

INTRODUCTION	1. Vocabulary
ACTIVITY	2. The Easter Story 3. Conversation Questions 4. Hot Cross Bun Recipe 5. Word Search 6. Rhyming Words

**Vocabulary**

Easter	Public Holiday	Celebration
Religion	Easter eggs	Chocolate
Christian	Easter bunny	Long weekend
Jewish	Tradition	Pagan



**THE EASTER STORY**

**The four-day 'weekend'**

In addition to its religious significance, Easter in Australia is enjoyed as a four-day holiday weekend starting on Good Friday and ending on Easter Monday. This extra-long weekend is an opportunity for Australians to take a mini-holiday, or get together with family and friends.

***Conversation Questions***

**Was Easter a public holiday in your home country?**

**What are some of the other public holidays celebrated in Australia?**

**Religious Significance**

**Easter** is the most important religious feast in the Christian year. Christians believe that Jesus was crucified and came back to life and is a celebration of this. It is a time for Christians to think about suffering, injustice and hardship.

*On Good Friday, Jesus Christ was executed by crucifixion. His body was taken down from the cross, and buried in a cave. The tomb was guarded and an enormous stone was put over the entrance, so that no-one could steal the body. On the following Sunday, some women visited the grave and found that the stone had been moved, and that the tomb was empty. Jesus himself was seen that day, and for days afterwards by many people. His followers realised that God had raised Jesus from the dead.*

[Easter Sunday](#) is the celebration of Jesus' return to life and is a day of much enjoyment for Christians. Churches are usually filled with flowers and the celebrations include the singing of special hymns.

### ***Conversation Questions***

**What are some of the special days of the year that you celebrate?**

**Do you decorate your home or place of worship with anything?**

**Do you sing any special songs?**

### **When is Easter?**

Easter is termed a [movable Christian holy day](#) because it is not on a fixed date. Easter falls at some point between late March and late April each year, following the cycle of the moon.

The Easter season starts with Shrove Tuesday which is often known as Pancake Day. To shrove is to confess sins. In Australia many people cook pancakes on shrove Tuesday.

### **Fasting for Lent**

In Western Christianity, Easter marks the end of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline in preparation for Easter. This is to serve as a reminder of the forty days Jesus fasted in the wilderness. Lent begins on Palm Sunday. The name, Palm Sunday originated from Jesus's entry in Jerusalem. The crowd laid carpets of palms on the street for him. In many churches, during Palm Sunday services, large palm branches are carried in processions. Members of the congregation also hold small crosses made of palm leaf.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It is called that because palms leaves from Palm Sunday the year before were burned and the ash was marked on the foreheads of the people who went to church.

### ***Conversation Questions***

**Do you fast as part of your culture or religion?**

**What is the reason that you fast?**

**How long do you fast for?**

**What do you like/dislike about fasting?**

## How did Easter get its name?

Easter was called Pesach by early Christians. It is a Hebrew name for Passover. The Last Supper shared by Jesus and his disciples before his crucifixion is generally thought of as a Passover meal.

The English name "Easter" is much newer. Before Christianity in early England, the people celebrated the pagan festival of vernal equinox with a feast honoring Eastre, the goddess of spring (Autumn in the Southern hemisphere). Early English Christians decided to use the name Easter for this holiday so that it would match the name of the old spring celebration.

## Easter Traditions

Many non-religious cultural elements have become part of the holiday, and those aspects are often celebrated by many Christians and non-Christians alike.

The lamb was often sacrificed as offerings to God by the Hebrews long before the first Passover. When Jesus died, he gave himself as an offering to God for the sins of the world. Early Christians then saw the lamb as a symbol of Jesus and used it for Easter celebration. Many people serve lamb as part of the Easter feast.



Other food served on Easter are Pretzels, a Lenten food. The twisted shape symbolizes arms crossed in prayer.



### **Conversation Questions**

**Is there any traditional food that you eat for special celebrations?**

**Is there a reason this type of food is eaten for this celebration?**

In Australia people have always enjoyed the traditional Good Friday breakfast of hot cross buns. Hot cross buns are sweet, spiced buns made with dried fruit and yeast. Each bun has an icing cross on top to remind people of Christ. Street vendors in England used to sing a song when they went around selling their hot cross buns. This song is now a favourite nursery rhyme for children.

### Hot Cross Buns

Hot cross buns! Hot cross buns!  
One a penny, two a penny  
Hot cross buns!

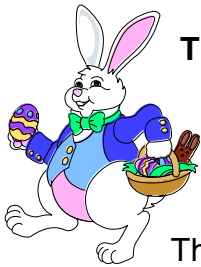
If you have no daughters, give them to your sons  
One a penny, two a penny  
Hot cross buns!





### **Easter Eggs**

Eggs, symbolising new life, have long been associated with the Easter festival. Chocolate Easter eggs are a favourite part of Easter in Australia. Some families organise Easter egg hunts for children in the garden or around the house on Easter Sunday.



### **The Easter Bunny**

Early on Easter Sunday morning, the Easter Bunny 'delivers' chocolate Easter eggs to children in Australia, as he does in many parts of the world.

The rabbit and the hare have long been associated with fertility, and have therefore been associated with spring and spring festivals.



### **Easter Bilby**

An Australian native animal that looks a bit like a rabbit. The Bilby is endangered in Australia and rabbits are a big problem for farmers so many people try to encourage people to buy a chocolate bilby instead of a chocolate rabbit. Some shops donate money from the sale of Easter Bilbies to research and

saving the endangered species.

### **Conversation Questions**

In your religious/cultural celebrations are there any activities for children?

What happens in these activities?

### **Sydney Royal Easter Show**

The show takes place annually at Sydney Olympic Park over the Easter period. It is part of the long tradition of agricultural shows that are held in towns and cities across Australia. At these shows, rural and farming communities showcase their livestock and produce, and exhibitors, organisations and companies provide people in urban areas with a glimpse of rural life.

### **Conversation Questions**

Have you heard about the Easter Show? What do you know about it?

Have you been to the Easter show before/are you going this year?

<http://www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/easter/>  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter>

# RECIPE HOT CROSS BUN

**Serves:** 18 Buns

**Preparation Time:** 1.5 hours

**Cooking Time:** 15 mins

## **Ingredients:**

1/4 cup milk

1/3 cup sugar

3/4 teaspoon sugar

3/4 teaspoon salt

2 packages of active dry yeast

1/2 cup shortening (substitute with margarine, butter or vegetable oil)

3 eggs

4 cups sifted flour

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

3/4 cup of currants

1 egg white

1 teaspoon cold water

1/2 cup warm water

## **Icing**

1 1/2 cups icing sugar

2 Tablespoons softened margarine or butter

1 - 2 Tablespoons milk

1/2 teaspoon vanilla

## **Method:**

- Scald milk in a small saucepan. Add sugar and shortening and cool till lukewarm
- Dissolve salt in the water
- Add eggs, yeast mixture, 1 cup flour, cinnamon and mix
- Stir in currants and remaining flour
- Beat well to make a soft dough
- Place in lightly greased bowl
- Cover and let rise until just about doubled
- Roll dough into a 1/2 inch thickness
- Cut in rounds with a biscuit cutter or bottom of glass
- Pat the shapes to bun like shape and place on greased baking dish
- Allow to rise until almost doubled for an hour
- With a sharp knife cut a cross into the surface of each bun
- Brush tops with unbeaten egg white mixed with cold water
- Bake in a 375 degree oven for 15 minutes or until golden brown
- Cool on racks for about five minutes
- Fill in crosses with icing

# EASTER EGG HUNT WORD SEARCH

How many words can you make out of *EASTER EGG HUNT*?

## E A S T E R E G G H U N T

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### DID YOU FIND?

- A color.
- A number.
- A planet.
- A weapon.
- A rodent.
- Something you drink.
- Something you wear.
- What you chew with.
- What a squirrel eats.
- A game kids play.

- The opposite of this.
- The opposite of here.
- The opposite of those.
- The opposite of messy.
- The opposite of love.
- The opposite of west.
- The opening in a fence.
- Very, very good!
- Another word for begin.
- Another word for country.

[www.bogglesworldesl.com](http://www.bogglesworldesl.com)

## Find rhyming words that match the clues:

- (1) A season that rhymes with bring.
- (2) A flower that rhymes with silly.
- (3) What birds lay that rhymes with legs.
- (4) A holiday that rhymes with fur.
- (5) A meal that rhymes with winner.
- (6) Something you send that rhymes with hard.
- (7) Another word for rabbit that rhymes with honey.
- (8) Something to hold things and rhymes with gasket.
- (9) A place to pray that rhymes with lurch.
- (10) A search that rhymes with bunt.

[www.bogglesworldesl.com](http://www.bogglesworldesl.com)