

Cross-Cultural Holiday Traditions

Skills:

- Can find out and pass on straightforward factual information.
- Can explain features of the other culture to members of his/her own culture

Teens

Group



Warm-up:

1. What do you see in the picture?
2. What holiday does it symbolize?
3. Do you celebrate this holiday in your country?
If not, what holidays do you celebrate in this season? How do you celebrate them?

1 In pairs, match the words with the definitions and check the answers with the teacher after.

to go to church

chocolate eggs

egg hunt

to throw water

parade

special clothes

a basket of food

to bless

church service

1. to ask for God's favor and protection.
2. searching for hidden eggs, often as an Easter game.
3. something that people wear for holidays or other important events.
4. a container you carry full of things to eat
5. a fun walk where lots of people, sometimes wearing colorful clothes, march down a street together.
6. a dessert made of chocolate in the shape of an egg.
7. the action of quickly moving water from one place to another.
8. a time when people go to church to pray, sing songs together, and listen to a person talk about God and the Bible.
9. go to a religious place to pray to God.

2 Read the text about celebrating Easter in different countries. Then, look at the pictures below and, based on the information from the text, describe them.

Hey, I'm Juan, I'm from Spain.

In Spain, people don't work on Good Friday or Easter Monday. On Good Friday, there are parades with music and special clothes. Sometimes people carry big statues of Jesus Christ or his mother, Mary.

On Easter Saturday, people have a party in the streets. They eat chocolate eggs and marzipan. In the evening, some people go to church. This is a special church service that finishes at midnight. On Easter Sunday, people usually have lunch with their families. They eat lamb or fish and for dessert, they have torrijas. Torrijas are like French toast but they make them with bread, milk, sugar, eggs, and cinnamon. They're delicious!

Hello, I'm Emily and I'm from England.

I live in a small village near London. In England, people have a four-day weekend at Easter. On Easter Sunday, we eat hot cross-buns and give each other chocolate eggs. Actually, we eat a lot of chocolate on this holiday! Sometimes, if the weather is nice, people have an Easter egg hunt in the garden. They hide chocolate eggs and then they look for them. On Easter Monday, there's a big race in Emily's village. It's called the Egg Rolling Race. People roll hard-boiled eggs down a hill and the winner is the person whose egg goes the farthest without breaking. It's a lot of fun!

Hi, my name is Michalina and I'm from Poland.

On Easter Sunday, we have a big breakfast with our families. One special food for this holiday is 'święconka'. It's a basket of food that people take to church on Easter Saturday. The priest blesses it and then we eat it on Sunday morning. In the basket, there is bread, ham, sausage, eggs, salt, and pepper.

We have another popular Easter tradition - we throw water at each other. But we don't do this everywhere in Poland, only in some places. And only boys throw water at girls! I think it's a funny tradition! We also eat a special bread called 'Babka Wielkanocna'. It's a sweet bread with raisins and almonds.



3 Mark the statements as True/False:

- ☐ In Spain, people work on Good Friday and Easter Monday.
- ☐ People eat marzipan on Easter Saturday in Spain.
- ☐ In England, people have a three-day weekend at Easter.
- ☐ People exchange chocolate eggs on Easter Sunday.
- ☐ In Poland, they have a tradition of throwing flowers at each other.
- ☐ The "Babka Wielkanocna" bread contains chocolate and nuts.

4 Fill in the gaps in the sentences about Easter with the expressions from Exercise 1.

1. On Easter Sunday, we _____(1) with our family.
2. We wear _____(2) like a nice dress or suit on Easter.
3. There are _____(3) in some countries to celebrate Easter.
4. I _____(4) the food before our Easter meal.
5. The _____(5) on Easter is very crowded and joyful.
6. My favorite part of Easter is eating _____(6).
7. We go on an _____(7) in the park every Easter.
8. We prepare _____(8) for our Easter picnic.
9. In Poland, people like _____(9) at each other during Easter celebrations.

5 Pull a piece of paper with the name of a country from the basket. With your partner, imagine yourselves traveling to this country and create a short dialogue that you might have there, as you prepare to celebrate Easter. Use at least 2-3 words from Exercise 1.

Example:

Lilly: So, where are we going to celebrate Easter this year?

Sophie: Let's go to New York City. I heard the parade there is great.

Lilly: That sounds fun. Are you bringing chocolate eggs?

Sophie: Of course! And I will also make a carrot cake for dessert. What about you?

Lilly: I'll bring some hot cross buns.

Sophie: Yum, can't wait! It's so exciting!

Correct answers

1

Created in the “Word-Definition Matching” tool.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. to bless | 6. chocolate eggs |
| 2. egg hunt | 7. to throw water |
| 3. special clothes | 8. church service |
| 4. a basket of food | 9. to go to church |
| 5. parade | |

2

Made in the “Create a text” tool.

3

Created in the “True/False” tool.

1. False - This statement contradicts the information provided in the text.
2. True
3. False - In England, people have a four-day weekend at Easter.
4. True
5. False - This statement contradicts the information provided in the text about throwing water.
6. True - The "Babka Wielkanocna" bread contains raisins, not chocolate.

4

Created in the “Sentences with target vocabulary” and “Fill in the Gap” tools.

1. go to church
2. special clothes
3. parades
4. bless
5. church service
6. chocolate eggs
7. egg hunt
8. a basket of food
9. to throw water

5

The idea was generated in the “Lead-in activities” tool.

[Picture source \(“Egg race”\)](#)

[Picture source \(“Priest Blessing Baskets of Food”\)](#)

[Picture source \(“Parade in Spain”\)](#)