

# A Lebanese Easter



## ONION DYED EGGS AND EGG-CRACKING!

During the six weeks leading up to Easter (known as Lent), Lebanese people collect eggs which they colour and use for egg-cracking games. Traditionally, the eggs were dyed by boiling them with onion skins (brown), almond leaves (green) or wild daisies (yellow). Red eggs were made by putting them in boiling water with an old fez! (A fez is a felt cap which is usually red, with a long black tassel. It was once the national headdress of the Turks and is still worn throughout the Middle East.)

### ONION DYED EGGS

#### YOU WILL NEED

- ▲ 1 EGG
- ▲ ONION WITH BROWN SKIN
- ▲ NYLON STOCKING OR FABRIC REMNANTS
- ▲ ELASTIC BANDS
- ▲ SAUCEPAN OF WATER
- ▲ VEGETABLE OIL OR SPRAY GLOSS

#### WHAT TO DO

- ▲ Wrap the papery brown skin of an onion firmly around the egg.
- ▲ Bind all with a piece of nylon stocking or fabric held firmly in place with elastic bands.
- ▲ Boil the egg for about five minutes, or until the dye has adhered to the egg.
- ▲ Remove the stocking/fabric and skin and let the egg dry before polishing it with a little vegetable oil or spray gloss.

#### OTHER NATURAL DYES

- ▲ Beetroot will give a purplish-pink colour.
- ▲ Spinach and an olive will turn the egg green.
- ▲ Coffee makes brown eggs.
- ▲ Saffron produces yellow eggs.
- ▲ And for bright red eggs—grab an old fez!



#### EGG-CRACKING IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!

First you must test the strength of your boiled egg by lightly tapping it against your front teeth, making sure not to crack it! To play the egg-cracking game, you need to choose a partner. Hold your eggs with one end pointing out. You must then try to crack the pointed ends of your friend's egg. Remember, they will also be trying to crack your egg at the same time! If your egg is cracked, you then turn it around and try all over again! If you crack both ends of your friend's egg, then you win the egg!

# A Greek Easter



## CANDLE MAKING AND SIMPLE RED EGGS! CHRISTOS ANESTI! ALETHOS ANESTI!

Greek people dye eggs red to celebrate the breaking of Lenten fasts. They also light candles for good luck. Families light candles in church and then take some home to light their household icons (usually statues of the Virgin Mary) for the coming year.

**CAUTION:**  
ADULT  
SUPERVISION  
REQUIRED

### CANDLE MAKING

One of the oldest ways to make candles is the dipping method. A length of wick or soft cotton cord is repeatedly dipped into hot beeswax or animal fat, gradually building up layers.



#### YOU WILL NEED

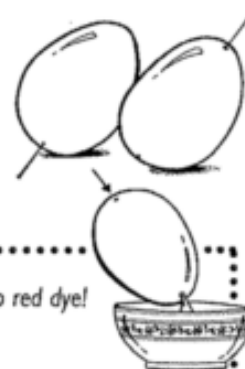
- ▲ PARAFFIN WAX (FROM CRAFT SUPPLIERS)
- ▲ CANDLE WICK (FROM CRAFT SUPPLIERS)
- ▲ DECORATIVE ITEMS, EG COLOURED CRAYON SHAVINGS
- ▲ DEEP SAUCEPAN OR BILLY
- ▲ SMALLER SAUCEPAN FOR TOPPING UP

#### WHAT TO DO

- ▲ Heat the wax in a deep saucepan or billy. Remove from heat when the wax is hot (handle with extreme care, as the wax is highly flammable and can cause severe burns).
- ▲ Cut lengths of wick 5–7 cm longer than the depth of the wax. Tie a knot in one end and dip the wick in and out of the wax. Each time, a coating of wax will build up around the wick and will taper from the top to the bottom of the wick. You will need to cool the candle every three to four dips, otherwise it will melt or slip off the wick. (One method is to dip it in cold water).
- ▲ You will need to top up the level of wax during the dipping.



To decorate your candle you might use vegetable dyes, crayon shavings, or even old candles. In between dipping, try gently placing a leaf or piece of fern onto the candle for a natural look! Any decoration will be held in place by subsequent layers of wax.



## RED EGGS

Red eggs are easy to make—just blow an egg and dip it into red dye!

### BLOW AN EGG!

#### YOU WILL NEED

- ▲ EGGS AT ROOM TEMPERATURE
- ▲ DARNING NEEDLE
- ▲ BOWL

#### WHAT TO DO

- ▲ Use the needle to pierce a small hole in the smaller end of the egg.
- ▲ Make a larger hole at the broad end, making sure you break the yolk with the needle.
- ▲ Gently shake the egg yolk and eggwhite out over a bowl.
- ▲ Now blow through the small hole to remove any remaining egg.
- ▲ Rinse the shell thoroughly and allow to dry.

# An Italian Easter



## MASKS FOR CARNIVALE!

In Italy, the 40 days before Easter are filled with the festive fun of *Carnivale*. Colourful pageants, masquerades, dancing and music festivals take place throughout the country. The Italian *Carnivale* begins in January and lasts until Ash Wednesday. The last three days are the most important, especially the **Martedì Grasso** (Shrove Tuesday) when *le frittelle* (pancakes) are eaten.

The wearing of masks during *Carnivale* is an important age-old tradition. Masks include the **Harlequin** from the city of Bergamo, **Pulcinella** from Naples and **Pantalone** from Venice. The tradition of wearing masks comes from travelling theatre groups which have performed throughout Italy since 1500.



Pulcinella

### PAPIER-MÂCHÉ MASKS

#### YOU WILL NEED

- ▲ BALLOONS, INFLATED AND KNOTTED
- ▲ CARDBOARD CYLINDERS AND SCRAPS, EGG CARTONS AND OTHER RECYCLED MATERIALS
- ▲ MASKING TAPE
- ▲ WALLPAPER PASTE
- ▲ PAINT
- ▲ PAINTBRUSHES
- ▲ SPRAY GLOSS
- ▲ NEWSPAPER
- ▲ WHITE PAPER

#### WHAT TO DO

- ▲ First plan your mask on paper.
- ▲ If you are having a large nose or eyes that stick out, you will need to tape egg-carton segments or cylinders onto the inflated balloon.
- ▲ Tear the newspaper into strips about 3 cm x 10 cm.
- ▲ Mix up a small amount of wallpaper paste by following the directions on the packet.
- ▲ Dip the newspaper strips into the paste and stick them onto the mask shape. Make sure the strips overlap.
- ▲ Continue until you have completed at least four layers of newspaper.
- ▲ Cover the newsprint with a final layer of white paper strips.
- ▲ Leave the mask to dry thoroughly. It could take up to a week!
- ▲ Pop the balloon and cut off any excess.
- ▲ Cut the mask into the shape you require to fit your face or head.
- ▲ Paint your mask and embellish with other details, such as eyes, mouth and nose.
- ▲ Spray your mask with gloss to finish it off.



Pantalone



Harlequin

#### OTHER IDEAS FOR CARNIVALE MASKS

MAKE A PAPER BAG DRAGON MASK, OR A PAPER-PLATE FROG FACE; TRY A TOTEM-POLE MASK, USING CARDBOARD ROLLED INTO A CYLINDER; OR PAINT YOUR FACE WHITE ALL OVER TO CREATE A CLOWN MASK.

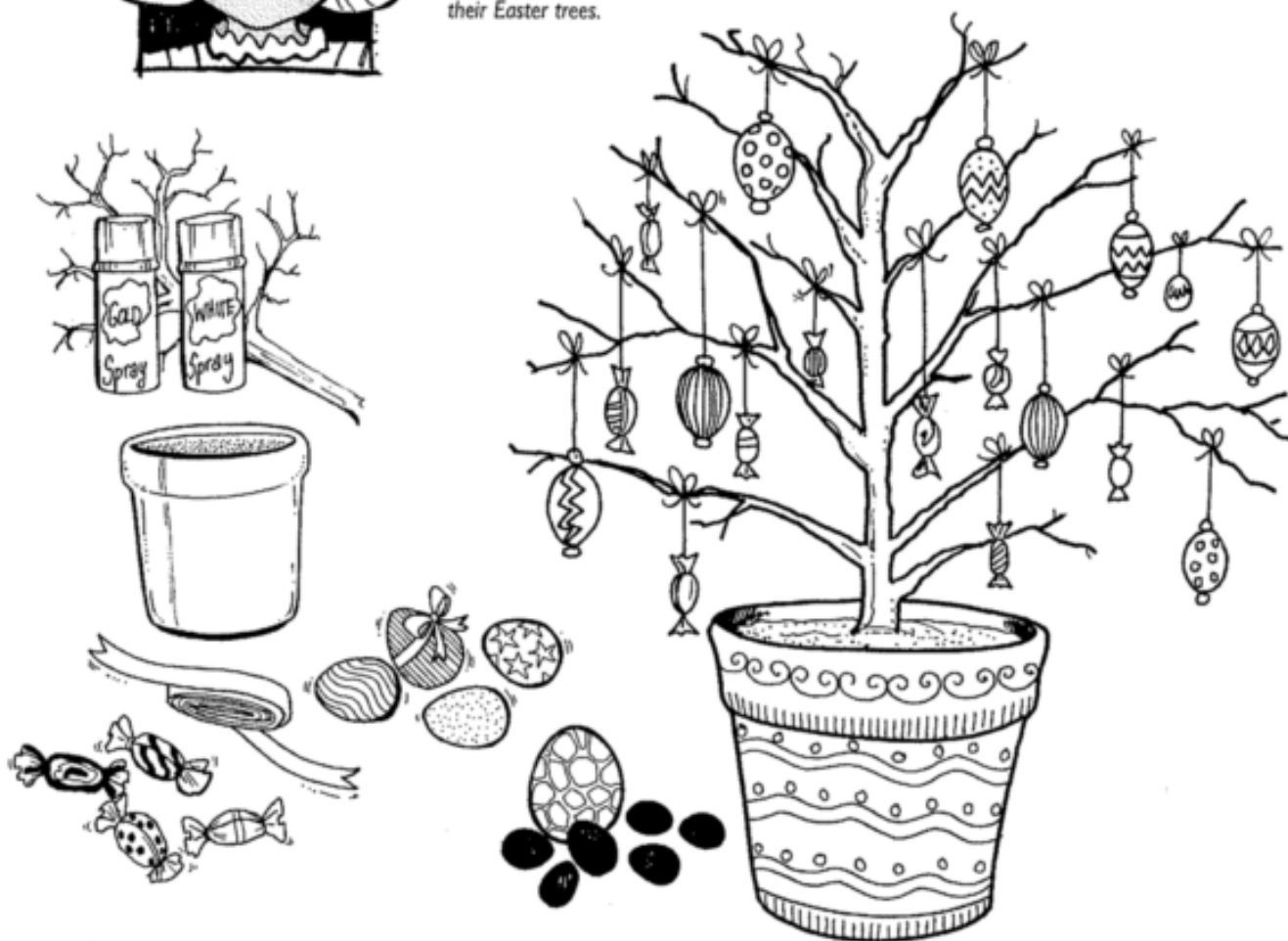


# A Dutch Easter



## EGGS THAT GROW ON TREES!

*Making Easter egg trees is a traditional Easter custom in Holland. Children still enjoy decorating and handpainting eggs to hang on the bare branches of their Easter trees.*



### EASTER EGG TREE

#### YOU WILL NEED

- ▲ GOLD OR WHITE PAINT
- ▲ STRING OR RIBBON
- ▲ FLOWERPOT OR TUB FILLED WITH DAMP SAND
- ▲ WELL-SHAPED BRANCH
- ▲ PAPER-WRAPPED SWEETS
- ▲ DECORATED EASTER EGGS
- ▲ CHOCOLATE EASTER EGGS

#### WHAT TO DO

- ▲ Paint and decorate the flowerpot, with Easter motifs.
- ▲ Paint the branch gold or white.
- ▲ After the paint has dried, stand the branch in the sand.
- ▲ Tie bunches of sweets and chocolate Easter eggs to the branch.
- ▲ You could also tie on eggs you have blown or decorated yourself (see BLMs 2 and 6).
- ▲ A thread can be passed through the holes of blown eggs and anchored at each end with a bead.

# A Polish Easter



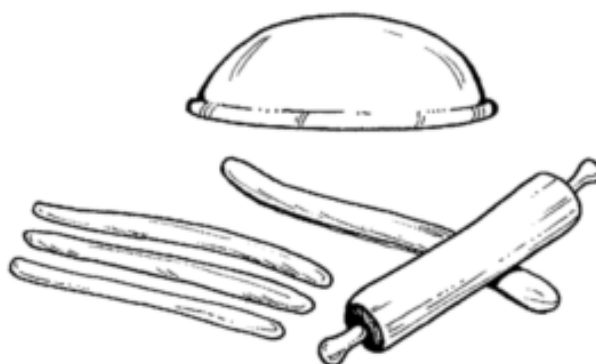
## BASKETS GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT!

A Polish Easter custom was for the family table to be laid on Easter Saturday, when a priest would visit each home to bless the food on display. Today, Polish people prepare small baskets of food to take to church. In each church, a time is set aside for the blessing of the decorated baskets.

### DOUGH BASKETS

#### YOU WILL NEED

- ▲ OVEN-PROOF DISH, GREASED ON THE OUTSIDE
- ▲ BREAD DOUGH (SEE RECIPE BELOW)
- ▲ EGGWHITE
- ▲ VARNISH



#### WHAT TO DO

- ▲ Roll the dough into long thin strips.
- ▲ Weave the strips, moulding them over the shape of the outside of the dish.
- ▲ Bake in a moderate oven for 45 minutes.
- ▲ Remove the dish, brush the dough with eggwhite, and attach a plaited strip for the rim of the basket.
- ▲ Return to the oven for a further 30 minutes.
- ▲ Varnish when cool.



### BREAD DOUGH RECIPE

#### YOU WILL NEED

- ▲ 4 CUPS FLOUR
- ▲ 1 CUP SALT
- ▲ 1½ CUPS WATER
- ▲ MIXING BOWL

#### WHAT TO DO

- ▲ Mix all ingredients together and knead as you would for bread.
- ▲ Add more water if necessary.
- ▲ When modelled, this dough can be baked in an oven at 170° C for approximately one hour.



# A Ukrainian Easter



## DIFFERENT WAYS TO DECORATE EGGS!

Ukrainian people are famous for their egg decorating skills. Eggs decorated with plain colours or simple designs are known as *krashanky*, while those decorated with more detailed patterns and a number of colours are called *pysanky*. No two eggs are ever exactly alike, although some symbols are popular and used often, such as those below

DOTS REPRESENT  
THE STARS IN THE  
HEAVENS.

PINE NEEDLES  
SYMBOLISE YOUTH  
AND HEALTH.

WHEAT SYMBOLS  
ARE USED IN HOPE  
OF A PRODUCTIVE  
HARVEST.

A BUTTERFLY  
STANDS FOR  
NATURE.

DEER AND OTHER  
ANIMALS SIGNIFY  
PROPERTY.

A FLOWER SENDS  
LOVE.

PATTERNS WHICH  
ARE ONGOING  
REPRESENT  
ETERNITY.

HENS AND  
ROOSTERS  
CHARACTERISE  
WISHES COMING  
TRUE.



### PAPER AND FABRIC DECORATED EGGS

#### YOU WILL NEED

- ▲ HARD-BOILED EGGS
- ▲ DYE (BRIGHT COLOURS)
- ▲ PAPER AND FABRIC REMNANTS (BRIGHT COLOURS)

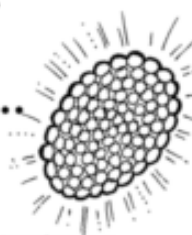
#### WHAT TO DO

- ▲ Dye a hard-boiled egg a bright colour.
- ▲ Cut out patterns and motifs from coloured paper or fabric and glue them onto the egg.

### SILVER EGGS

#### YOU WILL NEED

- ▲ QUICK DRYING, STRONG BINDING GLUE
- ▲ SILVER CACHOUS (SILVER OR GOLD BEADS USED FOR CAKE DECORATING)
- ▲ TOOTHPICKS
- ▲ TWEEZERS
- ▲ BLOWN EGGS (SEE BLM 2)



#### WHAT TO DO

- ▲ Apply a dab of glue to the egg and spread it around the shell with a toothpick. Work a small section at a time.
- ▲ Use tweezers to place the silver beads as close together as possible over the glued area.
- ▲ Complete half the shell and allow it to dry thoroughly before continuing with the other half.



## An American Easter



### EASTER BONNET PARADES!

In New York, it is traditional for people to promenade in their 'Sunday best' for the annual Easter Parade. Thousands of people take part, strolling along 5th Avenue in the spring sunshine. Meanwhile, in Washington, the President of the United States watches hundreds of children take part in an egg rolling competition down the sloping lawns of the White House. Real eggs were once used, but now plastic eggs are rolled to prevent any mess on the beautiful White House lawns!

#### EASTER BONNETS

You might like to make an Easter bonnet to parade in the Easter sunshine!

##### YOU WILL NEED

- ▲ PAPER PLATES
- ▲ RIBBON
- ▲ WRAPPING PAPER
- ▲ OLD STRAW HAT/  
BASEBALL CAP
- ▲ EGG CARTONS
- ▲ WOOL
- ▲ COTTON WOOL BALLS
- ▲ GLITTER
- ▲ CARDBOARD
- ▲ EASTER EGGS
- ▲ CAKE

##### WHAT TO DO

Allow your imagination to run wild! Try some of the following techniques to make your hat look great: chipping, crumpling, curling, fringing, pleating, weaving. And collect as many 'junk' materials as you can to embellish your hat.



## A Brazilian Easter



### CHALK PAINTED PATHWAYS!

Holy week in Brazil begins with the blessing of palm branches, which are woven in intricate patterns representing crosses, banners and letters. The streets are decorated with brightly coloured patterns drawn on the road surfaces over which statues of Mary and the body of Christ are carried.

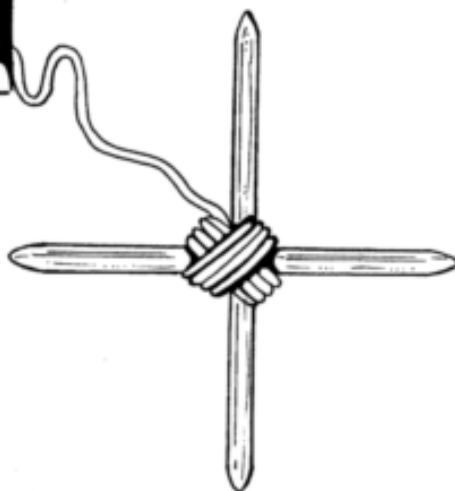
You could use large, chunky pavement chalk to create a path across your playground for an Easter bonnet parade. Try your hand at some Brazilian symbols to help celebrate Holy Week in Brazil!

# A Mexican Easter



## OJO DE DIOS!

Mexican children make crosses from sticks and scraps of wool. *Ojo de Dios!* they call them, or The Eye of God. The *Ojo* is hung at the head of their bed.



### YOU WILL NEED

- ▲ 2 STICKS (TREE BRANCHES, SATAY STICKS OR ICE-CREAM STICKS) OF THE SAME THICKNESS AND LENGTH
- ▲ DIFFERENT COLOURED BALLS OF WOOL
- ▲ BEADS

### WHAT TO DO

- ▲ Secure two sticks firmly in the shape of a cross (small crosses can be held together with glue; larger crosses will need to be wired).
- ▲ Beginning in the centre, wind yarn once around each arm of the cross in turn. Use as many different colours as possible until the *Ojo* is the size you want.
- ▲ Secure the ends of the yarn by tying or with glue.
- ▲ *Ojos* are often finished off with a bead on the ends of the cross, and a tassel of wool decorating the horizontal arm-end of the cross.

