



Easter



A collection of printable resources, ideas
and inspiration to enjoy together.



Easter Fun Facts

Some egg-citing facts all about Easter.

Easter is a Christian celebration. It celebrates the resurrection of **Jesus Christ**.

For Christians, Easter Sunday is a symbol of rebirth and of hope.



Cadbury's make over **500 million** Creme Eggs every year!

Over **80 million** Easter eggs are sold at Easter each year in the UK.



In April 2011, a new Guinness World Record was set for the world's **largest chocolate Easter egg**. It measured 10.39m in height (taller than a giraffe) and weighed over 7,200 kg. It was made in Italy.

Eggs are traditionally given as gifts at Easter. Eggs are seen as a symbol of **new life**.

Easter Sunday does not fall on the same date every year. The date is based on the lunar calendar and can occur anytime from March 22nd to April 25th. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon following March 21st.

The largest Easter egg hunt ever was in Florida in 2007. It consisted of 9,753 children searching for **501,000 eggs!**

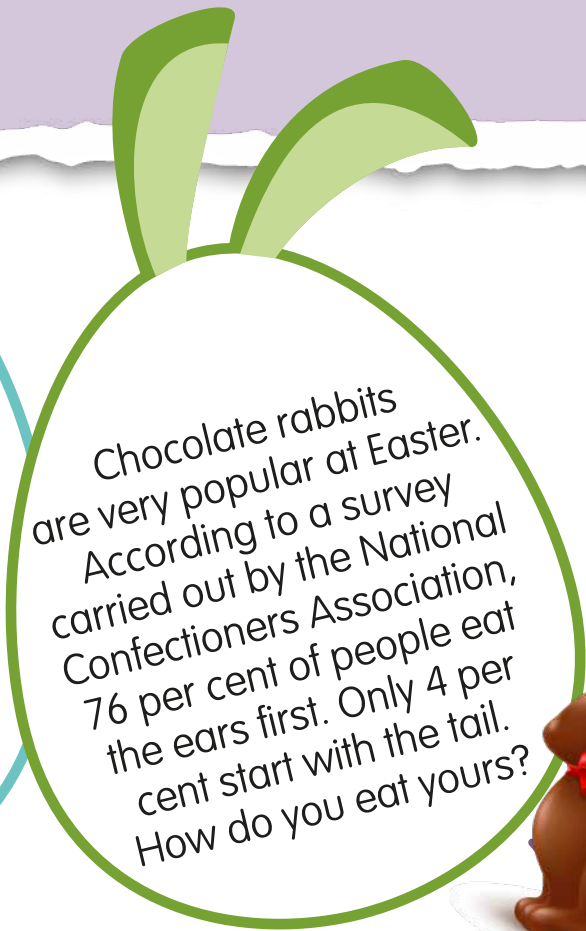
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Easter Fun Facts



The first chocolate Easter egg in the UK was produced in 1873 by **Fry's of Bristol.**

In March 2019, a new **Guinness World Record** was set for the world's largest decorated Easter Egg. It is 15.02m tall and 8.72m in diameter. It was created by Associação Visite Pomerode (Brazil) in Pomerode, Santa Catarina, Brazil.



Chocolate rabbits are very popular at Easter. According to a survey carried out by the National Confectioners Association, 76 per cent of people eat the ears first. Only 4 per cent start with the tail. How do you eat yours?



Activity Ideas

True or False

Collect together a list of statements about Easter, some which are true and some which are false. Ask a friend to try and sort the statements into true or false.

Facts Quiz

Create an Easter quiz. Challenge your friends to see how many answers they can guess correctly. You could even have an Easter themed prize for the winner!

Fill in the gaps

Create a set of 'fill in the blank' Easter themed challenges by removing some key information from the facts above. Test a friend to see if they can fill in the missing gaps.

Eggs

Eggs are often given as a gift at Easter because they are a symbol of new life. Here are some interesting egg themed facts and activity ideas to inspire you this Easter.

Fun Facts

- The first chocolate Easter egg in the UK was produced in 1873 by Fry's of Bristol. Before this, people would give hollow cardboard eggs filled with gifts.
- John Cadbury made the first "Cadbury" Easter eggs in 1875.
- The white of an egg is called albumen, the yolk is called vitellus and there is a shell to protect the liquid.
- An octopus egg is transparent.

The History of Chocolate Easter Eggs

Learn about the history of chocolate Easter eggs by exploring the storyboard on page 8.

Children could then create their own Easter timelines or write a historical newspaper report about the first chocolate egg being made.



Nests

Lots of different creatures lay eggs including chickens, fish, frogs, spiders, butterflies and alligators. They lay their eggs in different places such as in water, in sand, on a leaf, or in nests.

- Try making your own nests from strips of old shredded paper, paper straws, twigs, etc. Add some pretend eggs made from salt dough, play dough or paper.
- You could also make chocolate nests with cereals, or cupcake nests with buttercream icing. Add chocolate eggs for a tasty treat.

Create and Make

- There has been a long tradition of decorating eggs. Use the storyboard on page 7 to learn more about this and look at some examples on page 6. Ask children to design their own decorative egg. It could be decorated with patterns, shapes, sequins, buttons, fabric scraps, magazine cuttings, etc.
- Cut out lots of paper or card eggs of the same size. You can then decorate pairs in the same style, mix them up and play 'snap eggs'. Or, if you cut the eggs in a zigzag pattern along the middle, children can try to match the top to the bottom. Hide the eggs around for an egg treasure trail and give children a chocolatey treat when they find two halves that match!
- Design and make your own 3D paper maché eggs by covering a balloon with paste and strips of paper. When it is dry, you can paint and decorate it. You could then make up engaging stories about your magnificent eggs.

Decorate Your Egg

Design and decorate your own Easter egg below...



Decorated Eggs-amples!

Here are some examples of decorated eggs to inspire you!



You could paint or colour-in your design!



Why not find different textures to stick on your eggs, like feathers or pom-poms?



The Tradition of Decorating Eggs

1. Even before eggs were so strongly associated with Easter they were symbols in many spring festivals. The Romans, Gauls, Chinese, Egyptians and Persians all thought eggs were a special symbol of the world. Eggs were originally painted with bright colours to represent the sunlight of spring.



2. Decorating and colouring eggs has been a custom in the UK since the Middle Ages. In 1290, during the reign of Edward I, it was recorded that 450 eggs were to be gold-leafed and coloured for Easter gifts. During the Middle Ages, eggs were traditionally given to servants at Easter.



3. Christians believe that the egg represents new life. In some cases, folklore has mixed with Christian beliefs. There is a story of Jesus' mother Mary, she gave eggs to the soldiers at the cross and begged them not to be so cruel. As she cried, her tears fell on the eggs and gave them spots of brilliant colour.

4. No one knows when the custom started in China of giving children red eggs on their birthdays. For the Chinese, red symbolises long life and happiness.



5. The most famously decorated Easter eggs were made by a famous goldsmith, Peter Carl Fabergé. In 1883 the Russian Tsar, Alexander, asked Fabergé to make a special Easter gift for his wife, the Empress Marie. Fabergé made an egg within an egg. It had an outside shell of platinum and enameled white and this opened to reveal a smaller golden egg. Then this egg opened to show a golden chicken wearing a small copy of the Imperial crown. Alexander was so pleased with the gift that he ordered Fabergé to design more eggs to be delivered every Easter. This custom was continued for years – about 50 Fabergé eggs were made altogether.

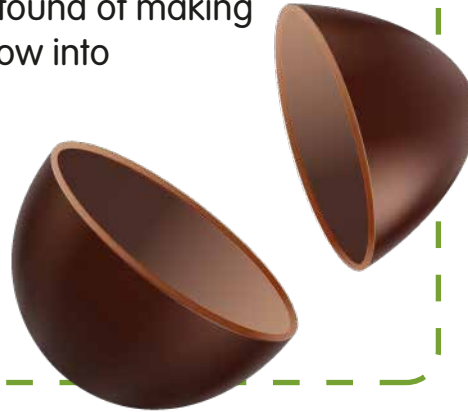


The History of Chocolate Easter Eggs

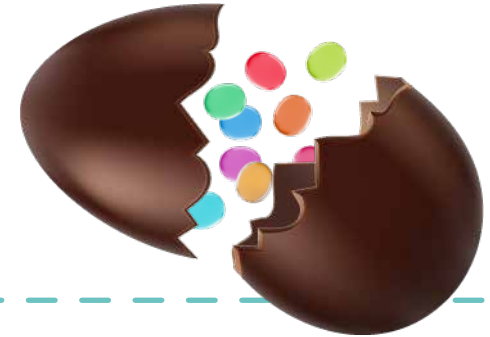
1. The first chocolate Easter eggs were made in France and Germany in the early 1800s, a few years after a type of 'eating chocolate' had been invented. Most of the early eggs were solid because making hollow eggs was a painstaking process, the moulds had to be spread with chocolate by hand, one at a time.



2. John Cadbury made the first Cadbury Easter eggs in Britain in 1875. They were slow to produce until a way was found of making chocolate flow into the moulds.



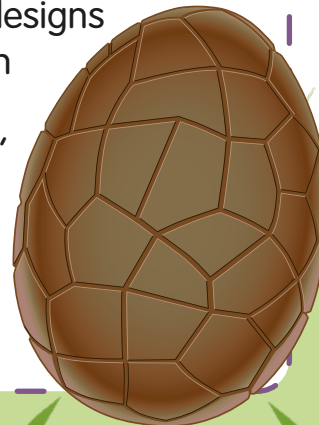
3. The earliest Cadbury chocolate eggs were made of dark chocolate with a plain, smooth surface and were filled with small coloured sweets with a hard shell.



4. The earliest decorated chocolate eggs had plain shells with chocolate piping and marzipan flowers.



5. By 1893, the Cadbury brothers, John and Richard, were producing 19 different Easter eggs in the UK. Many of the designs were based on French and German eggs such as the 'crocodile' finish that is still used today.

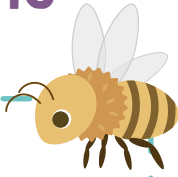


6. Milk chocolate Easter eggs were introduced in 1905 and these increased sales of Easter eggs enormously. Nowadays, most Easter eggs sold are made of milk chocolate.



Hot Cross Buns

We see a lot of hot cross buns in the shops at Easter time because it is a tradition to eat them on Good Friday. Here are some facts and activity ideas to inspire you.



Fun Facts

- They are spiced fruit buns, usually made from a rich yeast dough containing flour, milk, sugar, butter, eggs, dried fruit and spices such as cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves.
- They are usually decorated with a cross on the top. These days the cross is made from pastry, which has been piped on, but back in history the cross would be scored onto the bun with a knife.
- Throughout history, it has been traditional all around the world to eat cakes, buns and bread to celebrate religious festivals. Hot cross buns are the most popular type of Easter bread we eat in the UK.

Tasting Hot Cross Buns

- Spend time learning about the different ingredients in hot cross buns (strong white bread flour, salt, mixed spice, caster sugar, butter, dried fruits, dried yeast, milk and eggs). Have a selection of these ingredients for children to look at and explore. Start by getting children to talk about and taste the different dried fruits that might be used (currants, sultanas and raisins). You can then introduce the different spices that bakers may use (page 11). Hand around the spices and ask children to describe the smell and discuss which ones they like the best and/or which ones they do not like. Finish by having some hot cross buns for children to taste!
- Look at a recipe and try having a go at making your own hot cross buns.
- Have a class discussion about the different ways children eat hot cross buns at home. Do they cut them in half and spread butter on the inside? Do they eat them whole with nothing added? Do they toast them? Do they have them for breakfast or for a snack? Do they have them just on Good Friday, or do they eat them more often?



The History of Hot Cross Buns

Look through and discuss the **Hot Cross Buns History** storyboard on page 10.

Talk about the information we know and explain that we have clues throughout history of where the tradition comes from, but that no one knows for sure.

Ensure parental/guardian permission has been sought prior to the tasting of any foods and that you are aware of existing food allergies and intolerances (wheat, gluten, dairy etc.)

Hot Cross Buns - History

1. In Tudor times [1592] during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, a law was passed by the London Clerk of the Markets forbidding bakers to bake or sell spiced buns except on Good Friday, at Christmas and at burials. They were considered too special to be sold on ordinary days. So it seems natural that it would become popular to buy and eat hot cross buns on Good Friday. If anyone wanted to eat spiced buns at any other time, they would have to make them in their own homes.

3. A more modern version of this rhyme was first recorded in 1798 and it became a popular street cry...



**'Hot cross buns!
Hot cross buns!
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot cross buns
If you have no daughters
Give them to your sons.
One a penny, two a penny
Hot cross buns!**

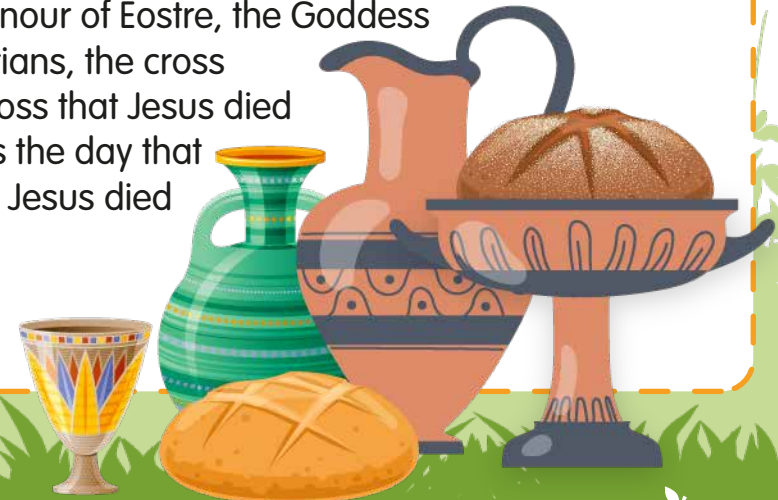


2. The first definite record of people eating hot cross buns comes from a text called 'Poor Robin's Almanack' (1733) which said **"Good Friday comes this month, the old woman runs, with one or two penny hot cross buns"**.



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4. The tradition of marking religious bread, cakes and buns with the sign of a cross goes back a long way, to the Ancient Greeks and the Egyptians. The Saxons ate buns marked with a cross in honour of Eostre, the Goddess of Light. For Christians, the cross symbolises the cross that Jesus died on. Good Friday is the day that Christians believe Jesus died on the cross.



Hot Cross Buns - Mixed Spice

Cloves

Cloves are the unopened flower buds of an evergreen tree in the myrtle family. They come from Madagascar, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Ground cloves are used in many ways in cooking - you can find them in cakes and in curries, and lots of other foods too.



Coriander

The seed of the coriander plant (from the parsley family) is ground to make powder. Originally found in southern Europe, North Africa and Asia, the Romans spread it throughout Europe. It is used in curries and stews.



Ginger

Ginger is a root of a plant. It is grown in Asia and used in lots of cooking from stir-fries, to cakes and drinks.



Nutmeg

Nutmeg is the seed of a tree that grows in Indonesia and Grenada. Nutmeg is ground or grated and often used in puddings.



Mace

Mace comes from the outer shell of the nutmeg seed. It has a milder flavour than nutmeg and is used in savoury and sweet dishes.



Cinnamon

Cinnamon sticks are made from the inner bark of various trees from the cinnamomum family. The trees grow in tropical areas around Asia and South America.



Easter Story

It was a springtime Sunday around the year 30 A.D.

Jesus and his disciples were walking through the countryside of Israel. They wanted to reach the capital, Jerusalem, in time for the Passover celebration. (Passover is a special Jewish holiday that is still celebrated today.)

They arrived at a little woody hill called the Mount of Olives and Jesus sent two of his disciples to a nearby village to fetch him a donkey.

Jesus knew that people would want to see him but, rather than appearing high and mighty, like a king on a horse, he wanted to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey to show that he was humble and came in peace.

Jesus was met by cheering crowds. It was a hot, dusty day and flies were buzzing around the colourful fruit stalls in the open marketplace.

Many people spread their coats on the ground in front of Jesus. Some waved palm tree branches as a sign of welcome and victory. (This is why the day became known as 'Palm Sunday'.) They shouted "**Hosanna!**" (Hurray!) when they saw him, and Jesus smiled and waved to all the people as he passed by.

Jesus wanted to visit the temple where he used to go as a child. He had loved hearing all the wise teachings and learned such a lot. However, when he got there, he was shocked and upset; instead of teachers and wise words, all he could see were people selling things. In fact, he got so angry that he kicked over their tables and shouted: "This temple should be a house of prayer for all nations, but you have made it a den of robbers!"

The priests of the temple were not happy with Jesus and complained to the High Priest.

The High Priest was a man called Caiaphas. He hated Jesus for questioning how he was running things and for daring to talk about God in a temple when he wasn't even a priest! In fact, Caiaphas and his priests hated Jesus so much they wanted him dead.

Luckily for them, one of Jesus' disciples was keen to help. The disciple, called Judas, went to the High Priest, and asked, "**How much will you pay me if I betray Jesus to you?**" Judas was offered thirty silver coins to show them who Jesus was when the time came.



Easter Story

Jesus already knew that very soon the priests would be coming for him and he wanted to have a final feast. (This became known as the **Last Supper**.)

Not long after this, in a beautiful place called The Garden of Gethsemane the priests of the temple found Jesus with his disciples. Judas approached Jesus and kissed him on the cheek – this was a sign to the soldiers that they should arrest him. Despite the disciples begging them not to do so, the soldiers took Jesus away.

Jesus was put on trial and brought before the Roman ruler of Jerusalem, who was called Pontius Pilate. Even though he did not believe that Jesus had committed any crime he agreed with the priests that he must be crucified. Crucifixion was a nasty way of killing people by putting them onto a big wooden cross and leaving them there until they died.

Jesus was put up onto a cross with two robbers who were also to be crucified for their crimes. Because it was a special Jewish holiday, the Romans in charge offered to let one of the three go and asked the crowd to shout out the name of who should be set free. Although most of the people wanted Jesus to go free, the priests of the Temple paid some of them to shout one of the robber's names and a man called Barabas was released instead of Jesus.

When Jesus died, he was taken down by the soldiers, who took his clothes for themselves. They gave Jesus to his friends who wrapped him in a sheet and buried him in a stone tomb like a cave. They rolled a huge rock to cover the entrance.

Two days later Jesus' mother, Mary, came to pray at the tomb. She was shocked to find that the big stone had been rolled aside and Jesus had disappeared. She found someone there at the graveyard. **"Where is he?"** asked Mary and was amazed to find she was talking to an angel, who told her: **"Jesus has gone up to heaven!"**

Mary rushed to tell the disciples what had happened. They went to see for themselves that the stone had been moved and the tomb was empty.

Later when the disciples were gathered at one of their houses, Jesus suddenly appeared before them. He told them he had come back from heaven to help them.

A second time, Jesus came back to see them and met them on a beach. He even cooked fish for them that day to prove he was real! The disciples were overwhelmed with happiness to know that Jesus was still alive but knew that soon he would have to leave them and go back to the clouds of Heaven.



The Easter Story

Easter is the most important festival for Christians, because it is about the resurrection – how Jesus died and came to life again. They believe this is proof that he is the son of God.

The story is a difficult one to tell, and though our version aims to be quite gentle, the themes are not easy for young children. Please adapt as appropriate.

The template provided may be used to re-tell the story. Children might write it in their own words, or order and use the 6 sentences below and then draw their own pictures. Of course, the template could be used for any Easter story or factual writing about Easter.



Jesus re-appeared to his disciples and told them he was still alive.

Jesus went to the temple and was angry about what he saw.

Soldiers took Jesus. He was put on trial and left on a cross to die.

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The crowds cheered and waved palm tree branches.

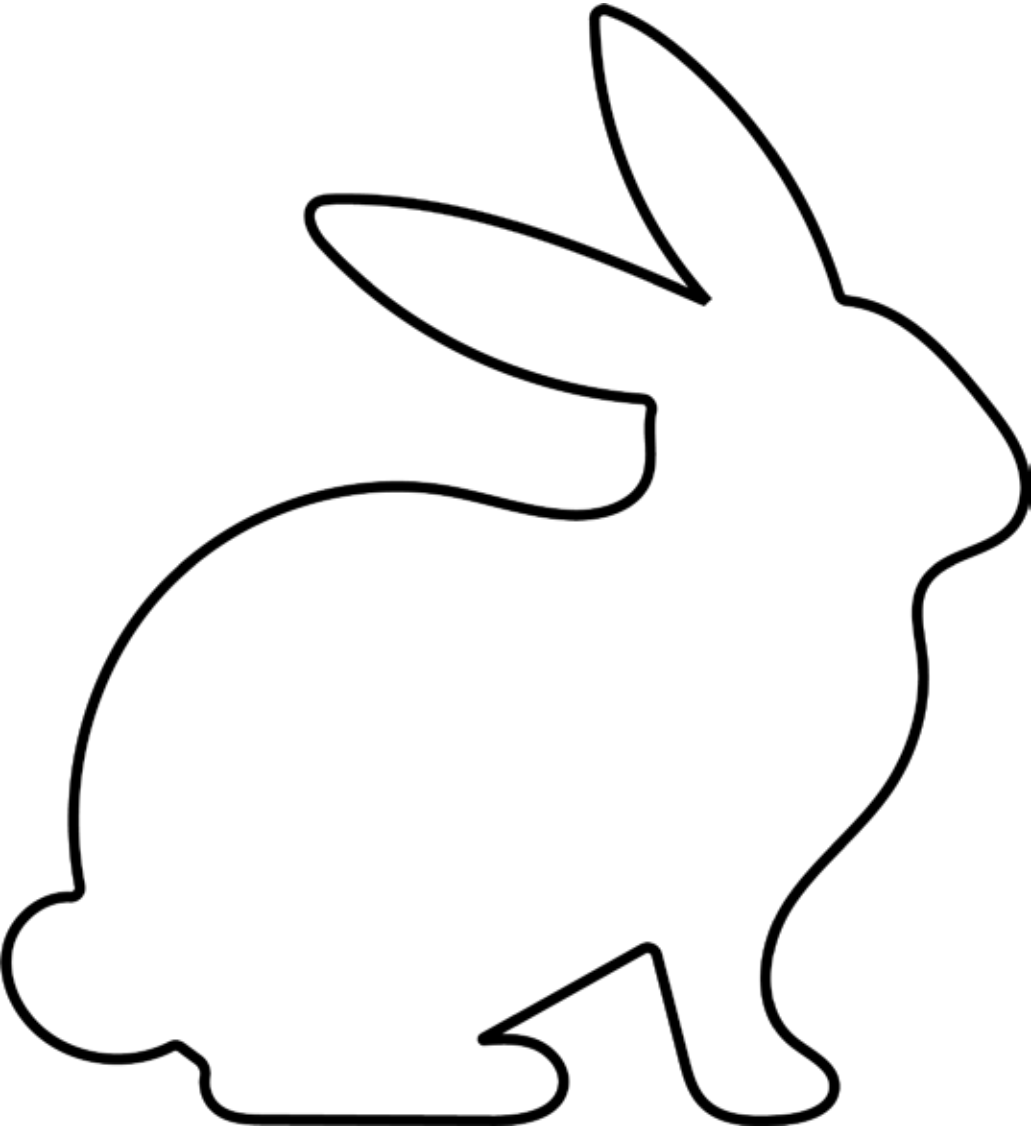
An angel told Mary that Jesus was in heaven.

Jesus' body was taken to a tomb.

Easter Story



Easter Templates



Easter Templates

