

Easter Traditions and Reflection: A Fact-File for Year 5

Learning objective: To explore the significance of Easter within Christianity and compare how different traditions reflect concepts of renewal and sacrifice.

Use this fact-file to organise your research on Easter. You will need to investigate the historical and religious origins of the festival, the symbolic meaning of common customs, and reflect on why these traditions remain significant today. Use the word bank to help develop your answers with academic vocabulary.

Word bank: Resurrection · Symbolism · Sacrifice · Renewal · Observance · Liturgical · Tradition · Significance · Eucharist · Eastertide

1. The Origins of Easter: Explain the religious significance of Easter for Christians. What event is being commemorated during this period? (3 marks)

2. Symbolism in Practice: Choose two common symbols associated with Easter (e.g., the egg, the cross, or the lily). Describe what each represents and why they are used. (4 marks)

3. Compare and Contrast: Compare the events of Good Friday with the celebrations of Easter Sunday. How does the mood or 'liturgical colour' change between these two days? (4 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Why do you think the theme of 'new life' or 'renewal' is central to the Easter narrative in the natural world and religious teaching? (4 marks)

5. What might happen if: Imagine Easter was celebrated without any physical symbols like eggs or cards. How would the way people remember the story change? (3 marks)

6. Personal Reflection: Explain why religious festivals like Easter are important to communities, even for those who do not practise the faith. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research the 'Easter Vigil'. Write a short, persuasive paragraph explaining why the transition from darkness to light is a powerful metaphor used in many world religions, not just Christianity. Use at least three words from the word bank in your response.