

Easter: Traditions and Significance

Learning objective: To explore the religious significance of Easter for Christians and understand the historical and cultural traditions associated with the festival.

Read the front of each card carefully. Think about the significance of the term or question before checking the answer on the reverse side. Use these to test your knowledge of how Easter is observed.

What is the meaning of 'Lent' in the Christian calendar?

Lent is a period of 40 days of fasting, prayer, and reflection leading up to Easter, symbolising the time Jesus spent in the desert.

Explain the significance of Good Friday.

Good Friday is the day Christians commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ, focusing on sacrifice and reflection.

What is celebrated on Easter Sunday?

Easter Sunday celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus, symbolising new life, hope, and victory over death.

Define the term 'Resurrection'.

The Resurrection is the Christian belief that Jesus rose from the dead three days after his crucifixion.

What is 'Holy Week'?

Holy Week is the final week of Lent, beginning with Palm Sunday and ending on Easter Sunday, marking the most sacred events in the Christian faith.

Why are eggs often used as symbols during Easter?

Eggs are an ancient symbol of new life and the tomb, representing the emergence of Jesus from the grave.

What occurs on Maundy Thursday?

It commemorates the Last Supper, where Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples and washed their feet as an act of humility.

Explain the significance of the Paschal Candle.

The Paschal Candle is a large white candle blessed during the Easter Vigil, representing the 'Light of Christ' and his presence among his followers.

Compare and contrast the mood of Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Good Friday is solemn, reflective, and focuses on suffering, whereas Easter Sunday is joyful, celebratory, and focuses on hope and new beginnings.

Justify why Easter is considered a 'movable feast'.

Easter does not fall on the same date every year because it is determined by the lunar calendar, specifically the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox.