

The Origins of Easter Traditions (teacher's notes)

1. Warm up (Activity 1) 5 mins

Aims: to break the ice and foster a safe environment for learning.

Procedure: Introduce the topic. Ask students discuss the questions in pairs.

2. Easter words (Activity 2) 5 mins

Aim: to pre-teach necessary vocabulary.

Procedure: Students match the words and the definitions.

Answers:

stroll - pictures 1-3 (Tourism), pictures 3-6 (ecotourism).

penance - an act that shows that you feel sorry about something that you have done, sometimes for religious reasons.

nest - 

fasting - a period of time when you eat no food.

jelly bean - 

bonnet - 

resurrection - Jesus Christ's return to life.

3. Origins of Easter Traditions (Activity 3) 10 mins

Aim: to provide students with reading for gist practice.

Procedure: Students match the headings with the paragraphs

Answers:

1. Easter Bunny
2. Easter Parade
3. Easter Eggs
4. Easter Eggs
5. Easter Bunny
6. Easter Parade.
7. Easter Candy

4. Correct the mistakes (Activity 4) 10 mins

Aim: to provide students with reading for detail practice.

Procedure: Students correct the mistakes in sentences from the text.

Answers:

1. During the Easter parade in mid-1800s people of **upper** classes march together through the streets of New York.
2. **Eggs** have been forbidden food during Lent for centuries
3. The traditional Easter bunny originates from **German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania.**
4. Among the most popular sweet treats associated with this day are **chocolate eggs**, which date back to early 19th century Europe.
5. Participants of the Easter Parade often sport elaborately decorated **hats and bonnets.**

5. Video (Activity 5) 15 mins

Aim: to provide students with listening practice.

Procedure: Ask students to look through the sentences and guess the answers. Students watch the video and fill in the chart. Play the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJYXMIJrhRI> Then they discuss the questions in pairs.

Answers:

Tradition	Origin
Easter is always celebrated on Sunday	In 325 AD Roman Emperor Constantine ruled that Easter must fall only on a Sunday - the day when Christ rose. Easter Sunday would be the first Sunday to follow the full moon after the spring Equinox between March 22nd and April 25th.
Christians light Paschal candle	It's flame a reminder of Christ's resurrection - light out of darkness.
The White House opens its lawn to children	In 1876 Congress prohibited kids from playing on the Capitol grounds. So President opened the White House lawn to little rollers.
Children make nests	Beginning around the 16th century, parents told children that if they behave, the Osterhas would lay colourful eggs for them. Children made nests in their homes to entice the rabbit to visit. And so became customs of the Easter egg hunt and the Easter basket.

6. Debate (Activity 6) 10 mins

Aim: to provide students with free speaking practice.

Procedure: Students debate in pairs about whether it's OK for Easter to have non-religious traditions such as bunnies, chocolate eggs, jelly beans, etc.?

7. Sum up 3-5 mins

Summarise the lesson and tell students what results they have achieved (Now you can ... After our reading and speaking lesson you will be able to....). Ask them if they have any questions. Conduct delayed error correction if needed.