Easter: Traditions and Reflection

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Easter for Christians and explore how the season is celebrated and symbolised.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of Christian beliefs and Easter traditions to provide detailed answers. Use full sentences where appropriate.

Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar. It marks the end of Lent, a period of forty days of reflection and fasting. The festival remembers the events of Holy Week, including the death of Jesus on Good Friday and the celebration of his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Christians believe that the Resurrection shows the victory of light over darkness and offers the promise of new life. Many traditions associated with Easter, such as the giving of eggs, are symbols of this new life and the arrival of spring.

Word bank: Resurrection · Lent · Crucifixion · Symbolism · Maundy Thursday · Good Friday · Easter Sunday · New life

1. Explain why the period of Lent is significant for Christians before they reach Easter Sunday. (2 marks)

2. Identify the two main events of Holy Week mentioned in the text and explain why they are considered central to the Christian faith. (3 marks)

3. Max the monkey is trying to work out why eggs are used as a symbol at Easter. Based on your learning, what do eggs represent in this context? (2 marks)

4. Nova the owl wants to know how the 'victory of light over darkness' reflects the Christian meaning of the Resurrection. Write a short explanation. (2 marks)

5. If a church committee has a budget of £50 to buy lilies and decorations for an Easter service, why might they choose items that represent spring and new life? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a symbol that represents 'new life' for you and explain in one sentence why you chose it.

Extension challenge: Research one other religious festival that celebrates 'new life' or 'spring'. Write a short paragraph comparing one similarity and one difference between that festival and Easter.