

YEAR 2 SPRING 2 R.E: WHY DOES EASTER MATTER TO CHRISTIANS?

Easter

Good Friday

On Good Friday, **Christians** remember the day that **Jesus** was **crucified**. Leaders in Jerusalem were jealous that people listened to **Jesus** and so they had him **crucified**. **Christians** believe it is 'good', because **Jesus** showed great love and died for the **sins** of others. When he died, his body was put in a stone **tomb**.

On **Easter** Sunday, **Christians** celebrate **Jesus' resurrection**. The **resurrection** of **Jesus** gives **Christians** the promise of **eternal** life in **heaven**.



A Surprise

Some of **Jesus' friends** went to visit his **tomb** on the Sunday after he died. They were surprised to find it empty. After his **resurrection** **Jesus** visited his **disciples** before going up to **heaven** to live with God.



Easter Garden

What is the meaning of the Easter garden?

An Easter resurrection garden is a symbol of Jesus rising from his tomb. They portray the scene that Mary Magdalene saw, a tomb with a stone to be rolled away on Easter Sunday. Resurrection gardens are a way to help us learn about Jesus and how he died for us and rose into Heaven.

An Easter garden should include:

Three empty crosses.

Something to represent Jesus

Something to represent the stone the entrance to the tomb.

Flowers to represent new life.

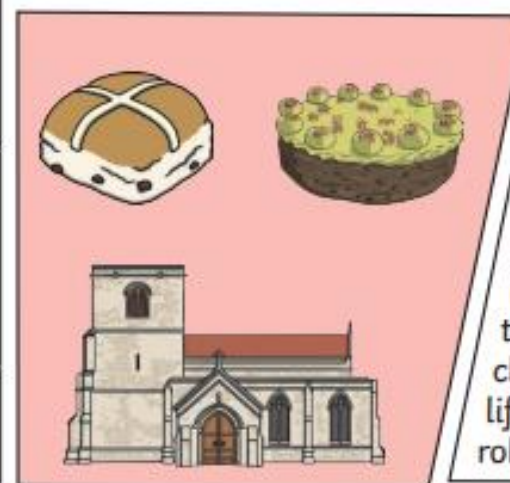


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Key Vocabulary

Christians	People who follow the religion of Christianity
God	All-powerful spirit or being that is worshipped especially by Christians, Jews, and Muslims as the one who created and rules the universe
Jesus	The son of God
Cross	Christian symbol. Christians believe that Jesus died on a cross
Crucifix	A cross with an image of Jesus on it
Crucified	Put to death on a cross
Salvation	By Jesus dying he saved people
Resurrection	Christians believe that Jesus came back to life
Sin	When someone does something wrong
Easter	The oldest most important Christian festival

Easter Traditions



Many **Christians** go to church at **Easter**. Parts of the **Bible** are read and special **hymns** are sung. Hot cross buns are eaten. The cross reminds people that **Jesus** died on the cross. Many **Christians** send **Easter** cards. Simnel cake is eaten. It is a fruit cake with eleven marzipan balls on the top. These represent all of the **disciples** except Judas. Eggs are painted and chocolate eggs are given. The eggs **symbolise** new life and are the same shape as the rock that was rolled in front of **Jesus' tomb**.

Symbols of Easter



Personal Spirituality – Key Questions

What does the cross mean to you?

When you think of Easter, what do you think of?

How do you celebrate Easter?