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<http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/history-of-easter/videos/bet-you-didnt-know-easter-traditions>

## **BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW: EASTER TRADITIONS**

Watch the video about **EASTER TRADITIONS** and decide if the statements below are **TRUE** or **FALSE**. If **False**, apply all necessary corrections to make the statement sound relevant.



- 1) For many people of the Catholic faith only, Easter is the most important holiday of the year.
- 2) Easter is the day on which the resurrection of Jesus is celebrated.
- 3) The first recorded celebration of Easter was back in the second century.
- 4) According to one popular theory, Easter was adopted from a pagan festival celebrating Eostre, the ancient Roman goddess of spring and fertility.
- 5) Rabbits symbolize fertility and new life, two ideas strongly associated with spring and with Easter.
- 6) The connection between rabbits and Easter was probably taken to America by German emigrants in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 7) In Switzerland a Cuckoo delivers the Easter eggs, while in Germany children wait for the Easter Fox, Chick, Rooster or even Stork.
- 8) The Christian church banned fat foods but allowed eggs during Lent; that is why it became a special treat to eat them again at Easter.
- 9) In late 19<sup>th</sup> century Russia, royalty and other members of high society began to give each other jeweled eggs as Easter gifts.
- 10) In America, makers of sweets produce 16 billion jelly beans and some 90 million chocolate bunnies for Easter each year.
- 11) Jelly beans were started to be eaten at Easter in the 1930s after merchants pointed out how much they looked like eggs.
- 12) Today, more sweets are sold at Easter than for any other holiday, except for Christmas.
- 13) More than 88% of American parents prepare Easter boxes for their children.

**HAPPY**  
**EASTER**



## **KEYS**

### **BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW: EASTER TRADITIONS**

**Watch the video about EASTER TRADITIONS and decide if the statements below are TRUE or FALSE. If False, apply all necessary corrections to make the statement sound relevant.**

- 1) For many people of the Catholic faith only, Easter is the most important holiday of the year. – F
- 2) Easter is the day on which the resurrection of Jesus is celebrated. –T
- 3) The first recorded celebration of Easter was back in the second century. – T
- 4) According to one popular theory, Easter was adopted from a pagan festival celebrating Eostre, the ancient Roman goddess of spring and fertility. – F
- 5) Rabbits symbolize fertility and new life, two ideas strongly associated with spring and with Easter. –T
- 6) The connection between rabbits and Easter was probably taken to America by German emigrants in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. – F
- 7) In Switzerland a Cuckoo delivers the Easter eggs, while in Germany children wait for the Easter Fox, Chick, Rooster or even Stork. – T
- 8) The Christian church banned fat foods but allowed eggs during Lent; that is why it became a special treat to eat them again at Easter. – F
- 9) In late 19<sup>th</sup> century Russia, royalty and other members of high society began to give each other jeweled eggs as Easter gifts. – T
- 10) In America, makers of sweets produce 16 billion jelly beans and some 90 million chocolate bunnies for Easter each year. – T
- 11) Jelly beans were started to be eaten at Easter in the 1930s after merchants pointed out how much they looked like eggs. – T
- 12) Today, more sweets are sold at Easter than for any other holiday, except for Christmas. – F
- 13) More than 88% of American parents prepare Easter boxes for their children. – F

## TRANSCRIPT

For many people of the Christian faith, Easter is the most important holiday of the year. It is the culmination of the religious season of Lent and the day on which Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. In addition to its religious importance, Easter is also a popular secular holiday thanks to its association with the Easter Bunny, colourful decorated eggs and, of course, All That Chocolate!

The first recorded celebration of Easter was back in the second century but it probably goes back even further than that. According to one popular theory, early Christians adopted Easter from a pagan festival celebrating Eostre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring and fertility. The goddess consorted with the hare, which, as the theory goes, was the original inspiration for today's Easter Bunny. But it appears little evidence exists to support this story. So, where did the Easter Bunny actually come from? Rabbits are an ancient symbol of fertility and new life, two ideas strongly associated with spring and with Easter. The connection between rabbits and Easter arose in protestant Europe in the seventeenth century and was probably taken to America a century later by German emigrants.

But we bet you didn't know that the Easter Bunny isn't the only animal associated with the holiday. In Switzerland a cuckoo delivers the Easter eggs, while in different parts of Germany children wait for the Easter Fox, Chick, Rooster or Stork. Though eggs also symbolise fertility and renewal, they may have become popular at Easter for a more practical reason. For centuries the Christian church banned eggs along with other foods during Lent and it became a special treat to eat them again at Easter.

Decorating eggs is one of the oldest Easter customs. One of history's most lavish Easter traditions developed in late nineteenth century Russia when royalty and other members of high society began to give each other jewelled eggs as Easter gifts. The man behind these insanely valuable eggs is the artist, jeweller and goldsmith Peter Carl Faberge, who was commissioned by Tsar Alexander III to create jewel-encrusted eggs for his wife.

For most Americans, however, Easter is about the sweet stuff. Chocolate! In America, makers of sweets produce some 90 million chocolate bunnies and 16 billion jelly beans for Easter each year. Jelly beans were invented in the seventeenth century but they only started to be eaten at Easter in the 1930s after merchants pointed out how much they looked like eggs. Today, more sweets are sold at Easter than for any other holiday, except for Halloween. And more than 88% of American parents prepare Easter baskets for their children. From its powerful religious significance to its popular customs, Easter ranks among our most widely celebrated holidays. This spring sweeten up your celebration with a little history and some funny Easter facts we Bet You Didn't Know.