EASTER

Match the choices A-H to 1-5. There are 3 choices you don't need to use.

1. _____

The actual date of Easter changes every year. Most churches set Easter as the first Sunday after a full moon on or following the Spring Equinox (21st March). This means Easter Sunday can be as early as the third week in March or as late as the fourth week in April.

2. _____

So what does Easter celebrate? According to Christian tradition, Easter marks the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He was crucified on what is known as Good Friday, and was resurrected three days later on Easter Sunday. Officially, Easter marks the end of the period of Lent that begins on Ash Wednesday. The last week of Lent is celebrated as Holy Week and begins with Palm Sunday. This was the day that Jesus came into Jerusalem as the crowds laid palms at his feet. Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday) celebrates Last Supper.

3. _____

In the pre-Christian times, Easter was a special period. It was the celebration of the end of winter – a time to look to the warmth of the coming summer. The actual name, Easter, comes from "Ostara" or "Eostre", the Anglo-Saxon Goddess of Spring. In pagan times an annual spring festival was held in her honour.

4. _____

For many people in English-speaking and northern European countries, Easter is all about eggs. In the very early days, eggs were used as symbols of fertility. Traditionally, eggs were decorated with bright colours to represent the coming of spring, and the growth of new plants. Different countries have different traditions for their egg decoration. People from Slavic countries prefer to paint theirs in gold and silver. In Greece they use red to represent the blood of Christ. And in parts of Germany and Austria they paint their eggs green.

5. _____

Other symbols associated with Easter include the Easter bonnet, The Easter Bunny and the Easter basket. Bonnets are basically hats decorated with flowers. They come from the days when people wore plain clothes during Lent, then celebrated the end of Lent by wearing something nice, new and bright. There's another tradition that says that the wearing of three new things at Easter will bring you good luck in the coming year. The Easter basket started from the ancient custom of taking Easter food to church so it could be blessed. So, what will you be doing for Easter?

A **The foremost token**
B **When exactly did it all begin?**
C **Fancy clothes**
D **The days explained**
E **Pagan Roots**
F **What else?**
G **A different colour for a different country.**
H **Religious Customs**

LIVEWORKSHEETS