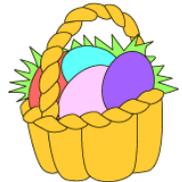


Topic 11: Easter

Background: Easter is a popular Spring holiday in the U.S. You will see Easter cards, Easter baskets, Easter eggs, chocolate bunnies, baby chickens (“chicks”) and various other toys and candies for sale. While Easter is a Christian holiday, many people who are not Christian also celebrate this holiday. Spring and Easter celebrate new life since in the northern hemisphere, we see signs of new life as baby animals and birds are born and flowers begin to bloom during this time of year.

1. Is Easter celebrated in your country? If so, how is it celebrated?
2. How do you say the name for this holiday in your language?
3. Easter lilies are a common flower for Easter. These flowers are trumpet-shaped and smell very sweet. You will see these for sale around Easter time and many churches decorate their altar area with Easter lilies.
4. One of the most fun activities for children at Easter is what is called an “Easter Egg Hunt.” What is an Easter Egg Hunt? Have you ever participated in an Easter Egg Hunt? If so, please tell us about your experience.
5. The “Easter Bunny” is a fictional character. Parents will put candy and toys in a basket as a gift that the Easter Bunny supposedly brings. Are there fictional characters like this in your culture that bring gifts? If so, please tell us about it.
6. In the past, children and adults often had new clothes to wear to church on Easter Sunday. They may also have a special meal on Easter Sunday. Common foods are ham or lamb. Are there special foods you eat during Spring holidays in your country? Please explain.
7. The date of Easter changes since it’s determined by the moon. It is always on Sunday and is the first Sunday after the full moon after the Spring equinox (March 20 or 21). In 2026, Easter is on April 5. What Lunar holidays does your home country celebrate?
8. On Easter Sunday many Christians go to church, sing joyful songs, and hear a special message about the resurrection of Jesus. Have you ever been to a Christian church on Easter Sunday? Please share your experience.
9. Here are some of the special musical works created for Easter: St. John Passion, by J.S. Bach, St. Matthew Passion, by J.S. Bach, Messiah by G.F. Handel, Symphony No. 2 (“Resurrection”) by G. Mahler, Russian Easter Festival Overture by N. Rimsky-Korsakov. Have you heard or performed any off these? You can listen to them on YouTube.



Vocabulary: northern hemisphere, lamb, chicks, resurrection, Spring equinox, Lunar, Passion, choir, instrumentalist