

**BEFORE YOU READ**

Talk about this photograph. Guess the answers to the questions below. Write your guesses on the lines.

1. Where are these children? _____

2. What is the girl holding? _____

3. What season is it? _____

Now turn the
page and read.

Easter

Easter is on a different Sunday each year. But it is always in March or April. Easter is not a national holiday. It is a religious holiday for Christians. For many people, Easter celebrates the beginning of spring.

The English word *Easter* comes from the Old English word *Eastre*. *Eastre* was the name of the goddess of spring and light. In the spring, flowers bloom and trees become green. The earth wears "new clothes." Many people wear new clothes on Easter Sunday too.

Eggs and rabbits are signs of spring and new life. American children believe in an imaginary rabbit, the Easter bunny. The night before Easter, the Easter bunny visits many homes. He brings children Easter baskets with eggs and candy. Some Easter eggs are hard-boiled eggs in different colors. Other Easter eggs are chocolate. The Easter bunny hides eggs in the house or outside in the yard. On Easter morning, children look for eggs from the Easter bunny. The girl in the picture is holding an Easter egg. She found it in the grass.

For millions of Christians, Easter is a religious holiday. Two days before Easter is Good Friday. Christians believe Jesus Christ died on this day. Many schools and businesses close on Good Friday. Christians also believe Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. Easter is a very joyful holiday for Christians. Many go to church on Good Friday and on Easter.

There is also an important Jewish holiday in the spring. For eight days, Jewish people celebrate Passover. Passover and Easter are often in the same month.

On Easter Sunday, families often come together for a dinner of ham or lamb with fresh spring vegetables. Dessert is often cake in the shape of a lamb or rabbit. And there is plenty of candy from the Easter bunny!

UNDERSTANDING NEW WORDS

Take turns reading these sentences with a partner. Does **a** or **b** have the same meaning as the sentence? Decide with your partner. Circle **a** or **b**.

1. In the spring, flowers **bloom**, and trees become green.
 - ☒ a. Flowers grow in the spring.
 - b. Flowers die in the spring.

2. Eggs and rabbits are **signs** of spring and new life.
 - a. Eggs and rabbits mean winter is coming.
 - b. Eggs and rabbits mean spring is here.

3. American children believe in an **imaginary** rabbit.
 - a. American children believe in a real rabbit.
 - b. American children believe in a rabbit. It is not real.

4. Easter dessert is often cake in the **shape** of a lamb or rabbit.
 - a. Easter cakes look like lambs or rabbits.
 - b. Lambs or rabbits eat the Easter cakes.

5. There is **plenty** of candy from the Easter bunny.
 - a. The Easter bunny brings a lot of candy for the children.
 - b. The Easter bunny brings a little candy for the children.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

When Is the Holiday?

Fill in the year. Then write the dates for March and April. Circle Easter.

March 19 ____

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.

April 19 ____

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.

Correct the Sentences

Take turns reading these sentences with a partner. One word in each sentence is wrong. Correct each sentence together. Write the new sentence on the line below.

1. Easter is on a different Saturday each year.

Easter is on a different Sunday each year.

2. The word *Easter* comes from the name of a goddess of spring and dark.

3. Many people wash new clothes on Easter Sunday.

4. The night before Easter, the Easter chicken visits many homes.

5. On Easter morning, adults look for baskets from the Easter bunny.

6. Many schools and churches close on Good Friday.

7. Easter is a very sad holiday for Christians.

8. For five days, Jewish people celebrate Passover.

BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

- Look at your guesses on page 49. Were you right?
- Now fill in Easter on the Holiday Chart on page 153.



TALK ABOUT IT, *Activity 1*

Talk about these things with a partner or a small group. Six things are not related to Easter. One is crossed out. Cross out five more. Then share your answers with the class.

~~snow~~

flags

Christmas carols

rabbits

baskets

colored eggs

green

flowers

picnics

the Easter bunny

hamburgers

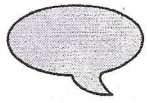
chocolate rabbits

electric lights

new clothes

lamb cakes

church



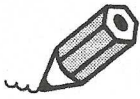
TALK ABOUT IT, Activity 2

Colored Easter eggs are popular in many countries. In the United States, stores sell Easter egg-coloring kits. Families often dye, or color, Easter eggs together.

With a partner or a small group, read these directions for dyeing Easter eggs. Decide together what to do first, second, third, and so on. Put the directions in order from 1 to 9.

- _____ Hard-boil the eggs.
- _____ Mix water, vinegar, and dye in small cups.
- _____ Read the directions on the kit.
- _____ **1** Go to the grocery store.
- _____ Put the eggs in the small cups with the dye.
- _____ Cool the eggs.
- _____ Put the eggs in a basket.
- _____ Buy eggs and a coloring kit.
- _____ Let the eggs dry.

Share your answers with the class. Now you are ready to dye Easter eggs!



WRITE

There are four seasons of the year—winter, spring, summer, and fall. Most people have a favorite season.

A student from Poland wrote this about his favorite season. Read his story.

Winter

Winter is my favorite season. I feel good when it is cold outside. I like to ski and ice-skate. I like to wear wool clothes.

In the winter, hot tea is a good drink. And I like to eat beef stew when it is cold outside.

Now write about your favorite season. Then share your story with the class.

_____ is my favorite season. I feel _____
when it is _____ outside. I like to _____ and
_____. I like to wear _____.

In the _____, _____ is a good drink.

And I like to eat _____ when it is _____
outside.