

UKS2 – Easter Traditions

Easter is a Christian festival that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Bible says that Christ died on the cross on a day called Good Friday, which this year falls on 19 April.

According to the Bible, Jesus was then resurrected and came back to life on Easter Sunday. This is the most important day in the Christian calendar. Easter is on different dates each year, between 21 March and 25 April, depending on when there's a full moon in spring.

Many Christians will spend time at church in thought, prayer and celebration of Jesus Christ's life, and may get together with friends and family for a special meal. There are also some more modern traditions to mark Easter which are very common - such as Easter eggs, the Easter bunny and chocolate.

But where do these modern traditions come from?

More Easter stories

[Unusual Easter eggs: Giant ones, weird ones and cheesy ones](#)

[Why many of you may be giving up chocolate from today](#)

[How to make Easter chocolate egg nests](#)

Why do we have Easter eggs?

A lot of us may chomp on chocolate eggs at Easter, but originally eating eggs was not allowed by church leaders during the week leading up to Easter (known as Holy Week). Any eggs laid that week were saved and decorated to make them Holy Week eggs, that were then given to children as gifts. Victorians adapted the tradition with satin-covered cardboard eggs filled with Easter gifts.

This has now developed into the tradition that many people enjoy today.

Why are Easter eggs made of chocolate?

The first chocolate eggs appeared in France and Germany in the 19th Century, but they were bitter and hard. As chocolate-making techniques improved, hollow eggs like the ones we have today were developed. They very quickly became popular and remain a favourite tradition with chocolate-lovers today.

What's the Easter Bunny then?

The story of the Easter Bunny is thought to have become common in the 19th century, although it may have originated in the 18th century. At this time, settlers from Germany made their home in Pennsylvania, America. They brought with them the

tradition of an Easter hare called 'Osterhase'. This tradition is thought to have evolved into the Easter bunny.

Rabbits usually give birth to a big litter of babies (called kittens), so they became a symbol of new life. Legend has it that the Easter Bunny lays, decorates and hides eggs as they are also a symbol of new life. This is why some children might enjoy Easter egg hunts as part of the festival. It doesn't do all the work alone though! In Switzerland, Easter eggs are delivered by a cuckoo and in parts of Germany by a fox.