

Easter Beginnings

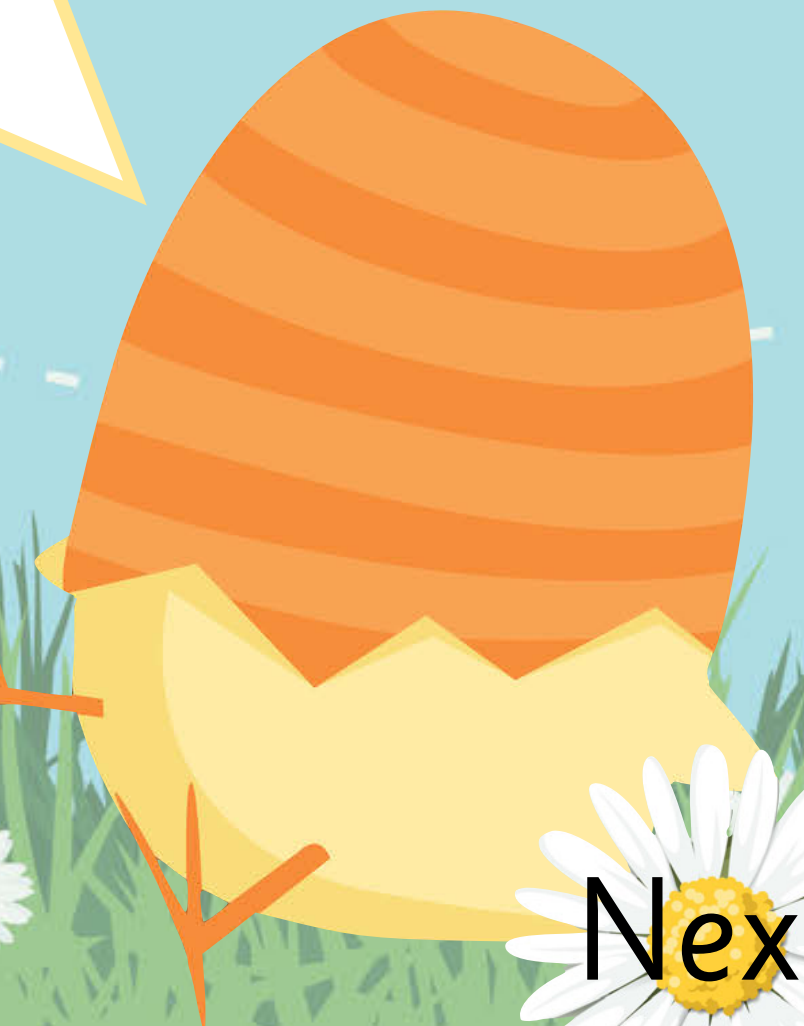
Today we will be:

Understanding how Christians celebrate
Easter.

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Do you
remember how
Christians prepare
for Easter?

Have you
heard of Holy
Week?



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Holy Week

Holy Week is the week leading up to Easter Day. It starts on Palm Sunday and finishes with the celebration on Easter Sunday. It is the last week of Lent and it is the time where Christians remember the last few days of Jesus' life.



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Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the first day of the Holy Week. Christians celebrate Palm Sunday to remember the day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people there were so happy to see him that they laid palm leaves down on the ground for his donkey to walk on and shouted “Hosanna”.



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Christians go to a special Palm Sunday service at church where they often receive a small cross made from palm leaves.

In some churches the left over palm crosses are burnt and the ash is used the

following year on Ash

Wednesday, where an ash cross is placed upon people's foreheads.

Have you ever seen a palm cross before?



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Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday of Holy Week.

It represents the day that Jesus had his last meal with his friends.

This meal is now known as 'The Last Supper'.



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During this meal Jesus gave his friends some bread and wine, saying that these would be symbols of his body and his blood to help them remember him.



This is very important to Christians and it is now remembered during the Christian service known as Communion.



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Good Friday

Good Friday is a very important day for Christians as this is the day that Jesus died for everyone. A tradition on Good Friday is to eat hot cross buns. They are a sweet bread, often made with raisins and sultanas. The top of the bun is decorated with a cross in remembrance of Jesus dying on the cross and then living again.



Why do you think hot cross buns are eaten?



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Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday or Easter Day is the most important day of the year for Christians. This is when Christians celebrate that Jesus defeated death and rose again from the tomb.

Some Christians will attend a church service on Easter Sunday where lots of candles are lit to symbolise Jesus as being the light of the world. Flowers are placed around the church to symbolise new life.



Easter Day is also the end of Lent which means people can eat the food they had given up for the month.

Christians families will spend the day together remembering Jesus' life. A special meal may be prepared, as well as traditionally giving each other Easter eggs.



Have you
been given an Easter
egg before?

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Osterbaum

During Easter people enjoy decorating their homes, sometimes with religious symbols and sometimes with symbols of new life. An Osterbaum is the German word for Easter Tree.

Traditionally a few budding branches are placed into a vase and colourful painted eggs are hung from them.

Have you seen an Osterbaum tree before?

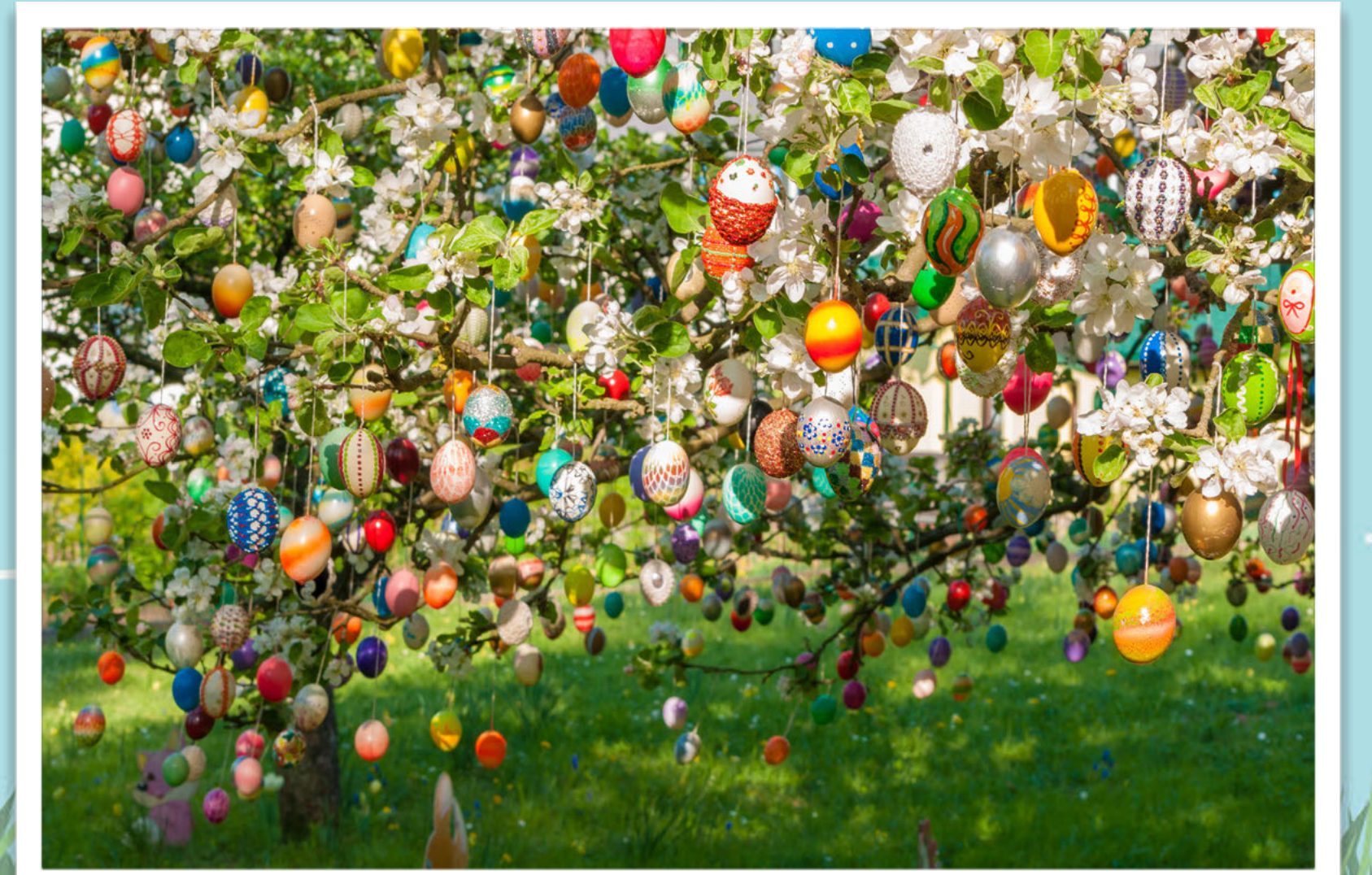


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In Germany, people also decorate living trees in their gardens. As it can sometimes still be grey and cold in the spring, these colourful Easter trees add a cheerful atmosphere to your home.

The eggs can be plastic, wooden, ceramic or real painted eggs that have been hollowed out.



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While
enjoying your hot cross
bun, can you discuss what
you have learnt about
Easter?

