



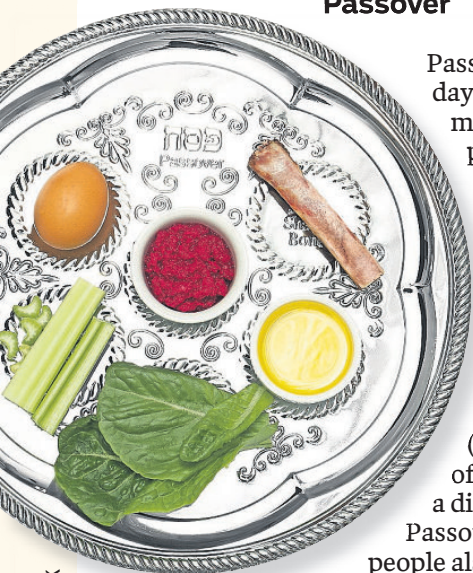
Spring holidays

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USA TODAY NETWORK

It's spring, which means if you're Jewish or Christian, you're probably looking forward to celebrating one of two holidays: Passover or Easter. These two holidays have more in common than you might expect.

Passover



Passover is an eight-day holiday that commemorates the Jewish people leaving Egypt long ago. Families have different traditions for celebrating, but one common theme is a special meal called a "seder." There are six items on the seder plate (pictured left), all of which represent a different part of the Passover story, which people also tell during the holiday. This year, Passover began on March 27 and ends April 4.

Easter

Easter takes place on a Sunday every spring and for Christians represents the death of Jesus. Many Christians celebrate with a family meal and a special church service. There are also, of course, some fun traditions like

visits from the Easter Bunny and candy.

Similarities and differences

Part of the story of Easter has to do with the Last Supper, in which Jesus met with his disciples one last time. That gathering actually was a Passover seder, because Jesus was Jewish. Two of the foods in both the Passover and Easter stories are unleavened bread (that's bread with nothing in it to make it rise) and wine. Eggs are also an important part of both holidays.

When it comes to the stories behind the holidays, though, there are more differences than similarities. So if you have a chance sometime, think about ways you can learn about holidays you don't celebrate from friends who do.

Activity: Craft time!

Whatever holiday you celebrate this spring (and maybe you don't celebrate Easter OR Passover!) you can enjoy the season by using flowers in a fun craft. You'll need flowers and clear contact paper.

First, gather some flowers and leaves from outdoors. (Be sure to ask an adult if a flower is OK to pick. If you can, gather them from the ground instead of taking them off of plants.) Arrange them on the contact paper in a fun design. You can make pictures with them or just arrange them in a way you think looks good. But be careful — once your flower or leaf is stuck to the paper, you won't be able to pick it back up again. You might want to arrange things on a piece of paper first so you'll know how they'll look once they're stuck to the paper.

When your design is done, hang up the contact paper in a window so you can enjoy seeing the light come through and look at your art until the flowers fade.



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WORD FIND

Jewish	Church
Christian	March
Passover	Bunny
Easter	Eggs
Holiday	Seder

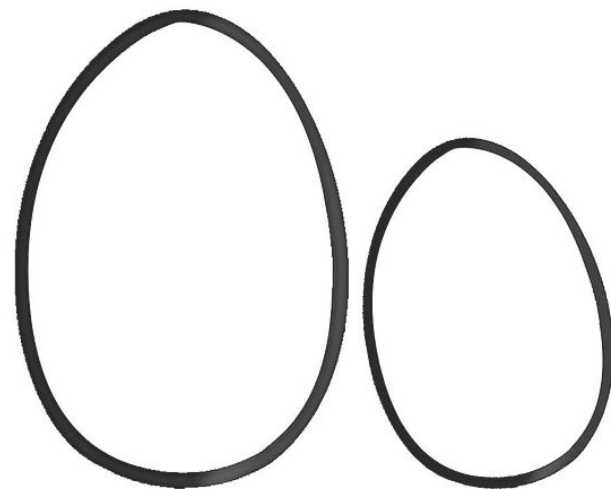
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DRAWING WITH MARK!

Decorate the eggs pictured on the right. You can use whatever you choose: pencils, crayons, markers or sparkles! Have fun and add a background, too!

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