

But why Easter eggs?

KS1-2

NOTES

Aim: to explain why eggs have an important part to play in celebrating the Christian Festival of Easter. To connect different symbols to their meanings in the Easter story.

Notes provide:

1. A version of the Easter story with illustrations
2. A memory game to connect items to parts of the Easter story
3. A guide to the meaning of Easter eggs
4. A prayer and reflection

Resources provided:

Notes and PowerPoint resources (PowerPoint to be downloaded separately).

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Suggested Resources:

A palm

A towel

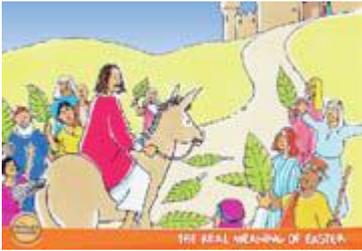
Some bread

A cross

A Real Easter Egg

The Story of Easter (use alongside the PowerPoint).

Explain that you are going to tell the Easter story. Everyone has to listen really carefully to see if they know where certain objects occurred.



2000 years ago, a man called Jesus brought a message of hope and love to the world. He visited Jerusalem and people celebrated, waving palm branches in the air. But some people wanted to get rid of Him.



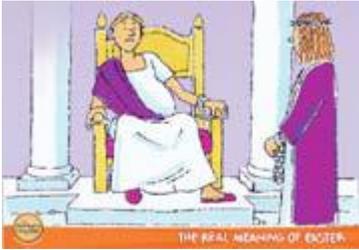
On the Thursday, Jesus washed the feet of His friends. He did this to teach them that they should serve and help others.



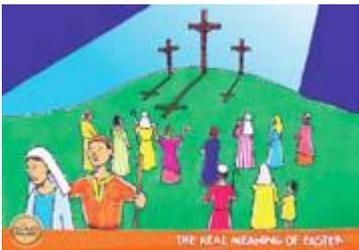
Jesus then had a last supper with his friends. He shared a cup of wine and a piece of bread, telling His friends to 'do this in remembrance of me!' During the supper, a man called Judas slipped out. He was going to betray Jesus.



Later that night, Judas brought the soldiers and led them to Jesus. Jesus was praying but He was arrested and led away.



On the Friday, a man called Pilate put Jesus on trial. Pilate handed Jesus over to be killed. The soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus and a crown of sharp thorns and led Him away.



The soldiers put Jesus on a cross between two thieves. When Jesus died, there was an earthquake and darkness fell. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was sad. The body of Jesus was taken off the cross and placed in a tomb. They rolled a large stone across the entrance to keep the body of Jesus safe.



On the Sunday, the friends of Jesus came back to the tomb. The stone had rolled away. Jesus had risen from the dead to meet his friends again. He told His friends to go and tell everyone about God's love. That's a story which is sad when Jesus dies but ends in a great moment of hope and joy when Jesus rises from the dead.

I hope you were listening carefully because I am going to show you some objects and see if you can tell me where they might have been in the story.

(You can use your prop or the PowerPoint image or both).

1. **Hold up* the palm.** Can you remember why there was a palm? Answer = on palm Sunday, people waved their palms to welcome Jesus.

*or use image from PowerPoint/or both throughout

2. **The towel.** When will Jesus have needed a towel or cloth. Answer = to dry his friends' feet after washing them

3. **The Bread.** Answer = bread and wine were the food and drink at Jesus' Last Supper
4. **The cross.** Answer = Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday
5. **A Real Easter Egg.** Um..this is interesting. There wasn't an egg in the story but can anyone suggest what an Easter egg might have to do with the story of Easter?

Take the children's ideas but also go through some of these.

- Eggs are used because they remind us of the shape of the boulder that was put over Jesus' tomb.
- An egg is a perfect way of showing how we can experience new life at Easter because of God's love.
- People used to give up eggs, meat and rich food over Lent (That's why we have pancakes on Pancake Tuesday because it was a good way to get rid of all the eggs and fat.) So having an egg at Easter was a special treat to celebrate how Jesus' resurrection had brought hope back to all of us.
- Lots of people give up chocolate for Lent, and some even give the money that they save to charity. So a chocolate egg is a great way of marking the end of Lent.

Do you have any other ideas?

There are lots of reasons people share eggs at Easter. Some people just think they are a good symbol of Spring. Some people can't remember why they share eggs. Christians share eggs as a special way of remembering what happened that first Easter. This Easter, remember to celebrate all the life around you and how when Jesus rose from the dead, he brought a message of hope, new life and the love of God.

Prayer

Lord

We thank you for that first Easter.

By rising from the dead, you showed the power of God's love and that God wants us to love each other.

This Easter, help us share God's love with those around us and be happy because I know you love me.

Amen

Reflection

Dear Lord

Thank you for the joy of Easter.

Thank you for all of the new life around us.

Thank you for the beautiful flowers of Spring.

Thank you for all the birds and animals and our natural world.

Thank you for the time we spend with loved ones on Easter Sunday

Thank you for Jesus who brought new life and hope to us all by rising from the dead.

Help me spread the joy of Easter, this day and every day.

Amen