

Easter Around the World

Today, Easter is celebrated in many countries, in many ways.

- In Eastern Europe people will boil dye to create stylized designs on hard-boiled eggs.
- In the Netherlands and Germany Easter trees are lit at sunset on Easter Sunday.
- In Bermuda trees are felled.
- In Mexico, instead, the Easter holiday is associated with murder mysteries. Major TV stations air crime and detective marathons and publishing houses release novels just before Easter.
- In Poland, Sweden and Denmark small children dress as witches and go door-to-door collecting chocolate eggs.
- In Switzerland (no boiled eggs) they knock the shells (break the eggs).
- In Württemberg (a region of Germany) a fox brings the eggs.
- In the United Kingdom egg knocking competitions are held. Competitors line up and knock eggs together. If an egg is cracked the competitor is out.
- In the United States of America, an Easter Party for children is hosted by the President. A highlight of this event is the egg rolling race.
- In Australia people also give Chocolate Easter Baskets. The billy is an endangered native Australian mammal that looks similar to a rabbit. Some of the proceeds of each sale go to the protection of endangered species.
- In France, children throw eggs in the air and catch them. If you drop your egg you must eat it.
- In Egypt, Easter Monday is a public holiday that marks an ancient spring festival. Egyptians spend the day in parks and gardens.
- In France, they an enormous 200-year-old oak tree decorated with flowers is dragged through the streets. At the end of its journey, it is dismantled with firework and explosives. It's called a great harvest for the year.

In most countries that celebrate Easter, two customs are honored: people give decorated or chocolate eggs as gifts and children hunt for hidden eggs.

Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. What do they use to decorate eggs in Eastern Europe?
2. What is the highlight of the President's Easter Party in the U.S.A.?
3. Why do they bombard a cart with fireworks and explosives in France?
4. What is a billy?
5. Where do children dress as witches to collect eggs?
6. Who delivers the eggs in Switzerland?
7. When do they light Easter fires in Poland?
8. What type of mammals would you see in Florida (Countries of Easter)?
9. Why do the Egyptians spend Easter Monday in parks?
10. How do you get out, if you are playing the egg knocking game?
11. What do they do in Bermuda or Denmark?
12. What Easter game do children play in France?
13. What Easter games can you remember playing?
14. If you could celebrate an Easter egg right now what would you eat?