

Easter symbolism in Germany

Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. It is the most important Christian festival and people go to church. But why does the Easter Bunny hide coloured eggs in Germany? Why is the lamb an important symbol at Easter? How is Easter connected with spring?

1. How is Easter connected with spring?

Spring also means the coming back to life of plants and trees that have been dormant for winter, as well as the birth of new life in the animal world. Easter is the festival so connected to spring we find all over symbolism of new life and rebirth, it was only natural to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at this time of the year.

2. Why do we eat coloured eggs?

Eggs are a symbol of new life, fertility and resurrection. During Lent before Easter, it was historically not allowed to eat meat, dairy products, butter or even eggs. Therefore, eggs were boiled to preserve them. In order not to mix them with raw eggs, they were dyed/coloured. Even today we colour eggs at Easter.

3. Why do we have an Easter bunny?

In Germany the Easter Bunny brings the Easter eggs. Historically, depending on the region, there were also other Easter messengers, such as the fox, the raven or the cuckoo. But bunnies and rabbits have an amazing power of fertility, this is perhaps the reason why the bunny was more successful than the other messengers.

4. Why do we hide eggs?

It is not quite clear where the tradition of searching for Easter eggs comes from. Children were given eggs as a reward if they behaved particularly well and diligently. Eggs were given away in honour of the goddess of spring, Ostara. This is based on a pagan custom. The goddess and the eggs stand for fertility. So even couples in love made each other eggs as Easter present. The church did not like this custom and forbade it. People began to hide the eggs. This is an explanation for this tradition, which I like very much.

5. Why is the lamb an important symbol at Easter?

We bake Easter lambs and eat roast lamb at Easter because it is a symbol of Jesus. Because Jesus sacrificed himself like a lamb for us human beings.

6. Other symbols

Chickens lay particularly large numbers of eggs in spring.

The snail is a symbol for spring, it encapsulates itself and awakes again in spring, therefore, it is also a symbol for resurrection.