

Easter Traditions: A Cultural Exploration

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Easter as a Christian festival and explore the symbolism behind various cultural traditions.

Ellie the Elephant is putting together an exhibition about Easter. She needs your help to sort the facts! Read the statements below and decide if they are True or False. For every statement you mark as False, you must provide a brief explanation or 'justification' of why it is incorrect, using your knowledge of Christian traditions and the season of spring.

Word bank: Resurrection · Lent · Spring Equinox · New Life · Crucifixion · Easter Sunday · Symbolism · Reflection

1. True or False: Easter Sunday is the day that Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

2. True or False: The period of forty days leading up to Easter, known as Lent, is a time for feasting and celebrating. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

3. True or False: The egg is a common symbol at Easter because it represents 'new life' and the beginning of spring. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

4. True or False: In the UK, Easter always falls on the same calendar date every year, such as the 12th of April. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

5. Compare and contrast: How is the 'secular' (non-religious) celebration of Easter, involving chocolate treats, different from the religious observance of the festival? Explain why these two ways of celebrating often exist side-by-side. (3 marks)

6. Justify your answer: Why might the arrival of spring be an important theme in the Easter festival? Consider the natural world and the concept of renewal. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that represents the concept of 'new life' during spring. Include one traditional symbol associated with Easter and explain why you chose it in a short caption below your drawing.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are designing a community festival for your town. Write a short proposal (100 words) explaining how you would balance the historical and religious origins of Easter with modern, community-focused activities. What might happen if we stopped celebrating ancient festivals altogether? Justify your opinion.