

Easter Reading and Writing Activities





History of Easter Eggs

Eggs were used as a symbol of new life in ancient times. They also represent new beginnings. In the middle ages people used to paint duck, hen or goose eggs. In the 1700s people used to make papier-mâché eggs. The first ever chocolate Easter egg was made by Fry's in 1873. Early chocolate eggs were solid.

Faberge Eggs

These were decorative eggs designed by Peter Carl Faberge. In 1885 he made one for the Russian Tsar's wife. It was a gold egg with another gold egg inside. Inside this was a golden chicken and a miniature crown. They liked it so much that they asked Faberge to make eggs for them every Easter. In November 2007 one of these eggs sold for nine million pounds.

Chocolate Eggs

Last year Irish shoppers spent €44 million on chocolate eggs in the run-up to Easter, with overall grocery sales at retailers hitting a record of €208.2 million in Easter week alone. Irish shoppers bought almost 18 million eggs. The most popular easter egg brand is Cadbury's Crème Egg. The average child gets five eggs each, but if they ate them all they would eat twice as many calories as they should in that week.



Questions

1. What were eggs used as a symbol of in the past?
2. When was the first chocolate egg made?
3. Were chocolate eggs filled with sweets in the 19th century?
4. How many eggs were sold in Ireland last Easter?
5. How many eggs does the average child get for Easter?
6. Who did Peter Carl Faberge make his first golden egg for?
7. What was inside the Faberge egg?



A shopkeeper is ordering their Easter eggs from a supplier.

Here is part of the list:

| Type of egg |
|-------------|
| Aero egg |
| |
| |
| |
| |

Write these five eggs in alphabetical order on the list.

- Crunchie egg
 - Toblerone egg
 - Creme egg
 - Mars Bar egg
 - Galaxy egg
-

Anagrams

Rearrange these letters to make words related to Easter.

G S E G

T A R S E E

H C L T C O O A E

P I G S R N

U D Y S N A

Name the following Easter eggs.



a) _____



b) _____



c) _____



d) _____



e) _____

Write your own ACROSTIC POEM.....here is an example

You use the first letter to start each line

Washing
Ashore
Volumes of water
Ebb and flow on
Sandy beaches

Margaret Anne Miles

Now try writing an EASTER acrostic poem

E
A
S
T
E
R

WORD CHALLENGE -try and think of a word related to Easter for every letter of the alphabet. For example E for eggs

Easter Alphabet

| | | | |
|---|-------|---|-------|
| A | _____ | N | _____ |
| B | _____ | O | _____ |
| C | _____ | P | _____ |
| D | _____ | Q | _____ |
| E | _____ | R | _____ |
| F | _____ | S | _____ |
| G | _____ | T | _____ |
| H | _____ | U | _____ |
| I | _____ | V | _____ |
| J | _____ | W | _____ |
| K | _____ | X | _____ |
| L | _____ | Y | _____ |
| M | _____ | Z | _____ |

Easter Sudoku

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the grids so that each horizontal row contains each letter exactly once, each vertical column contains each letter exactly once, and each subgrid contains each letter exactly once.



SPROUT

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | | | | T |
| | | O | | S |
| | | | | |
| | T | R | P | |
| | P | | | U |
| | | | | O |

BASKET

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | B | T | | | S |
| | A | | | B | |
| | | | T | | K |
| | | | | | |
| K | | A | | | |
| | T | E | | | |

SPRING

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | N | | | |
| I | | | R | | |
| | | | | S | |
| | R | | G | | I |
| | | I | N | | |
| | | | | G | |

DUCKLINGS

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | C | | | U | G | L | |
| | | K | S | L | U | | |
| U | | N | | | | I | |
| | | | | | | K | C |
| L | | | | K | I | | |
| K | U | | | | | S | |
| | | | | | C | L | I |
| C | U | I | K | | L | S | |
| | | | G | | N | U | |

TULIPS

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | U | | T |
| | T | I | | S | |
| | L | | | | |
| | | T | L | | |
| | | | | | |
| | I | | | L | S |





Easter Sunday

Sunday following the first
full moon after the Spring equinox



BASKET
BLESSINGS
BONNET
BOUQUET
BUNNY
CHICKS
CHILDREN
CHOCOLATES
CHURCH

DAFFODILS
DUCKS
DYE
EASTER
EGGS
FLOWERS
GRASS
GRATITUDE
HOPE

HUNT
JELLYBEANS
JOY
LIFE
PARADE
RABBIT
SPRING
SUNDAY



Cadbury Easter Eggs

John Cadbury made his first 'French Eating Chocolate' in 1842, but it was not until 1875 that the first Cadbury Easter Eggs were made. Progress in the chocolate Easter Egg market was very slow until a method was found of making the liquid chocolate flow into moulds.

J.S. Fry of Bristol, the company which merged with Cadbury Limited in 1919, produced the first chocolate eggs in 1873, while rivals Rowntree waited until 1904 and it was not until 1987 that Mars entered the market.



John Cadbury

The modern chocolate Easter Egg with its smoothness, shape and flavour owes its progression to the greatest development in the history of chocolate – Van Houten's invention in Holland of a press for separating cocoa butter from the cocoa bean in 1828 and the introduction of a pure cocoa by Cadbury Brothers in 1866. The Cadbury process made large quantities of cocoa butter available and this was the secret of making moulded chocolate or indeed any fine eating chocolate.



The earliest Cadbury chocolate eggs were made of 'dark' chocolate with a plain smooth surface and they were filled with dragees, sugar coated chocolate drops. The earliest 'decorated' eggs were plain shells enhanced by chocolate piping and marzipan flowers. Decorative and variety eggs soon followed and by 1893, the Cadbury Brothers had 19 different Easter lines. Richard Cadbury's artistic skills played an important part in the expansion of the Easter range, many based on French, Dutch and German originals adapted to Victorian tastes.

Creme Filled Eggs

Creme filled eggs, the forerunners of the famous Cadbury Creme Egg, first appeared in 1923. Over the years, various crème eggs with white and chocolate filling, plus Turkish Delight have appeared on the Cadbury and Fry's listings. From the 1960's onwards the growth in this market has been phenomenal particularly since 1975 when television advertising helped to make Creme Egg eating quite a cult. The Cadbury Creme Egg first appeared in 1971 and now dominates the market with approximately 500 million being made each year with over a third for export. Cadbury Caramel eggs then joined the range in 1994.



A Major Packaging Development

Perhaps one of the most significant events in the Easter Egg market occurred in the early 1950's when a carton designer, William T Horry, revolutionised the business. Prior to this, chocolate eggs were fragile and expensive to make and pack. While working on a carton design for a light bulb, William Horry realized the potential of a similar carton to hold fragile Easter Eggs and this changed the whole face of the market. The Roses Easter Egg carton was the first Cadbury Easter Egg to use this packaging. The individual packaging was designed to protect the egg while offering the opportunity to display the eggs itself, they were also less expensive and easy to assemble during the production process and finally the carton provided space for bright new designs and branding.



Questions

1. What company merged with Cadbury?
2. What did Van Heuten invent to help make modern chocolate eggs?
3. How many different types of eggs did the Cadbury brothers have?
4. When did the first crème eggs come on the market?
5. What happened in 1975 to make Cadbury Crème eggs really popular?
6. What egg used the first of the modern packaging?