

HOW DO PEOPLE CELEBRATE EASTER?

WHAT ARE THE EASTER TRADITIONS IN YOUR COUNTRY?

EASTER IS ALWAYS IN SPRING².

EVERY YEAR IT IS ON A DIFFERENT DATE, BUT IT'S ALWAYS A SUNDAY BETWEEN MARCH 22ND AND APRIL 25TH. EASTER IS A CELEBRATION OF NEW LIFE. RABBITS (ALSO CALLED BUNNIES), LAMBS AND COLOURED EGGS ARE PART OF MANY EASTER TRADITIONS. LET'S LOOK AT SOME OF THE DIFFERENT EASTER TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD. SOME ARE VERY STRANGE³.

GERMANY

In Germany, the Easter egg hunt^{4*} is a very old tradition. On Easter Sunday, the Easter Bunny hides eggs or chocolate eggs and children try to find them. Why does the Easter Bunny bring eggs? It comes from an old German story about a poor⁵ woman who loves children. She hides coloured eggs in her garden as presents.

When the children find the eggs, they see a rabbit in the garden and think the rabbit brought the eggs.

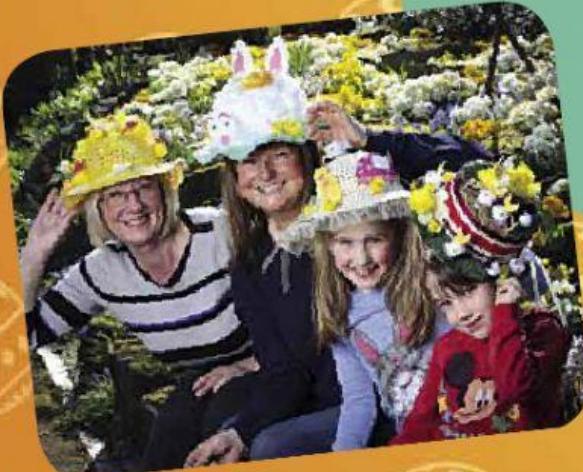


THE UNITED KINGDOM

In the UK, children decorate⁶ paper bonnets⁷.

On the Monday after Easter, they wear them in a parade⁸. Another tradition is dancing. See men wearing white, with bells⁹ on their trousers and a stick¹⁰ in their hands? They are morris dancers. On Easter Sunday, the men in some villages dress up as morris dancers and dance to send away winter and bring good luck. They look very silly. Dancers also welcome spring by wrapping¹¹ long ribbons¹² around a big pole¹³ coming out of the ground.

The pole can be more than five metres tall. It is called a maypole¹⁴.



THE CZECH REPUBLIC

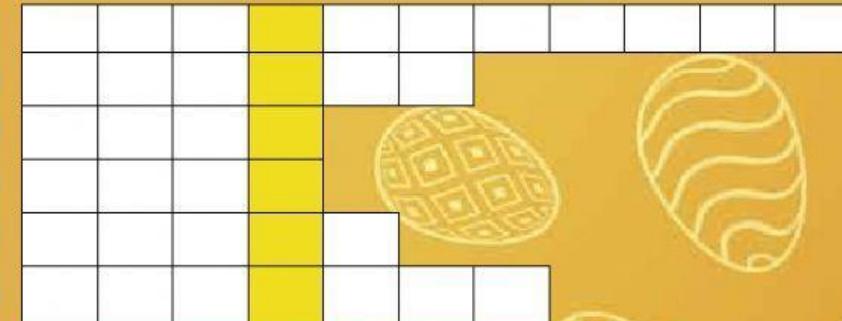
In the Czech Republic, they have an **unusual¹⁵** tradition on Easter Monday. Boys get **willow branches¹⁶** and make them into **whips¹⁷**. They decorate the whips with ribbons. On Easter Monday, they **gently¹⁸** hit the girls with their whips and ask for eggs to bring good luck and health. The girls decorate eggs to give to the boys. In some villages, the boys throw water on the girls to get an egg. Decorated eggs are an important symbol of Easter for Czechs.



TASK 1 Listen to CD Track 5 and learn about some interesting Easter traditions in Finland.

TASK 2 Put the missing words into the puzzle. The coloured letters give you a **secret¹⁹** word.

- 1 Easter is a _____ of new life.
- 2 In the UK, children decorate bonnets and join a _____ wearing them.
- 3 Rabbits, lambs and coloured _____ are part of many Easter traditions.
- 4 In Germany, children join an Easter egg _____.
- 5 In the Czech Republic, boys in some villages throw _____ on the girls.
- 6 The children in Finland wear _____ around their heads.



*GLOSSARY

Easter egg hunt – It's an Easter game. Parents hide decorated eggs or chocolate eggs somewhere outside for children to find.

VOCABULARY

- 1 **to celebrate / celebration** ['seləbreɪt / , selə'breɪʃən] (o)slavit, oslavovat / oslava
- 2 **spring** [sprɪŋ] jaro
- 3 **strange** [streɪndʒ] zvláštní, podivný
- 4 **hunt** [hʌnt] hledání, honba (za)
- 5 **poor** [pɔ:(r)] chudý
- 6 **to decorate** ['dekəreɪt] zdobit
- 7 **bonnet** ['bonɪt] čepec
- 8 **parade** [pə'reɪd] slavnostní průvod
- 9 **bell** [bel] zvonek, zvoneček
- 10 **stick** [stɪk] klásek
- 11 **to wrap** [ræp] ovinout, ovázat
- 12 **ribbon** ['rɪbən] stuha, stužka
- 13 **pole** [pəʊl] sloup, tyč
- 14 **maypole** ['meɪpəʊl] májka
- 15 **unusual** [ʌn'ju:ʒuəl] neobvyklý
- 16 **willow branch** ['wɪləʊ ,bra:nt] vrbový proutek
- 17 **whip** [wɪp] bič
- 18 **gently** ['dʒentli] jemně
- 19 **secret** ['si:krət] tajný
- 20 **church** [tʃɜ:tʃ] kostel
- 21 **scarf** [skɑ:f] šátek; mn. č. – **scarves** [skɑ:vz]
- 22 **witch** [wɪtʃ] čarodějnice
- 23 **to believe** [bi'li:v] věřit
- 24 **power** [paʊə(r)] moc, síla
- 25 **bonfire** ['bonfaɪə(r)] oheň

in the Recording Scripts

CLASS CHAT

- Do you like Easter? Why? Why not?
- How do you celebrate Easter in your country? Do you decorate Easter eggs / go on an Easter egg hunt / go to **church²⁰** / eat a lot of chocolate / paint your face / make willow whips / throw water on girls...?
- Are there any unusual traditions?
- Is there a special Easter food in your country?