



Teacher Resource

Easter Traditions

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. In pairs, discuss the BTN Easter Traditions story.
2. Easter is one of the most important holidays for Christians. True or false?
3. What does Good Friday represent?
4. Easter Sunday is a celebration of...
5. Traditionally, when are hot cross buns eaten?
6. What did Eostre mark the beginning of?
7. Why is Easter held at a different time every year?
8. The name Easter comes from the
 - a. Goddess of eggs
 - b. Goddess of Spring and Fertility
 - c. Easter lily
9. Why was the idea of an Easter bilby introduced in Australia?
10. Do you celebrate Easter? Describe what you and your family do.

EPISODE 9

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KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about Easter, including customs, traditions and celebrations.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 3

Celebrations and commemorations in places around the world including those that are observed in Australia (for example, Christmas Day, Diwali, Easter, Hanukkah, the Moon Festival and Ramadan).

Civics & Citizenship – Year 3

Why people participate within communities and how students can actively participate and contribute.

Civics & Citizenship – Year 4

The different cultural, religious and/or social groups to which they and others in the community belong.

Activity: Easter Quiz

Begin the Easter activity with a quick true or false quiz. Circle the correct answer.

1. Easter happens at the same time each year.	True	False
2. Eggs symbolise new life and fertility.	True	False
3. Traditionally, hot cross buns are eaten on Easter Sunday.	True	False
4. Easter is celebrated by Christians.	True	False
5. Many people think that Easter bunny came from a Pagan festival called Eostra.	True	False

Answers: 1 False, 2 True, 3 False. Traditionally they are eaten on Good Friday, 4 True, 5 True.

Activity: Personal Response

Write a personal response to the BTN Easter Traditions story by completing the following sentences:

- To me, Easter means...
- It was interesting to learn...
- It was surprising to learn that...
- Five words that represent Easter...

Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN Easter Traditions story, hold a class discussion, using the following discussion starters.

- What do you celebrate? Share some of your family or cultural traditions.
- What does Easter mean to you? Share with a partner.
- How do people around the world celebrate Easter?
- What are some symbols associated with Easter?
- Why do we have traditions? Why are they important?

Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Easter Traditions story. Here are some words to get them started.

TRADITION	CELEBRATION	PAGAN
CHRISTIAN	LENT	EOSTRA

Activity: Celebrations around the World

Celebrate the diversity in your classroom. Students will share with the class which celebrations are important to them and research different celebrations around the world.

- Investigate how different countries around the world celebrate Easter. How are their Easter celebrations similar or different? For example, in Spain there are Easter parades where people wear conical hats and carry olive branches, children in Sweden dress up as scary Easter witches on Maundy Thursday and Orthodox Christians dye eggs red.
- Choose one country to research in depth and investigate the origin and significance of their Easter celebrations. Design and make a poster, using symbols, words and images, to mark the celebration and display in the classroom.
- Learn about where students in your class come from and mark on a world map. Describe some of the special occasions that your family celebrate throughout the year, and mark on your classroom calendar. What do these special occasions have in common? How are they different?
- Make a list of special days and weeks that are celebrated in Australia and around the world. For example, Chinese New Year, Christmas and Eid al-Fitr. Mark on your classroom calendar.



Activity: Information Report

Students will create an information report about Easter. The following may help guide students' research:

- Description of Easter.
- When is Easter celebrated?
- What are the customs and traditions for those that celebrate Easter?
- How is Easter celebrated around the world?
- Interesting facts about Easter.

Structure and features of an information report

Information reports are factual texts written to inform and provide detailed facts about a topic. Discuss with students what they already know about the purpose, structure and features of an information report. Use the following as a guide to use with students.

- **Purpose** – An information report provides information to the reader by stating facts.
- **Structure** – see table below.
- **Language features** – write in the present tense, use technical or scientific words and write in the third person.

Students can then use the following plan to help write their report. They can present their reports using publishing software or as a brochure.

Information report – structure	
Title	States a topic
Introduction	The opening statement explains the subject of the report and includes a definition or short description.
Body	Facts grouped into paragraphs. Starts with a topic sentence. Include subject specific language. Text features such as sub-headings, labelled diagrams, charts and captioned photographs may be included.
Conclusion	A summary of what the topic is about and end with an interesting fact.

Activity: What is Lent?

Lent is an important religious festival and it usually involves fasting or giving something up for 40 days. In this [BTN video](#), we talk to some kids who are observing Lent to find out more about it and why it's important to them.

1. Who participates in Lent?
2. Why do people often give something up during Lent?
3. Give an example of something that people might give up during Lent.
4. On what day of the week during Lent do people not fast and have a rest day?
5. Complete this sentence. During Lent people don't eat _____ on Friday's.
6. What food is eaten on Shrove Tuesday?
7. What happens on Ash Wednesday?
8. What does Good Friday represent?
9. What do Easter eggs symbolise on Easter Sunday?



Activity: Easter Bilbies

Students can find out more about the Easter Bilby story.

Watch the [BTN Easter Bilbies](#) story.

Read the [Easter bilby vs Bunny article](#).

Ask students to answer the following questions:

- When and where did rabbits start being part of Easter traditions?
- Why was the idea of Easter bilbies introduced?



Useful Websites

- [Easter Traditions](#) – BTN Newsbreak
- [Easter Symbols](#) – BTN
- [Lent](#) – BTN
- [Easter Bilbies](#) - BTN
- [The Easter bilby vs bunny: why do we celebrate a devastating pest?](#) – ABC News
- [Origin of Easter: From pagan festivals and Christianity to bunnies and chocolate eggs](#) – ABC News