

FUN FACTS FOR EASTER

1. Where did the Easter Bunny come from? The story about rabbits bringing eggs at Easter probably doesn't make much sense, so why do we look out for him on Easter Day? The origin of the story dates back hundreds of years, beginning in pre-Christian Germany. Here, the hare was the Pagan symbol of Spring, which is when Easter usually occurs. Pagan festivals often blend with Christian festivals, so an **Easter Bunny** (the German hare) brings **eggs** (a symbol of birth, like Spring) to children on Easter Sunday.
2. Easter is named after the Anglo-Saxon goddess, **Eostre**, the goddess of fertility, dawn and light. She was central to a Pagan festival celebrating the arrival of Spring. Again, a Pagan festival blended with a Christian one.
3. More than 1.5 million Cadbury Crème Eggs are produced every day, making over **500 million** crème eggs every year! If they were piled on top of one another, the pile would be 10 times higher than Mount Everest!
4. Painting eggs is a Ukrainian tradition. It is called **pysanka** and is made using wax and dyes. Originally they used natural materials to make their colours: things like onion skins, flowers and other plants.
5. The first chocolate egg was produced in Britain in Bristol in 1873 at the **Fry's** chocolate factory, followed closely in 1875 by **Cadbury's**.
6. In Germany it is illegal to dance in public on **Good Friday**. In some places, even music is banned in bars, where Good Friday is considered to be a day of silence to mourn the death of Jesus.
7. Easter seems to always be on a different date each year, unlike Christmas Day for example which is always on 25th December. Easter can be anytime in late March to late April. Why is this? It's because the date is set according to the **Lunar Calendar** and Easter Day is always the Sunday after the full moon following 21st March (which is the start of Spring).