

Easter Traditions

Easter Eggs

An egg is a **symbol** of new life. For Christians, Easter eggs are used as a symbol for the **resurrection** of Jesus.

Christians believe that, through his resurrection, Jesus **overcame** death and sin. This offers people the promise of **eternal** life if they follow his teachings.

Nowadays, most Easter eggs are made from chocolate and covered in coloured foil. Traditionally though, chicken eggs would be hard boiled and then decorated by hand. Traditional Easter egg hunts are still popular with both Christian and non-Christian children.



Painting eggs

Some people believe that painting eggs comes from a religious **legend**. Although this is not mentioned in the Bible, the legend is that Mary Magdalene brought cooked eggs to share with the women at the tomb of Christ. When she saw he was alive again, the eggs turned bright red. These days people paint eggs many different colours and decorate them with **elaborate** designs and **textures**.



Easter Bunny

Sources: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztkxpv4/articles/z4t6rj6>
<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/easter-symbols>
<https://www.marthastewart.com/1105110/history-easter-baskets-and-all-stuffers>
<https://www.thejournal.ie/what-has-easter-got-to-do-with-buns-bonnets-and-bunnies-405387-Apr2012/>

Easter Bunny

There is no Easter bunny mentioned in The Bible, but the Easter bunny has become a well-known **tradition** to help celebrate the Christian festival of Easter. Nobody seems to know where this tradition **originated**, but some **sources** think it first appeared in America in the 1700s.

Rabbits are a symbol of new life. When German immigrants settled in Pennsylvania, America in the 18th century, they brought a tradition with them. This was a **hare** called 'Osterhase' which laid eggs! Children would make nests for it to lay its coloured eggs in.

This custom spread across America but now the coloured eggs delivered are usually chocolate and might even be other sweet treats or gifts. These days, children decorate baskets instead of making nests. Sometimes, children leave out carrots for the Easter bunny, in case he gets hungry hopping from one house to another.

Now children get chocolate eggs and other types of candy and gifts, whilst decorated baskets replace nests. Additionally, children often leave out carrots for the bunny in case he gets hungry from all his hopping.



Easter Baskets

Using baskets in the spring was a **pagan custom**. It is linked to an old belief in the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, called *Eostre* (what word does that remind you of?). People believed she would bless the **harvest** and so they would give her an offering. They would offer baskets of seedlings to her. They believed that if she was happy with them, she would make the harvest a good one. These days, Easter baskets are usually filled with chocolate eggs and treats.



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