

The Meaning of Easter: New Beginnings

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Easter within the Christian faith and explore the symbolism of new life.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions provided. Remember to use evidence from the text to support your answers.

For Christians, Easter is the most significant festival in the calendar. It marks the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus, representing hope and the promise of new life. Before Easter Sunday, many people observe Lent, a period of forty days of reflection and preparation. During this time, some choose to give up luxuries or participate in acts of charity.

Springtime is the natural backdrop to this festival. Just as flowers bloom and animals are born after the cold winter, the story of Easter focuses on overcoming darkness with light. Symbols such as the egg are used to represent this transition; an egg may look still and plain on the outside, yet it hides the potential for new life within. In the UK, families often celebrate by sharing meals or gathering for special services. While some traditions involve chocolate gifts, the heart of the celebration remains a time for reflection on themes of forgiveness, peace, and renewal. It is a time when communities come together to appreciate the beauty of the changing seasons and the importance of hope in our daily lives.

Word bank: Resurrection · symbolism · tradition · significance · observance · springtime

1. According to the text, what is the primary reason Christians celebrate Easter? (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. What is the period of forty days before Easter called, and what do some people do during this time? (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Why is the egg used as a symbol for Easter? Explain the connection made in the text. (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. How does the season of spring reflect the deeper meaning of Easter? (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Do you think the symbols of Easter are helpful for people to understand the festival's meaning? Justify your opinion. (3 marks) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that represents the concept of 'new life'. Include elements of nature, such as budding flowers or a robin's nest, to show how the environment changes during spring.



Extension challenge: Nova the owl is curious about traditions around the world. Research or imagine how different cultures might celebrate the arrival of spring and write a short comparison between those traditions and the themes of Easter. Why do many cultures choose to celebrate renewal at this time of year?