

LEVEL 1

B 1 - B 2

What is Easter about?

If you ask a random person what they have in mind when they think about Christmas, it won't come as a surprise to get answers like "presents," "family reunion," or even „Coca-cola train". The celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ will likely come later in line. Is it any different with **Easter**? What is it really about?

The culmination of the **festival** is Easter Sunday, the most important holiday for Christians. It is **observed** on the first Sunday after the full moon between March 21 and April 25 and commemorates the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ.

Christians prepare for this day over the period called **Lent**, which starts on Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days. In this time they pray, **fast**, and attend **retreats** – church services with sermons that help them become better people.

Lent ends with Holy Week which remembers the most important moments for the religion. Holy (or Maundy) Thursday marks the day when Jesus ate the Last Supper with his **disciples**. Good Friday is the day of his **crucifixion**. Holy Saturday represents the time which the prophet spent dead in a tomb. In fact, key celebrations start on Sunday evening and in some churches last until morning. Christians believe the founder of their religion rose from the grave three days after he had died on a cross, and each Easter Sunday celebrates this event.

Like in the case of almost every other holiday, there are **secular** traditions that accompany it. The most popular ones are those of colouring eggs or hiding sweets for children to find. In Poland, the most cheerful one is that of Wet Monday. On this day people splash water on each other, and in many places, this innocent custom turns into real water fights.



RETELL

What does Easter Sunday celebrate?

When is Easter Sunday observed?

What is Lent?

What events are remembered by Holy Thursday and Good Friday?

What customs are connected with Easter?



DISCUSS

Christmas time is better than Easter.



ARGUMENT BANK

Do presents make Christmas more attractive?

Do Christmas decorations make the atmosphere special?

Which festival goes with a longer school break?

Does Easter involve less cleaning and cooking than Christmas?

Is the weather better at Easter?

If you don't buy presents, is Easter cheaper to organise?

Make notes!

DEFINITIONS

Put the right numbers next to the definitions.

A) Easter; **B) festival**; C) to observe; **D) resurrection**; E) Lent;
F) to fast; G) retreat; **H) disciple**; I) crucifixion; **J) secular**

- 1) to eat no food for a period of time

- 2) a special period in memory of a religious event

- 3) a period of time used to pray and study the Scripture quietly

- 4) the death of Jesus Christ on a cross

- 5) the 40 days before Easter

- 6) the celebration of Jesus Christ's return to life after he was killed

- 7) to obey a custom

- 8) one of Jesus' pupils

- 9) the act of rising from the dead

- 10) not connected with religious matters



Write down 5 arguments FOR.



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GAPS

Say/Write full sentences by filling in the gaps with the correct forms of the phrases from the exercise above.

- 1) The _____ of Jesus Christ is one of the greatest hallmarks of Christianity.
- 2) We went on _____ to a monastery in the mountains.
- 3) Old people in villages still _____ local traditions.
- 4) I _____ for health reasons one day a week, usually on Fridays.
- 5) Our society is becoming increasingly _____ as religion has less and less influence on our daily lives.
- 6) We got one week off school at _____ .
- 7) According to theologians, our bodies will become incorruptible after _____ .
- 8) During the _____ the city is crowded with pilgrims.
- 9) When Jesus was ascending to heaven, He told his _____ to go and spread the word of God throughout the world.
- 10) I decided to give up meat for _____ .



Write down 5 arguments AGAINST.



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Write down the words you will use in your essay/speech.

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