

1 Read and complete the facts below with the correct words: chocolate, goddess, foods, buns, tree, chicken, beans, branches.

8 FACTS ABOUT EASTER

Easter is a Christian holiday in the spring that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, it's not only celebrated by Christians. Many people enjoy taking part in fun activities, and eating special Easter treats! Here are some facts about Easter you might not know.

1 The name of the Easter holiday comes from the name of the pagan 1) _____ of spring and birth, Eostre. That's why it takes place in the spring months!



2 Before Easter, Christians go through a 40-day period called Lent. Many of them choose to give up certain 2) _____ such as meat during Lent to remember Jesus' 40-day period of fasting in the desert before his crucifixion.

3 Christians celebrate Holy Week in the week leading up to Easter Sunday, beginning with Palm Sunday when people laid palm 3) _____ in the street ahead of Jesus. Good Friday is the day Jesus was crucified and Easter Sunday is the day Jesus was resurrected from the dead.



4 Hot cross 4) _____ are a treat that British people can bake and eat together on Good Friday. The cross on the bun is a symbol of the cross where Jesus died.



5 People have been dyeing and decorating Easter eggs for a very long time. In fact, the tradition goes back to before Christianity because eggs were a symbol of new life in many ancient cultures. People used to use 5) _____ bark, leaves, flowers and fruit to dye eggs different colours. These days, some people use food colouring, but others still use natural materials.



6 The rabbit is the animal most people think of when it comes to Easter, but in some countries, other animals like a fox, cuckoo bird, cockerel, stork or chick (a baby 6) _____) bring children their Easter eggs and sweets.

7 The record for the largest Easter egg is held by the village of Tosca in Italy. The villagers created a 7,200-kilogramme 7) _____ egg with a circumference of 19.6 metres.



8 People in the USA spend \$1.9 billion on Easter sweets each year, and eat more than 16 million jelly 8) _____! They became a popular Easter sweet in the 1930s because candy-makers said they looked a lot like eggs.

3 **ICT** In groups, find out more facts about Easter and make an Easter Facts quiz. Then, swap quizzes with another group in the class and do the quiz.

2 Now, do the quiz. Check your answers.

- What is another name for the goddess Eostre?
 - Pascha
 - Ostara
 - East
- What other foods do people commonly give up for Lent?
 - bread
 - water
 - chocolate
- In which city did the people lay palm branches in front of Jesus as he entered?
 - Jerusalem
 - Bethlehem
 - Nazareth
- How do bakers make the shape of the cross when making hot cross buns?
 - with sugar icing
 - with a flour paste
 - with vanilla icing
- What is the most traditional Easter egg colour?
 - yellow
 - blue
 - red
- In which country does a fox bring children Easter eggs instead of the Easter bunny?
 - Germany
 - France
 - Switzerland
- When did the village of Tosca make their record-breaking chocolate Easter egg?
 - 16 March, 2011
 - 16 April, 2011
 - 16 April, 2013
- What is the most popular Easter sweet?
 - chocolate
 - jelly beans
 - marshmallows

