

Festivals: Easter

by Hans Mol

Level: Elementary, Common European Framework level A1

Target age: 8+

Time needed: 45 minutes – 1 hour

Section / Subject Young Learners / Festivals

Aims: Reading and talking about Easter, following instructions

Resources: 1 copy of Worksheet 1 for each child, coloured pencils, paints and brushes

Key vocabulary: *Easter, rabbit, seasons: spring, autumn, winter; colours: red, orange, pink, yellow, green, brown, blue, purple; facial features: eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hair*

Easter story – Worksheet 1

Introduce the language

Tell the students you are going to read a story about Easter. Depending on your students' cultural background, decide whether you need to explain the Christian/Jewish religious background of Easter (death and resurrection of Jesus). This story focuses on the non-religious aspects of the festival.

Pre-reading activity

On the board or in their notebooks, let students make drawings of what Easter reminds them of. Let them write the word *Easter* in the middle and write three things around it. They may think of things like *eggs, rabbit, Jesus, breakfast with family, egg hunt* etc. Help children find the English words if they are stuck. Compare answers and let them add any words they think are interesting to their own worksheet.

Christian religious celebrate
rabbit competition hunt

Write these words on the board and find out whether your students know the meaning of them. Explain the meaning with lots of physical movement and showing objects or by putting the words in a context, for instance, *We celebrate your birthday every year; Christmas is a religious day for Christians; I am going to win the drawing competition!*

Pre-teach or review the seasons (show on calendar): *spring, summer, autumn, winter.*

Reading task

Hand out Worksheet 1. Let the children read the story by themselves first. Then read it aloud to them.

Speaking task

Show the children the Questions section of Worksheet 1. Stimulate the children to answer or finish the answers in simple English. They can write on their worksheets. Depending on your students' age, language level and independence you can allow them to talk about the questions in pairs first, and then talk as a class, sitting in a circle.

Colour the eggs – Worksheet 2

Introduce the language

Review colours with pupils. If necessary, write them on the board. Hand out Worksheet 2. Explain to the children that they are going to listen to your instructions and then colour sections of the eggs. They should colour all sections of the eggs which have the same number. The colours needed for this activity are: red, orange, pink, yellow, green, and brown, blue, purple.

Read the instructions out loud.

1. Look for the number 1. Colour it red.
 2. Look for the number 2. Colour it orange.
 3. Look for the number 3. Colour it pink.
 4. Look for the number 4. Colour it yellow.
 5. Look for the number 5. Colour it green.
 6. Look for the number 6. Colour it brown.
 7. Look for the number 7. Colour it blue.
 8. Look for the number 8. Colour it purple.
- Display the finished worksheets in class.

Decorate an egg

Introduce the language

Before you do this activity, instruct children to bring to school a hard-boiled egg. If this is not possible, have the children draw an egg shape on a sheet of paper.

Review the features of the face by pointing at, e.g. your eyes, and asking pupils, *What's this?* Write the vocabulary on the board, or let the children do so.

Listening task

Say, *Draw a nose*, and the children draw a nose on their egg. Continue for the other facial features: *eyes, ears, mouth, and hair*. Once the children have finished, they could paint the eggs. Display the decorated eggs in class.

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Hello, I'm the Easter rabbit. Let me tell you a story about Easter.

1. Easter

Read the story about Easter.

Easter

Easter is a festival in spring. (But if you live in the south, like in Australia or Brazil, it is in autumn.) Many animals, such as birds and sheep, have their babies in spring! It is also the time of the year when flowers grow and the leaves on the trees come back. That is why some people celebrate Easter: they are happy that life will start again after winter.

For Christian and Jewish people, Easter is a religious day. Christians celebrate that Jesus came to life again after he died. Jewish people call Easter *Passover*.

Eggs are important at Easter. Many children play the *Easter egg hunt* game. The Easter rabbit hides some eggs in the house and the garden. On Easter morning the children look for the eggs.

Children also paint Easter eggs in lovely colours. They give the eggs away as presents or play egg-rolling competitions. The *Easter egg roll* is fun! Who can roll an egg down a hill without breaking it?

2. Questions

Talk about Easter.

- 1 Do you celebrate Easter in your country? Yes, I do. No, I don't.
- 2 Do you celebrate Easter in your family? Yes, we do. No, we don't.
- 3 What do you do on Easter Day?

<input type="checkbox"/> We have a party with my family.	<input type="checkbox"/> We paint eggs.
<input type="checkbox"/> We have a nice breakfast together.	<input type="checkbox"/> We go to church.
<input type="checkbox"/> We stay in bed late.	<input type="checkbox"/> We stay at home all day.
<input type="checkbox"/> We play Easter egg hunt.	<input type="checkbox"/> We have a picnic.
<input type="checkbox"/> We play Easter egg roll.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sorry, we don't celebrate Easter.
- 4 Do you like Easter? Yes, I do. No, I don't. It's OK.

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1. Colour the eggs

Listen to the instructions and colour the eggs.

