



EASTER

By Julietta Schoenmann

Christmas is a well-known celebration around the world. But how many of your students know about the way in which Easter is celebrated in the UK and US? This lesson gives your students the chance to find out more about the customs that take place on Easter Sunday through a listening activity and opportunity for a class mingling activity. Students can also develop their scanning skills through an online reading research task about Easter.

Segment: secondary

Level: intermediate

Materials: handout, Pictures of students for the listening activity, small slips of paper (one for each student)

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The lesson

1. Tell students they are going to discuss an important festival in many Christian countries around the world.
2. Tell students they are first going to begin with a quick warmer. Write the following words on the board in random order:

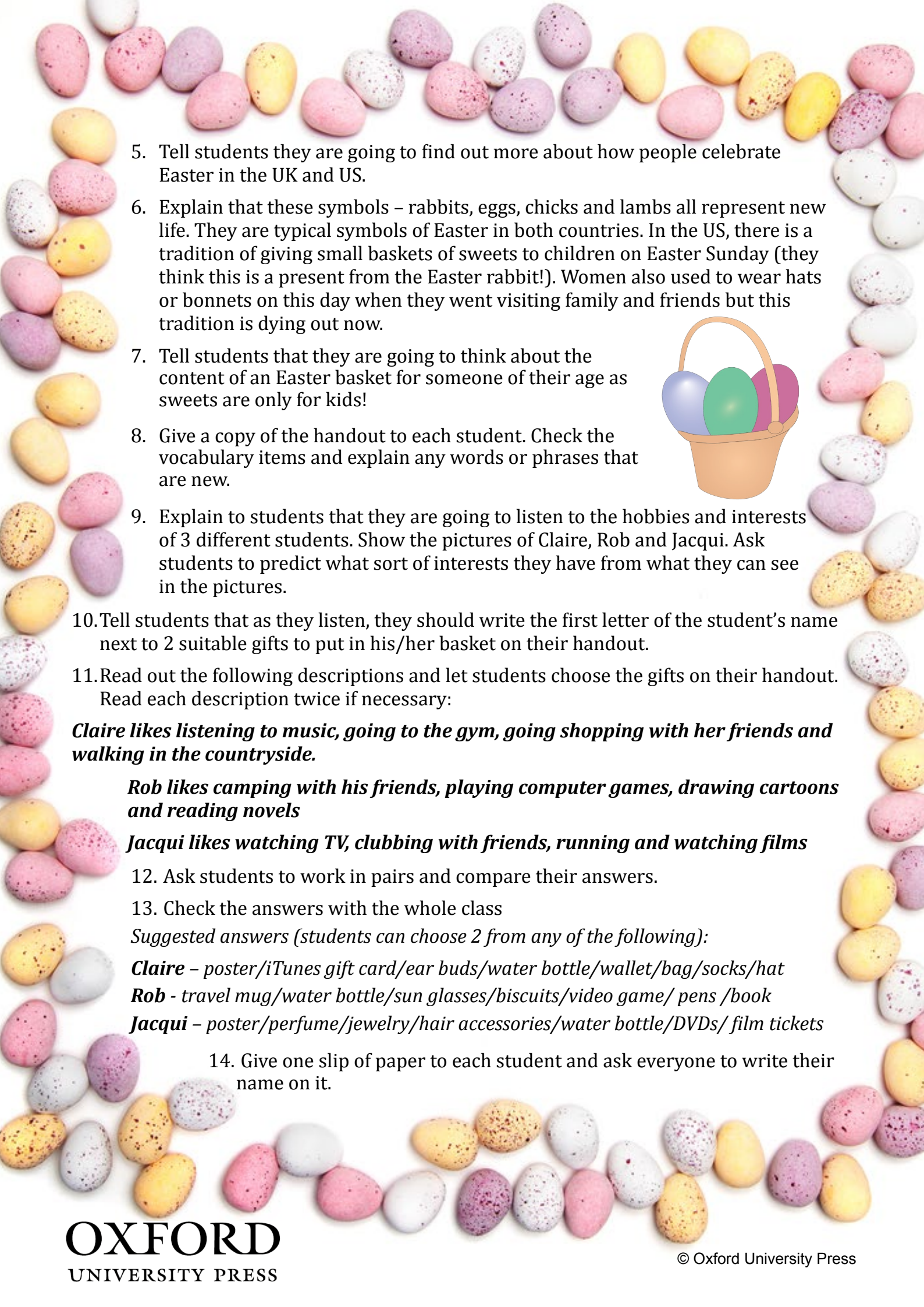
Tree with decorations rabbits stockings baskets

chicks Santa Claus chocolate eggs turkey

lambs greeting cards pretty hats or bonnets

3. Put students into groups of 4. Write the words 'Christmas' and 'Easter' at the bottom of the board. Tell students that some of these words are connected with Christmas and some with Easter. The group to divide them correctly (and in the fastest time) will be the winner.
4. Say: *One, two three, go!* Stop when a group raises their hands to show they have finished. Check the answers with the whole class.

(Answers: Christmas – tree with decorations/stockings/Santa Claus/turkey/greeting cards Easter – rabbits/baskets/chicks/chocolate eggs/lambs/pretty hats or bonnets)

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- Tell students they are going to find out more about how people celebrate Easter in the UK and US.
 - Explain that these symbols – rabbits, eggs, chicks and lambs all represent new life. They are typical symbols of Easter in both countries. In the US, there is a tradition of giving small baskets of sweets to children on Easter Sunday (they think this is a present from the Easter rabbit!). Women also used to wear hats or bonnets on this day when they went visiting family and friends but this tradition is dying out now.
 - Tell students that they are going to think about the content of an Easter basket for someone of their age as sweets are only for kids!
 - Give a copy of the handout to each student. Check the vocabulary items and explain any words or phrases that are new.
 - Explain to students that they are going to listen to the hobbies and interests of 3 different students. Show the pictures of Claire, Rob and Jacqui. Ask students to predict what sort of interests they have from what they can see in the pictures.
 - Tell students that as they listen, they should write the first letter of the student's name next to 2 suitable gifts to put in his/her basket on their handout.
 - Read out the following descriptions and let students choose the gifts on their handout. Read each description twice if necessary:

Claire likes listening to music, going to the gym, going shopping with her friends and walking in the countryside.

Rob likes camping with his friends, playing computer games, drawing cartoons and reading novels

Jacqui likes watching TV, clubbing with friends, running and watching films

12. Ask students to work in pairs and compare their answers.

13. Check the answers with the whole class


Suggested answers (students can choose 2 from any of the following):

Claire – poster/iTunes gift card/ear buds/water bottle/wallet/bag/socks/hat

Rob - travel mug/water bottle/sun glasses/biscuits/video game/ pens /book

Jacqui – poster/perfume/jewelry/hair accessories/water bottle/DVDs/ film tickets

14. Give one slip of paper to each student and ask everyone to write their name on it.

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15. Collect the slips of paper and then redistribute them so that everyone has a slip of paper with the name of a student on it.
 16. Tell students that they should choose any 5 items to put in the Easter basket of the student whose name they have on the slip of paper. Explain that they should think about the person and choose gifts that reflect that student's hobbies, interests, etc.
 17. Invite students to stand up and give their gifts to their chosen person.
 18. When students have finished, ask them to sit down. As a class, ask a few students what gifts they received and if they were happy with them.



Follow-up reading activity: Ten things you didn't know about Easter

1. Tell students they are going to do a quick quiz to help them learn more about Easter in the UK.
2. Ask them to read the questions on page 2 of their handout. Check that everyone understands the questions.
3. Tell students to read the text: Ten Things You Didn't Know about Easter
4. Tell them they have to find the answers to the questions as quickly as possible.
5. Check the answers as a whole class:

Suggested answers:

- 1) *No, it changes*
- 2) *Since Egyptian and Persian times*
- 3) *It is calculated according to the moon*
- 4) *The 16th century*
- 5) *The ears*
- 6) *Yes*
- 7) *10%*
- 8) *In 1873*

HAPPY EASTER!



EASTER - STUDENT PICTURES

Claire



Rob



Jacqui



EASTER - HANDOUT

- DVDs* *cinema tickets* *nail polish* *magazine* *phone accessories*
book *sunglasses* *video game* *socks* *iTunes gift card*
bag *hair accessories* *water bottle* *wallet* *travel coffee mug*
pens *toothbrush* *flower seeds* *jewellery* *perfume or cologne*
hat *chewing gum* *ear buds* *keyring* *disposable camera*
poster of your favourite actor/band *small packet of biscuits*

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Ten Things You Didn't Know about Easter

Find out the answers to these questions as quickly as possible by reading the text below. It's based on an article from the British newspaper *The Daily Express*. Write your answers in the column on the right.

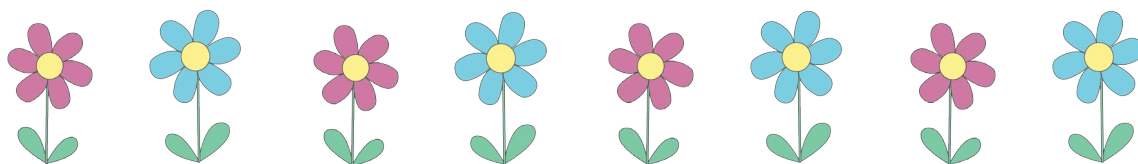
Question	Answer
1) Is Easter on the same day every year?	
2) How long have eggs been a symbol of life?	
3) How is the date of Easter calculated?	
4) Which century did people first refer to Easter eggs?	
5) Which part of a chocolate rabbit do most people eat first?	
6) Is it true that most British children receive about 8 Easter eggs each year?	
7) What percentage of annual chocolate sales happen at Easter?	
8) When was the first chocolate egg made in the UK?	



Ten Things You Didn't Know about Easter

Adapted from a Daily Express article by William Hartston, Monday, March 28th, 2016

- 1) Early Christians decided to celebrate Easter after the first full moon after the spring equinox...
- 2) ...this was not the real full moon but a special religious 'full moon' calculated by the church.
- 3) In the UK, the Easter Act 1928 tried to fix the date of Easter but this still awaits agreement from all churches in the UK.
- 4) The earliest reference to Easter eggs was in the 16th century when people cooked eggs and painted decorations on their shells.
- 5) The UK's first chocolate egg was produced in 1873 by the Fry's company in Bristol.
- 6) Chocolate sales at Easter in the UK account for 10 per cent of all the chocolate sold in one year.
- 7) When people eat a chocolate rabbit at Easter, 76 per cent of them bite the ears off first.
- 8) Eggs have long been associated with Spring as they have been seen as a symbol of new life since the time of the ancient Egyptians and Persians.
- 9) According to a recent survey, the average child in the UK receives 8.8 Easter eggs every year.
- 10) The word 'Easter' occurs only once in the King James Bible (Acts 12:4). Elsewhere in the King James version, the word 'Passover' is used.



HAPPY EASTER!