

Easter: A Religious Celebration

B1 | Adults / Teens | Reading + Vocabulary + Discussion | 50-60 minutes

BEFORE YOU READ

Talk with a partner. What messages do spring celebrations often share? Think about ideas such as hope, change or new life.

1. Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------|--|
| 1. resurrection | _____ | A. careful thought about an idea or experience |
| 2. crucifixion | _____ | B. coming back to life after death |
| 3. disciples | _____ | C. strong belief and trust in a religious idea |
| 4. reflection | _____ | D. execution by fastening someone to a cross |
| 5. sacrifice | _____ | E. giving up something important for a reason |
| 6. faith | _____ | F. the close followers of a teacher |

2. Read the article. The bold words are the vocabulary from Activity 1.

- For Christians, Easter is one of the most important times of the year. It remembers the **crucifixion** of Jesus and, according to Christian belief, his **resurrection**. The events are described in the New Testament of the Bible.
- The Easter story says that Jesus was arrested and put to death. His **disciples**, his close followers, were frightened and sad. Christians believe that, after his death, the tomb was found empty and Jesus appeared again to his followers.
- Churches often hold special services during the week before Easter and on Easter Sunday. People may sing, pray and spend time in **reflection**. The story includes difficult ideas about suffering and **sacrifice**, but it also gives many believers a message of hope and new life.
- Easter practices vary around the world. For some people, it is a quiet family time; for others, it includes large public events. In each case, **faith** and community can help people connect the ancient story to their lives today.

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UNDERSTAND, DISCUSS AND WRITE

3. Comprehension. Answer in complete sentences. Use the article to help you.

1. What two events does Easter remember for Christians?

2. Who were the disciples?

3. What does the Easter story say about the tomb?

4. Why might people spend time in reflection?

5. What message does Easter give many believers?

4. Discuss. Talk in small groups. Give reasons and examples.

- Why are stories about hope important to communities?
- How can a religious story stay meaningful over many centuries?
- What role does reflection play in a busy life?
- Do public celebrations change the meaning of a religious day?

5. Homework: Write an explanatory paragraph.

Write 120-150 words explaining how one celebration you know expresses hope, remembrance or new life.

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ANSWER KEY AND TEACHING NOTE

Vocabulary matching

1. resurrection - B
2. crucifixion - D
3. disciples - F
4. reflection - A
5. sacrifice - E
6. faith - C

Comprehension answers

1. What two events does Easter remember for Christians?

It remembers the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

2. Who were the disciples?

They were the close followers of Jesus.

3. What does the Easter story say about the tomb?

It says that the tomb was found empty.

4. Why might people spend time in reflection?

They may think carefully about the story and its meaning.

5. What message does Easter give many believers?

It gives a message of hope and new life.

Teaching note

Compare matching answers before reading. Accept other article-supported comprehension answers; discussion and homework answers vary. Discuss customs respectfully, distinguishing religious, cultural and personal traditions.