

# Easter in Europe (a worksheet)

## Activity 1

*Look at the pictures and describe them.*

**Use the words:** colourful, fancy, chocolate, delicious, sweet, little, grey, white, brown.



*What holiday do they symbolize?*

## Activity 2

*Discuss in pairs:*

1. What holidays do people celebrate during springtime in your country?
2. Do you celebrate Easter in your home country? If not, is there any equivalent holiday that is popular among your nation?
3. How do you celebrate it? Is there any special meal that you cook on this day?
4. What is the traditional thing to eat at Easter?
5. Is there any traditional or religious song for Easter in your country?

## Activity 3

Match the words with the pictures or definitions.

A. Pagan		1) A large stone structure or underground room where someone, especially an important person, is buried.
B. Resurrection		2) Well - known
C. Tomb		3) Not acknowledging the God of Christianity and Judaism and Islam.
D. Fertility		4) Close
E. Fancy		5) The property of producing abundantly and sustaining vigorous and luxuriant growth.
F. Good Friday		6) The rising of Christ on the third day after the Crucifixion.
G. Yeast buns		7) Decorative or ornamented.
H. Raisins		8) Friday before Easter.
I. Currants		9) 
J. Shut		10) 
K. Well-renowned		11) 
L. Torrijas		12) 
M. Cinnamon		13) 

Choose the correct words.

1. In ancient times many people were \_\_\_\_ and they worshipped different gods.  
a) Torrijos  
b) pagans  
c) raisins
2. Switzerland is \_\_\_\_ for its beauty and nature.  
a) shut  
b) well-renowned  
c) fancy
3. The pyramids in Egypt are really the \_\_\_\_ of ancient pharaohs.  
a) tombs  
b) fertility  
c) currants
4. Christians celebrate Christ's \_\_\_\_ in spring.  
a) yeast buns  
b) cinnamon  
c) Resurrection
5. Joy didn't want a big, \_\_\_\_ wedding.  
a) Good Friday  
b) fancy  
c) well-renowned
6. Polly said nothing and just \_\_\_\_ the door.  
a) pagan  
b) tomb  
c) shut
7. However, just as \_\_\_\_ are different from grapes, so do prunes appear to be distinct from plums.  
a) raisins  
b) pagans  
c) Yeast buns

## Activity 4

Read the text and answer the questions.

- What does dyeing eggs symbolize in Christianity?

- Is Easter a public holiday in European countries?



## Easter in Europe

Easter is a Christian holiday. It got its name and many of its customs and symbols from a **pagan** festival. This ancient holiday honoured Eostre, the goddess of springtime and sunrise. Later, Christians related the rising of the sun to the **Resurrection** of Christ. People believe that on Easter Sunday, Jesus Christ, who had died on the cross and been placed in his **tomb**, came to life again. The date of the holiday is changed every year.

Many modern Easter symbols came from pagan times. The egg, for example, was a **fertility** symbol long before the Christian era. In Christian times, the egg took on a new meaning, symbolizing the earth and all people for whom Christ sacrificed his life. The ancient custom of dyeing eggs at Easter is still very popular among Christians, and it symbolizes Christ's blood. Though Easter is a Christian holiday, it is celebrated differently in various countries.

In Britain, people celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ by eating large quantities of egg-shaped chocolates. Easter eggs in the UK are believed to be brought by Easter bunnies. Hot cross buns were first baked in England to be served on **Good Friday**. These **sweet yeast** buns contain **raisins** or **currants** and sometimes chopped candied fruit.

Germans also enjoy a very long Easter weekend: Good Friday and Easter Monday are public holidays in Germany during which shops, banks, and offices are **shut**. During this period they take the time to greet each other with 'Happy Easter' and eat the traditional dish of fish on 'Good Friday'.

Spain is **well-renowned** for its Semana Santa or Holy Week traditions. On Easter Sunday, it is traditional in Spanish culture for a godfather to present his godchild with a cake known as 'La Mona de Pascua'. Another popular Spanish Easter dish is the **torrijas**. This is a blend of slices of bread soaked in milk, sugar, and egg, then fried in olive oil. The dish is served along with wine, syrup, honey, sugar or **cinnamon** for an extra touch of the festive spirit.

In Italy, the biggest and most popular mass is held by the il Papa (the Pope) at St. Peter's Basilica. Among famous Easter dishes, you can find Pizza di Pasqua. It is a salt cake typical of central Italy served for breakfast at Easter. It is made with flour, eggs, pecorino, Parmigiano.

Adapted from [english-hilfen.de](http://english-hilfen.de), [yourguidetoitaly.com](http://yourguidetoitaly.com) and [translatemedia.com](http://translatemedia.com)

## Activity 5

Read the text again and mark the sentences **true/false/not given**.

1. Easter day is either on Saturday or Sunday.
2. It is celebrated among Christians every year on the 28th of April.
3. Colourful eggs symbolize Easter.
4. The Easter rabbit is a symbol of fertility.
5. Easter symbolizes Christ's birth.
6. Jews celebrate Easter in spring.
7. Roast lamb is the traditional meat for the main meal on Easter Day in the UK.
8. Germans usually do not work on Good Friday and on Easter Monday.
9. La Mona de Pascua is a special cake popular in Spain.
10. The Pope holds a mass in Spain every year at Easter.

## Activity 6

Write down the typical Easter dishes in different countries and your home country.

The UK	Germany	Spain	Italy	Home country

Discuss the similarities and differences of dishes in your country and European countries with your pairs.

## Activity 7

Watch the [video](#). What places to celebrate Easter are mentioned in the video?



What places would you like to go for Easter? Why?

## Activity 8

Write five questions about Easter Sunday in the table.

		Student 1	Student 2	Student 3
Question 1				
Question 2				
Question 3				
Question 4				
Question 5				

Now interview three of your classmates and write down their answers.

## Homework

*Make your own poster with blessings about Easter Sunday.*

