

Easter

1. Easter is a religious holiday in many countries around the world including Canada. People usually get time off work. Which days, if any, are religious holidays in your country?
2. What do you know about Easter? Is it celebrated in your home country? How?
3. Can you explain why the following are symbols of Easter: eggs, rabbits, crosses, lilies?
4. What symbols do you have for religious holidays in your home country?
5. Will you celebrate the Easter holiday with your children this year? How will you celebrate?
6. Many parents tell their children that the "Easter Bunny" will come during the night and leave them Easter candy. Do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea to tell children stories like this?
7. Have you taken your children on an Easter egg hunt? Do you plan to this year? Why or why not?
8. Have you ever decorated real eggs for Easter? How do you decorate your home during religious holidays?
9. Are there any special breads, cakes or other foods associated with Easter or other religious holidays in your home country?
10. Does the region where you are living now have processions or parades at Easter? Can you describe them? Do you participate?
11. Some countries/regions have "passion plays" where they re-enact the death of Jesus. Have you been to see one or participated in one? Do you think it is a good idea to re-enact the death of Jesus?
12. Many churches hold special services during the Easter weekend. Will you go to church? Why or why not?
13. What do you know about the events of Easter Week in the Bible?
14. Read the following excerpt from the Bible then answer the questions:

Background: After Jesus died on the cross, two believers took Jesus' body, wound it in linen grave clothes dipped in spices, and laid His body in a tomb. Then, as requested by the Jewish leaders, the tomb was sealed and guarded by Roman soldiers.

"Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you."

- a. Who visited the tomb of Jesus? When did they visit?
- b. Would you say this was a supernatural event? Do you believe supernatural events are possible?
- c. Many of the disciples later met the resurrected Jesus. How would you feel if you were one of them?
- d. Do you believe it is possible for someone to rise from the dead? Would that be a good thing?
- e. In your opinion, how does believing in the death and resurrection of Jesus influence societies that are predominantly Christian?