

A Time of Renewal: The Story of Easter

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by retrieving information, making inferences, and justifying opinions regarding the historical and cultural significance of Easter.

Read the passage carefully, ensuring you look for specific details. Use full sentences for your answers and refer back to the text to support your ideas.

As the frost of winter retreats, nature begins a vibrant transformation. For many people across the United Kingdom, this season marks the arrival of Easter. While historically rooted in solemn reflection, the holiday has evolved into a celebration of hope and new beginnings. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, explains that the date of Easter changes every year because it is calculated using the cycles of the moon, usually falling between March and April. The festival is a time when families gather to share meals and reflect on themes of kindness and forgiveness. Across the country, the symbols of eggs and lilies are seen everywhere. These items represent life emerging after a period of dormancy, mirroring the way flowers bloom once the spring sunshine arrives. In the UK, Easter is not just about the historical observations; it is also a time for community spirit. Children often participate in egg hunts, and the exchange of gifts serves as a gentle reminder to appreciate the people around us. Whether viewed through a religious lens or as a seasonal milestone, Easter encourages a focus on rejuvenation and the promise of brighter days ahead.

Word bank: tradition · reflection · renewal · symbolism · observance · springtime

1. According to the text, why does the date of Easter change every year? (2 marks)

2. Name two symbols mentioned in the passage that represent new life. (2 marks)

3. Based on the passage, why might the arrival of spring be linked to the themes of Easter? (3 marks)

4. What does the author mean by the phrase 'the frost of winter retreats'? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the community activities mentioned in the text are important for a holiday? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that represents 'renewal' as described in the text, including at least one symbol mentioned in the passage.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast how Easter is described in this passage with another seasonal festival you know. Explain why these traditions are often celebrated during periods of change in nature. If you were designing a new symbol for Easter that represents 'kindness', what would it be and why?