the other hand... An argument for / against is... Some people think that...,others say that... The advantages / disadvantages are...</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Summarise</p> <p>So, in conclusion... To summarise.. Overall, it is clear that... As a result.. The bottom line is...</p>

7 PICTURE ROUND

Task 1: As a class, discuss how Easter is being celebrated in each image.



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____



7. _____



8. _____

HOMework

Read the article, then complete the exercises on the following page.

1 EASTER TRADITIONS

Easter, one of the most widely celebrated Christian holidays, is steeped in traditions that span centuries and cultures. These traditions vary greatly around the world, but they all share common themes of rebirth, renewal, and the triumph of life over death. From religious observances to secular customs, Easter traditions offer a rich tapestry of rituals and practices that bring communities together in celebration.

At the heart of Easter lies the religious significance of commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For Christians, Easter Sunday marks the culmination of the Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday and ending with Easter Sunday. Churches around the world hold special services, including sunrise masses and candlelight vigils, to honour this pivotal event in Christian theology. The Easter vigil, often held on Holy Saturday, is a particularly solemn and symbolic service, representing the anticipation of Christ's resurrection.

In addition to religious observances, Easter is also celebrated through various cultural and secular traditions. One of the most iconic symbols of Easter is the Easter egg, which represents new life and fertility. The tradition of decorating eggs dates back to ancient times, with early Christians adopting it as a symbol of the resurrection. Today, Easter egg hunts are

popular activities for children, who eagerly search for hidden eggs filled with candy and treats.

Another beloved Easter tradition is the Easter bunny, a folklore figure who brings baskets of candy and gifts to children on Easter Sunday. The origins of the Easter bunny can be traced back to German immigrants who settled in America, where the tradition of an egg-laying hare merged with the Christian holiday. Today, the Easter bunny is a whimsical symbol of the holiday, delighting children with its magical presence.

In many cultures, Easter is also a time for culinary traditions. Traditional Easter meals vary from region to region but often feature lamb, ham, or other festive dishes. In Greece, for example, Easter is celebrated with a special Easter bread called tsoureki, while in Italy, families gather for a lavish feast featuring dishes like lamb stew and Easter pie.

Overall, Easter traditions encompass a diverse array of customs and practices that reflect the holiday's rich cultural and religious significance. Whether through religious, festive, or family rituals, Easter provides an opportunity for people around the world to come together in joyous celebration of life and renewal.



2 ARTICLE-BASED EXERCISES

Task 1: Define the words and phrases, then use them in your own example sentences.

1. steeped in.
2. rebirth and renewal.
3. resurrection.
4. candlelight vigils.
5. solemn.
6. secular traditions.
7. a whimsical symbol.
8. a folklore figure.
9. magical presence.
10. a diverse array of customs.



Task 2: On a separate piece of paper, write detailed answers to the following questions.

- a. What are the common themes shared by Easter traditions worldwide?
- b. How do Christians commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ during Easter?
- c. What is the significance of the Easter vigil, and when is it typically held?
- d. What symbolic meaning do Easter eggs hold, and how far back does the tradition of decorating eggs date?
- e. Who is the Easter bunny, and how did the tradition originate in America?
- f. What are some examples of traditional Easter meals from different cultures?
- g. How do Easter traditions reflect both cultural and religious significance?
- h. What is the main purpose of Easter celebrations?
- i. Write a short text summarising the Easter traditions in your country.