


# The Immigrant Origins of Easter Traditions

Although we can trace the roots of many Easter traditions back thousands of years, we can thank immigrants for introducing them to the American public. The integration of immigrant traditions into U.S. society played a major role in shaping our modern Easter celebrations.




18th century Pennsylvania Dutch colonies believed the Easter Bunny would lay eggs in the grass. Children created nests in the grass so they could later hunt for the eggs.

German immigrants in the 1700s brought the Easter Bunny to the United States, although at that time he was known as Osterhase.



Egg-dying and decorating has been practiced since ancient times, but scholars believe their association with Christianity spread from Mesopotamia to Siberia and on through Europe before arriving in the United States.

The candy company that produces the popular marshmallow candy, Peeps, was founded by a Russian immigrant in 1923.



Centuries ago, churches required parishioners to abstain from eating eggs during Lent. Eggs have long represented new life, and congregations could once again eat eggs on Easter to celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead.

Easter baskets emerged from spring equinox celebrations in Middle Eastern cultures. These long-ago rituals included farmers using baskets to bring their new spring seedlings to temples for blessings.