

Ellie's Historical Journey: The Story of Easter

Learning objective: To analyse the historical and cultural significance of the Easter story, focusing on narrative structure and thematic interpretation.

Read the passage below carefully. Use your historical empathy and understanding of narrative to answer the questions. Provide detailed explanations where required.

Ellie the elephant, known for her incredible memory, often shares tales from long ago. She explains that Easter is a time of immense historical and cultural importance. At its core, the story follows a narrative of resilience, hope, and new beginnings. Historically, the events took place in ancient Jerusalem, a bustling city filled with diverse cultures and traditions. The narrative describes a period of great challenge, followed by a moment of profound transformation. For many people, this story acts as a cornerstone for reflection, encouraging them to consider the values of kindness, forgiveness, and the promise of renewal. Whether through the observation of spring's arrival or the gathering of families to share a meal, the story remains a powerful way for communities to connect with their past and look forward to the future with hope.

Word bank: tradition · reflection · renewal · narrative · perspective · commemoration · symbolism · resilience

1. Explain why Ellie describes the Easter narrative as a story of 'resilience and new beginnings' rather than just a simple event from the past. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast how the arrival of spring relates to the themes found in the Easter story. Use evidence from the passage. (3 marks)

3. Justify your answer: Why is it important for communities to keep historical narratives, like the Easter story, alive through traditions? (2 marks)

4. What might happen to the cultural significance of Easter if families stopped gathering to share meals and stories? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

5. Identify two values mentioned in the text. How could a person demonstrate these values in their daily life at school? (2 marks)

6. How does the author's choice of words, such as 'profound' and 'cornerstone', change the tone of the passage compared to a simple news report? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that represents the concept of 'renewal'. Include symbols that you think best reflect the themes of hope and spring discussed in Ellie's story.



Extension challenge: Research a different cultural or religious festival that celebrates the arrival of spring. Write a comparative paragraph explaining one major similarity and one major difference between that festival and the Easter traditions mentioned by Ellie.