



Easter Monday (UK)

Easter celebrations in the UK

Easter is one of the major religious festivals in the United Kingdom. Here are some traditional ways of celebrating it:

– People practice “Morris dancing” – a traditional folk dance (which also exists in the US and Australia). Men dress up in costumes with ribbons, hats and bells around their ankles, and dance through the streets, sometimes carrying an inflated pig’s bladder on the end of a stick. They run up to young women and hit them on the head with the pig’s bladder, as tradition says it will bring them luck.

– Easter is also a good reason to eat cakes! Hot cross buns are small sweet yeast buns containing raisins, currants or chopped candied fruit. They used to be served on Good Friday only but are now served throughout the entire Easter season. Children used to sing this traditional rhyme: “Hot cross buns, hot cross buns, one a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns. If you do not like them, give them to your sons, one a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns”. You can also eat simnel cake, a yellow-coloured raised cake filled with candied lemon peel and dried fruits, and decorated with marzipan.

– In Bacup, Lancaster, a dance troupe called the Nutters (short for Britannia Coconut Dancers), dressed in red and white skirts and clogs, goes through the village, drinking a pint of beer in every pub they stop at along the way.



Teaching ideas

★★★ **CYCLE 4** - In different groups, ask pupils to do some research on Easter traditions from English-speaking countries. Have them present these traditions to the class and vote for the one that should be introduced in France.