

Easter Around the World

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

- In Eastern Europe people use wax and dye to create detailed designs on hard-boiled eggs.
- In the Netherlands and Germany Easter fires are lit at sunset on Easter Sunday.
- In Bermuda kites are flown.
- In Nordic countries, the Easter holiday is associated with murder mysteries. Major TV stations run crime and detective marathons and publishing houses release novels just before Easter.
- In Finland, Sweden and Denmark small children dress as witches and go door-to-door collecting chocolate eggs.
- In Switzerland (the land of cuckoo clocks) the cuckoo brings the eggs.
- In Westphalia (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 Bilbies. The bilby 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're out.
- In Egypt, Easter Monday is a public holiday that marks an ancient spring festival. Egyptians spend the day in parks and gardens.
- In Florence, Italy an enormous 300 year old cart that is decorated with flowers is dragged through the streets. At the end of its journey, it is bombarded with fireworks and explosions to ensure a good 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 Florence?
4. What is a bilby?
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 Finland?
8. What type of marathons would you see in Nordic Countries at 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 at Easter?
12. What Easter game do children play in France?
13. What Easter games can you remember playing?
14. If you could decorate an Easter egg right now what would you use?