

Webquest: Easter

by Luke Vyner

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

Target age: Teenagers / Young adults

Time needed: Up to 60 minutes

Key skills: Reading, speaking

Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student

Note: The weblinks for Activities 1, 2 and 4 are from American websites and so use American English. This affects the way some of the language is presented, for example *candy* is used instead of the British English equivalent *sweets*. You may wish to make your learners aware of this, and they could try to find other examples of American English as they do the webquest.

Warmer

Hand out the student worksheets. Before beginning Activity 1, ask students to work in pairs to discuss what they know about Easter and its history.

Activity 1: The history of Easter

Now, ask students to work individually to answer the questions in Activity 1. Ask them to see how many questions they can answer before they read the article. When they have finished, allow students to work in pairs to compare answers.

Key:

1. The exact origins of the name 'Easter' are unknown.
2. The original term was incorrectly translated as 'esostarum' in Old High German. This eventually became 'Easter' in English.
3. Lent is a time for reflection and penance. It is the period before Easter Sunday and lasts for 40 days.
4. The 40 days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness before starting his ministry.
5. Holy Week
6. Maundy Thursday: Jesus's last supper with his disciples; Good Friday: the day of Jesus's crucifixion; Holy Saturday: the transition between the crucifixion and resurrection

Activity 2: The Easter bunny and other Easter symbols

Ask students to read the short introduction and discuss whether they have similar traditions in their country. Then, ask them to work in pairs. Student 1 should read sections 1 and 2 entitled 'Easter bunny' and 'Easter eggs'. Student 2 should read sections 3 and 4 entitled 'Easter candy' and 'Easter parade'. Tell students to look at the statements first and decide whether they are true or false before they visit the weblink. Ask them to share their findings with their partner.

Section 1: Easter bunny

Key:

1. F – The Bible doesn't mention the Easter bunny.;
2. T; 3. F – The tradition was brought to America by German immigrants.;
4. T

Section 2: Easter eggs

Key:

1. T; 2. T; 3. F – since at least the 13th century; 4. F – on the Monday after Easter

Section 3: Easter candy

Key:

1. F – More sweets are sold at Halloween.;
2. T;
3. F – It's the marshmallow Peep.;
4. T

Section 4: Easter parade

Key:

1. T; 2. F – It was at its most popular in the mid-20th century.;
3. F – They still close Fifth Avenue from 49th Street to 57th Street.;
4. T

Activity 3: Easter around the world

Give one of the following countries or group of countries to each student: 1. Brazil, 2. Ethiopia, 3. Germany, 4. Mexico, 5. Spain, 6. the UK, 7. France / Italy / Greece, 8. Portugal / Peru. Point out the questions on the worksheet that they must consider as they research each country or group of countries. Ask students to write a summary or

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make notes on their country or countries. Stress that they should use their own words.

When they have finished, create a class mingle exercise and ask students to share their findings with each other. What was the most surprising finding?

Activity 4: Things you didn't know about Easter!

Tell students that the exercise numbers do not follow the order in which the answers appear on the website so they may need to click forwards or backwards to find their answers.

Key:

1. The egg appears in several ancient traditions as a symbol for life or life's beginnings.
2. The traditional pastries eaten on Good Friday in the UK are known as hot cross buns.
3. In Ethiopia, Easter is known as Fasika and people fast from meat and dairy for eight weeks before celebrating.
4. In Sweden and areas of Finland, little girls wear shawls and old skirts that are too big for them, and visit people's houses to ask for treats.
5. Beginning in the mid-1800s, upper-class New Yorkers would parade their riches after leaving church.
6. The first Sunrise Service in America was arranged by the Moravians. The purpose of the Mass is to remember the empty tomb that Mary found on Easter morning.

Activity 5: Optional fun task

Now that you and your students know so much about Easter, you could organize your own Easter party. www.ehow.com/list_6465113_fun-easter-games-kids-adults.html has some fun ideas for games.