

MONTANA SUPPLEMENT



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Easter facts.

With nothing submitted from anyone else, I thought we would take a look at some facts about Easter so here is what I found.

1. Easter is the oldest Christian holiday Celebrating Jesus's resurrection, the foundation upon which Christianity was built, Easter is one of the most important Christian Holy Days. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ which occurred on the third day after he was crucified on the cross. 40 days prior to Easter, Christians follow Lent, which is supposed to be 40 days of prayer, penance and fasting. The last week of this 40-day period is called Holy Week. During Holy Week, Holy Thursday commemorates when the Last Supper was held. Good Friday commemorates Jesus' crucifixion and death. Following Easter is a 50-day period called Eastertide which ends on Pentecost Sunday.

2. Many historians believe that Christians named Easter after Eastre or Eostre, a pagan Anglo-Saxon goddess, in the hopes of encouraging conversion. Like the Christian equivalent, Easter festivities heralded the coming of spring after winter's long slumber.

3. The Easter Bunny is German! Both hares and eggs were signs of fertility in Germany during the Middle Ages, and it was during this time that the legend of an egg-laying, candy-giving bunny was born. It was not until the first Germans immigrated to America in the 1700s that the Easter Bunny became a beloved tradition here.

4. Easter eggs were originally dyed red to represent Christ's blood. The tradition of dyeing Easter eggs is said to date back to ancient Mesopotamia. In modern times it continues in secular fashion as well as in Orthodox and Eastern Catholic churches, where eggs are dyed red, blessed, and passed out to supplicants.

5. While the tradition of dyeing eggs at Easter may have begun as a religious practice, the custom of decorating those eggs comes from a Ukrainian craft dating back thousands of years. The eggs, called pysankas, are painstakingly created using wax and dyes, a process Ukrainian immigrants brought with them to the United States.

6. In 2007, Florida held the largest egg hunt in history and a whopping 9,753 children participated, searching for 501,000 eggs. Speaking of Easter egg hunts, it was President Rutherford B. Hayes who instituted the first White House Easter egg roll in 1878. It usually attracts some 30,000 people, although the 2020 event was canceled due to COVID-19. In 1981 the White House began to use wooden Easter eggs so they could be kept as keepsakes.

7. Dressing up is based on a superstition while you might think that dressing to the nines on Easter is simply a sign of respect for the holiday, that is not the case. At least it was not in 19th-century New York, when residents believed that wearing new duds on Easter would bring luck for the rest of the year. These days, it's estimated that \$3.3 billion is spent on Easter finery.

8. Lilies are a flower often associated with Easter (Easter Lilies). The petals face downward, which is in honor of Jesus.

I pray you are all staying healthy and you have a blessed Easter holiday.

Information gathered from the following site's,
<https://www.countryliving.com>
<https://www.softschools.com>