



Easter:

history, symbols and traditions



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Do you know...

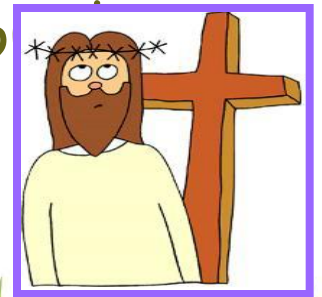
- When people celebrate Easter?
- What do they celebrate?
- What are the symbols of Easter?
- What do people do at Easter?





When is Easter?

- Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon in spring. That's why it's on a different date each year.
- The word "Easter" comes from "Eostre", the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring.
- Christians celebrate the **resurrection of Jesus Christ** on Easter Sunday. Many people celebrate the beginning of spring.



* **resurrection** – ВОСКРЕШЕНИЕ



Traditions



- Easter is also the end of **Lent**, traditionally of fasting in the Christian calendar. So it is a time of fun and celebration.
- The Friday before Easter Sunday and the Monday after are a bank holiday in the UK.
- Some people go to church to commemorate the death on the **cross** of Jesus Christ.





Traditions



- There are also Easter parades in the UK and in America. People wear Easter **bonnets**, decorated with spring flowers.
- On the Friday before Easter people in England eat the traditional **Good Friday** breakfast of **hot cross buns**.



- The special Easter Sunday lunch includes **roast lamb** and traditional **Simnel cake**.

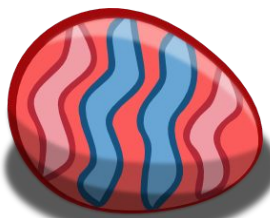




Symbols

- One of the oldest spring symbols in the world is the egg. Eggs are a symbol of a new life.
- Exchanging and eating Easter eggs is a popular custom in many countries. In the UK before they were replaced by chocolate Easter eggs real eggs were used, in most cases, chicken eggs.





Symbols



- The eggs were hard-boiled and dyed in various colours and patterns. The traditionally bright colours represented spring and light.
- Nowadays people give each other Easter eggs made of chocolate, usually hollow and filled with sweets.





Easter games with eggs

- There are two Easter games with eggs: "Hunt for the egg" and "Egg rolling".
- The legend says an "Easter bunny" hides eggs in the garden and children have to find them on Easter morning. Sometimes the eggs are put in a basket.
- Egg rolling is very popular in England and



it's an Easter Monday sport.

Children roll hard-boiled eggs down a hill.





Symbols



- **Bunnies** are also traditional at Easter. Parents buy bunnies or baby rabbits for their children. People eat **chocolate bunnies** too.



- The tradition of the Easter Hare, or Easter Bunny comes from a Northern European legend. Long ago in a small village the mothers had no money to buy their children presents for Easter. They painted eggs with lots of beautiful pictures and hid them in the forest near the village. When the children went to play in the forest on Easter Sunday they saw the eggs but they didn't know where they came from. Suddenly a hare ran out from behind a pile of eggs and the children started shouting: " They are hare's eggs!".





Symbols



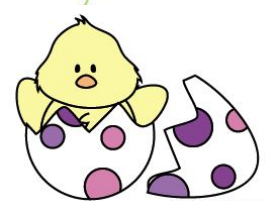
- **Bunnies, chicks, lambs and flowers** (especially **lilies** and **daffodils**) are associated with Easter because they are born in the spring.



- The **lamb** is also a sign of Christ's sacrifice **on the cross**.



- The **cross** was also a well-known symbol **before** the time of Christ. It was used a special mark on clothes and buildings. However, when Jesus was crucified, the cross became a symbol of suffering.





Happy
Easter

