

International Conversation Cafe

Lifestyle Topic: The Easter Season

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Resurrection is when the body that died comes to life again, never to die again. So in some ways the body is the same body but changed. Jesus was resurrected; his body came alive, after he was crucified on a cross.

The painting on the right shows women who came to the tomb where Jesus had been buried.

Describe what you notice in the painting.

The Lenten Season

Lent is observed forty-six days before Easter Sunday. It starts with Ash Wednesday, a day to remember that mankind was made from the dust of the ground and will return to dust. Mardi Gras, sometimes called “Carnival” is celebrated before Ash Wednesday as a way to enjoy life before Lent begins. Lent is the time when Christians remember the sufferings of Jesus. Many Christians also choose to give up a pleasure during Lent as a way to identify, in a small way, with Jesus Christ.

Do people celebrate Easter in your country? What are their traditions?

Are there other spring festivals celebrated in your country? What are they?

What are some of your happy spring/festival memories?

Is Easter meaningful to you? Why or why not?

Good Friday

Good Friday is the Friday before Easter. It is a solemn day when Christians remember how Jesus suffered on the cross.

Why do you think day is called, “Good?”

The Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny is a symbol originated with the pagan festival of Eastre. The goddess, Eastre, was worshipped by the Anglo-Saxons through her earthly symbol, the rabbit. The Germans brought the symbol of the Easter rabbit to America, though it’s use did not become popular until the late 1800’s.

What do you expect to see or experience in the US on Easter?



William Adolphe Bouguereau. The Holy Women at the Tomb, 1890. Oil on canvas, Private collection.

The Easter Egg

Eggs have always been a symbol of rebirth in many cultures, even before Christians adapted them for their holiday. Eggs have been dyed with colors from the leaves or petals of certain flowers. Today, children hunt colored eggs and place them in Easter baskets along with the modern version of real Easter eggs -- those made of plastic or chocolate candy.

Do colored eggs have any special meanings in your culture?

Egg and Rabbit Idioms

Read the following idioms and make up your own sentences using the idiom.

1. To walk on eggshells- to be diplomatic and inoffensive. "I had to walk on eggshells when I was in the office."
2. To have egg on one's face- to be embarrassed by something one has done. "I had egg on my face when the teacher found I had cheated on the test."
3. A bad egg- someone who behaves in a dishonest way. "He's a bad egg. Don't believe anything he says."
4. Quick as a bunny- doing something very fast. "Clean up your room, quick as a bunny."
5. Dust bunny- a clump of lint and dust that accumulates on floors. "Did you see all the dust bunnies under the bed."