

# EASTER ASSEMBLY 2: Easter Eggs

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- THEMES: History of Easter eggs / Real beauty can be found on the inside
- AIM: To learn about the history of the Easter egg and to learn that when we make new friends, we should think about what a person is like on the inside, rather than the outside.
- STRUCTURE: This assembly is designed to be read out by an adult, OR by a class of children. It contains a brief description of the history of the Easter egg followed by a short story and optional activity.
- TEXT KEY: Normal text = notes and ideas. *Italic text* = text that can be read straight out.
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SONG 1: We're Egg-cited

CHILD 1: *We are so Egg-cited because we love Easter eggs! We get so many and they're so, so scrumptious! But have you ever thought about how the tradition of giving Easter eggs started?*

CHILD 2: *The word Easter comes from the name of the Saxon goddess of dawn, Eostre. She was remembered during festivals held near to the start of Spring.*

CHILD 3: *And it wasn't just the Saxons. Throughout history many other people held Spring festivals around the idea of new birth. Rabbits and eggs were often used as symbols of new life.*

CHILD 4: *It's said that the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Chinese and Romans all painted eggs, sharing and eating them during various festivals held at the start of Spring.*

CHILD 5: *As Easter became a Christian festival, remembering the time when Jesus died and rose again, the Easter egg was again used as a symbol of new birth, celebrating the new life that Jesus brings.*

CHILD 6: *Some Christians use the forty days before Easter to think and pray. This period called Lent, is also a time when some Christians give up eating certain foods.*

CHILD 7: *One of the foods people used to give up for Lent was eggs. Instead of eating them, they would hard-boil their eggs and paint them. Then they would give them as gifts at Easter.*

CHILD 8: *So, what about chocolate Easter eggs like the ones popular today? Where do they come from? Do they come from chocolate chickens?*

CHILD 9: *Of course not! People started to mould chocolate into Easter eggs during Victorian times. The first real chocolate eggs started to appear in the early nineteenth century.*

CHILD 10: *They came from France and Germany and were often hard, bitter chocolate eggs which were solid all the way through.*

- CHILD 11: *By 1875 some brothers by the name of Cadbury managed to mass produce hollow chocolate eggs which were filled with sugared almonds.*
- CHILD 12: *But then in 1905 Cadbury came up with their famous dairy milk chocolate and suddenly the Easter egg market really took off!*
- CHILD 13: *Now you can get hundreds of different types of Easter eggs. Cadbury says its 'Cream Egg' is the number one bestselling chocolate Easter egg in the world with more than 213 million of them eaten each year!*
- CHILD 14: *Now, here's a story about some very, very famous Easter eggs.*
- STORY: *It's What's On The Inside That Counts*
- CHILD 15: *Over a hundred years ago there lived a remarkable Russian man called Faberge. He made the most remarkable Easter eggs that the world has ever seen. They weren't Easter eggs you could eat though. No, each Faberge egg was a jewelled work of art made from the finest gold, silver, diamonds, rubies and emeralds.*
- CHILD 16: *Over his lifetime, Faberge made hundreds of eggs, many of which are now held in the world's great museums. But since his death legends have been told of a few Faberge eggs that went missing, their location a secret... until now!*
- This is the story of Faberge's great grandson, Coolerge!*
- CHILD 17: *Coolerge, who was by now an old man himself, was coming to the end of his long and distinguished career as one of the world's most skilful chocolatiers. Over his life he'd made many Easter eggs like his great grandfather, but not with jewels. Chocolate was Coolerge's expertise and each chocolate Easter egg he produced was painstakingly crafted into a unique work of art, which his great grandfather would have surely been proud of.*
- CHILD 18: *As he drew near to retirement, Coolerge made his final batch of Easter eggs. He made five hundred altogether and put them on display in a top London hotel. The rich and famous from all over the world came to view and buy the last ever Coolerge Easter eggs.*
- CHILD 19: *The eggs were all wildly different. Some were big, some were small, some were dark chocolate, some milk chocolate, but all were beautifully made. Some were ingenious, like one with a chocolate fountain whooshing out of the top! Or another one which had been formed into a remote-controlled Easter egg shaped flying spaceship!*
- CHILD 20: *And then the bidding and haggling started.*
- "I'll pay a thousand pounds for this one!" declared one large man.*
- "You must be joking," said a slightly smaller woman next to him, "ten thousand!"*
- "A hundred thousand!" said another.*

- CHILD 21: *"A million!" said someone else. And so, the bidding war continued for the next few hours. The richest, most important, most powerful people in the world, were arguing over Coolerge's fabulous Easter eggs. Meanwhile in a corner of the room, Coolerge himself sat and sighed.*
- CHILD 22: *A little boy who was the son of one of the visiting presidents sat down next to him. "Excuse me, sir?" he asked politely, "are you Mr Coolerge?"*
- "I am," Coolerge replied in a sad voice.*
- CHILD 23: *"I hope you don't mind me asking," the boy continued, "but why are you looking so sad? The world's richest and most powerful people are all fighting over your Easter eggs. You're as famous as any of them and judging from the amount of money changing hands, you're just as rich as any of them now! Surely you should be the happiest man in the world?"*
- CHILD 24: *Coolerge smiled kindly at the boy. "What's your name, son?" he asked.*
- "Oh, I'm sorry sir for not introducing myself," the boy replied politely, "my name is James Theopolis Wolfgang Napoleon Triston The Fourth. But my friends just call me Jim."*
- CHILD 25: *"Phew!" said Coolerge looking bewildered. "What a name! Never mind your friends, I'd have thought any sensible person would just call you Jim instead of trying to get their tongue to do gymnastics around that name!" They looked at each other a moment and then both burst out laughing.*
- CHILD 26: *"The thing is Jim," continued Coolerge, "it's not that I'm really sad, as such. It's just that I expected more from what are supposedly the 'best' people in the world. They are all so caught up in what looks beautiful on the outside, that they're actually missing the most beautiful objects in this room."*
- Jim looked puzzled. "I'm sorry sir, I don't understand?" he asked.*
- CHILD 27: *"Can I let you in on a secret?" asked Coolerge. Jim nodded with a serious look on his face. He looked around and then leaned in close as Coolerge whispered his secret. "There is one Easter egg in this room that is absolutely priceless because it contains some actual treasure. But everyone's missing it because they're only looking at the outside of the eggs and aren't thinking about what's on the inside."*
- CHILD 28: *Jim gasped and quickly scanned the large room to see if he could guess which egg contained the great treasure.*

#### WHAT'S IN THE REST OF THIS ASSEMBLY?

1. The remainder of this story (around another page and a half in length)
2. An optional activity called 'The Empty Gift Boxes'
3. It suggests then singing a further song: 'It's What's On The Inside that Counts'
4. It then concludes with a summary and a prayer.