

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

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. a pagan festival celebrating spring
2. On a Sunday between March 25 and April 25; the movements of the planets and the sun
3. Eostre, the pagan goddess of spring or renewal
4. decorating eggs and eating them
5. hares and rabbits
6. sugared pastry

Activity 2: The Easter bunny and other Easter symbols

Tell students to look at the statements first and decide whether they are true or false before they visit the weblink. Ask them to correct any wrong sentences.

Easter bunny

Key:

1. F – it came from ancient fertility and spring celebrations; 2. T; 3. F – it is German

Easter eggs

Key:

1. T; 2. T; 3. F – the colours are yellow, red and blue

Easter candy

Key:

1. F – 1850 (the mid 19th century); 2. F – since 1875; 3. T

Hot cross buns

Key:

1. T; 2. F – buns baked on Good Friday were seen as lucky; 3. F – they are mostly seen as a representation of the Christian symbol of the cross

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 9. the USA. 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 of their findings on their country or countries. Stress that they should use their own words.

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

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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 the 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.