

# Easter in England

Easter is one of the great Christian festivals of the year. It is full of customs, folklore and traditional food. But Easter in Britain began long before Christianity. Many theologians think that Easter is named after the Anglo-Saxon goddess of the dawn and spring – Eostre.

Easter is at a different time each year. It happens on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. This means that the festival can be on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Not only is Easter the end of winter it is also the end of Lent, traditionally a time of fasting in the Christian calendar. It is therefore often a time of fun and celebration. Of course, a lot of the English people are religious and fast (in the sense of going on Lent); these people give up a lot of different foods and drink for the whole forty days.



Today, Easter is mainly associated with eating lots and lots of chocolate. About a month before the Easter period, shops start selling Easter egg sets. On Easter Sunday people give these chocolate Easter eggs as presents. People also decorate Easter eggs and parents tell their children that the Easter rabbit brings the eggs and hides them in the garden. The kids then have to run around the garden with baskets looking for these eggs. The one who finds the most is the winner (this is called Egg Hunt).

## Egg rolling and Easter Bonnets

Have you ever heard of “egg-rolling”? It must be quite an exciting game. First people decorate eggs with different colours, then take the eggs to the top of a hill and let them roll down. The first egg to get to the foot of the hill is the winner. Another interesting British tradition is the decoration of Easter bonnets. Some women and girls decorate hats, called Easter bonnets. They put lots of spring flowers on them, and wear them in Easter bonnet parades.

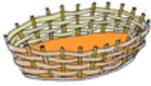


## Hot Cross Buns

Do you feel like eating something British for Easter? Just try Easter buns! Hot Cross Buns are traditionally served on Good Friday (the Friday before Easter). Hot Cross buns are bread buns with currants and spices and they have a cross on top (to represent the cross of Jesus). They are best hot, and there even is an old song about them: “Hot Cross Buns, Hot Cross Buns, one a penny, two a penny, hot Cross buns, If you have no daughters, give them to your sons, one a penny, two a penny, Hot Cross Buns.”



**VOCABULARY:**



**basket** - a container made from thin sticks - koš, košík



**bonnet** - a kind of a hat, especially a woman's hat - klobouček



**bun** - a very small loaf of bread or a kind of bread roll - houska, žemle, bochánek



**bunny** - a child's word for a rabbit - králíček



**ribbon** - a narrow piece of coloured material that is used for decoration, e.g. wrapping up presents etc. - stuha, stužka



**full moon** - the moon when we can see it as a complete circle - úplněk



**goddess** - a female god - bohyně

**customs** - traditions, a way of behaving that a group of people have had for a long time - obyčeje, zvyky

**fast** - to choose not to eat food for some time (esp. for religious or medical reasons) - postit se, držet půst

**Good Friday** – Velký pátek

**decorate** - to make something prettier and more beautiful by adding things to it, painting it etc. - ozdobit, vyzdobit

**hunt** - the act of searching for something - hledání, pátrání (po něčem)

**parade** - an event in which people march through the streets with musicians, dancers, etc, it is a part of some celebrations - přehlídka, průvod

**roll** - to turn over and over - valit, válet

**pagan** – pohanský

## Easter Quiz



1. The word 'EASTER' comes from
  - a Hebrew word that means 'holy day'.
  - Eastern Europe.
  - the name of a goddess.
  - the name of a woman in the Bible.
2. Easter falls on
  - the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring.
  - the first Sunday in April.
  - the same day every year.
  - the third Sunday in spring.
3. Easter Sunday celebrates the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.
  - circumcision
  - crucifixion
  - Last Supper
  - resurrection - vzkříšení
4. Which of the following is not a symbol of Easter?
  - ducklings
  - eggs
  - lambs
  - pumpkins
5. Who is believed to leave gifts, especially Easter baskets with sweets for children?
  - St. Nick

- The Easter Bunny
  - The Great Pumpkin
  - The Tooth Fairy
6. Children or ladies can take part in the annual Easter \_\_\_\_\_ parade.
- bonnet
  - costume
  - pride
  - victory
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is also a popular British and American tradition.
- Bobbing for Easter eggs
  - Easter egg smashing
  - The Easter egg battle
  - The Easter egg roll
8. Easter eggs are usually \_\_\_\_\_ for children to find.
- hidden in the garden
  - hung on the Easter tree
  - placed under the pillows
  - put in Easter stockings
9. The Friday before Easter is called
- Black Friday
  - Good Friday
  - Holy Friday
  - Palm Friday

10. Easter was originally \_\_\_\_\_ festival.

- a Christian
- a Jewish
- a pagan
- an Eastern European

## Easter Quiz - key

1. The word 'EASTER' comes from

- the name of a goddess. *To slovo pochází ze jména germánské bohyně jara 'Eostre' (nebo také Ostara).*



2. Easter falls on

- the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring. *Velikonoce jsou vždy první neděli po prvním jarním úplňku (ten výpočet je prý daleko složitější, ale vesměs to tak funguje).*



3. Easter Sunday celebrates the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

- resurrection *V neděli se slaví vzkříšení 'resurrection'*

4. Which of the following is not a symbol of Easter?

- pumpkins *pumpkins – dýně – ty jsou spíše symbolem svátku HALLOWEEN*

5. Who is believed to leave gifts, especially Easter baskets with sweets for children?

- The Easter Bunny *Sladkosti a dárečky nosí velikonoční zajíček (Easter Bunny).*

6. Children can take part in the annual Easter \_\_\_\_\_ parade.

- bonnet *Easter bonnet parade – tradiční přehlídka pestře nazdobených jarních klobouků, často jí doprovází soutěž o nejkrásnější klobouk.*

7. \_\_\_\_\_ is also a popular British and American tradition.

- The Easter egg roll *V některých zemích je tradice kutálet malovaná vajíčka z kopce dolů, vyhrává to, které se dostane dál bez rozbití*

8. Easter eggs are usually \_\_\_\_\_ for children to find.

- hidden in the garden ✓ *EASTER HUNT je také tradiční velikonoční činnost v UK a v USA, spočívá v tom, že se vajíčka ukryjí na zahradě (či jinde) a děti je musí hledat.*

9. The Friday before Easter is called

- Good Friday ✓ *pátku před velikonoce se říká GOOD FRIDAY*

10. Easter was originally \_\_\_\_\_ festival.

- a pagan ✓ *Velikonoce byly původně pohanským (pagan) svátkem*