

Springtime Traditions: The Easter Story

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by retrieving information, making inferences, and evaluating themes within a historical and cultural context.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences. Ensure you refer back to the text to support your answers.

In the UK, Easter is a significant time of year that blends historical, religious, and seasonal traditions. For many, the holiday is a period of reflection and celebration. The story originates from ancient accounts detailing the final days of a central figure, his sacrifice, and the subsequent belief in his return, which remains the cornerstone of the Christian faith. Alongside these religious observances, Easter has become synonymous with the arrival of spring. The themes of renewal and new life are represented by symbols such as eggs, which have been used for centuries to signify the birth of the natural world after the cold winter months. Today, families often mark the occasion by exchanging chocolate treats or participating in community events. While some focus entirely on the spiritual significance, others enjoy the break as a chance to appreciate the changing seasons. Whether through attending services or simply enjoying a walk in the countryside as the daffodils bloom, the period serves as a nationwide moment to pause, reflect, and welcome the warmth of the coming year.

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

1. According to the text, what two themes are symbolised by the use of eggs? (2 marks)

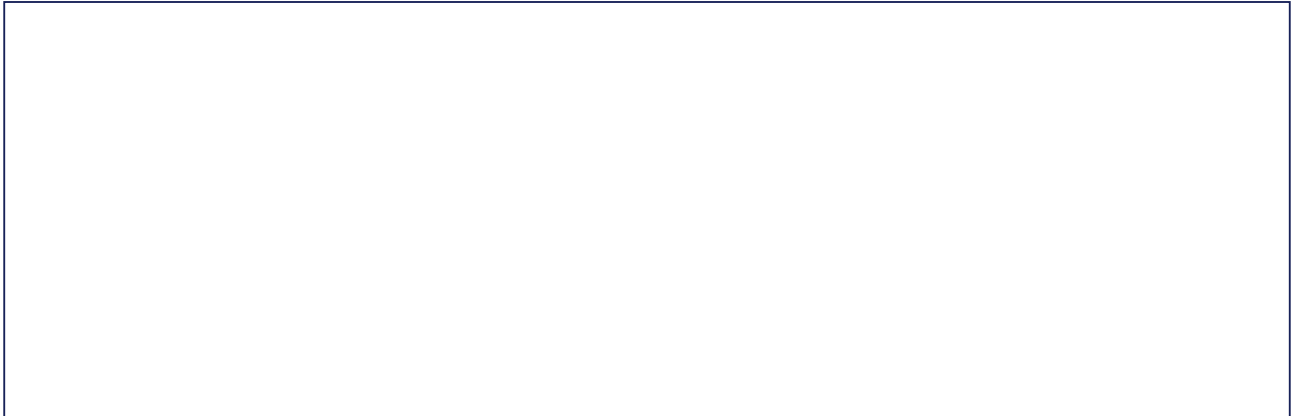
2. What are two different ways mentioned that people choose to spend their time during the Easter period? (2 marks)

3. Why might the author describe Easter as a time that 'blends' different traditions? (3 marks)

4. Based on the passage, how does the change in weather influence the way people view the holiday? (3 marks)

5. Do you think it is important to have holidays that combine historical stories with seasonal changes? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that represents the concept of 'renewal' mentioned in the text, perhaps including spring flowers, a sunrise, or natural patterns that Zara the zebra might admire.



Extension challenge: Research one other cultural or religious festival that celebrates the arrival of spring. Write a short paragraph comparing its traditions to those mentioned in the passage.