

The following activities are suggestions that may be used to support a learning enquiry based on Easter as a lead into the GenR8 presentation or as follow up. Useful background to Christian beliefs relating to festivals can be found here: <http://www.reonline.org.uk/knowning/what-re/christianity/practices-and-ways-of-life/>

Engaging and Enquiring		
Focus	Questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Easter Eggs	<p>Why do people eat eggs at Easter? Why are eggs a symbol of new life?</p>	<p>Link back to the first part of the GenR8 presentation which was all about Easter eggs. Show the children a collection of eggs - different sizes and colours, chocolate and real eggs! What do they remind the children of? Share ideas and talk about the idea of new life.</p> <p>If possible you might want to show the children some chicks hatching in an incubator.</p> <p>The link between Easter and eggs is explained here: https://request.org.uk/restart/2016/03/17/easter-eggs/</p>
Crosses	<p>When do we use a cross symbol/sign? Where have you seen a cross sign recently? Why is the cross an important symbol for many Christians?</p>	<p>Show the children a collection of different crosses and crucifixes. If possible use artefacts, if not use some images. Ask the children to discuss what they show, what they remind them of and what they think they might mean. Link back to the telling of the Good Friday story using a sheet of paper. A good resource is: A-cross the World by Martin Payne and Betty Pedley. This tells the stories behind forty crosses from a wide diversity of cultures and Christian faith traditions and sets out to promote discussion and debate on why this single, historical event continues to exercise such influence across the world.</p> <p>https://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/resource/cross-world-resource-book</p> <p>The support material section of the website has a link to the cross images.</p>
The Easter Story	<p>What do Christians remember at Easter? What happens in the Easter story? What can we learn about Jesus from the Easter story? What can we learn about the Christian idea of God? What does the Easter story tell us about forgiveness?</p>	<p>Read the story! Make sure you read the Easter story with the children, ideally from a Bible.</p> <p>An accessible re-telling of the story is available at www.topmarks.co.uk/Easter which explains the events of Easter day by day and also has links to Easter activities and crafts.</p> <p>www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories/lets-celebrate-easterperformance</p> <p>This is a wonderful sand art version for young children.</p>

Exploring		
Focus	Questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Concept of God's love	What is love? What kind of love did God show through Jesus? Are there different types of love? How do Christians show love at Easter?	Link back to the song 'I love ya' by Dave Godfrey. The children might look at different examples or expressions of love and consider how close to the idea of 'God's love' it is. e.g. loving chocolate, loving a pet, loving a sister... Children may look up verses about love in the Bible. e.g. I Corinthians 13, 1 John and 2 John
All areas of enquiry linked to Easter	Why do Christians call it 'Good Friday'? How and why do Christians remember Jesus death? How do Christians celebrate at Easter? Do all Christians celebrate Easter in the same way?	https://request.org.uk/festivals/easter/ has high quality films, interactive features and age-appropriate text. Particularly helpful are these: 'Make an Easter Garden' https://request.org.uk/restart/2017/02/23/make-an-easter-garden/ and a cartoon retelling of the events: https://request.org.uk/restart/2017/06/05/bible-quest-holy-week/ The site features Christians from all main denominations and seeks to educate and enable teachers and pupils of all ages and abilities to ask and answer the big questions surrounding the beliefs and practices that are most important to Christians.
Concept of resurrection	What truth is there in the resurrection narrative? What happened in the resurrection accounts?	Set up a detective case to find out what happened to the body in the tomb. Children read different bible passages about the death and resurrection of Jesus and try to piece together what happened as 'detectives'. They present their findings to the class. This is a good way of the children engaging with the bible text.

Evaluating and Expressing

Focus	Questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Easter Eggs	<p>What do Chocolate Eggs have to do with Easter?</p> <p>What is the best way for Christians to remember Easter?</p>	<p>Evaluate with the children the meaning of Easter Eggs based on what they have learned about Easter, and also some of the background about Easter Eggs. Ask the children to design/create a new food item that could 'replace' or 'redesign' the Easter Egg to better reflect the story of Easter.</p>
Retelling the Easter Story	<p>What happened on Good Friday?</p> <p>How do Christians represent Easter?</p> <p>What was Easter really like?</p>	<p>Retell the story of Good Friday using a single sheet of paper as shown by the GenR8 team (instructions on page 4).</p> <p>Ask the children to retell the whole Easter story imaginatively e.g. using different textures. Consider the different textures of Easter e.g. softness of bread, liquid wine, sharpness of the crown of thorns, hardness of the wood, coldness of the stone, silkiness of the curtain torn in two, the points of the nails... Create Easter texture collages or decorate a large cross with the different textures, possibly dividing the cross into different sections..." Link with literacy and D&T.</p>
The meaning of the Easter Story	<p>Why is Easter important? What does Easter mean to different people?</p>	<p>Create a feely bag with objects in to tell the story. Children choose the objects they think would be most appropriate. Perhaps given them a limit of 5 objects. The children can tell the Easter story using the objects, but also explain their choice of objects and justify them with their classmates. You may want the children to focus specifically on the GenR8 theme of 'Friendship'.</p>
Easter Poetry	<p>What does Easter mean to Christians?</p> <p>What difference does Easter make to Christians?</p>	<p>Ask the children to take the words 'Good Friend' and create an acrostic poem about the meaning of Easter for Christians.</p> <p>Alternatively, children could be asked to create a different type of poem of their choice which reflects the meaning of Easter for Christians. They might also link this to how Christians celebrate the festival today.</p>
Easter Garden	<p>What happened at Easter and why?</p>	<p>See the following link and make your own Easter garden to retell the story and understand the meaning of Easter for Christians. https://request.org.uk/restart/2017/02/23/make-an-easter-garden/</p>

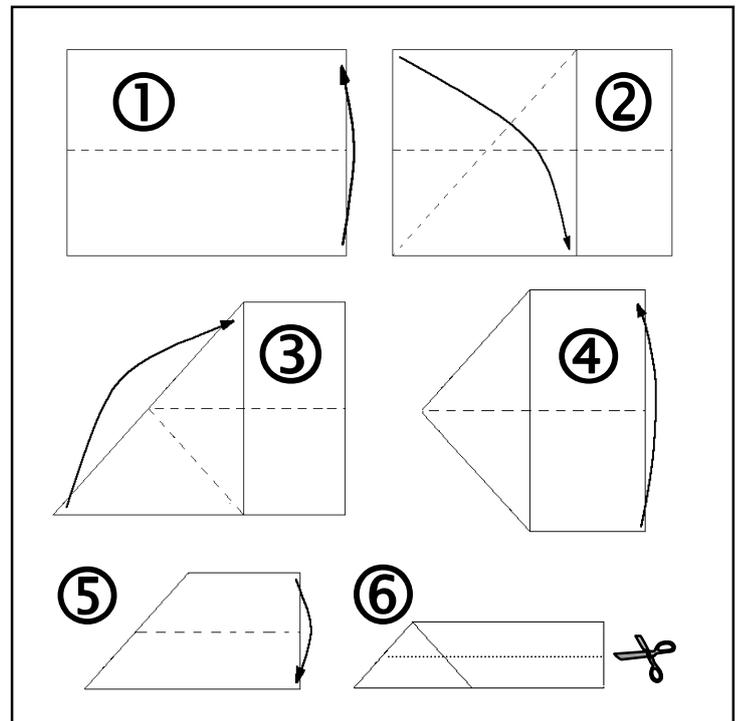
Telling the events of Good Friday using a sheet of paper

One of the most important parts of the Easter story is how Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday. It's not very easy to understand, but the instructions below help to recall the events in a visual way.

Making the pieces

1. Take a piece of A3 or A4 paper, and fold it in half lengthways, crease it along the fold and then unfold again.
2. Fold one corner diagonally down so the end of the paper lines up with one side, as shown.
3. Fold the pointed corner over in a similar way, to form a house shape.
4. Fold this in half, along the crease you made earlier.
5. Fold in half lengthways again.
6. Cut or tear the folded shape lengthways, through the centre, as shown

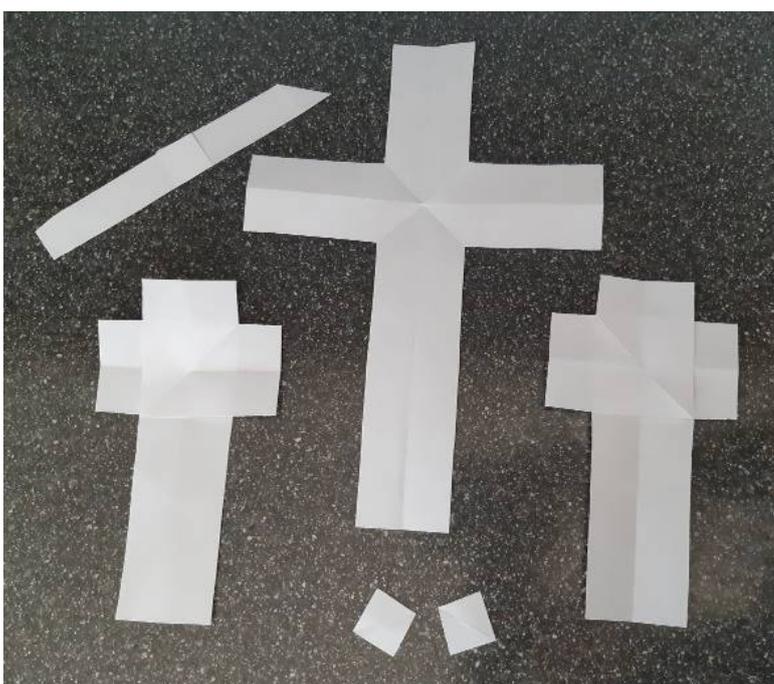
You will be left with nine pieces of paper of various shapes and sizes, which you will need to unfold.



Telling the story

The biggest piece of all is a cross. When Jesus died, he died on a cross. It was really quite horrible. They nailed him to the cross then they put it in the ground and they left him to die.

Two more crosses can be made by the four "L" shaped pieces, a large one and a smaller one for each. This reminds us of two other men were crucified alongside Jesus. One of them started to make fun of Jesus even though he was dying as well. Then the other one said, "We've both getting what we deserved for what we did; but he has done no wrong." He looked at Jesus and said, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus said to him, "Today you will be with me in paradise."



You will have two squares. These remind us of the dice, or "casting lots" that the soldiers used to decide who would get Jesus' clothes. (From Luke chapter 23 verses 33-49).

The two remaining pieces can be joined into a long spear shape with one of the ends folded into a point. A Roman soldier took a spear and pushed into Jesus' side to make sure he was dead. (From John chapter 19 verses 33-34).

Christians believe that when Jesus died on the cross he took the blame and paid the price for all the wrong things we think, say and do. But the cross isn't the end, the Bible says that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive forever.

Christians believe that because of Easter, if we ask, we can be friends with God.