**Easter - Trivia**

**Easter around the world: Bulgaria – throw, rather than hide, eggs; Italy – use olive, not palm branches, on Palm Sunday; Ireland – dance in streets on Easter Sunday; Czech Republic – serve plum brandy on Easter Monday; Egypt -- Easter service Saturday night until 4 a.m. Sunday. *(***[***www.easterbunnys.net***](http://www.easterbunnys.net/)***)***

**Whys is the "Easter bunny" sometimes a part of Easter celebrations? Like the egg, the rabbit has also been a symbol of fertility, and comes from ancient celebrations of spring and Anglo-Saxon mythology. In a blend of Christian and other traditions, the custom of a rabbit (or Easter bunny) leaving colored eggs in the baskets of children was brought to America by German immigrants in the late 19th century. *(John McCollister, in The Christian Book of Why)***

**In AD 325, Constantine called a meeting of Christian bishops at Nicea to decide what a Christian was, and what Christians should believe. He changed the time of the Resurrection to coincide with the festival celebrating the death and resurrection of the pagan god Attis. This celebration was held annually from March 22 to 25. Christians adopted the actual date, March 25, as the anniversary of the passion. *(Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 17)***

**Persians first began using colored eggs to celebrate spring in 3000 B.C., and thirteenth century Macedonians were the first Christians on record to use colored eggs in Easter celebrations. Crusaders returning from the Middle East spread the custom of coloring eggs, and Europeans began to use them to celebrate Easter and other warm-weather holidays. *(Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 173)***

**What is one of the legends, base loosely on a biblical passage, that accounts for the coloring of Easter eggs? According to a folk tale, Simon of Cyrene, who helped Jesus carry the Cross, was an egg merchant. When Simon returned from Calvary, all the eggs he was to sell that day had miraculously acquired a variety of colors and designs. *(Catholic Digest)***

**Easter customs are associated with eggs. In northwestern, Germany, they have “egg duels,” which are called “Eier-Spacken.” Two men face with other, holding hard boiled eggs by the round ends. The idea is to stab the other one’s eggs with the pointed end of your egg. The winner: the one who cracked the most eggs. The prize: all the cracked eggs!**

***(Arkady Leokum, in The Curious Book, p. 173)***

**My neighbor says she was born on March 27, 1932, on Easter Sunday, and there won't be another March 27 Easter until next year, 2005. That's 73 years. Is she right? -- (Gene, Lakewood, Colorado) She knows what she's talking about. The Easter date formula is a bit complicated --it's the first Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of spring -- and it results in most Easters falling in April. The nearest March 27 Easter before her birth was in 1921; after 2005, the next one will fall in 2016. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**When eating a chocolate bunny, 76 percent of people eat the ears first. *(National Confectioners Association, 2005)***

**Michigan -- When inventor Thomas Edison died in 1931, his last breath reportedly was captured in a test tube as a memorial, and the tube was given to his friend Henry Ford. The tube is housed at Dearborn’s Henry Ford Museum. *(American Profile magazine)***

**Early Christians used red-colored eggs to symbolize the Resurrection. *(Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 16)***

**In Switzerland, it's not the rabbit but the cuckoo that brings the Easter eggs. A lot of people in Northern Italy give their youngsters Easter rabbits made not of chocolate but of cheese. (L. M. Boyd)**

**He’s as popular being dead 25 years as he was when he was alive. Explain that to me. (*Scotty Moore, guitar player in Elvis Presley’s first band, in Rocky Mountain News, May 6, 2003)***

**The festival of the Christian church commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is not always held on the same date. In A.D. 325 the church council of Nicea decided that it should be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox of March 21. Easter can come as early as March 22 or as late as April 25. Many Easter customs come from the Old World. The white lily, the symbol of the resurrection, is the special Easter flower. Rabbits and colored eggs have come from pagan antiquity as symbols of new life. Easter egg rolling, a custom of European origin, has become a tradition on the lawn of the White House in Washington, D.C. *(Judy Mackenzie and David Milster, in South of the Lake Messenger*)**

**I know it’s 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, but what’s the formula for when they occur? We’ve answered this before, but it’s a good question because the formula’s a surprise. Easter’s date changes because it’s based on the lunar calendar. Western Christians celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of spring. That means it can occur anytime between March 22 and April 25. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Why do Christians eat hard-boiled eggs on Easter? Early Christians of Mesopotamia were the first to apply this symbol as a visual lesson to the Resurrection of Christ. The actual custom, though, has its roots in folklore. From earliest times, the egg has been a symbol of fertility and immortality. During earlier, pagan rites of spring, many cultures began including the egg as a sign of new life anticipated during planting season. *(John McCollister, in The Christian Book of Why)***

**Easter Island is called that because it was discovered on Easter Sunday. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Jellybeans did not become an Easter tradition until the 1930s. They were first made in America by Boston candy maker William Schrafft, who ran advertisements urging people to send jellybeans to soldiers fighting in the Civil War. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 84)***

**The world’s largest formula Easter Egg is located in Vegreville, Canada. It measures 25.7 feet long, 18.3 feet wide, stands 31.6 feet high and weighs 5,000 pounds. *(Kids’ Pages)***

**The latest day in the year on which Easter Sunday can fall is April 25th. The earliest is March 22. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 171)***

**Why is the lily the Easter flower? The lily -- a tall, fragrant plant with long, pointed leaves -- is the symbol of Easter because its shape resembles a trumpet that heralds Christ's Resurrection. *(John McCollister, in The Christian Book of Why)***

**The name “Easter” comes from Eostre, an ancient Anglo-Saxon goddess, originally of the dawn. In pagan times the annual spring festival was held in her honor. Some Easter customs have come from this and other pre-Christian spring festivals. Others come from the Passover feast of the Jews, observed in memory of their deliverance from Egypt. *(Judy Mackenzie & David Milster, in South of the Lake Messenger*)**

**Each year, 90 million chocolate bunnies and l6 billion jellybeans are produced for Easter. Each day, 5 million marshmallow chicks and bunnies are produced. (National Confectioners Association, 2005)**

**An Arizona restaurant was barraged with complaints from animal lovers after announcing a rabbit-based menu for Easter Sunday. Chef Payton Curry said he’d received more than 100 e-mails and an anonymous call wishing him a slow and painful death. “To me, it’s just food,” said Curry. But one offended animal lover said that Curry had “underestimated the number of people who have pet rabbits.” *(The Week magazine, April 9, 2010)***

**Where’s the bunny? In Switzerland, children receive holiday eggs from the Easter cuckoo. (Uncle John’s Unstoppable Bathroom Reader, p. 267)**

**Come Easter, some pedestrians in Lima, Peru, fall down a lot. By then, worshippers for weeks have carried lighted candles in processions. The melted wax makes the streets slippery. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**One of the holiest Christian holidays is named after a pagan goddess. The word “Easter” derives from the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre, who governed the vernal equinox. (*Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in That’s A Fact, Jack!, p. 50)***

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