

Topics: Easter by Adrian Tennant

LEVEL: Intermediate +
AGE: Teenagers / Adults
TIME NEEDED: 90 minutes + project
LANGUAGE FOCUS: Noun phrases, understanding vocabulary in context, topic words

LEAD-IN

Ask the students to look at the word cloud and see how many words they know – there are nine (*eggs, Lent, chocolate, celebration, spring, bunny, Friday, pancakes, cross*). Next ask the students if they know the meaning of all the words and what their connections are to Easter.

Cultural notes:

Lent: the period of 40 days before Easter, starting on Ash Wednesday, when some Christians stop eating or doing something that they enjoy

pancakes: pancakes are eaten on Shrove Tuesday, commonly known as Pancake Day, which is the last day before Lent begins

Friday: Good Friday is the Friday before Easter, which Christians remember as the day that Jesus Christ died

bunny: the Easter bunny is an imaginary rabbit that children believe brings chocolates or sweets at Easter

eggs: Easter eggs are egg-shaped chocolates traditionally given as presents on Easter Sunday

cross: the structure on which Jesus Christ died according to the Bible. On Good Friday, Christians traditionally eat hot cross buns, which are sweet individual cakes with a cross on the top.

READING 1: TITLES

Ask students to work in small groups and look at the four headings and discuss what they think each one is about in connection to Easter. Monitor and prompt where necessary. Write up some of the answers on the board, but tell them they will find out more when they read the texts in the next activity.

READING 2: EASTER TEXTS

Ask students to read through the texts and match the titles from the previous section to the texts.

Key a _____

A. 4; B. 1; C. 2; D. 3

Next, ask students to answer the questions for each text. Get them to do this on their own and give them a time limit of five minutes. Then, put the students in pairs and get them to check their answers together. Finally, check the answers as a class.

Key b (suggested answers) _____

Text A: 1. Easter Island; 2. because it's a long way from any other landmass; 3. look at the stone (Moai) statues and the rock carvings

Text B: 1. 275ml in total; 2. (melted) butter; 3. at the end / when you serve the pancakes

Text C: 1. eat too many chocolate eggs; 2. the egg hunt

Text D: 1. Rabbits are a symbol of fertility or life and Easter is in Spring which is when most new life begins; 2. because the tradition is strange – rabbits don't lay eggs!

WORKING WITH THE LANGUAGE

Focus: Language use

Explain to the students that in English we often use words like *it* and *they* to refer back to something already mentioned, rather than repeating the original word. Give the students an example e.g. *Easter is in Spring. It is either in March or April.* Check that they understand the word *it* is being used instead of repeating the word *Easter*. Next, put the students in pairs and get them to discuss the five sentences and try to work out what each of the underlined words refers to. Encourage the students to look back at the texts to help them work out the answers. Monitor and help where necessary. Check the answers as a class.

Key _____

1. the 'well' in the flour; 2. eggs; 3. eggs; 4. of the hill; 5. rabbits / bunnies

WORKING WITH VOCABULARY

Ask students to look back at the texts and find words and phrases that match the definitions. Encourage them to work in pairs and discuss their ideas as they look at the texts. Check the answers as a class.

Key _____

1. impressive; 2. guarantee; 3. pinch; 4. sift; 5. smooth; 6. stuff your face; 7. smashing; 8. precisely; 9. originated; 10. immigrants

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LISTENING

Tell the students that they are going to listen to a woman talking about Easter. Ask them to first listen out for the Easter-related activities and traditions she mentions that are also in the reading texts. Play the recording. Before playing the recording for a second time, ask the students to note down any other activities or traditions that the woman mentions. Check the answers as a class.

Key a _____
she mentions pancakes, chocolate Easter eggs, Easter egg hunts and making nests for rabbits; she also observes Lent and she spends time with her family

Transcript:

Our family aren't very religious – I mean, we are Christian, but we don't go to church every Sunday. But my mother has always said that Easter is an important time of the year, probably because that's when our whole family spend time together. I love Shrove Tuesday – or Pancake Day as it's often known – but I guess one reason for that is that I observe Lent, so it's my last treat before I stop eating chocolate for 40 days! Then, of course, during Easter I make up for it by eating warm hot cross buns on Good Friday and lots of Easter eggs. I remember as a kid going on an Easter egg hunt and eating everything I found – I was sick for days afterwards. We also used to make a 'nest' for the rabbits, as my grandmother was originally from Germany and apparently that's what they do over there!

Next, ask the students to read through the four sentences and decide if they think the sentences are true, false or not given. Play the recording again, then put students in pairs to discuss their answers. Monitor and help where necessary. Check the answers as a class.

Key b _____
 1. F; 2. NG; 3. T; 4. T; 5. F

SPEAKING

Put students in small groups and ask them to discuss the questions together. Afterwards, ask a few groups to report back on their discussion.

PROJECT

Leave ten to fifteen minutes at the end of the lesson to do the project. Alternatively, get students to do this for homework and then share their findings in a subsequent lesson.

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LEAD-IN

Look at the word cloud below. Do you know what the words mean? What other things do you associate with Easter?

CROSS **LENT** **CHOCOLATE**
CROSS **SPRING** **EGGS**
CROSS **PANCAKES** **EGGS**
C **BUNNY** **FRIDAY** **S**
CELEBRATION

READING 1: TITLES

You are going to read four texts about Easter.
Look at the titles and try to guess what each text is about.

1. Delicious pancakes
2. Egg-citing times!
3. Peculiar traditions
4. Where it's Easter all year round

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READING 2: EASTER TEXTS

a. Match the titles from the previous exercise to the texts below.

A.

WELCOME TO RAPA NUI, THE NAVAL OF THE WORLD!

Rapa Nui is also known as Easter Island because the first time European sailors saw it was on Easter Day in 1722. It is more than 3,000 kilometres from the next nearest landmass. This makes it one of the most remote tourist destinations in the world! But flying to Rapa Nui from Chile is simple. Marvel at the impressive stone Moai standing along the coast looking out to sea and admire the fascinating rock carvings. We guarantee you'll have an experience you will remember for the rest of your life.

B. **Ingredients:**

110g plain flour
pinch of salt
2 eggs
200ml milk
75ml water
50g butter

To serve:

lemon juice
sugar

Method:

1. Sift the flour and salt into a bowl.
2. Make a 'well' in the flour and break the two eggs into it.
3. Mix and then gradually add the milk and water.
4. Keep mixing until all of the liquid is used.
5. Melt the butter in a saucepan and add to the mixture so that the batter is rich and smooth.
6. Heat a small amount of butter in a frying pan. Then add enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan and fry.
7. Serve hot with lemon juice and sugar.

C.



Don't just stuff your face with chocolate ones – come and join us for a fun packed day for all the family.

The activities include:

EGG PAINTING – decorate your own eggs and brighten up your dining table displays.

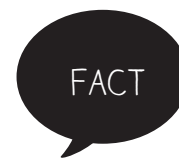
EGG HUNT – find the hidden eggs – prizes for the team that finds the most.

EGG ROLLING – yes, rolling! Roll your egg down the hill; the first to the bottom wins – a smashing time for all!

Middleton Manor House
Saturday 30th March
11am-5pm



D.



What do rabbits – or, more precisely, bunnies – have to do with Easter? Well, it seems that they are a symbol of fertility and life. Easter is in the springtime, which is also the time when new life begins – flowers bloom, leaves appear on trees and lambs are born in the fields. There is one very odd tradition in parts of the US, where people make nests for the rabbits (or hares) so they can lay eggs! Apparently, the tradition originated in Germany and was taken across by immigrants.

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b. Read the texts again and answer these questions.

Text A:

1. What's another name for Rapa Nui?
2. Why isn't it easy to visit Rapa Nui?
3. What would tourists do there?

Text B:

1. How much liquid (in total) is used in the recipe?
2. What makes the pancake mixture 'rich'?
3. When do you add the lemon juice?

Text C:

1. What does the writer not want you to do at Easter?
2. Which activity involves group participation?

Text D:

1. What is the connection between rabbits and Easter?
2. Why does the writer use the words *one very odd tradition*?

WORKING WITH THE LANGUAGE

Focus: Language use

Look at these sentences from the texts. What do the underlined words refer to?

1. Make a 'well' in the flour and break the two eggs into it.
2. Don't just stuff your face with chocolate ones - ...
3. Egg hunt – find the hidden eggs – prizes for the team that finds the most.
4. Roll your egg down the hill; the first to the bottom wins - ...
5. What do rabbits – or, more precisely, bunnies – have to do with Easter? Well, it seems that they are a symbol of fertility and life.

WORKING WITH VOCABULARY

Focus: Meaning

Find words or phrases in the texts that match the definitions below.

1. very good, large or showing a lot of skill so you admire it
2. to promise that something will happen
3. a small amount of something that you can hold between your finger and thumb

4. to pour a dry substance through a sieve to remove any large pieces
5. completely even with no lumps
6. to eat too much food until you are not hungry or feel ill
7. great, very good or enjoyable
8. exactly
9. to begin to exist, come from or appear for the first time
10. people who come to live in a country from another country

LISTENING

Focus: Meaning

- a. Listen to a woman speaking about Easter. Which activities or traditions from the Reading 2: Easter texts exercise does she mention? What other things does she do at Easter?**

- b. Listen again. Are these sentences true (T), false (F) or not given (NG)?**

1. Easter is important for the woman and her family because they are Christians.
2. She eats lots of chocolate on Shrove Tuesday.
3. She eats hot cross buns on Good Friday.
4. She was once ill because she ate too much chocolate.
5. She lives in Germany.

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Discuss the questions below in groups.

1. Do you celebrate Easter? If yes, what do you do?
2. Which of the traditions from texts B, C and D do you think sound interesting? Why?
3. Do you observe Lent? If so, what do you give up and why? If you don't, what do you think you would give up for the 40 days of Lent? Do you think this would be difficult to do?
4. Are there any unusual traditions connected to Easter, or another festival period, that you know about? What are they?
5. Have you heard about Easter Island before? Would you like to go there? Why? Why not?

PROJECT

Think of an important festival in your country and design an information leaflet to give to tourists with information about some important things connected to the festival. You might want to include things like food, symbols or other traditions.