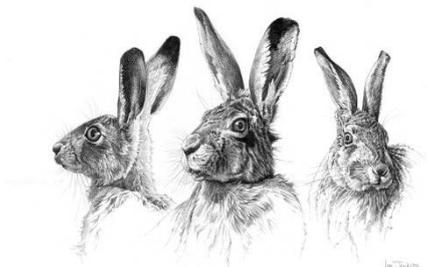


Easter in the UK: Reading & Speaking Practice (B1-B2)

1: With a partner, look at all of the pictures (1-13) and say what you can see, or what is happening. You have 3 minutes.

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



1

11



12



13



2: Read the text about Easter traditions in the UK. When you have finished, match the highlighted words/phrases with the pictures.

One of the most famous ways of starting the Easter celebrations in the UK is by having **pancake races** on Shrove Tuesday during which you run down the road while tossing and trying not to drop your **pancake!**

On Mothering Sunday, which is always the Sunday in the middle of Lent in the UK, flowers such as **Daffodils** and Primroses are often given to mums to say thank you for all the hard work they do! It is also traditional that Mums don't do housework on this day and might even have **breakfast in bed!**

A lot of Churches hold special Good Friday services. Sometimes the congregation is led to the church by a person or group of **people carrying a large wooden cross**. There are also **Easter parades** where people walk through the streets in colourful clothes and decorated hats.

Hot Cross Buns are eaten at Easter time. These are often eaten in the UK on Good Friday. These are buns with currants and raisins in them which were eaten all year round in pagan (pre-Christian) times. It represented the moon and the four seasons. Christians took over this tradition and changed the meaning so the cross represented the cross that Jesus died on.

Bunnies, Rabbits, **Lambs**, **Chicks** and Eggs are all associated with Easter because most babies of these animals are born in spring, around Easter. In Pagan times, Rabbits and **Hares** were signs of Good Luck and New Life and Chicks and Eggs were signs of Fertility. The Early Christians took over the meaning of New Life because it helped them remember Jesus being raised from the dead.

Eggs were also used by the ancient Persians and Egyptians to celebrate New Year, which happened for them in spring time. The eggs were coloured and eaten during the celebrations. In Europe, **coloured eggs** were used to celebrate Easter as house decorations. Now it is customary to give chocolate eggs or rabbits to children, which often have a little surprise inside.

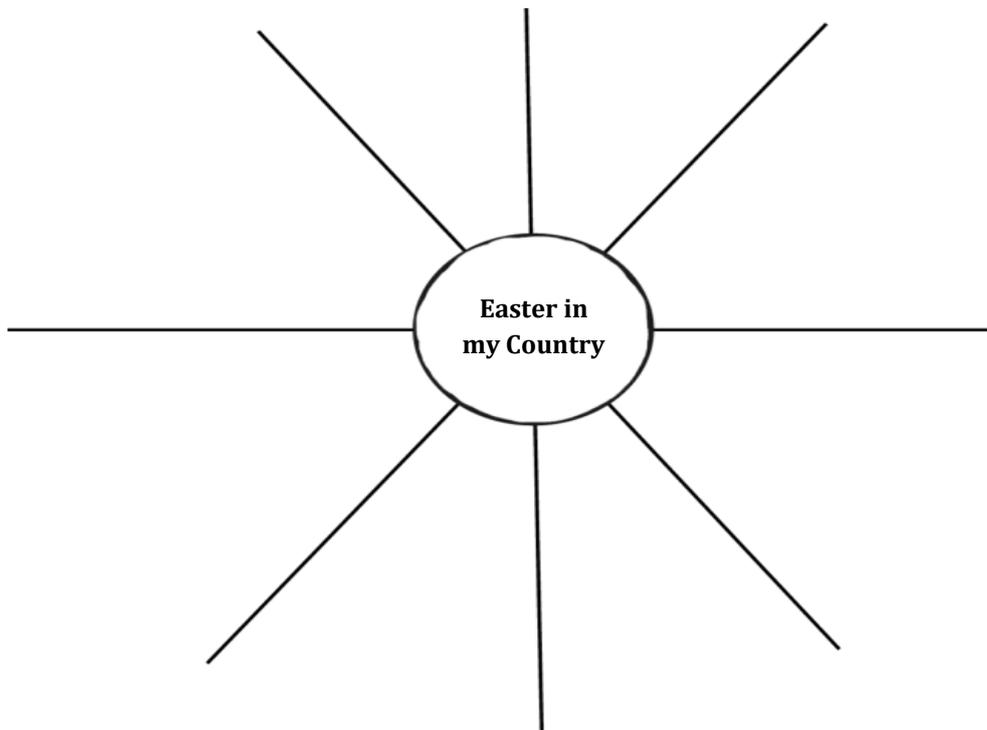
On Easter Monday, lots of people take part in **egg-rolling competitions**. The rules are often different from place to place. The general idea is that children roll coloured hard-boiled eggs down the grass slopes in the local park. The winner is the person whose egg is the first to the bottom that is unbroken or the egg which rolls the furthest.

Another traditional game is **an egg hunt** during which decorated eggs, real or artificial ones made of chocolate, are hidden for children to find, both indoors and outdoors. When the hunt is over, prizes may be given for the most eggs collected, or for the largest egg in size.

3: Read the questions and answer 'yes' or 'no'. If the answer is 'no', write the correct answer. Use the text to check your answers.

1. During a pancake race, must the pancake stay in the frying pan at all times?
2. Are mothers expected to do as little work as possible around the house on Mothering Sunday?
3. Do people follow a person, or group of people, carrying a cross to church on Good Friday?
4. Did the cross on the Hot Cross Bun originally represent the cross that Jesus died on?
5. Did the animals and eggs that are now symbols of Easter originally have nothing to do with religion?
6. Did people in Europe used to use chocolate eggs to decorate their houses?
7. Are the eggs that children use in egg-rolling competitions cooked?
8. Is an egg hunt only played outside?

4: You are going to tell your teacher about Easter traditions in your country. Using the spidergram, write traditions that you have, or food that you eat, in your country during Easter.



5: In pairs/groups, discuss these traditions; What happens? What is the reason or the origin of the tradition?

6: Tell your teacher about Easter in your country.

Answers

1:

1. Hares
2. Daffodils
3. pancake races
4. egg-rolling competitions
5. Easter parades
6. people carrying a large wooden cross.
7. Hot Cross Buns
8. pancake
9. coloured eggs
10. breakfast in bed
11. Lambs
12. Chicks
13. an egg hunt

3:

1. No; it is meant to be tossed (meaning it has to leave the pan at some point).
2. Yes.
3. Yes.
4. No; it originally represented the moon and the four seasons in pagan times.
5. Yes.
6. No; they used coloured, real eggs.
7. Yes.
8. No; it can be played indoors too.

References:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_egg

<http://www.whyeaster.com/>