

Easter Celebrations 3

Learning Objective:

To learn how Easter is celebrated around the world.



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Easter is celebrated in lots of different ways all around the world.



How do you or your friends celebrate Easter?



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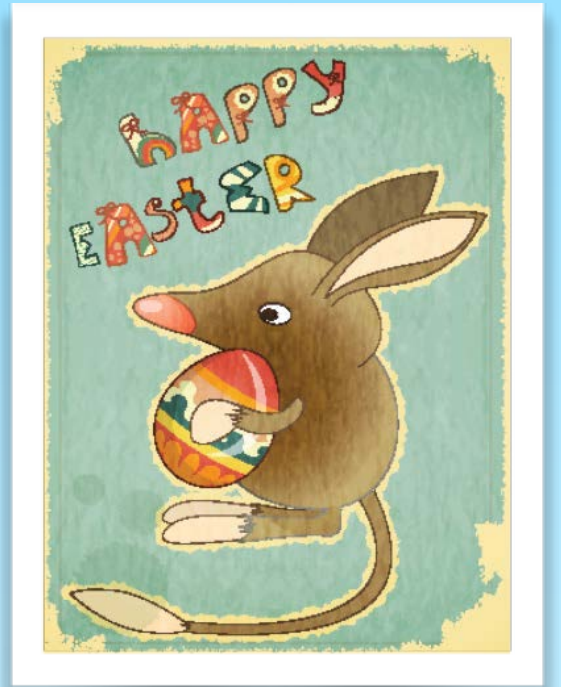
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Australia

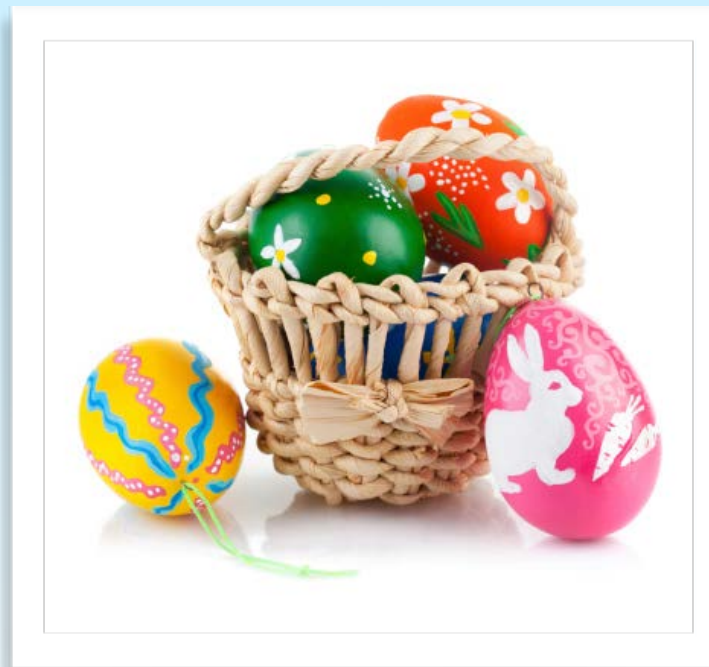
In Australia they celebrate Easter in March/April during their Autumn season.



They prefer the Bilby as the symbol of Easter as it is native to Australia. The rabbit is seen as a pest in Australia, as it eats all their crops.



They celebrate with church services, Easter eggs and a public holiday.



They traditionally play a game call 'Egg knocking', where two people tap eggs together and the person whose egg cracks first loses.



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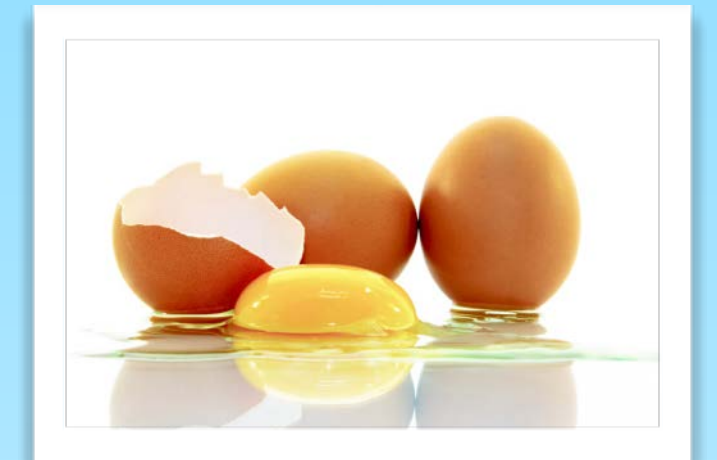
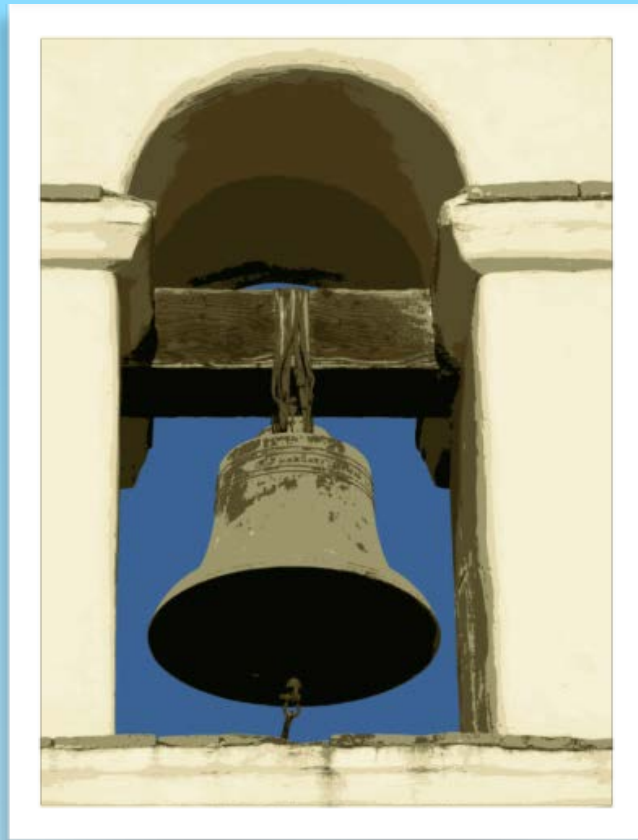
France

The French celebrate the start of Lent with a big festival called Mardi Gras. Mardi Gras mean 'Fat Tuesday'.

The churches stop all bells from ringing on the Thursday before Good Friday and don't ring them again until Easter Sunday. They are then rung on the Sunday to show Jesus is alive!

In France the children throw their eggs up in the air and the first one to drop their egg loses.

They traditionally roll raw eggs down a hill. The egg that survives and doesn't smash wins. It is said to signify the rolling away of the stone from the tomb.



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Ireland



In Ireland people traditionally dance in the streets in order to win the prize of a cake!



On Easter Sunday they eat a traditional meal of leek soup and roasted lamb.



In Ireland Easter Sunday is a sacred time for fasting and prayer.

People attend church on Easter Saturday and light lots of small candles from a special white candle called the Paschal. This candle has been blessed by the priest.



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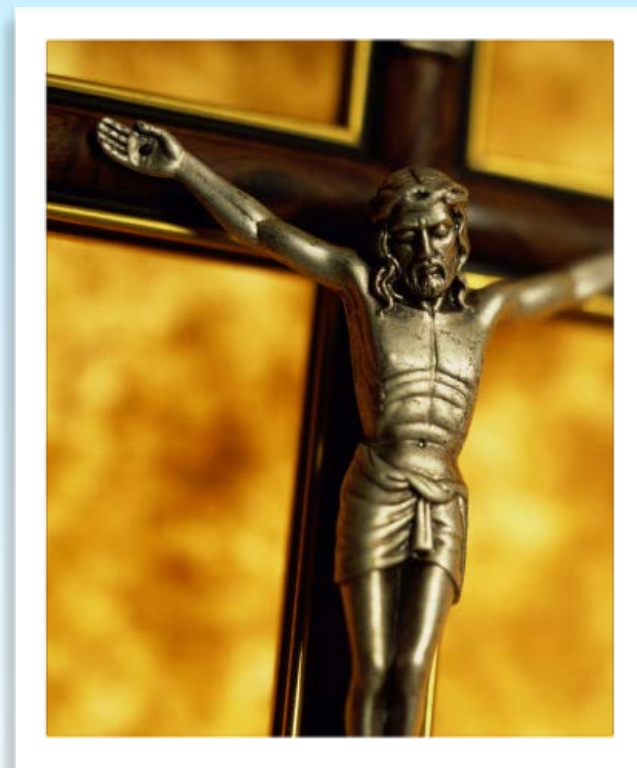
Mexico

Easter is celebrated with a mixture of two celebrations. Semana Santa/Holy Week and Pascua the resurrection Sunday until the following Saturday.

In some areas they act out a full play of the Last Supper, the betrayal, the judgement, the procession of the cross, the crucifixion and the resurrection. People take their roles so seriously that they often spend the whole year practising their parts.



Semana Santa celebrates the last days of Christ's life whereas Pascua celebrates Christ's resurrection.



In the last week of Lent they have a parade every day. On Good Friday they parade through the streets in the early hours of the morning, ringing bells slowly and singing sad songs. This is meant to be a sad parade on a sad day.

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Italy

Before the start of Lent they have their carnival with masquerades, parades music and dancing. The death of the carnival is a most important part of the carnival. In Venice they create a straw figure called 'King Carnival' and fill him with firecrackers and burn him at midnight in the Piazza San Marco. He represent the eating and drinking that

Pretzels were originally an Easter food. The twisted shape represents the twisted shape of arms during prayer.



In Italy they use olive branches instead of palm leaves.

On Easter Sunday they eat a special meal of roast lamb called 'agnellino'. They decorate their tables with brightly coloured eggs which have been blessed by a priest.



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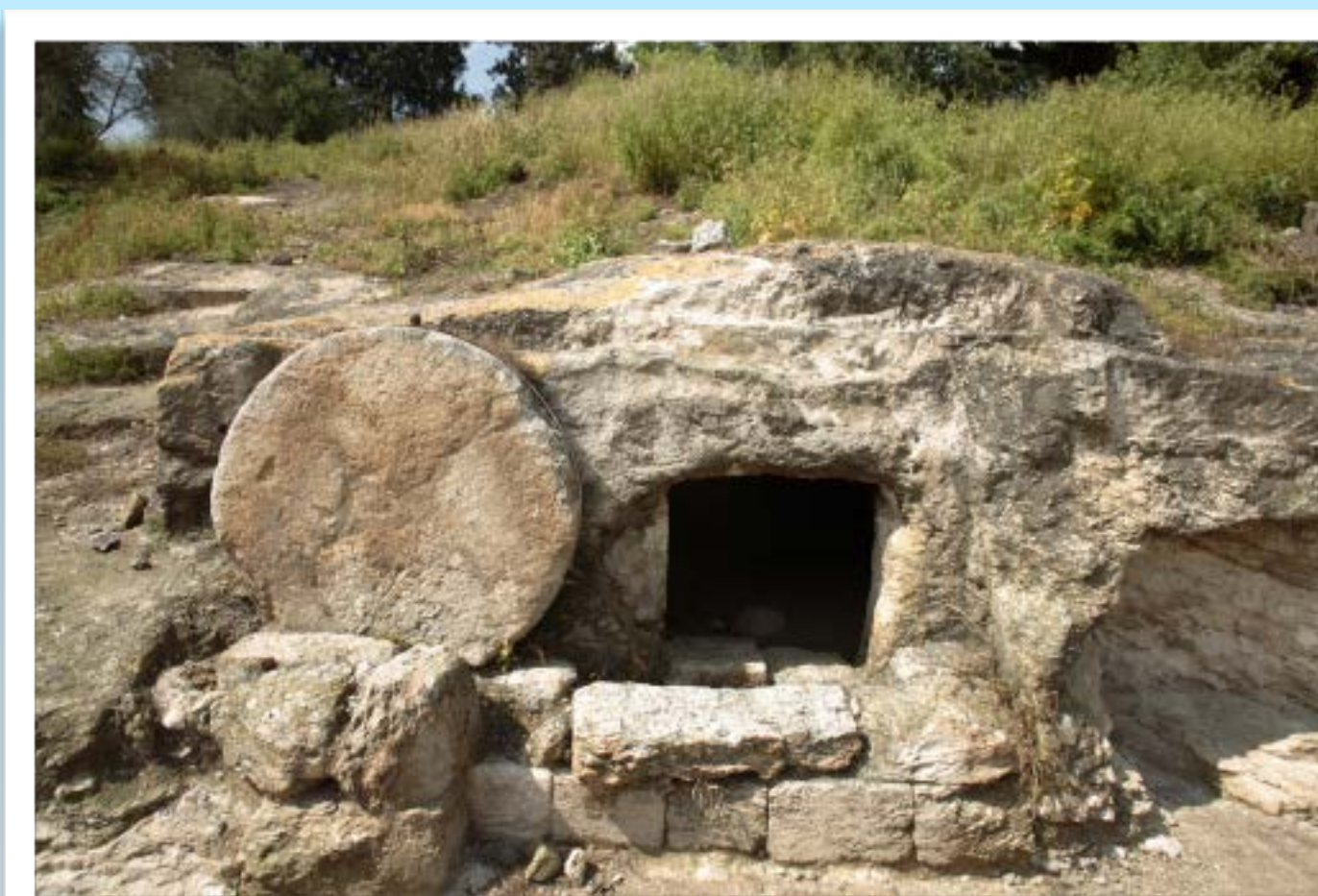
Israel



On Easter Sunday the leader of the church goes into Jesus' tomb and they shut the doors behind him. When he emerges he is carrying a lit torch. Everyone then lights the candles from this torch.

Catholics and Protestants celebrate Easter at the same time all around the world. However, Orthodox Christians celebrate it two weeks later than everyone else.

It is traditional to have a procession. Groups of people travel together to Golgotha. They travel along a route called 'The Twelve Stations'.



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What have you found out today about Easter that you never knew before?

What similarities did you notice?

Do you know of any other Easter traditions?

What differences did you notice?



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