

Easter - 2

14 pages of fun, photocopiable activities

Easter Flip Book

... Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday.

... lighting candles. They say 'Jesus is the light of the world'.

Easter Word Hunt

- Use the words to complete the sentences about Easter facts.
- Find each word in the word search.

chocolate	new	life	died	bunny
Sunday	eat	foil	rabbit	hunt

- On Good Friday, Christians remember that Jesus _____ on the cross.
- Many Christians eat _____ hot cross buns on Good Friday.
- On _____, Christians celebrate the day Jesus rose from the dead and _____ life.
- On Easter Sunday, Christians _____ eggs on Easter Sunday.
- _____ are brightly coloured _____.
- _____ are often found _____ in a basket.

Easter Bunny Salad

1. Get 1 green _____

_____ on plate.

_____ by _____

_____ above apple for ears.

_____ on for eyes.

_____ for _____ . Add to bunny face.

_____ . Add to bunny face.



Quick themes (*Easter – 2*)

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EASTER ACTIVITIES

AROUND THE WORLD

GREECE

In Greece, Easter (*Pascha*) is the most important religious celebration of the year for members of the Greek Orthodox Church. Preparations begin on Holy Thursday, when the traditional Easter bread, *tsoureki*, is baked. This bread is usually only made at Easter and several loaves are baked to last over the weekend. Eggs are dyed red to symbolise the blood of Christ, as well as new life.

On Holy Thursday evening, church services include a symbolic representation of the crucifixion and a period of mourning begins. In many villages and cities, numbers of women sit in church throughout the night in mourning.

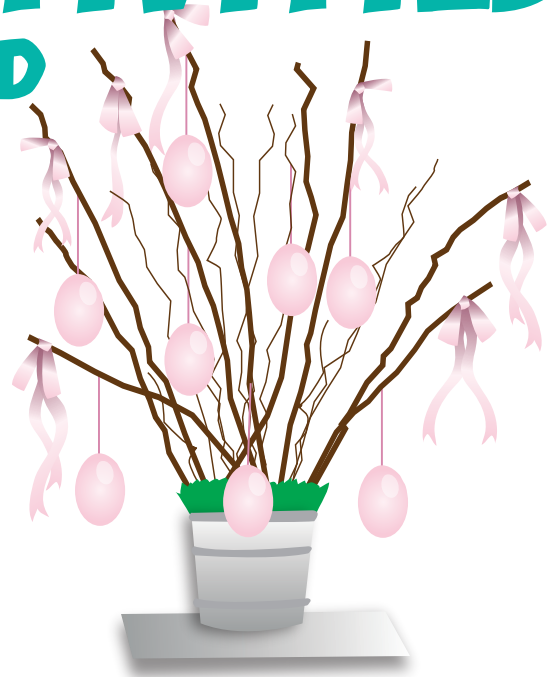
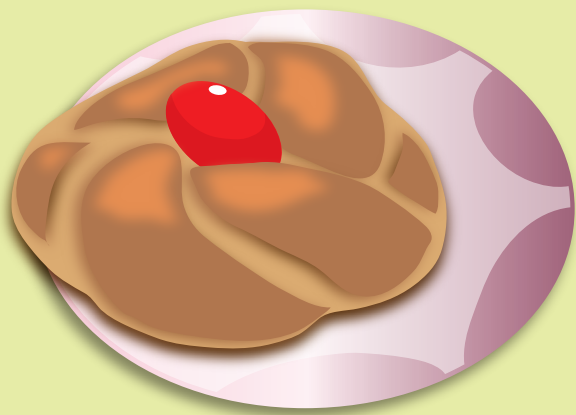
The holiest day of Easter is Good Friday, a day of mourning. Flags are hung at half-mast and church bells ring slowly throughout the day. The church's priest or monk takes down the icon of Christ from the cross and wraps it in linen, re-enacting ancient burial rituals. The icon is then placed in a casket surrounded by white lilies and paraded through the town as worshipers lament the death of Christ.

On Holy Saturday, parishioners attend late-night mass, bringing with them unlit candles. These decorated white candles, called *labatha*, are only used for one Easter midnight service. Shortly before midnight, all lights are turned off and churches are lit only by the Eternal Flame on the altar. At midnight, the priest announces joyously '*Christos anesti*' or 'Christ has risen'. He passes the flame to those nearest him, which is then passed from person to person until all candles are lit. As soon as '*Christos anesti*' is called out, church bells ring, ships sound their horns and fireworks and noisemakers are set off.

Easter Sunday is a festive day of celebrating with friends and family. Greeks have an Easter tradition of cracking eggs together, known as *tsougrisma*. Friends and neighbours crack their eggs against one another's to see who ends up with the whole egg. The one holding the last whole egg is deemed the lucky one.

THINGS TO DO:

- Dye some Easter eggs red.
- Decorate white candles (*labatha*) for the pupils to use at Easter.
- Bake *tsoureki*.



GERMANY

In Germany, the Thursday before Good Friday is known as Green Thursday. It is a day for cleaning houses and having a bath in preparation for Easter. Green food is often eaten because traditionally it was believed green food would protect the family and keep them safe during the coming year.

On Good Friday, German people signal the start of Easter by covering the cross, and fish, rather than eggs or meat, is eaten. Church bells are silent until Easter Sunday and, in the past, children were told the bells had been sent to Rome to be blessed, with people summoned to church using noisy rattles. Easter vigil starts in the evening of Easter Saturday and continues until Sunday morning. On Saturday evening, large bonfires are lit about 9 o'clock and people gather around them. They often use old Christmas trees for these fires, clearing the last signs of winter and marking the start of spring. Easter Sunday is a family day. On this day people eat special Easter foods, including coloured eggs, chocolate and a cake shaped like a lamb.

Easter eggs are very important in Germany and have been part of celebrations for over 600 years. They are hung on 'egg trees', which are made from small branches and found in houses and shops and gardens. These eggs are made from many different materials, including wood, plastic, glass, crystal and candy. Boiled and blown eggs are beautifully painted and decorated. The boiled eggs are often eaten for breakfast on Easter Sunday and also used in games and competitions, such as rolling them down a hill.

THINGS TO DO:

- Have a 'green lunch' day. Dye some hard-boiled eggs green with the pupils. They can bring green foods from home or help to make other green dishes at school: for example, green salad; mix together canned salmon, cream cheese, French onion soup and lemon juice, and form into a log shape. Roll in dried parsley; add gherkin relish to dry biscuits; make cauliflower and broccoli soup.
- Make an egg tree from small branches that have fallen or been pruned from a tree. Drape with decorated eggs and egg shells.
- Plan a table setting for an Easter meal.

THE PHILIPPINES

Filipinos prepare to celebrate the Christian holiday many weeks before it occurs. Carts, called *carrozas*, are decorated with flowers and carry characters in Easter processions. The large Easter processions include many colourful floats, with different tribal dance groups performing alongside them.

Easter Monday and Easter Thursday are used for religious processions and re-enactments of the life and death of Christ.

On Palm Sunday, palm fronds are woven into decorative patterns and taken to church, where they are waved to celebrate Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. After mass, priests bless the palm fronds.

In some regions, a dawn procession announces the resurrection of Jesus and his reunion with Mary, with images of Mary and Jesus placed side by side.

THINGS TO DO:

- Paint green a sheet of A3 white art paper using a variety of painting techniques—printing, finger painting, crumpled paper painting, sponge painting etc. When dry, draw and cut out a large palm frond shape. A teacher or an adult helper cuts parallel lines with a sharp craft knife and pupils weave strips of green paper in and out the cuts. Staple woven strips at the back and trim any long edges which extend beyond the frond shape.
- Use recycled materials to create a miniature *carroza* (cart) and decorate it with paint and paper flowers.
- Create steps for a simple Easter dance to be performed during an Easter procession.



SLOVAKIA

Although Easter is the biggest Christian celebration of the year in Slovakia, the Easter traditions are a mix of both Christian and pagan practices. Good Friday, a public holiday, is a day Christians fast. Fasting ends the next day, Holy Saturday, with a feast to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. On this morning, a basket of food is traditionally taken to church to be blessed. The food is then eaten after the church service and throughout the holiday. The basket traditionally contains sausages, smoked meats, cheese, cakes and eggs. Meat, usually roasted lamb, is an important part of the Easter meals. If lamb is unavailable, a cake is baked in the shape of a lamb.

Early on Easter Monday, in some parts of Slovakia, boys traditionally pour water on girls! In many areas of Slovakia,

young men carry perfume rather than buckets of water, which they sprinkle on the top of women's heads. Boys and young men also (gently) hit girls and young women on their legs with a special whip called a *korbac*. This is a willow or birch stick which is hand-woven and decorated with colourful ribbons. In return for the water and the whipping of legs, girls give the boys money, hand-painted eggs or chocolate eggs. It is believed the whipping with young branches transfers youth, vitality and 'beauty' to the girls who are whipped. The whipping and water were traditionally seen as good things that ensured a young woman's fertility and beauty for the year to come.

Recently, in many parts of Slovakia, the tradition has taken on a more equal-opportunity quality—some girls now attack the boys just as fiercely on the Tuesday following Easter Monday!

THINGS TO DO:

- Ask pupils to contribute to an Easter basket. This might be distributed among the elderly or needy in the community.
- Pupils could shape lambs out of salt dough.
- Use the Internet to find a recipe for the traditional *paska* (Easter bread).



POLAND

An important tradition of Easter in Poland is the blessing basket, a sampling of traditional food which is prepared with great care on Easter Saturday. The basket includes beautifully coloured eggs that represent the risen Christ; bread and salt for good health; white sausage, which is a wish for enough food and fertility; as well as cake, marzipan and cheese. All are placed with small figures of lambs in a decorated basket, which is then taken to church to be blessed on Easter Sunday. The blessing of the basket marks the end of the 40 days of Lent, but the food is not eaten until Sunday.

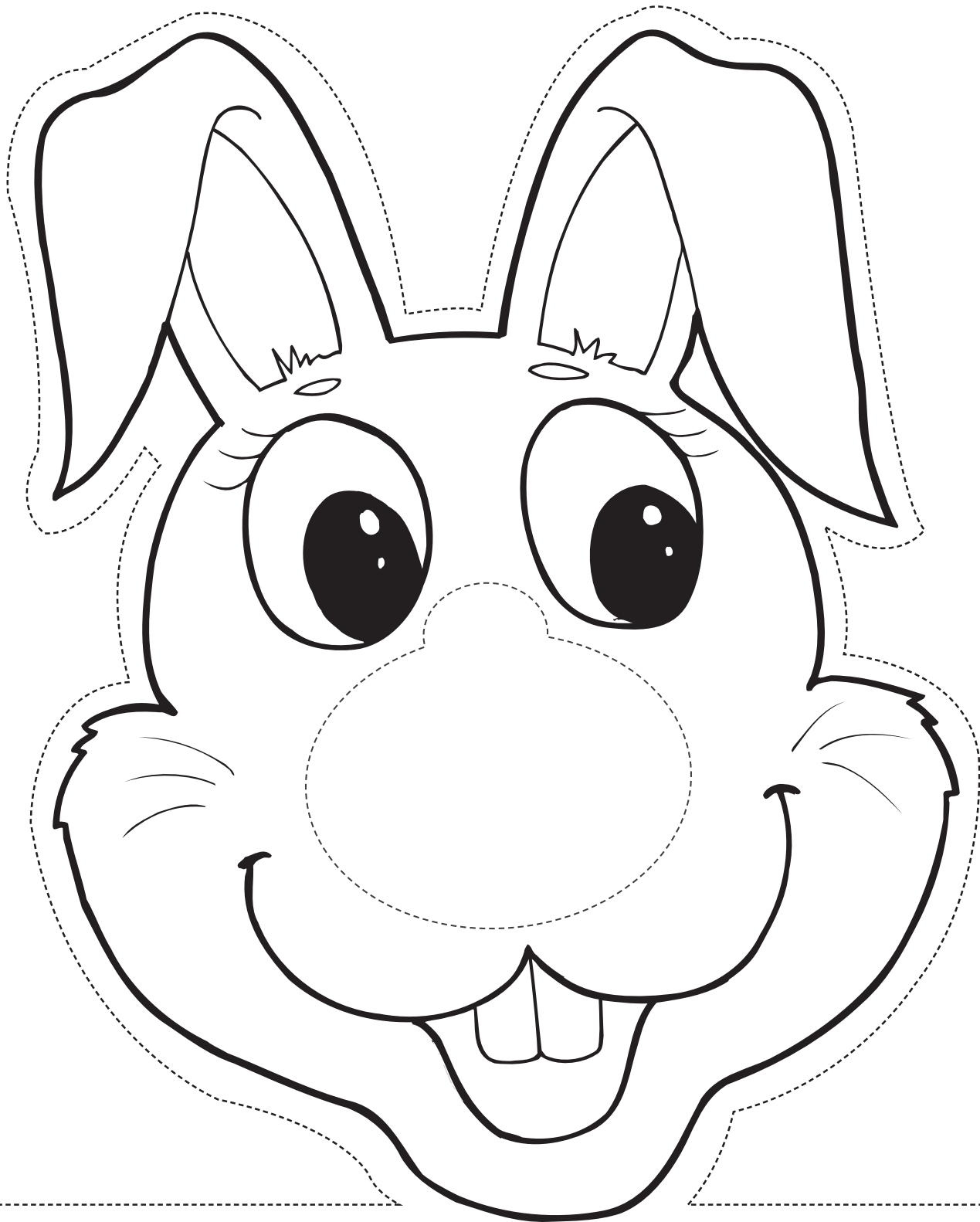
The meal on Easter Sunday cannot be warmed, as no work or smoke from cooking is allowed on this day. The traditional food is beautifully set out on tables to commemorate the resurrection of Christ.

In Poland, eggs are decorated in different ways. Some are painted with traditional Easter symbols, others have decorations etched into coloured wax and others have coloured paper or shiny fabric on them.

THINGS TO DO:

- Decorate a basket ready to be filled with Easter goodies.
- Find images on the Internet of examples of the way eggs are decorated in Poland for pupils to view.

Bunny Doorknob Hanger



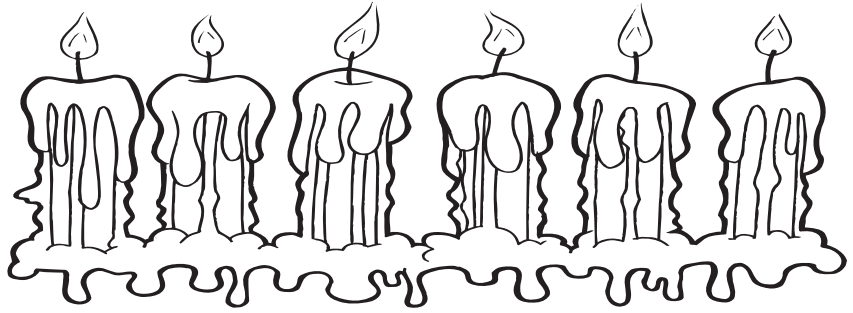
Easter bunny, please stop here!

Objective: Completes a bunny doorknob hanger by colouring and cutting. Note: This activity should be mounted on card for durability.

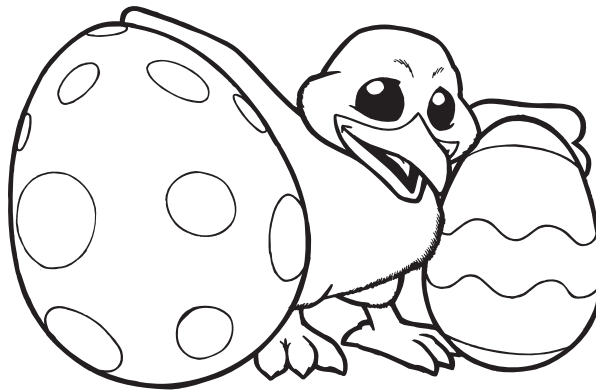
Easter Flip Book



... Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday.



... lighting candles. They say 'Jesus is the light of the world'.

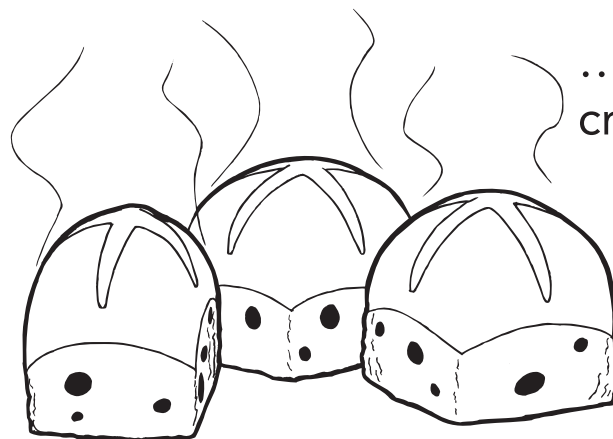
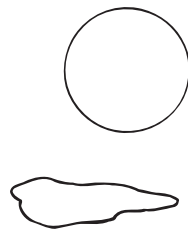


... new life. We give each other Easter eggs.

Easter

means ...

... Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday.



... eating hot cross buns.

Objective: Follows directions to create an Easter flip book.

Instructions: Colour the pictures. Cut out the pages and base (title page). Staple pages on top of each other at the end of the base. Flip pages up as each is read.

PATTERNED EASTER CARD

1. Colour and cut out the template below.
2. Place on the fold of a sheet of coloured card and trace around.
3. Cut out the coloured card shape and glue the template to the front.
4. Write an Easter message inside for a special person.

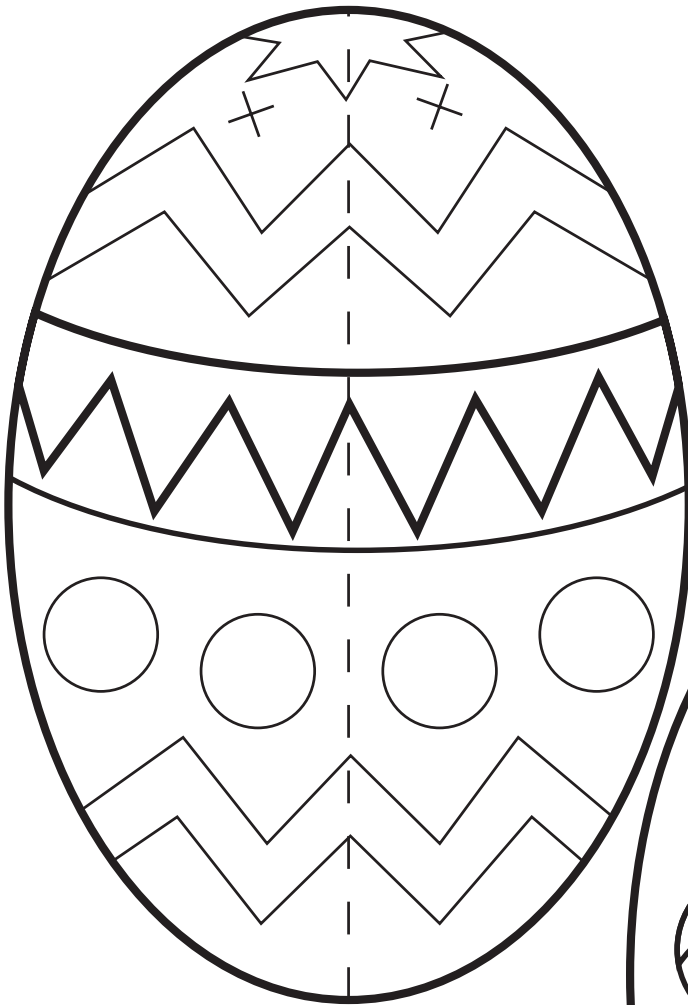
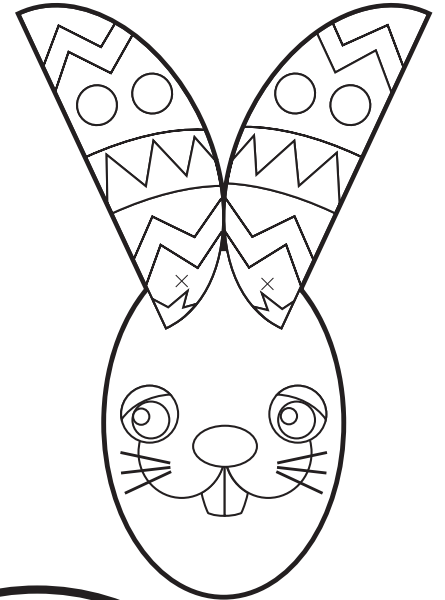


Place edge on fold of card.

Objective: Creates an Easter card by tracing, colouring, cutting and gluing.

Hidden Easter Bunny

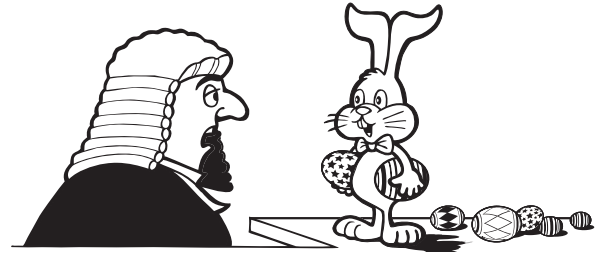
- 1 Colour and cut out the face of the Easter bunny.
- 2 Colour, decorate and cut out the Easter egg.
- 3 Cut along the dotted line down the centre of the egg.
- 4 Using split pins, stick each egg half onto the Easter bunny's face.
- 5 Turn each egg half up to see an Easter bunny with colourful ears.



Objective: Follows instructions to make a hidden Easter bunny. Enlarge to A3 size and photocopy onto card.

Who is Responsible for Easter?

The scene is a courtroom. A judge is at the bench; the Easter Bunny and the defence lawyer are sitting at a table; a prosecution lawyer is at another table; in the gallery are 3 Roman guards, 3 Easter chicks, 4–12 apostles and Jesus.

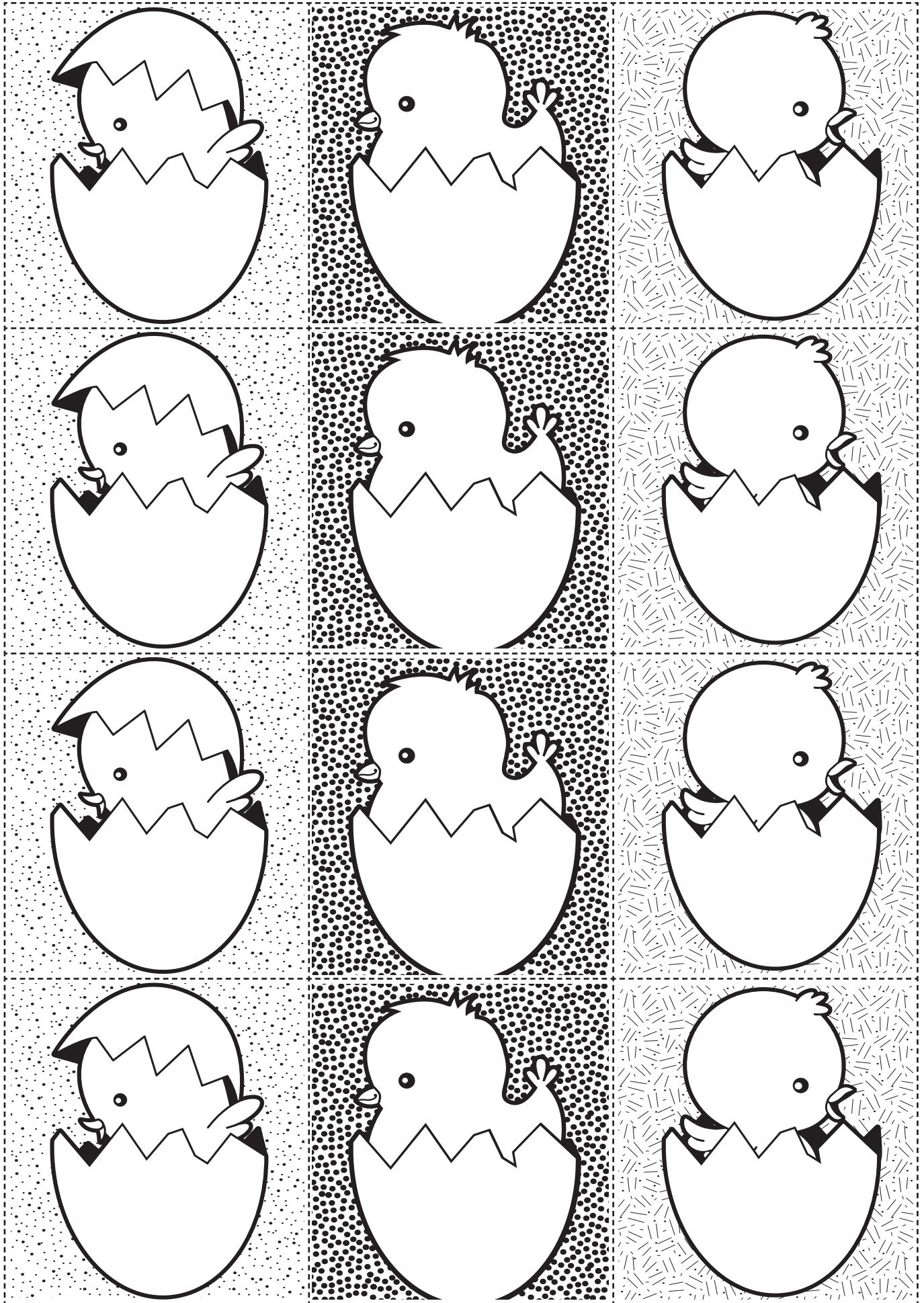


- Judge:** *(Sitting behind the bench.)* Order! Order!
- Prosecution lawyer:** The state accuses the Easter Bunny of being responsible for an annoying disruption to trade and business known as—EASTER!
- Defence lawyer:** *(Stands.)* Your Honour, many people think Easter is all about the Easter Bunny and chocolates. But I intend to prove that he is NOT entirely responsible for this yearly event! *(The people in the gallery murmur.)*
- Judge:** *(Bangs his gavel.)* Order! Defence, call your first witness.
- Defence lawyer:** I would like to call as first witness ... the Easter Bunny.
(Easter Bunny comes to the stand.)
- Easter Bunny:** Look, it's not my fault, okay? I just deliver the eggs. *(Wipes brow.)* Can I go now? I have to get back to my hareobics eggsercise class.
- Defence lawyer:** It seems our hot, cross bunny is having a bad hare day. Now, Easter Bunny, just how are you involved in Easter?
- Easter Bunny:** Eggs and bunnies are symbols of new life. That's what Easter is all about, really. New life! Just ask him! *(Points to Jesus in the gallery.)*
- Defence lawyer:** So, you aren't the main reason behind Easter? You just help people celebrate it by delivering chocolate?
- Easter Bunny:** Yes, that's exactly right. I'm just a hard-working symbol.
- Prosecution lawyer:** *(Stands and addresses the Easter Bunny.)* Mr Bunny, if I do an Internet search of 'Easter', what do you think I get? You! Your face! Your jokes! Your eggs! I maintain YOU are the main idea behind Easter!
- (Play 'Ching-ching' noise, with shocked murmurs from gallery. Easter Bunny moves back to sit next to his lawyer, shaking his head.)*
- Defence lawyer:** I call for the next witnesses, the Easter chicks.
(Chicks move to the stand.)
- Prosecution lawyer:** What have they got to do with Easter?
- Chick 1:** We hatch from eggs and clearly represent new life.
- Chick 2:** Yes, the real Easter story is about new life. Christians believe a man named Jesus gave up His own life so people could have a new life in heaven.

Objective: Reads or memorises a play script while learning the reason behind the Easter holiday.
Instructions: An Easter play for approximately 23 children. (Use Law and Order 'ching-ching' noise. You can download the sound at <http://www.televisiontunes.com/Law_and_Order_-_Sound_Effect.html>.)

- Chick 3:** So, just like the bunny and the eggs, we are Easter symbols. That's all!
- Defence lawyer:** Once again, we hear the Easter Bunny is not the real reason behind Easter. I call as my next witnesses the Roman guards, who will tell us more about Jesus. *(Chicks leave, guards come to the stand.)*
- Roman guard 1:** *(Pointing at Jesus.)* This man and his followers *(points to the apostles in the gallery)*, the apostles, claimed He was the son of God. More and more people followed Him. Our leaders were not happy about this. They told us to arrest Him and they sentenced Him to death.
- Roman guard 2:** They made us nail Him to a big, wooden cross. He died in pain on that cross. We took His body down and He was buried in a cave. A massive stone was rolled across the entrance of that cave, closing it tight.
- Roman guard 3:** A few days later ... the stone had been moved and Jesus's body had gone!
- (Apostles stand up in the courtroom audience.)*
- Apostle 1:** That's right! On the third day after He died, He came back to life. We saw Him! It actually freaked us out a bit. *(Apostles all nod heads.)*
- Apostle 2:** We believe He is God's son. God sent Him to Earth to show people how much He loved us. Jesus knew He would die this way, but He still did it, and He forgave everyone who hurt him.
- Apostle 3:** And we Christians believe that, because of this, we can go to heaven too!
- Apostles 4–12:** That's right!
- Judge:** Order! Sit down! Jesus, please, come to the stand.
(Jesus comes to the stand.)
- Judge:** Can you tell me what the real reason for Easter is?
- Jesus:** I am. My life and my sacrifice. My forgiveness and my Father's love.
- Defence lawyer:** You see, Your Honour, Easter isn't really about chocolate and eggs. They are just symbols and ways we celebrate something amazing that Christians believe happened long ago. Easter is a celebration! *(Cheers erupt from the gallery.)*
- Judge:** I have made my decision. The meaning of Easter is Jesus's story. Whether people choose to believe the story or not, Easter is a special time of celebration and a gift. No-one is to blame for Easter and certainly not the Easter Bunny. This case is dismissed! *(Play 'ching-ching' noise.)*
- Prosecution lawyer:** Humph. It's so unfair. I never win.
- Easter Bunny:** It's eggcellent! I just love a hoppy ending ...

EASTER CHICK MATHS GAMES

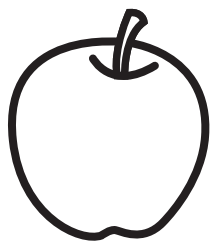


Objective: Copy onto card. 1. Write target numbers on the shell of each card, then laminate individually. Pupils take a card and put that number of counters or coloured cotton wool balls on the card. 2. Laminate and use to make number stories with cotton wool ball bunnies or small chocolate eggs.

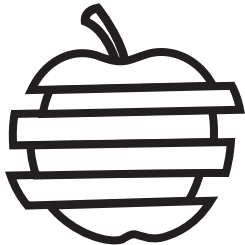
Objective: Follows textual and visual instructions to create a healthy 'Easter Bunny Salad'. NOTE: Adult assistance will be required when using sharp knives. Cutting can be completed before the activity. Sultanas can be substituted for blueberries in Step 7.

Easter Bunny Salad

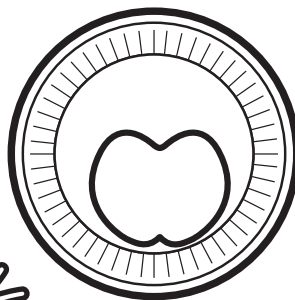
1. Get 1 green



2. Slice.



3. Put slice on plate.



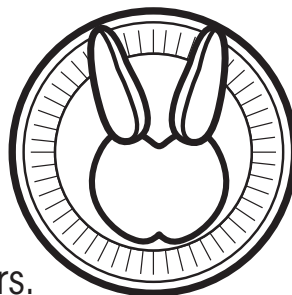
4. Get 1 baby



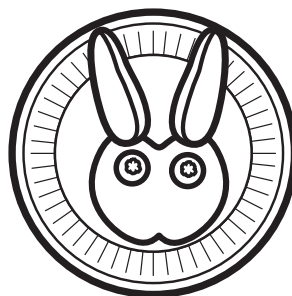
5. Cut in half



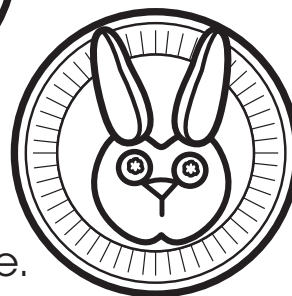
6. Put on plate above apple for ears.



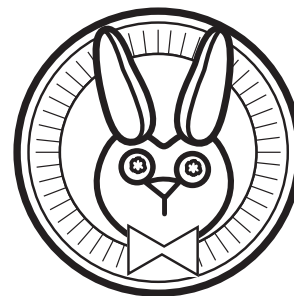
7. Put 2 blue   on for eyes.



8. Cut  of  for . Add to bunny face.



9. Cut  from . Add to bunny face.



10. Eat!

Easter Word Hunt



- Use the words to complete the sentences about Easter facts.
- Find each word in the word search.

chocolate	new	life	died	bunny
Sunday	eat	foil	rabbit	hunt


1. On Good Friday, Christians remember that Jesus _____ on the cross.
2. Many people _____ hot cross buns on Good Friday.
3. On Easter _____, Christians celebrate the day Jesus rose from the dead.
4. Eggs are a sign of _____ life.
5. The Easter _____ brings eggs on Easter Sunday.
6. Most Easter eggs are made of _____.
7. Easter eggs are often wrapped in brightly coloured _____.
8. It is fun to have an Easter egg _____.
9. Jesus showed us that there is _____ after death.
10. The Easter _____ carries eggs in a basket.



S	u	n	d	a	y	b	x	h
d	i	e	d	f	o	i	l	u
n	a	w	l	i	f	e	u	n
b	b	u	n	n	y	b	e	t
r	a	b	b	i	t	y	a	l
c	h	o	c	o	l	a	t	e

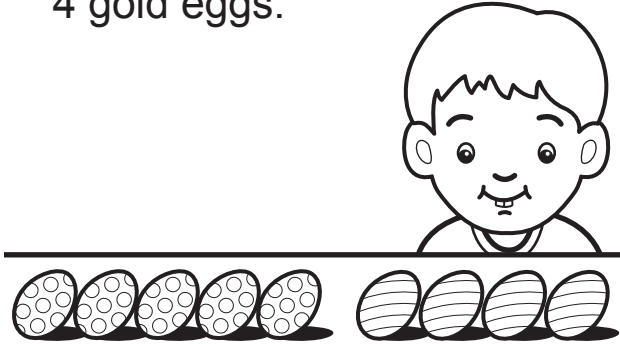
Objective: Reads and comprehends the correct words to complete sentences relating to Easter.

Easter Egg Problems

 Look at the pictures to help you work out the answers to the Easter egg problems in Questions 1 and 2.

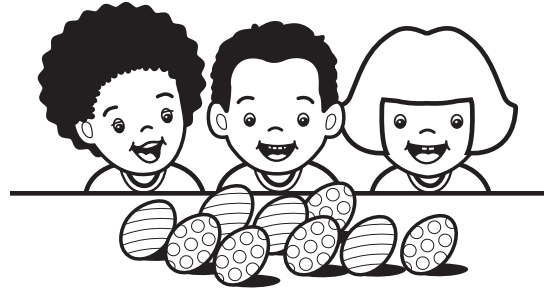
 Draw your own pictures for Questions 3 and 4.

1. Finn was given 5 red eggs and 4 gold eggs.



How many eggs did he get?

2. The Easter bunny left 9 eggs for Isobel, Aiden and Mia to share.



How many eggs did each get?

3. The Easter bunny hid 2 eggs under a tree, 4 eggs on top of the cupboard and 3 eggs in the washing basket.

How many eggs did he hide?

4. The Easter bunny had 10 eggs in his basket. When he got to Jenna's house, he had only 7 eggs left.

How many eggs fell out of his basket?

Objective: Solves number problems using written and pictorial clues.

What do we know about Easter?



Find out what others know and think about Easter by interviewing two classmates.

Name 1:	Name 2:
When is Easter?	When is Easter?
What is Easter all about?	What is Easter all about?
Why do people celebrate Easter?	Why do people celebrate Easter?
Do you celebrate Easter? If so, how?	Do you celebrate Easter? If so, how?
If not, why not?	If not, why not?
My question 1:	My question 1:
My question 2:	My question 2:

Objective: Completes interviews with two pupils to answer an enquiry about Easter.

An Easter story

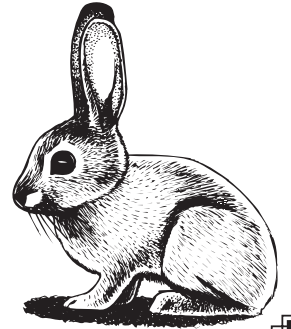
Many, many years ago there was a goddess called Ostara. She was the goddess of spring and dawn.

One year Ostara arrived late for spring and felt terribly guilty about it. She spotted a poor bird who had his wings frozen by the snow and decided to care for him and make him her special pet.

Unfortunately, he could no longer fly, so Ostara took pity on him and changed him into a snow hare with the ability to outrun any hunters. She also gave him the ability to lay eggs, just as a bird would, so he could remember his past life. He could only lay his eggs on one day each year.

One day the hare angered Ostara and she cast him into the sky, where he became the constellation Lepus (the hare). She punished him by placing him forever under the feet of the constellation Orion, the hunter.

Goddess Ostara allowed Lepus to come back down to Earth once a year to lay his eggs and give them away to the children who gathered every year for the spring festival.



1. Write a synonym for hare. _____
2. Why would being under the feet of Orion the hunter be a punishment for the hare?

3. Ostara is a German word.
What do you think it translates to in English? _____
4. Which two ideas from the story are associated with Easter today?

5. Research the constellation Lepus and draw it below.
6. Turn your constellation drawing into an Easter rabbit.