



Activities for Grades K–2

Compliments of Teacher Created Materials and Wintergreen Learning Materials

Easter



Background Information

Easter falls on the Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. This important observance in the Christian year marks the day that Jesus Christ was resurrected after being hanged on a cross. Christians believe that he saved people through dying. Lent, a period of 40 days (not including Sundays) of fasting and penance ends on Easter. Other key days include Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter when Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem; Maundy Thursday, which is associated with the Last Supper and the giving of gifts as symbolized by the washing of feet; Good Friday, the day on which Christ was hanged; and Holy Saturday, when some Christians have baptisms and their first communions.

A variety of customs are observed with some variability in the United States and countries where Christians observe Easter. One of the oldest is the practice of eating hot cross buns on Good Friday. Such buns are considered to be lucky. This may trace back to the time when

Egyptians used small loaves in their worship of Isis, the Mother Goddess. The Greeks used cross-marked cakes to honor Diana. The Easter lily is often used to decorate churches or given as a gift. Wearing new clothes, considered particularly lucky if you have three new items, may date from when the New Year was held in March. The new clothes led to the Easter Parade in many communities, with the largest held on Fifth Avenue in New York City.

Perhaps the most popular Easter tradition with children, regardless of religious background, is the Easter bunny. Traditionally, it was a hare, not a rabbit, that was related to Easter. The association developed from the connection of Easter to the phases of the moon and the ancient belief that hares, born with their eyes open, were nocturnal animals that, like the moon, never blinked. Traditions such as decorating eggs and Easter egg hunts provide many fun and exciting memories for families.

Recommended Books

Brett, Jan. 2010. *The Easter Egg*. New York: Penguin.

Kroll, Steven. 2008. *The Biggest Easter Basket Ever*. New York: Cartwheel.

O'Connor, Jane. 2009. *Fancy Nancy's Elegant Easter*. New York: Harper.

Easter Riddles

Directions: Use the Word Bank to solve the Easter riddles below.

Word Bank

basket

cross

eggs

hare

1.



Jelly beans and eggs may come in this.

What is it?

2.



Children hunt for these on Easter.

What are they?

3.



This was the first Easter animal.
It looks like a rabbit.

What is it?



Bunny Word Search

Directions: Find and circle the names of famous rabbits in the Word Bank hidden in the puzzle.

Word Bank

Bugs
Bunnacula

FuFu
Peter
Thumper

Velveteen
White

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

Connect the Eggs

Directions: Match each subtraction problem on the left to its answer on the right. Then color the eggs.

$4 - 2 =$

$5 - 4 =$

$8 - 8 =$

$7 - 3 =$

$9 - 2 =$

0

2

4

1

7

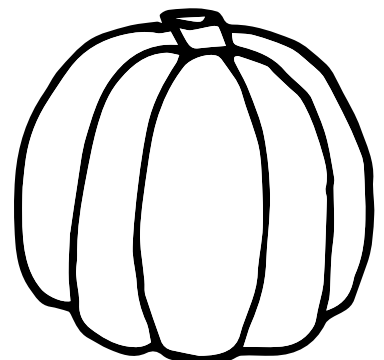
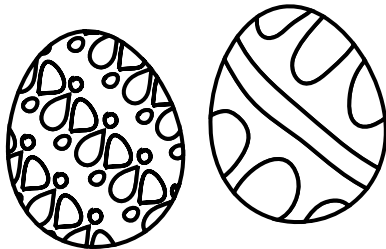
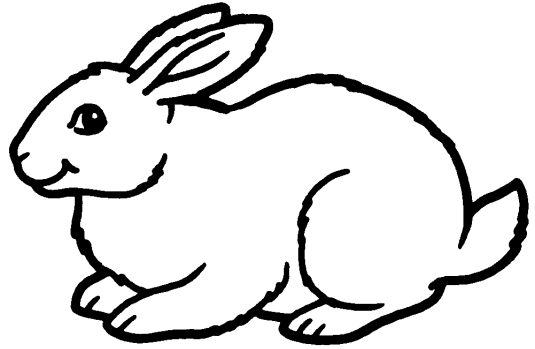
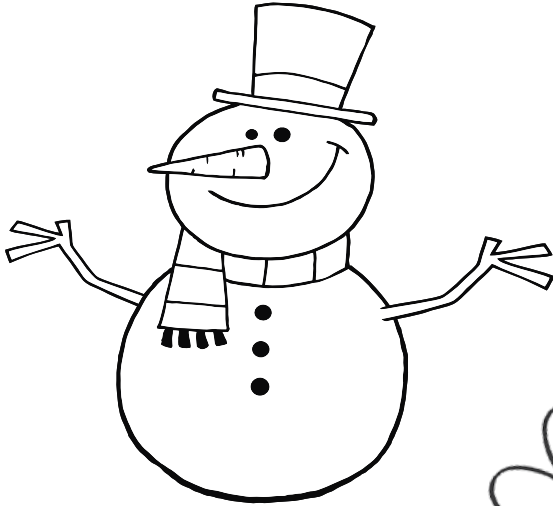


Name _____

Date _____

Fill the Easter Basket

Directions: Color the images that represent Easter and Springtime. Draw an X on the images that do not represent Easter.



Hop to It!

Directions: Follow the steps to collect the letters. Circle them and write them in the blanks to find the hidden word. The first letter is done for you.

1. Hop 5 spaces to the right.

b

4. Hop 2 spaces up.

2. Hop 3 spaces down.

5. Hop 7 spaces to the right.

3. Hop 3 spaces to the left.

6. Hop 2 spaces down.



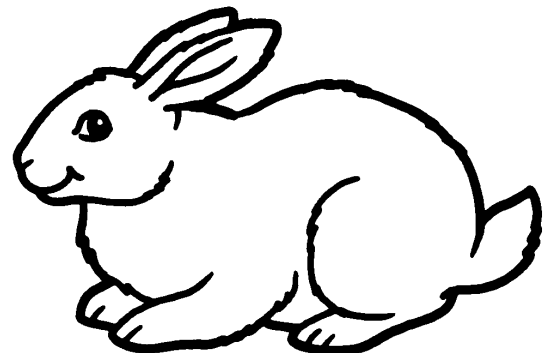
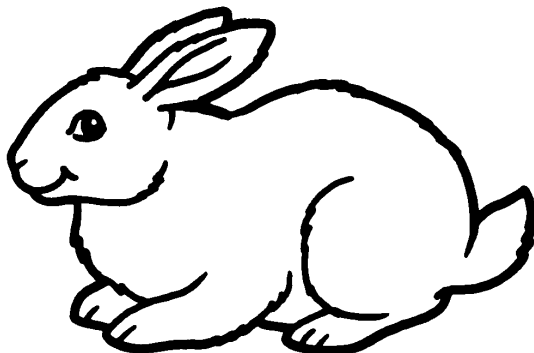
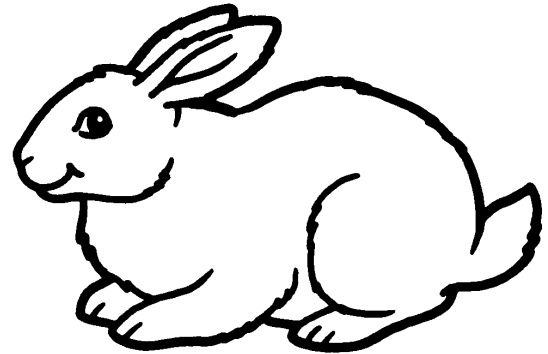
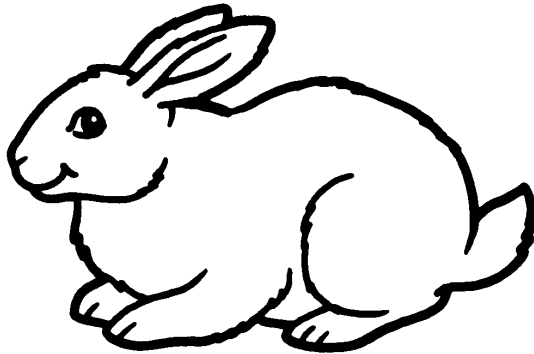
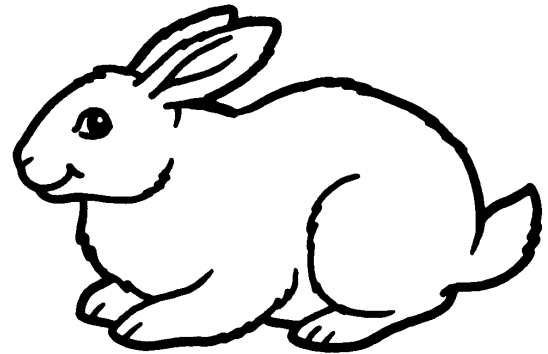
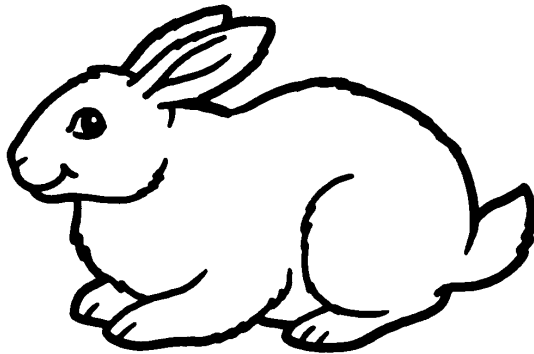
Start	a	c	e	i	b	p	u	f	u
d	r	k	y	u	s	a	s	a	e
y	l	t	x	o	p	f	b	s	m
t	o	s	t	m	a	p	c	i	t

Easter eggs are kept in a:

Bunny Match-Up

Directions: Play a memory game with the Easter Bunnies.

1. Color two bunnies green, two bunnies pink, and two bunnies yellow.
2. Cut out the cards.
3. Place them facedown. Then take turns flipping them over to find a match.



Easter Placemat

Directions: Make your own Easter placemat or work of art.

Materials

- *Easter Egg Template* (page 94)
- 11" x 17" light construction paper
- scissors
- pencil
- markers or crayons
- contact paper (optional)



Steps

1. Cut out the egg outline.
2. Trace 6 or more eggs on the paper. Have some of them overlap if you wish.
3. Use crayons or markers to color them. Make each one different.
4. Use your art as a placemat. You can also hang it on the wall.
5. You may wish to cover the placemat with contact paper for durability.

Easter Egg Template

