

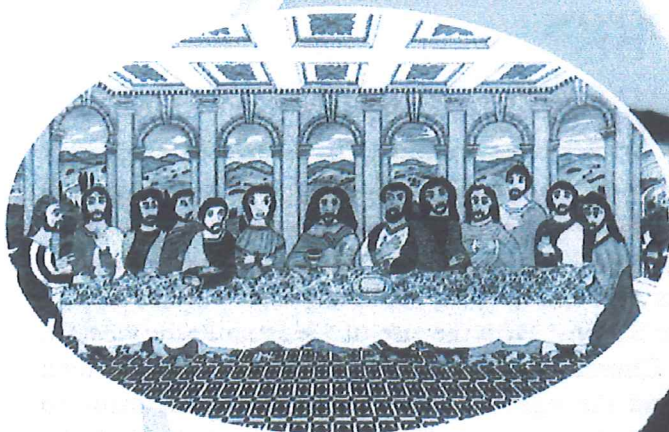
# History of the English Easter

The festival of Easter is a classic example of the early Christian Church that slowly replaced the pagan rites and festivals. The word Easter originates from "Eostre", the Anglo Saxon Goddess<sup>1</sup> of Dawn<sup>2</sup>. As<sup>3</sup> dawn signifies the rebirth<sup>4</sup> of the day so Easter was associated with the rebirth of spring.

The Saxon spring festival of Eostre was named for their goddess of dawn, and when they came to Britain in about the 5th century AD, the festival went with them along with rebirth and fertility rituals involving<sup>5</sup>

## Notes

1. bohyně
2. svítání
3. tak jako
4. znovuzrození
5. zahrnující



eggs, chicks and rabbits. When the Saxons converted to Christianity and started to celebrate the death and the resurrection of Christ, it coincided with Eostre, that's why the early Church called the celebration Eostre or Easter in modern English.

### Working on the text

• Answer the following questions:

1. Where does the word Easter come from?
2. What does the word "dawn" signify?
3. Was Eostre a Saxon Goddess?
4. In which period of the year was Eostre festival celebrated?

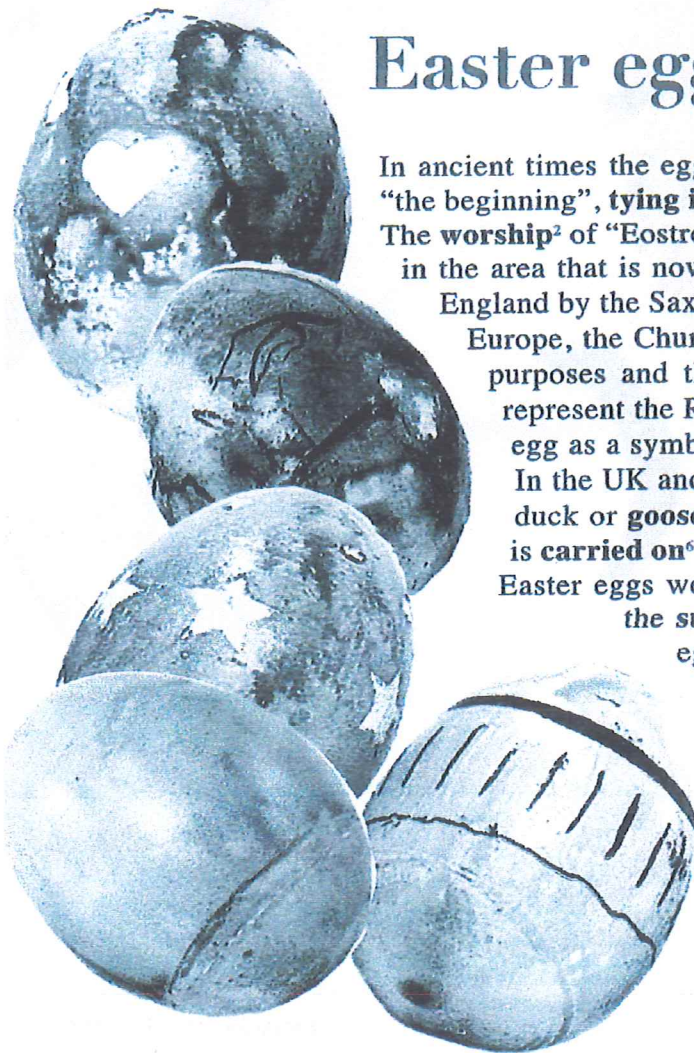


## Easter eggs

In ancient times the egg was a symbol of "fertility", "rebirth" and "the beginning", **tying in**<sup>1</sup> quite naturally with the festival of spring. The **worship**<sup>2</sup> of "Eostre", the Goddess of Dawn was deeply **rooted**<sup>3</sup> in the area that is now modern day Germany and was brought to England by the Saxons. With the rise of Christianity in Western Europe, the Church adapted many pagan customs to its own purposes and the egg, as a symbol of new life, came to represent the Resurrection. Some Christians **regarded**<sup>4</sup> the egg as a symbol for the stone rolled from the sepulchre. In the UK and Europe, the earliest Easter eggs were hen, duck or **goose**<sup>5</sup> eggs painted and decorated. This practice is **carried on**<sup>6</sup> in many parts of the world today. Originally Easter eggs were painted with bright colours to represent the **sunlight**<sup>7</sup> of spring and were used in Easter-egg **contests**<sup>8</sup> or given as **gifts**<sup>9</sup>.

### Notes

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. spojující se | 7. sluneční světlo |
| 2. uctívání     | 8. soutěže         |
| 3. zakořeněno   | 9. dárky           |
| 4. považovali   | 10. rozšířilo      |
| 5. husa         | 11. dále           |
| 6. pokračováno  | 12. prázdné        |



By the end of the 17th century, manufactured eggs were available for purchase at Easter, and given as Easter gifts and presents.

At about the beginning of 1800's the first chocolate Easter eggs appeared in Germany and France and soon spread<sup>10</sup> to the rest of Europe and beyond<sup>11</sup>.

The first chocolate eggs were solid, only later they became empty<sup>12</sup>.

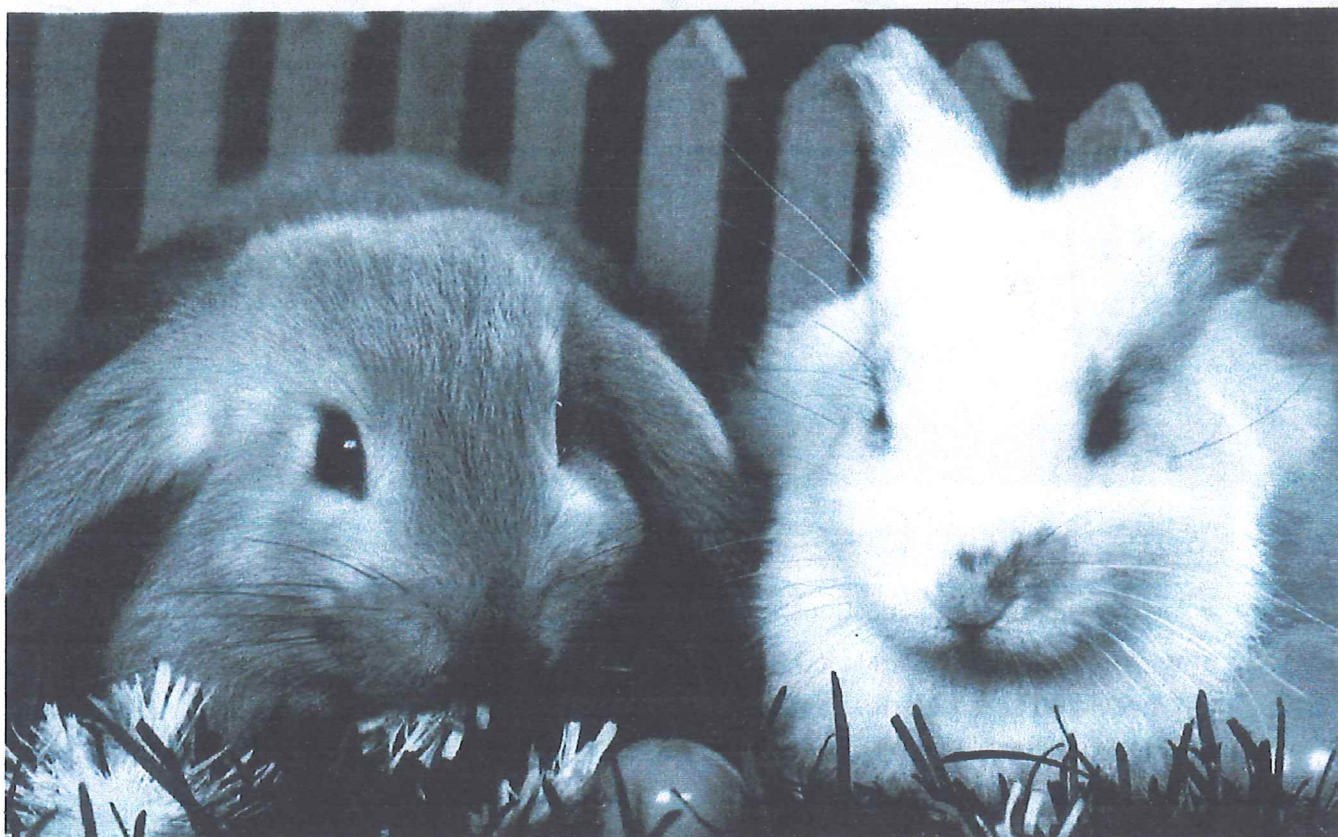
## Working on the text

• Answer the following questions:

1. What did the egg symbolize in ancient times?
2. What does the egg symbolize to some Christians?
3. What were the first decorations on the egg?
4. Where was the first chocolate egg made?
5. Were the first chocolate eggs solid or soft?

## Easter bunny

In pagan times, the "Easter hare"<sup>1</sup> was no ordinary animal, but a sacred companion of the old goddess of spring, Eostre. The Hare and the Rabbit were the most fertile animals known and they served as symbols of the new life during the Spring season. Since long before Jesus Christ was born, parents told their children that the magic hare would bring them presents<sup>2</sup> at the spring festival.

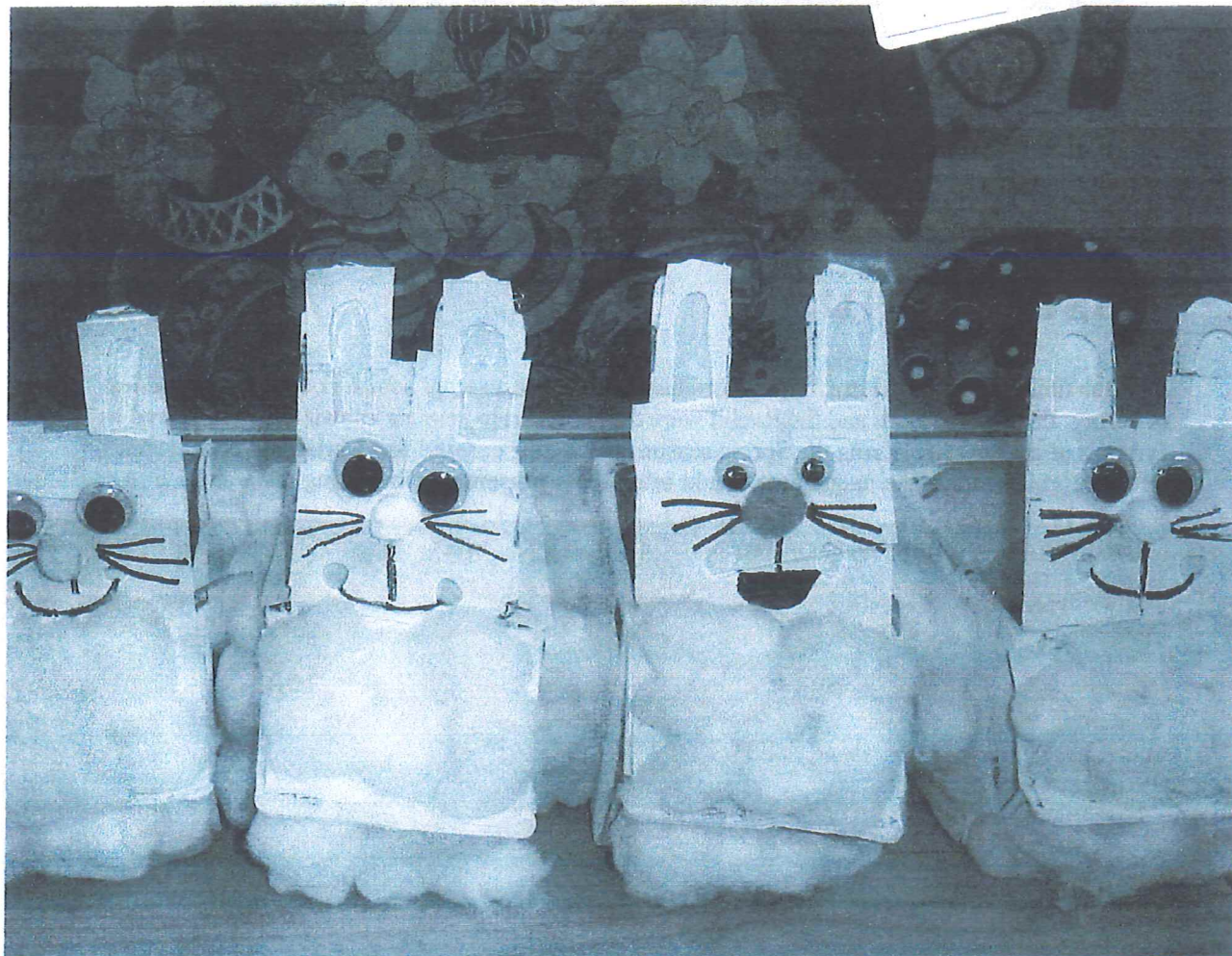


The presents were often painted eggs, because these represented the new life starting at this time of year. Hares are animals which look like rabbits, but are larger and in many countries quite rare. In most places, the Easter rabbit (bunny) has replaced the Easter hare completely.

The bunny was first used as a symbol of Easter in 16th century in Germany. Children made nests<sup>3</sup> of grass and placed them in their yards<sup>4</sup>. They believed the Easter Bunny would fill these baskets with brightly decorated eggs during the night.

### Notes

- |          |            |
|----------|------------|
| 1. zajíc | 3. hnízda  |
| 2. dárky | 4. nádvoří |



### Working on the text

• Answer the following questions:

1. What animal was sacred in ancient times?
2. What were the most fertile animals?
3. When was the bunny first used as a symbol of Easter?
4. Where was the bunny first used as a symbol of Easter?
5. What did the children make?
6. What did the children want to find in their baskets?

Inside An Easter Egg

(Uvnitř Velikonočního vajíčka)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P09FiCLhd1Q>

<b>begin</b> /br'gɪn/	začít
<b>plain</b> /pleɪn/	prostý - ve smyslu prázdný, bez ničeho
<b>we can</b> /wi:kən/	(my) můžeme
<b>color</b> /'kʌlə/ = americká angličtina	barva – též - namalovat, nabarvit
<b>colour</b> /'kʌlə/ = britská angličtina	barva – též - namalovat, nabarvit
<b>choose</b> /tʃu:z/	vybrat
<b>silly</b> /'sɪli/	pošetilý/-é
<b>quiet</b> /'kwaɪət/	tichý, klidný
<b>boring</b> /'bɔ:ɪŋ/	nudný

**We can color it any color we like!**  
 (My) Můžeme ho namalovat jakoukoli barvou si přejeme (, která se nám líbí)!

**The color we choose is up to You.**  
 Barvu, kterou vybereme je na Tobě.

**To our egg's color, we can add...**  
 K barvě našeho vajíčka můžeme přidat...

**Our Easter Egg looks BIG up close...**  
 Naše Velikonoční vajíčko vypadá VELIKÉ z blízka...

**...but Easter Eggs are the most fun when hidden**  
 ...ale Velikonoční vajíčka jsou nejzábavnější, když jsou schovaná

**How many can you find?**  
 Kolik se ti jich podaří najít?

**Can you find the one to match it?**  
 Dokážeš najít to jedno (Velikonoční vajíčko), které mu odpovídá?