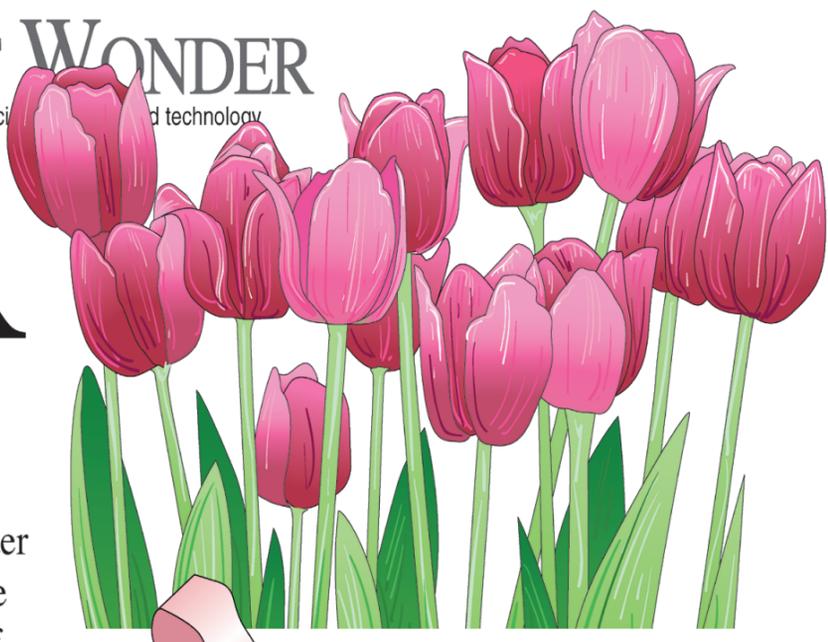




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EASTER



Tulips are a popular Easter flower, symbolizing new life and rebirth.

Easter, or Resurrection Sunday, is considered the most important of Christian celebrations. It takes place on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. Easter marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter traditions vary across the Christian world, but many include morning church services, family meals and the exchange of eggs, which symbolize new life.

In a word

The word **Easter** is thought to have originated from Eostre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, or old words for dawn.

Historically and in many languages, Easter is called Pascha, derived from the Hebrew *Pesach* (Passover).

Easter bunnies?

The Easter Bunny is a popular symbol of Easter, depicted as a rabbit bringing Easter eggs. According to pre-Christian legend, Eostre transformed a wounded bird into a hare or rabbit to save it, but the creature kept the ability to lay eggs, which it decorated and gave to her every spring.

Easter eggs

The practice of decorating eggshells is ancient. Decorated and engraved ostrich eggs found in Africa are 60,000 years old.

Easter eggs are colored red in the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches to signify the blood of Christ.

In the Middle Ages, Catholic Christians were prohibited from eating eggs during Lent, so eggs gathered during that time were hard-boiled and stored. They would be decorated to mark the end of the period of penance and then consumed on Easter, after fasting concluded.

Did you know?

Christians began commemorating the resurrection in the 2nd century.

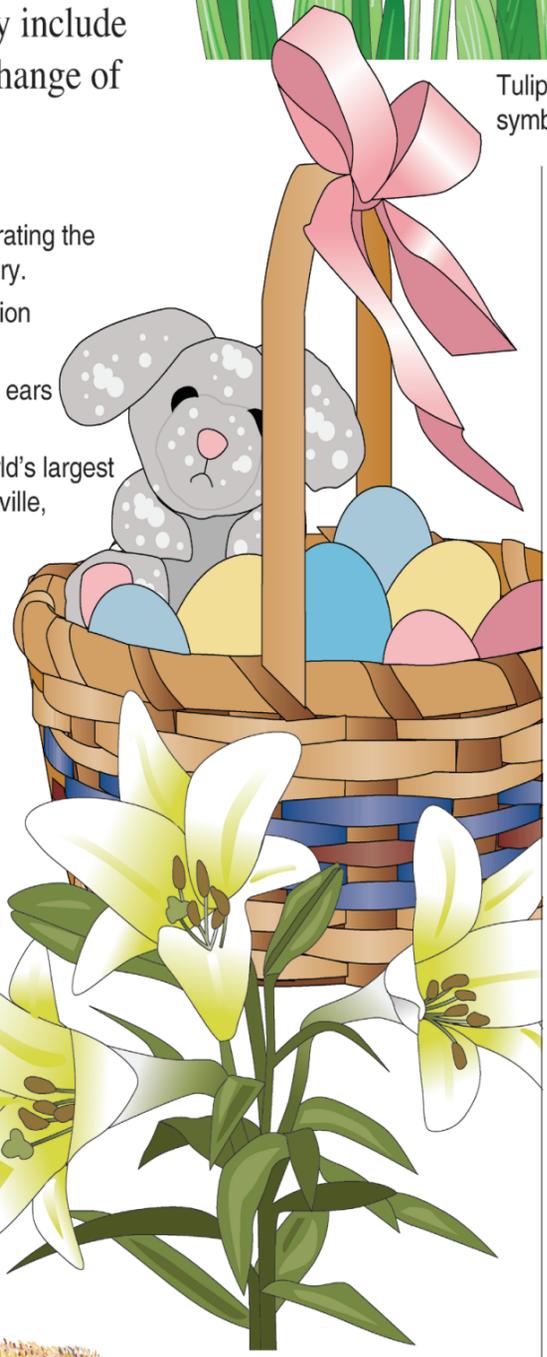
Americans eat about 1.5 million Peeps around Easter.

About 75% of people eat the ears of a chocolate rabbit first.

Standing 31 feet tall, the world's largest Easter egg is found in Vegreville, Alberta, Canada.

Easter baskets originate from a blend of ancient spring fertility rites and early Christian traditions, specifically the blessing of food after Lent.

Baby chickens symbolize new life, renewal and the arrival of spring, but giving chicks for Easter is strongly discouraged. Chicks grow into chickens that live for years and require proper coops and equipment. They are not just a temporary basket toy.



Easter lilies are fragrant, white, trumpet-shaped flowers that are highly toxic to cats. They require bright, indirect light and consistent moisture, and they can be transplanted outdoors after blooming.

Traditions and symbols

Easter traditions and symbols have evolved over time, though some have been around for centuries. While to Christians, Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Christ, many Easter traditions are not found in the Bible.

Easter eggs symbolize new life and the empty tomb of Jesus. They are often dyed, decorated or made of chocolate.

The **Easter Bunny** is a symbol of fertility and springtime.

The **Easter lily** represents the purity of Jesus and the resurrection.

Easter baskets full of candy and toys are a modern addition to the celebration of this holiday.

Egg hunts began in the 16th century, when men hid eggs for women and children to find, symbolizing the discovery of the empty tomb.

Easter parades have been part of Christian culture since its earliest beginnings. The New York City parade is the most famous of the modern Easter parades. The tradition of wearing new clothes to Easter service is widely observed across North America.

Traditional meals often include lamb, ham and hot cross buns.

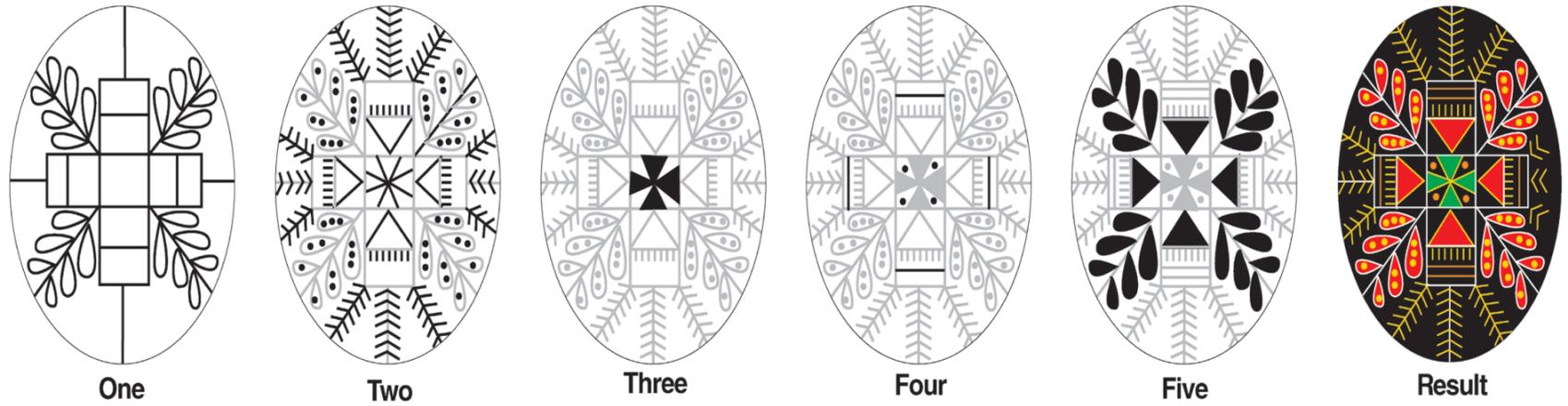
Just joking

Q: What do you get if you pour hot water into a rabbit hole?

A: Hot, cross bunnies!

Pysanky, the Ukrainian art of Easter egg decorating

This diagram shows five stages of a traditional pysanky design. Each step of the design is written with melted beeswax using a tool (called a kistka) and dipped into a deep colored dye. To finish, the wax is melted off in an oven. Kits are available that have everything you need to make pysanky.



SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <https://en.wikipedia.org>; <https://www.britannica.com>; <https://www.archaeologynow.org>; <https://www.history.com>;

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