

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Roots Of Easter

**Directions:** Read the passage below about Easter's history and traditions. Then, answer the comprehension questions that follow.

Easter is one of the oldest and most celebrated Christian holidays, marking the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Its name may come from *Eostre*, an ancient spring goddess once honored in parts of Europe. As Christianity spread, Easter merged with seasonal traditions that celebrated renewal and new life.

The custom of decorating eggs began centuries ago as a symbol of rebirth. Early Christians dyed eggs red to remember sacrifice, while today's bright designs celebrate joy and creativity. The Easter Bunny, likely inspired by ancient spring symbols of fertility such as hares, became a fun way to include children in the celebration.

Easter is also tied to the changing of seasons. In many places, it falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the start of spring. This connection between light, life, and growth reminds people that hope often follows even the darkest seasons.

### Questions:

1. What event does Easter primarily celebrate?
2. Where might the name "Easter" have originated?
3. Why did early Christians dye eggs red?
4. How did the Easter Bunny become part of the holiday?
5. When is Easter usually celebrated, according to the passage?
6. What message about life or hope does Easter symbolize?
7. Short Response: Which Easter tradition mentioned in the passage do you think is most meaningful, and why?