A Time of Renewal: Understanding Easter

Learning objective: To develop comprehension skills by identifying, interpreting, and evaluating information about the traditions and significance of Easter.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below using full sentences. Make sure to refer back to the text to support your answers.

Easter is a significant festival celebrated by Christians worldwide, marking the end of Lent, a forty-day period of reflection and fasting. For Christians, Easter Sunday is the most important day of the year, as it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. It is a time filled with themes of hope, new life, and fresh beginnings. In the UK, the arrival of spring often aligns with the Easter period, making it a season associated with blooming flowers and newborn lambs in the countryside. Many families participate in various customs, such as exchanging chocolate eggs, which symbolise new life and the start of spring. While these activities are popular, the heart of the celebration remains a religious observance. Some people attend sunrise services, while others gather with family for a traditional roast dinner. Whether through religious reflection or seasonal celebrations, Easter remains a time for communities to come together. Ellie the elephant always enjoys learning about these traditions, noting how history and culture shape the way different families choose to mark this special time of year.

Word bank: Resurrection · Observance · Symbolise · Tradition · Renewal · Festival

1. According to the text, what does the forty-day period of Lent involve? (2 marks)

2. What do chocolate eggs symbolise during the Easter season? (2 marks)

3. Why might the arrival of spring in the UK be considered a fitting time for the celebration of Easter? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why is Easter considered the most important day of the year for Christians? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the traditions of Easter have changed over time? Give a reason for your opinion. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene representing 'new life' during springtime, including elements mentioned in the text such as blooming flowers or a lamb, and add a decorative pattern inspired by Easter egg designs.

Extension challenge: Research one other festival that celebrates the arrival of spring in a different culture. Write a short paragraph comparing its traditions to those of Easter.