

Name _____ Date _____

EASTER



Easter is a Christian holiday. It celebrates the *Resurrection*, or return to life, of Jesus Christ. Easter is celebrated on the Sunday after the fourth full moon following Christmas, which is also the first full moon after the vernal equinox.

Easter is the end of a season in the church called **Lent**. Lent is the season after **Carnival**. During Lent, it is a tradition to give up eating meat and other animal fats. The word *carnival* comes from this tradition (carne = meat). *Mardi Gras* means “Fat Tuesday” and is the last day of Carnival.

The Lenten season begins with **Ash Wednesday**. On Ash Wednesday, many Christians (especially Catholics) go to church. The priest rubs ashes on their foreheads in the shape of a cross. Lent is a time to be *penitent*, or sorry for bad things in the past. This penitence starts on Ash Wednesday, and the ashes are a sign of it.

Although not many people today give up all meat and animal products, people do often try to give up a *vice*, or bad habit, for Lent. They might try to be kinder to strangers, or stop biting their nails. Lent lasts forty days (the Sundays of Lent are not counted).

The Sunday before Easter is **Palm Sunday**. According to the **Gospels**, the books of the Bible that tell the story of Christ and his teaching, Jesus Christ went to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Many people were very happy to see him and laid palm fronds at his feet.

Jesus Christ had told people that he was the son of God, but some of them didn’t believe him, and some even felt that his ideas were dangerous. Thus, while many people were happy to see his arrival in Jerusalem, others were not pleased and wanted him arrested.

The Thursday after Palm Sunday (**Holy Thursday**), Jesus and his *disciples*, or followers, ate supper together. This is called the **Last Supper**. Jesus declared that one of his disciples would betray him. His disciple Judas told the King’s soldiers where to find Jesus Christ, and he was put into jail.

Pontius Pilate, who was the King’s official, arrested Christ. Christ was teased and beaten. He was *crucified*, or killed on a cross, the next day, on a hill called **Calvary** (the hill is also called Golgotha). The day of the crucifixion is now observed as **Good Friday**.

After Jesus Christ died, his followers were very sad about his death, and some of them went to the place where he had been buried to *mourn* him. When they got there, he was not in the tomb. According to the Gospels, Christ had risen from the dead three days after he was buried. He then *ascended*, or rose, into heaven, to be with God, his father.

Christians believe that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world through his crucifixion, and that his resurrection proves that he was the son of God. This resurrection is celebrated on Easter.

Name _____ Date _____

PUT IN ORDER, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE

Ash Wednesday	_____	Last Supper	_____
Christmas	_____	Lent	_____
Easter Sunday	_____	Mardi Gras	_____
Good Friday	_____	Palm Sunday	_____

MARK THE STATEMENTS *TRUE* OR *FALSE* ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE. IF THE STATEMENT IS *FALSE*, WRITE THE CORRECTION UNDER THE STATEMENT.

1. Easter is a Christian holiday.

2. Easter primarily celebrates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ.

3. The Lenten season is one of celebration, with dances and parades.

4. It's called Palm Sunday because the people climbed palm trees.

5. Jesus Christ was killed by being put on a cross.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES USING VOCABULARY WORDS FROM THE TEXT

1. My only _____ is talking on the phone too long.

2. The criminal was truly _____ for what he had done.

3. Gandhi taught nonviolent resistance. Martin Luther King, Jr. believed his ideas, and was one of his many _____

4. People all over the world _____ the deaths of the earthquake victims.

5. I asked you to keep a secret, but you didn't. You _____ me.

6. His proposal was rejected, but after some time, he decided to try again. He made some changes, and the _____ version of his proposal was accepted.

Name _____ Date _____

ANSWERS:

ORDER:

1. Christmas
2. Mardi Gras
3. Ash Wednesday
4. Lent
5. Palm Sunday
6. Last Supper
7. Good Friday
8. Easter Sunday

TRUE/ FALSE:

1. True
2. False: Easter primarily celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
3. False: The Lenten season is one of penitence.
4. False: It's called Palm Sunday because the people laid palm fronds at his feet.
5. True

VOCABULARY:

1. vice
2. penitent
3. disciples
4. mourned
5. betrayed
6. resurrected