

Festivals

Halloween

The following cultural notes describe both the origins and the current traditions of this festival. Explain as much as you feel is relevant to the class and ask students to point to the relevant items on the worksheet that you use first.

- Halloween is celebrated on October 31st in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, and many other countries around the world. It is not a public holiday, but it is a very important celebration for children. The word *Halloween* originally came from *All Hallows' Eve*, which means the evening before the Day of the Holy Ones or All Saints' Day, November 1st. The tradition is that on this night, spirits, ghosts, and witches wander the earth. People used to make lanterns out of pumpkins and place them in the window to scare away these frightening creatures.
- Today, on the night of Halloween, children get dressed up as witches, ghosts, vampires, and other scary monsters, and have a costume party. Items that are traditionally associated with Halloween are pumpkin lanterns, bats, spiders, and black cats. Children often play a traditional game called "apple bobbing." In this game, you have to bite an apple that is floating in water or hanging on a string. Typical party food would be cupcakes and pizza decorated with horrible faces.
- On Halloween, children love to play *Trick or Treat*. Children knock on neighbors' doors and ask *Trick or Treat?* If the neighbor chooses a treat, he/she offers the children candy, chocolate, or fruit. If not, the children will play a naughty trick, such as using a water pistol. It's always a good idea to have treats ready for visitors on Halloween!

Halloween worksheet 1

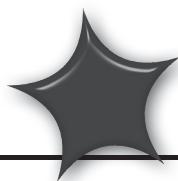
- Students count how many examples there are of each Halloween character/object and write the number in the answer box. Students color the Halloween scene.

Key: 1 two pumpkin lanterns, 2 one ghost, 3 one cat, 4 one witch, 5 four spiders, 6 six bats, 7 eight cupcakes, 8 seven candies, 9 three apples.

- **Optional follow-up activity:** Students work in pairs, A and B, with their worksheets face up in front of them. Student A names a color that he/she can see on the worksheet. Student B points to it. Students A and B exchange roles.

Halloween worksheet 2

- Students need scissors, string, thin cardboard, glue, and a drinking straw. Students color, cut out, and mount the Halloween items onto the cardboard.
- They cut the string into different lengths and attach a short piece to each item. They tie the items along the straw. They attach a piece of string to each end of the straw and hang the decorations around the classroom.
- As students work, circulate and ask them questions about the items, e.g., *What's this? What color is your pumpkin?*
- You may like to prepare a model in advance to show students the finished mobile.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** One at a time, students point and name the items on their decorations.



Festivals

Easter

The following cultural notes describe both the origins and the current traditions of this festival. Explain as much as you feel is relevant to the class and ask students to point to the relevant items on the worksheet that you use first.

- Easter is a Christian festival that celebrates Jesus rising from the dead. As Easter always falls in spring, some people associate it more widely with new life, which is why images of chicks and eggs, lambs, baby rabbits, and spring flowers are also traditional. The date is fixed according to the lunar calendar and therefore differs slightly every year. In the weeks before Easter, people send Easter cards to their friends and family, and they buy chocolate Easter eggs and Easter bunnies for their children. Many children like to boil real eggs and then paint them with bright colors. Children often have egg rolling competitions or hold Easter egg hunts, looking for the colorful eggs around the yard. Baskets are also associated with Easter. People make and fill them with Easter eggs and spring flowers to decorate their houses.
- In the United Kingdom, people like to eat hot cross buns, a kind of sweet bread with dried fruit in it. These buns are marked with the Christian symbol of the cross and are traditionally eaten during Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter). In the Middle Ages, the bakers sold these buns in the streets.
- Easter is an important church festival and Good Friday and Easter Monday are public holidays.

Easter worksheet 1

- Students need scissors, glue, and two pieces of different colored thin cardboard.
- Students cut out the rectangles. They mount the pictures on one piece of colored cardboard and the words on the other piece of colored cardboard.
- Students work in pairs, A and B. They shuffle their cards together and lay them face down on the desk. Student A turns over two cards, one of each color, and names each card. If the cards are the same, Student A keeps them. If not, Student A turns the cards face down again. Students A and B exchange roles. The student with the most cards at the end of the game is the winner.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** Call out the four Easter items in random order. Students hold up the corresponding picture and word card. Students can work in pairs and continue this activity.

Easter worksheet 2

- Students need scissors, glue, and thin cardboard.
- Students color, cut out, and mount the basket and Easter eggs on thin cardboard. They stick the reverse of the sides of the basket together and fold the flaps outwards so the basket stands up. Finally students stick their eggs inside the top of the basket.
- Ask students to say all the Easter words they know.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** Students show their parents their Easter basket and tell them in L1 about Easter traditions in English-speaking countries. They can try and teach their parents the Easter words they know.

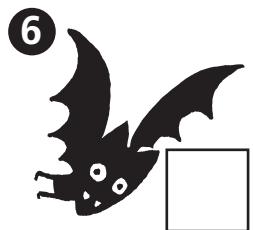
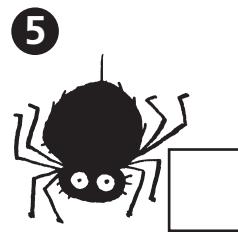
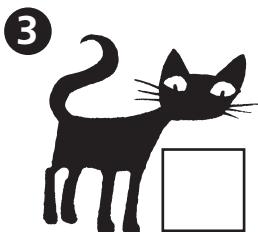
Halloween worksheet 1



Count. Write the number.



2



Halloween worksheet 2



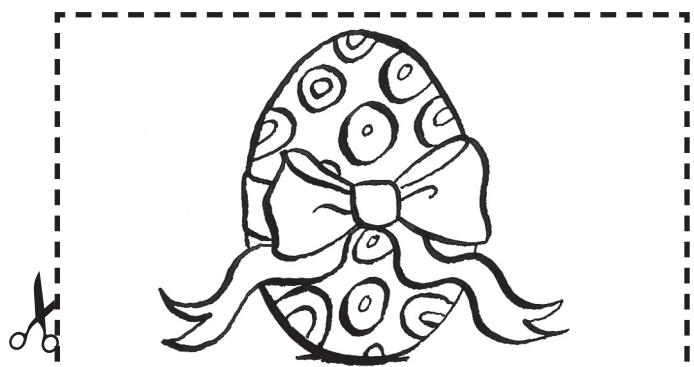
Color, cut, and make.



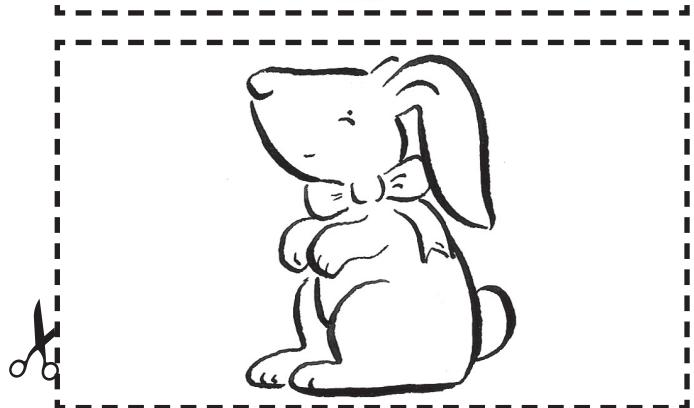
Easter worksheet 1



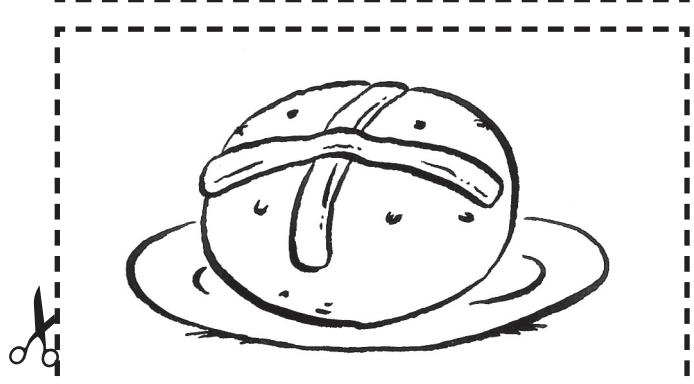
Cut and play.



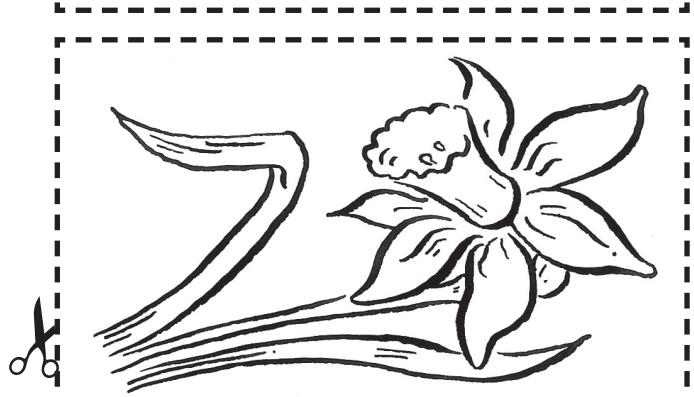
Easter egg



hot cross bun

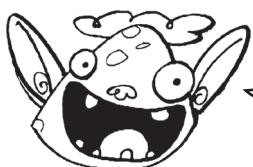


Easter bunny



flower

Easter worksheet 2



Color, cut, and make.

