



Easter Around the World Answers

1. Give one explanation for the name of Easter.

Students might mention the English name Easter coming from Eostre relating to the month probably given to the worship of Eostre, an ancient goddess. They might alternatively write about the more common word Paches, which relates to the Latin and Greek name for the celebration or the word Pesach (Hebrew for Passover).

2. What is the week before Easter Sunday known as?

Holy Week which starts on Palm Sunday and runs to Easter Saturday.

3. What does Palm Sunday commemorate?

This day celebrates the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. Locals threw down palm leaves in the streets to welcome him to the city.

4. Name one tradition from Palm Sunday?

A number of different options exist here. Students might mention the artificial palm decorations common in Poland or the production of verba in Lithuania or the use of individual palm pieces to create wreaths, heart shapes and crosses in Italy and Spain. Or giving out palm crosses in Britain.

5. What does the sovereign (king or queen) of England do on Maundy Thursday?

The sovereign gives alms (money) to a number of senior citizens (one man and one woman for each year of the sovereign's life).

6. What change was made to the Maundy Thursday money in 1822?

The money given was, from then on, a specially minted coin which has become extremely collectable.

7. What are the Stations of the Cross?

There are generally 14 stations. These are the set of agreed upon scenes from the Crucifixion of Christ. They include the falls of Christ, his meetings with certain individuals, the crucifixion itself and the taking down from the cross.

8. Why do people in Britain eat Hot Cross Buns on Good Friday?

They represent the cross that Christ was crucified upon.

9. Why are decorated eggs used as a symbol of Easter?

They represent the empty tomb from which Christ rose since, when blown, they are empty inside.

10. What other name is given to Easter Sunday?

The Sunday of the Resurrection is the other name given to Easter Sunday.