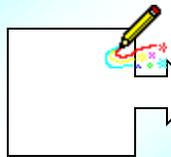
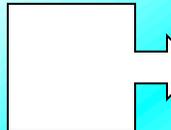




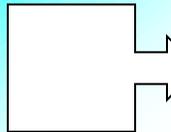
Easter in Australia



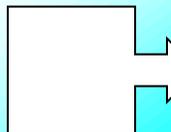
1. In Australia Easter is celebrated in the autumn months of March or April. It is a time of church services, family gatherings, eggs, bunnies and lots of fun. Australians enjoy a four-day holiday weekend starting on Good Friday and ending on Easter Monday. Families make the most of the opportunity to spend time outdoors before winter starts. Easter is a celebration of religious significance with many Australians attending church on Easter Sunday.



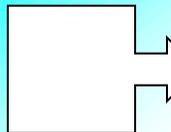
2. Chocolate bunnies and eggs of all sizes in colourful foil wrappings are a favourite part of Easter in Australia. Early on Easter Sunday morning, while the children are sleeping the Easter Bunny 'delivers' chocolate eggs. Some families have Easter egg hunts where chocolate eggs are hidden in the house or garden for excited children to run around and find.



3. Although the Easter bunny remains a huge part of Easter in Australia, in recent years the endangered bilby, a rather cute, long-eared native animal, has been seen as a replacement for the bunny by some Australians. The reason for this is the rabbit, which is an introduced animal, is not popular as it has done a lot of damage to the natural environment. Chocolate Easter Bilbies can be seen in stores alongside the more traditional bunnies. Some companies donate a percentage of sales to a fund set up to help protect the bilby.



4. Hot cross buns are also another Easter treat popular with Australians. They are sweet, spiced buns made with dried fruit. A cross, (the symbol of Christ) usually made from a mixture of flour and water is put on top of the buns. The buns are traditionally eaten on Good Friday and taste best hot with plenty of butter. A recent variation on the traditional fruit bun has become popular in Australia. A chocolate version is made with the same spiced mixture, but cocoa is added to the dough and chocolate chips replace the dried fruit.



5. Easter is also a time of various events, with the most well known held in Sydney. The Sydney Royal Easter Show is an agricultural show held annually over a two-week period which includes the Easter long weekend. The Show is traditionally an opportunity for people from rural communities to exhibit their livestock and produce and to take part in various competitions. It also includes the Sydney Royal Show rodeo, parades, fireworks displays, as well as the latest on offer in the way of extreme rides and attractions.



Happy Easter





A: Match the headings to the paragraphs.

Write the letter in the box.



- A:** Hot cross buns.
- B:** A traditional event
- C:** Chocolate Easter treats.
- D:** Time for a change
- E:** Things people do.



B: Find synonyms in the text for these words:



1. concealed _____
2. famous _____
3. country _____
4. contests _____
5. newest _____
6. fortnight _____
7. importance _____
8. yearly _____
9. show _____
10. threatened _____
11. show _____
12. liked _____



C: Answer the questions according to the text. Circle T for true or F for false.



1. Australians have a four-day holiday over Easter. T F
2. The Easter Bilby delivers eggs on Easter Sunday. T F
3. Most Australians want to replace the Easter Bunny with the bilby. T F
4. Good Friday is when hot cross buns are traditionally eaten. T F
5. The Sydney Royal Easter Show is held every year. T F
6. Australians don't like to spend time outdoors during Easter. T F
7. People attend church on Easter Saturday. T F
8. Easter is a spring celebration. T F
9. Only people from country areas go to the Sydney Royal Easter Show. T F
10. Chocolate buns are a more recent addition to Easter. T F



Happy Easter





D: Find words in the text to fill in the gaps:



1. There are many organizations that help protect _____ animals, for, example the World Wildlife Fund or WWF.
2. Many people hold _____ over the summer months.
3. How often must you pay the membership fee of \$50.00? _____.
4. The koala, kangaroo and platypus are _____ to Australia.
5. We had a wonderful party in _____ of our engagement.
6. It is _____ in Australia for families to gather at Easter and Christmas.
7. As we will have a _____ this week we have decided to visit family in another city.
8. Australia exports _____ goods to many other countries.
9. _____ animals are a threat to native animals and to the _____.
10. Many people regularly _____ money to good causes.



For discussion :

1. What are the Easter traditions in your country ?
2. Does your family celebrate Easter ?
Yes - How do they celebrate ? No - Why ?
3. What do you think of the idea to replace the Easter Bunny with the bilby?



Happy Easter

