

FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS · GRADES 2–4

Easter

Origins and traditions

Quick facts

What	A Christian festival celebrating new life. Also marks the start of spring in the northern hemisphere.
When	First Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox — varies between March 22 and April 25.
How long	Easter weekend (Friday to Monday). Many countries also observe Lent — 40 days before.
Where	Worldwide — celebrated by around 2 billion Christians.

Why eggs and bunnies?

<p>Eggs</p> <p>Eggs are an ancient symbol of NEW LIFE — the chick breaking out of the shell. They've been part of spring festivals for thousands of years, long before Easter.</p>	<p>The Easter Bunny</p> <p>Came from German folklore — an egg-laying hare that judged whether children had been good. German immigrants brought the tradition to America in the 1700s.</p>
<p>Hot cross buns</p> <p>Spiced buns marked with a cross, traditionally eaten on Good Friday in the UK. The cross represents the crucifixion.</p>	<p>Easter eggs around the world</p> <p>Greece — red eggs (representing blood). Ukraine — pysanky, intricate hand-decorated eggs. UK/US — chocolate eggs. Sweden — children dress as 'Easter witches' and trade drawings for treats.</p>

Discuss



1. Many spring festivals around the world — Easter, Passover, Holi — happen at the same time.

Why might that be?

2. Some people celebrate the religious meaning, some only the spring/eggs side. Both are okay.

Why?

3. What's a sign of spring you can see right now?

