

Easter: Symbols, Meanings and Traditions

Learning objective: To understand the religious significance of Easter for Christians and identify how symbols represent key concepts of new life and hope.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of Christian traditions and the themes of the Easter story to provide detailed, thoughtful answers.

Easter is a significant festival in the Christian calendar, marking the culmination of Holy Week. It commemorates the belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which Christians view as a victory over death. The period leading up to Easter includes Lent, a time of reflection and self-discipline. Symbols such as eggs, chicks, and lilies are frequently used to represent the themes of new beginnings, growth, and the arrival of spring.

Word bank: Resurrection · Crucifixion · Symbolism · New life · Spring · Sacrifice · Hope · Reflection

1. Explain why the egg is considered a powerful symbol of Easter. How does it connect to the core Christian belief of the resurrection? (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the meaning of 'Lent' with the meaning of 'Easter Sunday'. Why might a Christian choose to observe both? (3 marks)

3. Identify two other symbols often associated with Easter and describe the 'new life' they represent. (2 marks)

4. Justify why many people, including those who are not religious, often associate Easter with the season of Spring. What links can you find between nature and the festival? (3 marks)

5. If someone were to remove all religious symbols from the Easter celebration, what might happen to the meaning of the festival? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that represents 'New Life'. Include at least three symbolic items associated with Easter that represent hope and growth in the natural world.



Extension challenge: Nova the owl is curious about why different cultures have different traditions during the spring equinox. Conduct a short research project to compare how Christians celebrate Easter with how another culture or religion celebrates a spring festival. Create a table to highlight the similarities and differences in their symbols and activities.