

Spring Unit: Easter Holiday

Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four -Year Olds, 2007

These standards are beacon lights for my curriculum. I adapt them according to the ability of my students. I use them as goals to strive towards or as background building for my students' future learning. These goals are my focus, but they are not the only objectives being utilized by the following lessons. Language and social goals are incorporated into our classroom daily routines.

I. Virginia Foundation Blocks

- History and Social Science Foundation Block 1: Similarities and Differences and Scientific Investigation, Reasoning and Life Processes

1. Participate in activities and traditions associated with different cultural heritages
2. Identify basic properties of objects by direct observation
3. Describe objects using words

II. Concepts: (for higher functioning children:upgrade or lower according to children)

1. Easter is a holiday that comes in Spring
2. Rabbits and baby chicks are popular Easter symbols
3. The "egg" symbolizes the new life of Easter
4. It is a popular custom to decorate eggs and hide them for a fun game
5. Some people do not celebrate Easter because they have different beliefs
 - Identify Easter traditions in the US
 - Identify the origins of some of our customs (e.g. Easter eggs from Germany)
 - Identify the symbols of Easter

III. Origins of Common Easter Symbols

1. Spain:

- Famous for long parades with religious floats and thousands of marchers
- Parades take place one week before Easter
- They wear native costumes
- Go to fairs held on Easter or Thereafter where there is dancing and visiting with friends

III. Origins of Common Easter Symbols

2. Germany:

- Thinks it is good luck to eat green food (salad) on Thursday before Easter or will turn into a donkey
- Pa Dutch are Germans that brought the following customs to the United State
 - 1) Easter Eggs; Since some folks give up eggs for Lent (40 days before Easter) eggs became a special treat that they would decorate and give as gifts
 - 2) Easter Bunny
 - 3) Easter Egg Tree

IV. Vocabulary:

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| 1. Easter: | A holiday in Spring |
| 2. Holiday: | A day of celebration or party |
| 3. Basket: | A woven container |
| 4. Hatch: | To break out of a shell |
| 5. Dye: | To change color of something |
| 6. Spring: | A season of the year when plants begin to grow and new baby animals are born |

V. Books to Read:

1. *Peeper the Giant Easter Egg* by Rhonda Chalek Greenberg
2. *The Grumpy Easter Bunny* by Justine Korman
3. *Happy Easter Little Critter* by Mercer Mayer
4. *What is Easter* by Lilly James

V. Activities :

***Additional Activities will be detailed in the Egg and Rabbit units**

1. Stained Glass Easter Egg or Church Window; Egg or church window shape cut out of waxed paper, grate crayons to get small shaving, place between two sheets of waxed paper and gently iron together. Make a black construction outline to glue around egg or window.
2. Easter Basket: Can be made from : paper bag, milk jug, downy bottle, detergent box with a handle (cover with construction paper and decorate), berry basket with ribbon woven in it.
3. Easter Card; Draw and decorate ; or decorate with seasonal stickers
4. Dye Eggs in the class: Write each child's name on a clean, white, hard boiled egg, then dye it in the classroom of color the child chooses

