

## Passover

(Pesach in Hebrew) is celebrated by Jewish people all over the world. It is one of the most important dates in the Jewish calendar. Jewish people remember a story from a very long time ago. Moses asked the Egyptians to allow the Israelites to be free. But the Pharaoh refused and so 10 plagues came. To prevent the last plague from affecting them, Jewish families painted lambs' blood on their doors and the plague 'passed-over' them. After this the Pharaoh let the Israelites leave Egypt. After 200 years of slavery they Jewish people were free. The celebration lasts several days and includes cleaning of houses, having a Seder meal together, not eating risen bread, eating flat bread (Matzah), leaving the door open in case the prophet Elijah comes, reading the Haggadah (a book that tells the Passover story), songs and blessings. Passover is a big celebration of freedom and life.



## Easter

is a Christian festival that celebrates the resurrection of Christ. The bible (Christians' holy book) says that Christ died on the cross on a day called Good Friday and he resurrected and came back to life on Easter Sunday. This is the most important day in the Christian calendar. Easter is a different day between 21 March and 25 April, depending on when there's a full moon in Spring.

Many Christians spend time in church in thought, prayer and celebration of Jesus' life. They may also get together with friends and family for a special meal. Modern traditions are Easter Eggs and Easter bunnies.



## Raksha Bandhan

is a Hindu festival celebrated in July/August. Raksha means 'protection'

Bandhan mean 'to tie'. It's a festival that honours the relationship between brothers and sisters. A silken thread is tied by a girl round the wrist of her brother, to represent the protection he gives her. In return the brother gives the sister a present or money. On the day, Hindu's dress up in traditional clothes and families come together, as girls tie rakhis on their cousins too.

