

FREE  
coloring  
pages!

# The History of Easter Eggs



A Coloring and Activity Book

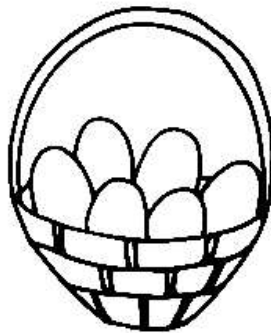
By Chickens.org

The History of

# Easter Eggs

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The History of Easter Eggs  
A Coloring and Activity Book

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To learn more about chickens, or to join our community of people who love chickens, you can find us at:

Website: [www.chickens.org](http://www.chickens.org)

Instagram: [@chickens.org\\_](https://www.instagram.com/chickens.org_)

Facebook: [@chickensorg](https://www.facebook.com/chickensorg)

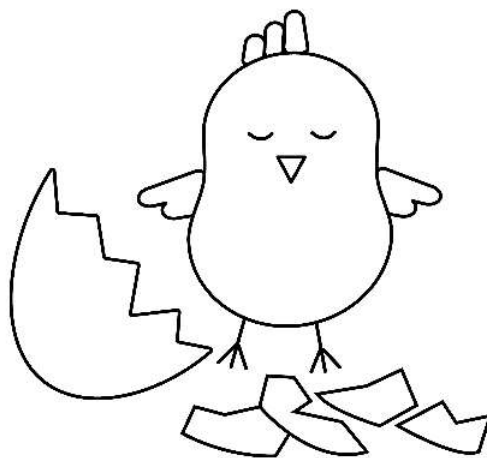
Chickens.org (a program of Capax World, [www.capax.org](http://www.capax.org)) is dedicated to spreading chicken information, and establishing coops and gardens in poor communities, to reduce malnutrition.

Every year, on a Sunday in spring, more than 2 billion people celebrate Easter. Many Easter celebrations include hard-boiled eggs with shells dyed in beautiful colors.

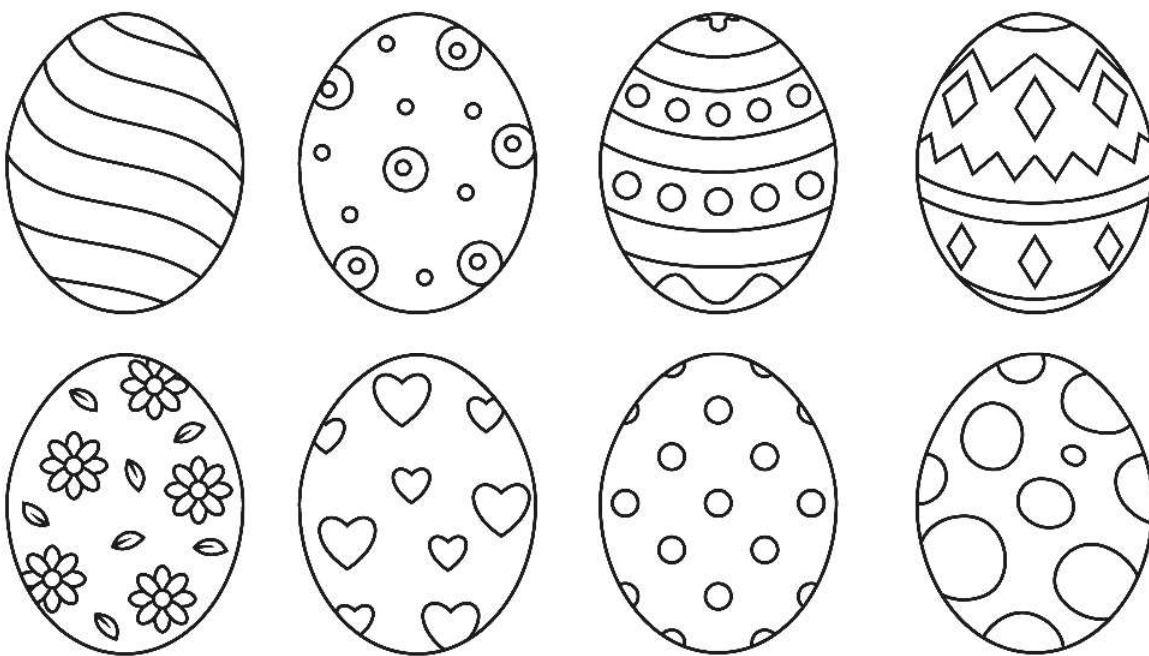
# Happy Easter



Eggs have been a symbol of new life for many years, in many cultures.



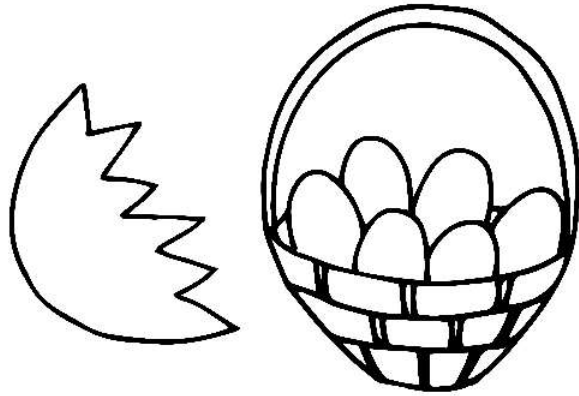
The decoration of eggs at Easter originated among early Christians in Mesopotamia, an area north of Israel, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.



At Easter, Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, after being crucified (killed on a wooden cross).



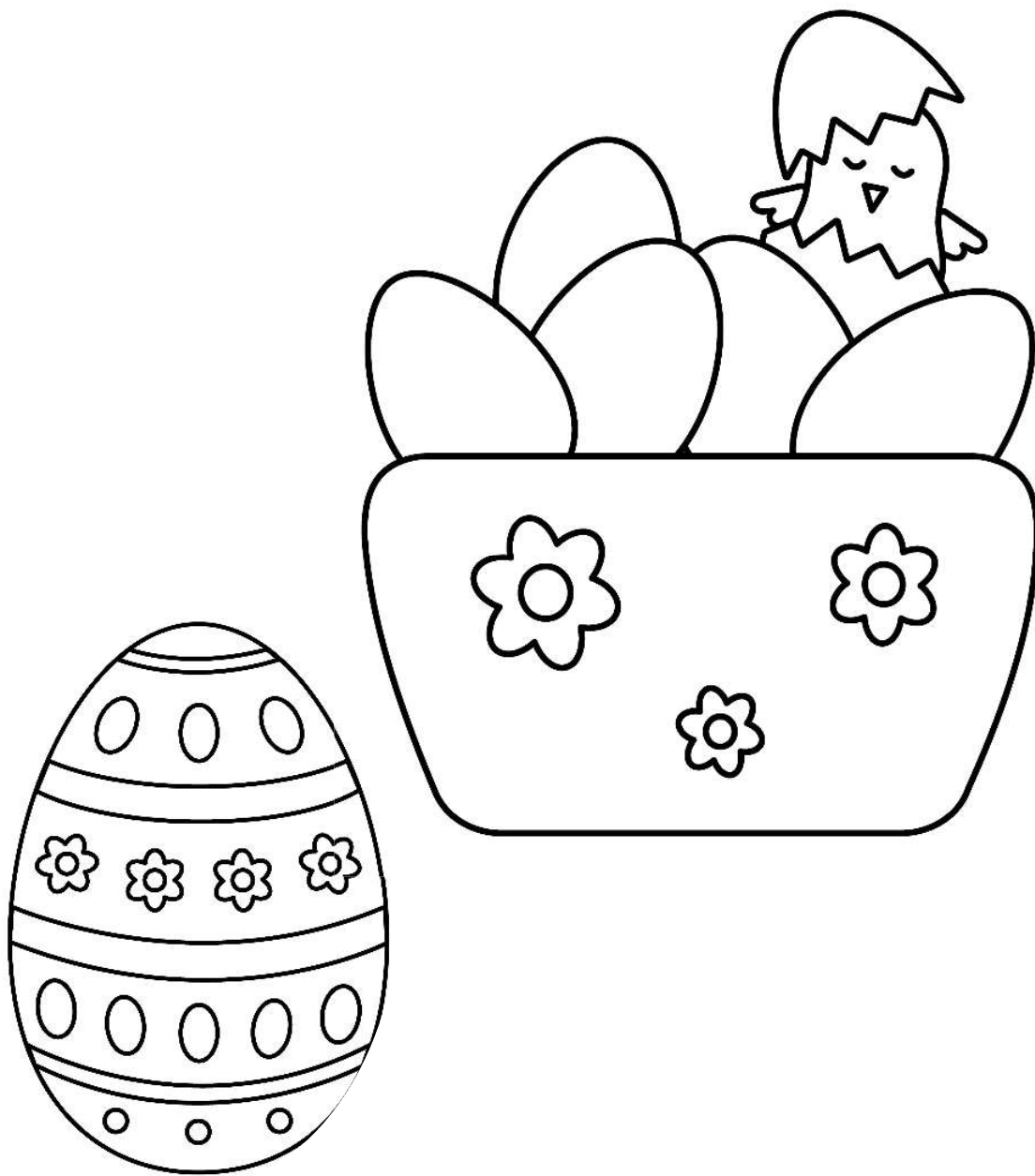
Easter eggs are cooked (hard-boiled) before being dyed.



The empty eggshell reminds Christians of the emptiness of the tomb after the resurrection.



The first Easter eggs were dyed red, representing the blood of Jesus on the cross. This is still the tradition for many Christians.



The white inside of the egg represents purity. Christians believe that Jesus's crucifixion was an offering to God that allows followers to be pure in the sight of God.

When multiple colors are used to dye Easter eggs, the colors represent important themes in the Christian faith:

WHITE ~ *purity, completeness, resurrection*

BLUE ~ *hope (the sky from which Jesus will return);*

*Jesus's mother, Mary*

GREEN ~ *life and growth*

GOLD (or YELLOW) ~ *glory and greatness of Jesus*

PINK ~ *joy, like the sunrise*

RED ~ *Jesus's sacrifice (blood) on the cross*

PURPLE ~ *penitence and prayer*

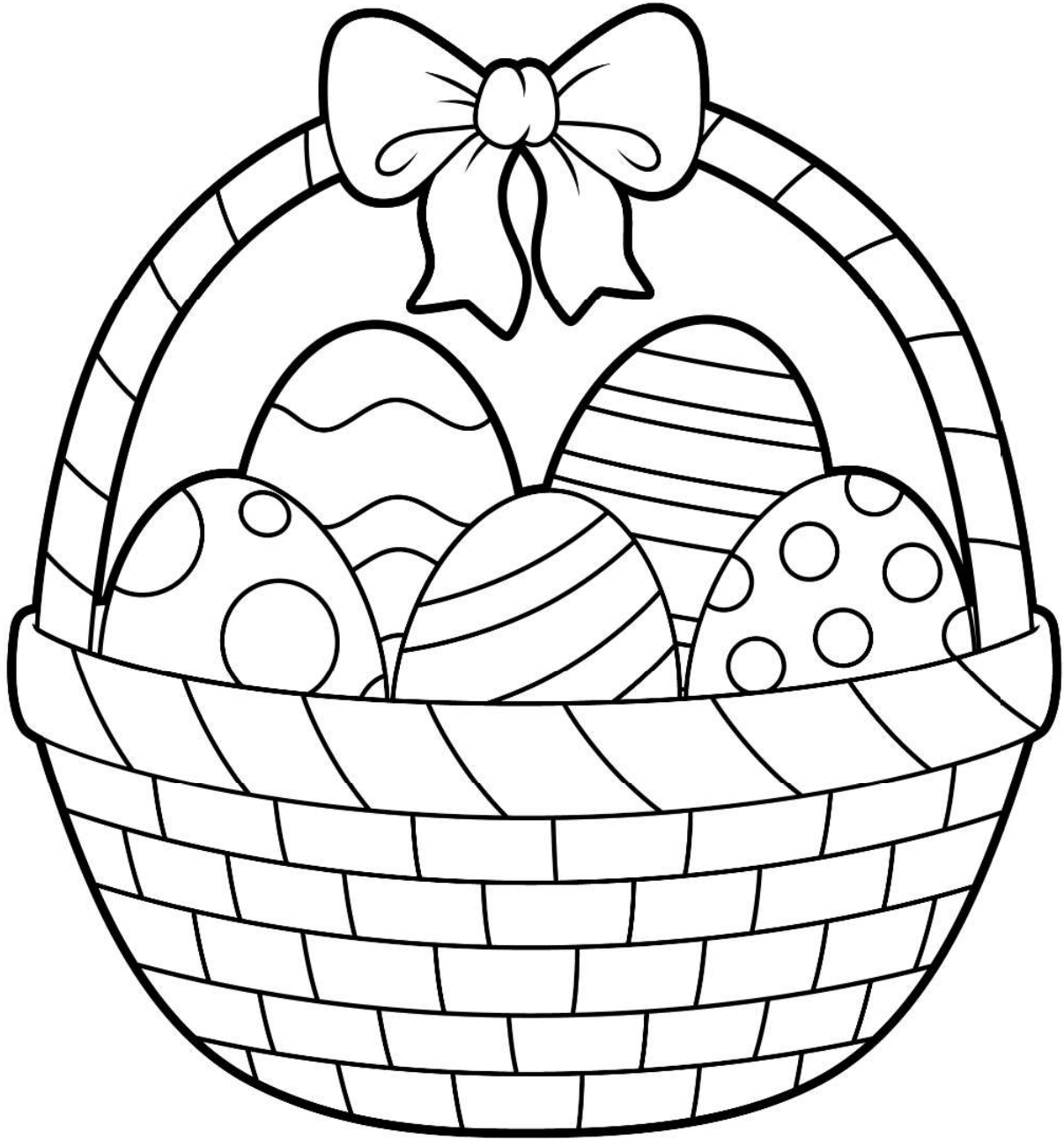
## WORD SEARCH

*Find & circle these words:*

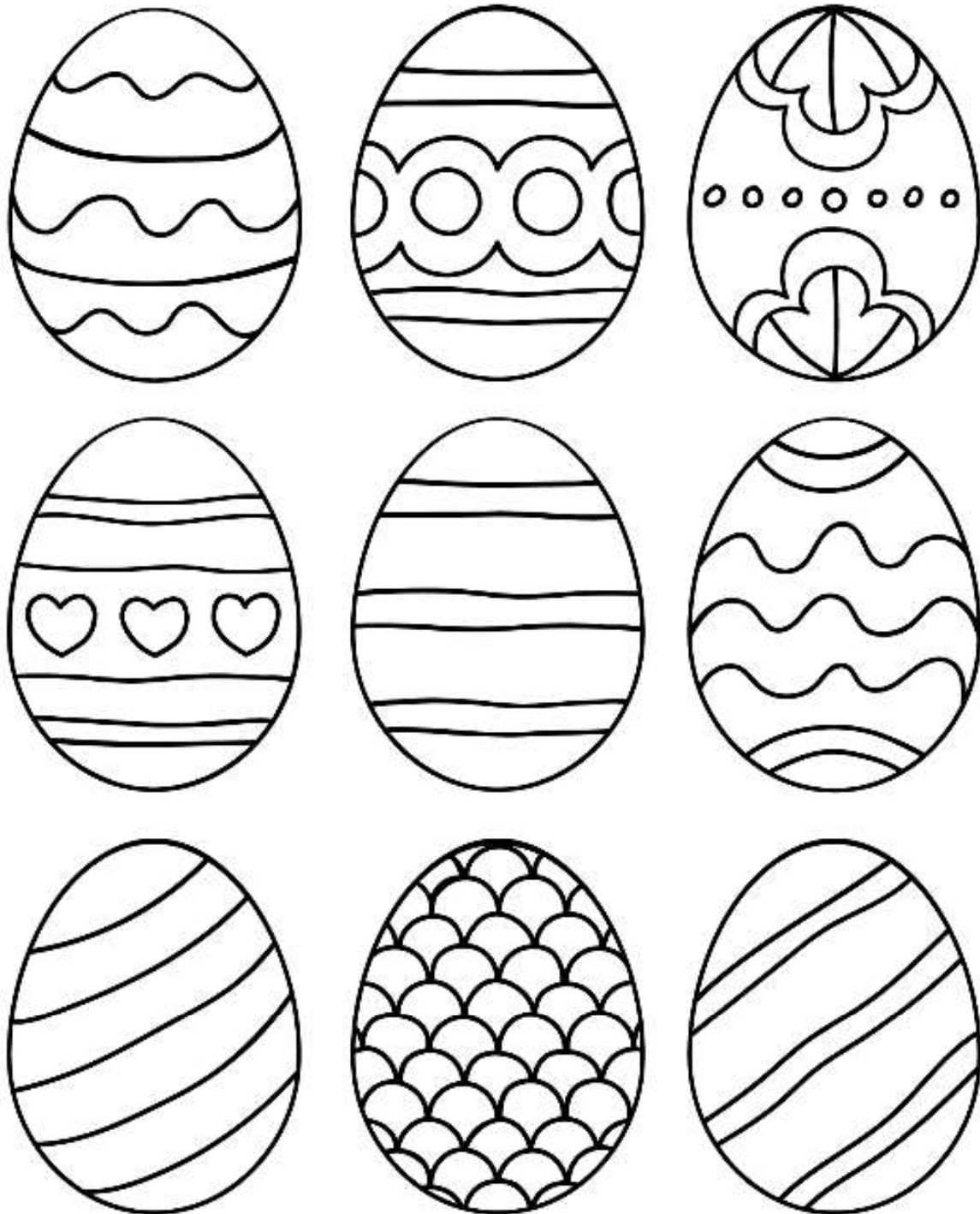
WHITE      GREEN      PINK      YELLOW  
BLUE      RED      GOLD      PURPLE

*(Words might be vertical, horizontal or diagonal.)*

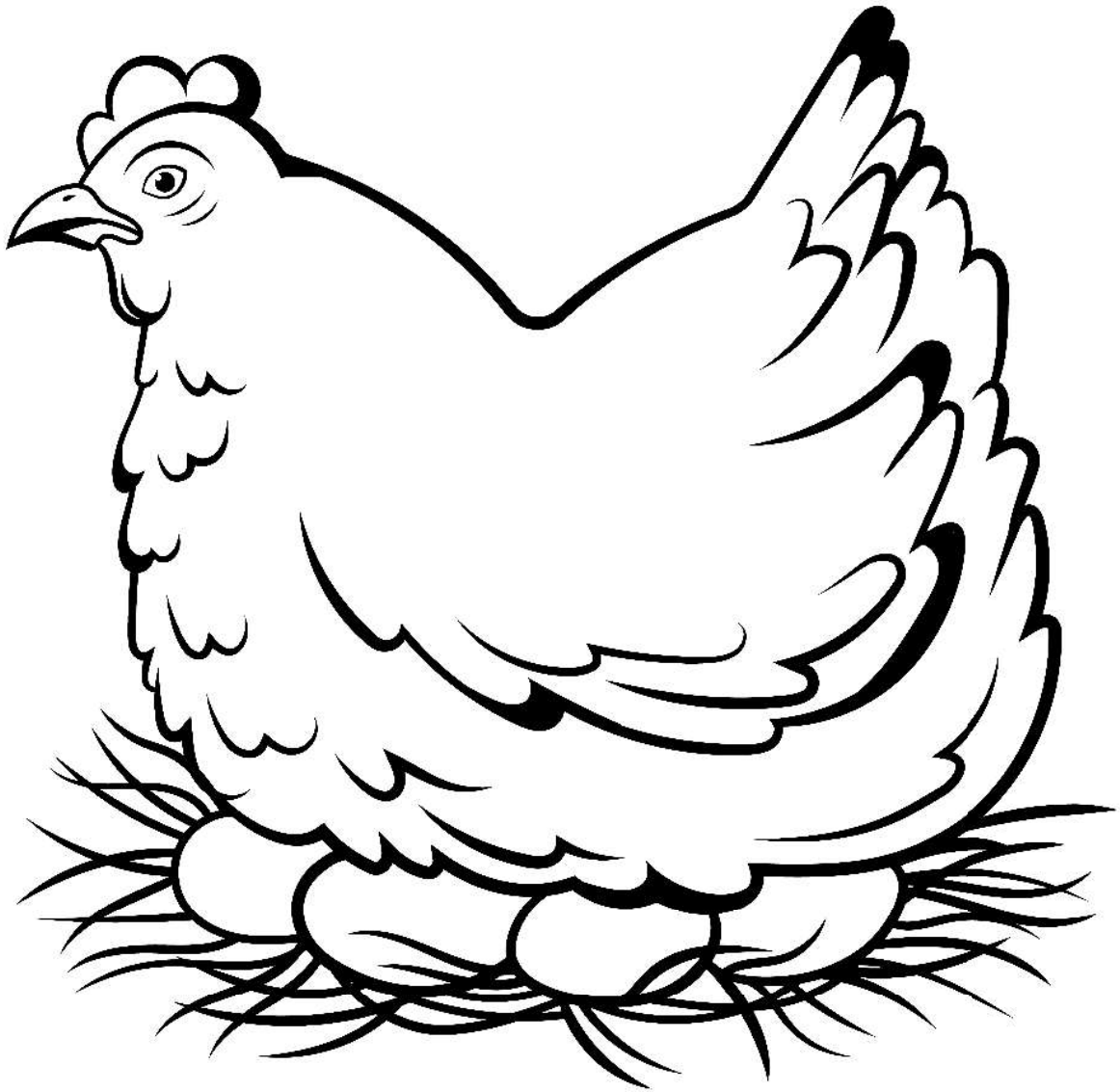
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X	Z	V	W	V	S	L	A	X	B	H	A	G	E	L
T	O	F	K	N	W	T	O	V	K	N	L	Z	E	Y
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I	Q	U	E	D	U	G	C	T	C	N	V	N	Z	P
A	D	V	E	T	O	E	Y	C	V	S	H	Q	R	P



In Europe in the Middle Ages, people gave each other eggs at Easter to celebrate the end of Lent, a season of fasting between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. European Christians did not eat eggs or meat during Lent, so eating eggs at Easter was part of the celebration, at the end of the Lenten Fast.



Of course, during the six weeks of Lent, hens did not stop laying eggs. So, there were plenty of eggs to enjoy with the Easter feast.



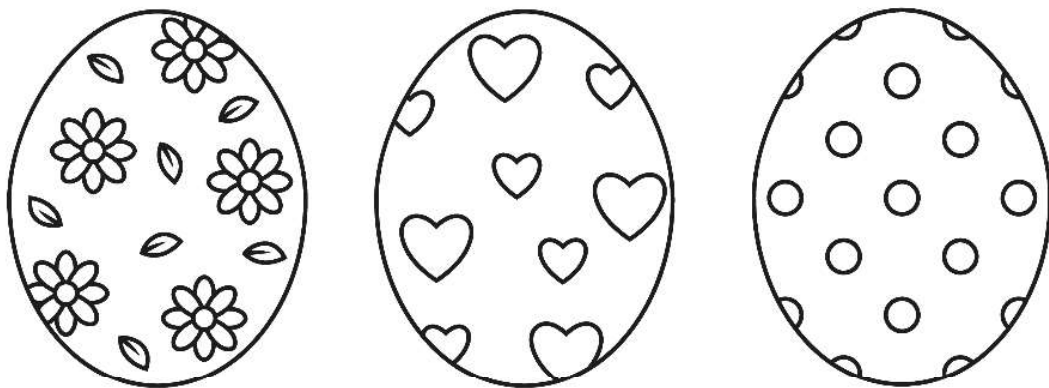
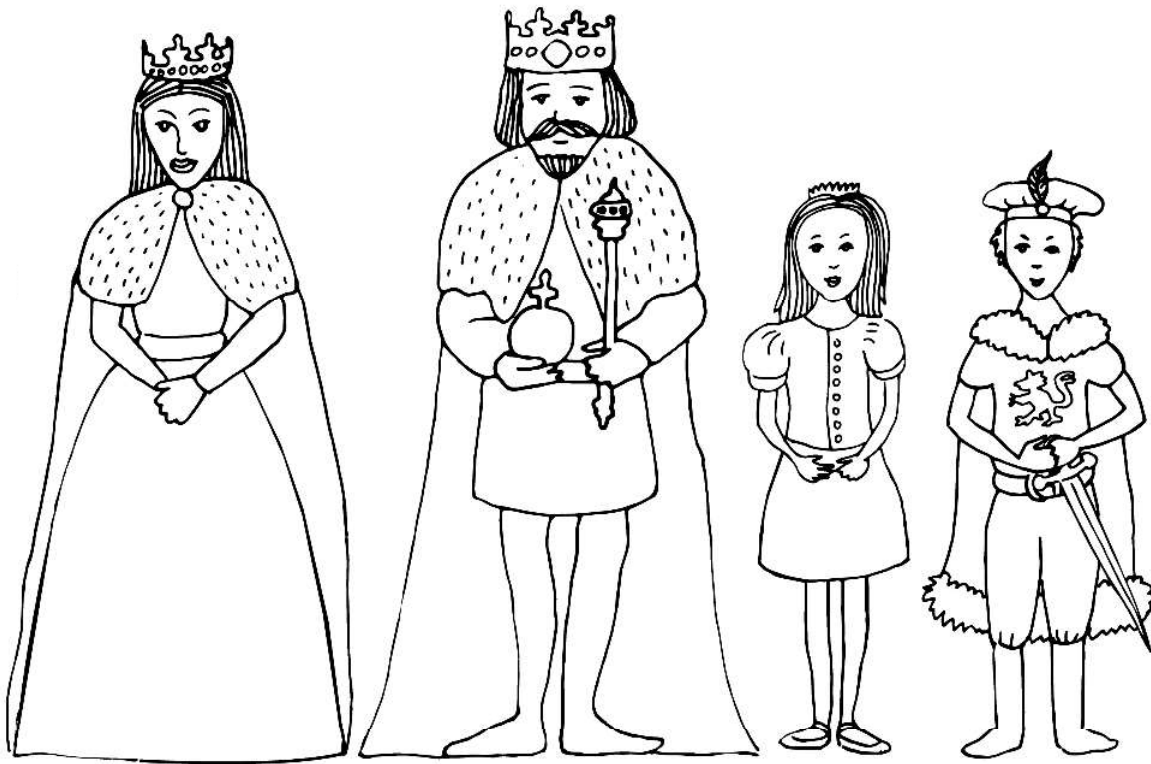
*Lent, during which many Christians fast (give up a particular food or foods), lasts for 40 days (plus Sundays). It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. It commemorates Jesus's 40 days of fasting in the desert, and helps people focus on God. The fasting days do not include Sundays, which are days of celebration (the fast can be broken), so Lent lasts about 6½ weeks.*

The first Easter egg hunt was in Germany, led by Protestant reformer Martin Luther, in the 1500s.

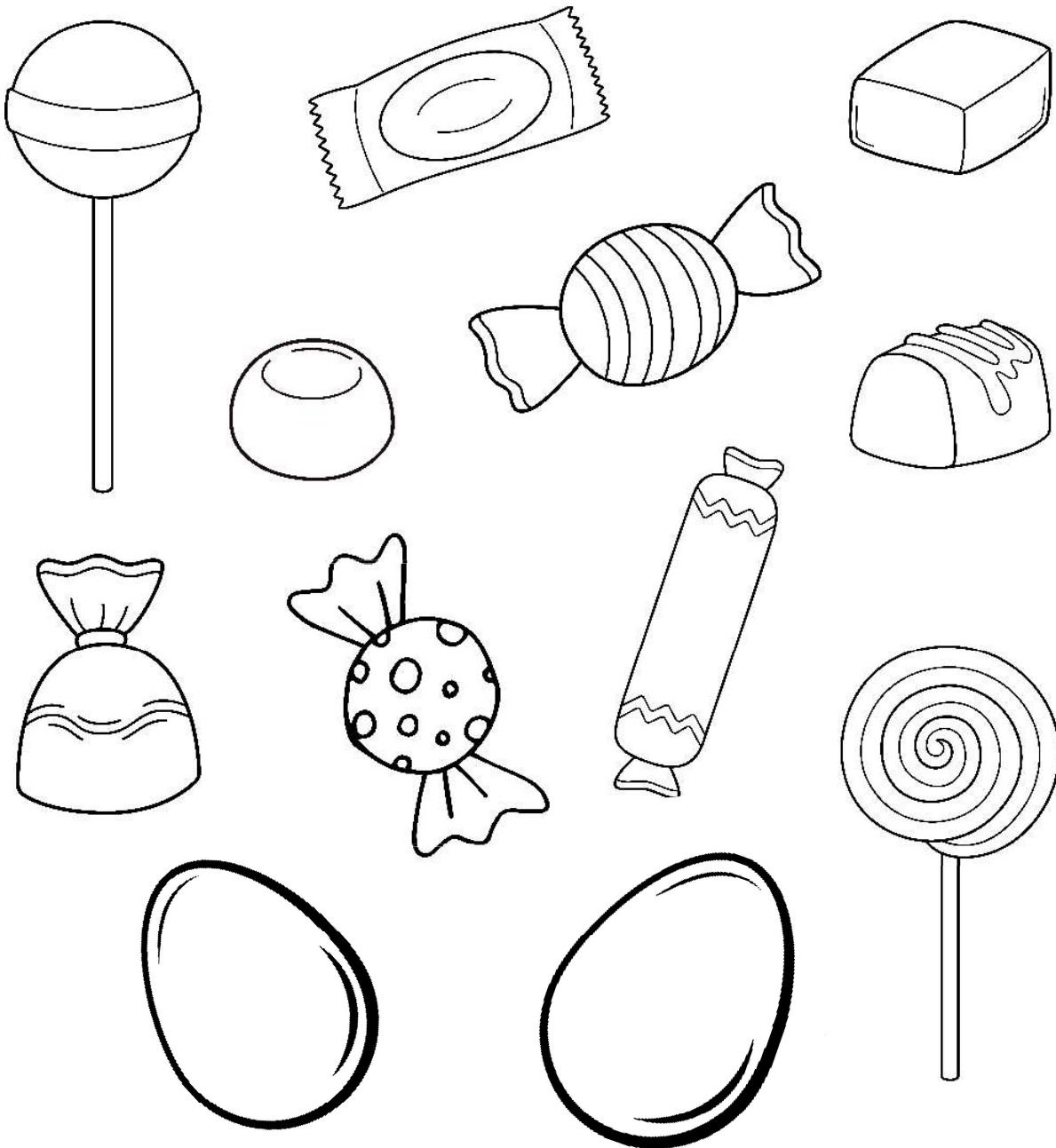


Men hid the eggs for women and children to find, to celebrate the empty tomb being found by women (Mary Magdalene and others).

The Duchess of Kent brought the Easter egg hunt tradition from Germany to Kensington Palace in England, when Queen Victoria was a little girl. Queen Victoria and her husband, Albert, continued the tradition of Easter egg hunts in England.



Today, many Christians who fast during Lent give up candy or a bad habit, or they focus on practicing a positive new spiritual habit. The most common food given up for Lent is chocolate. Easter egg hunts are sometimes done with plastic eggs, with candy inside.



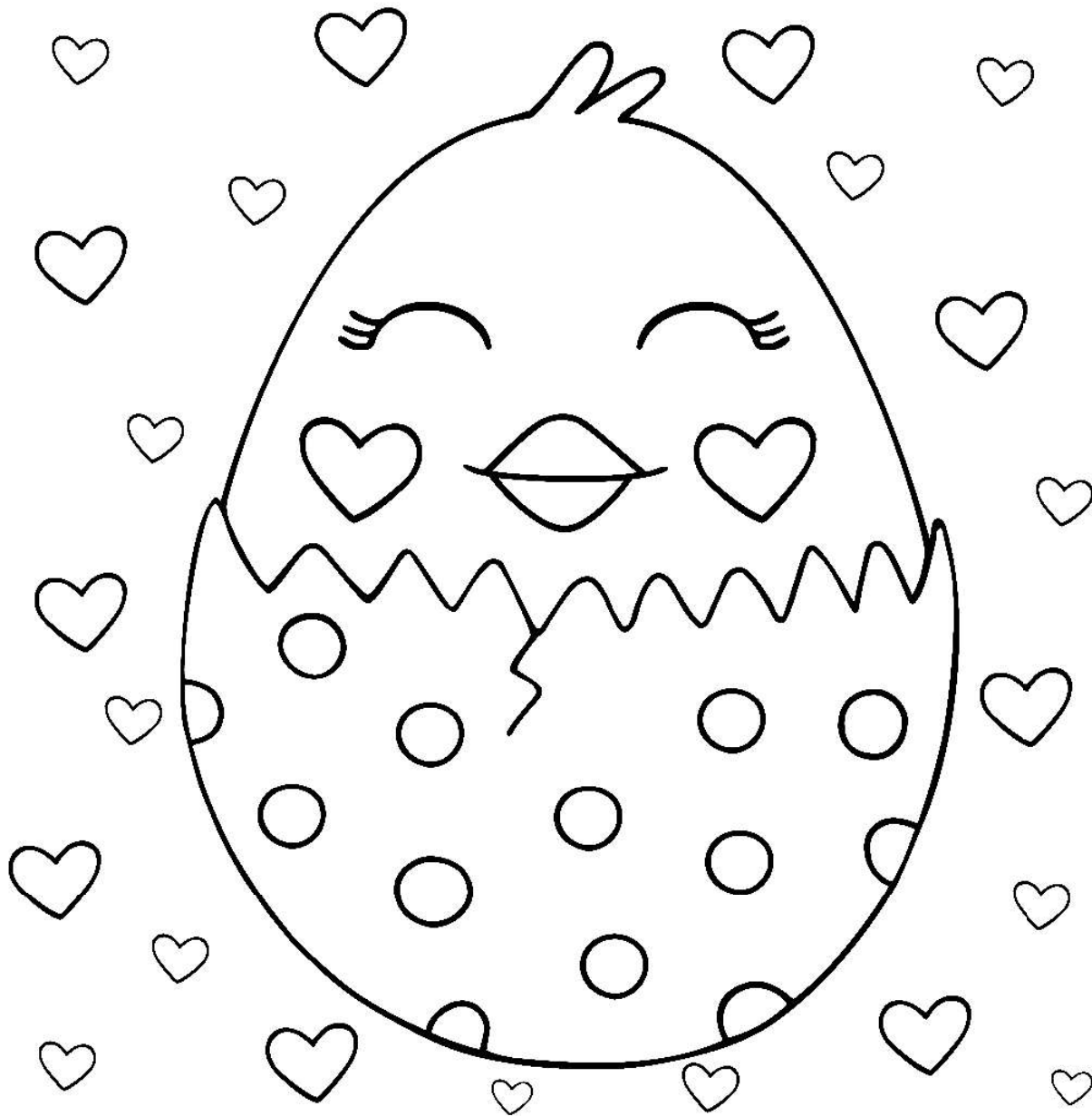


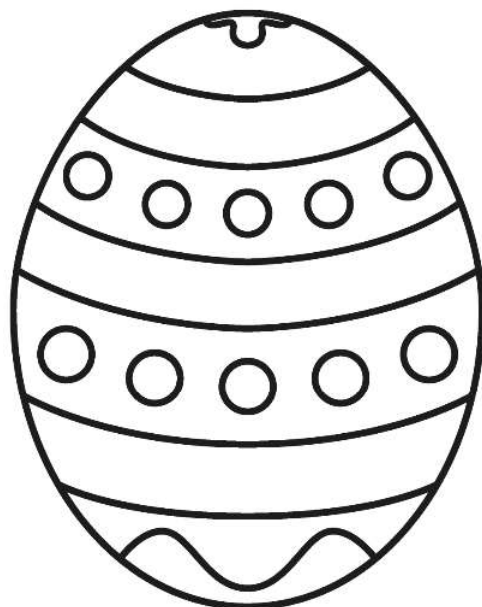
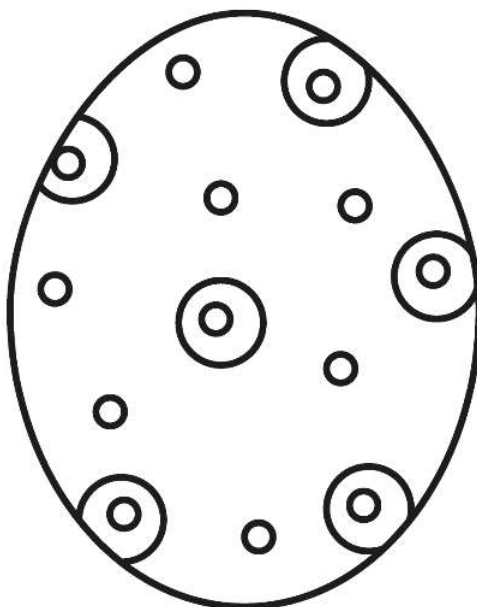
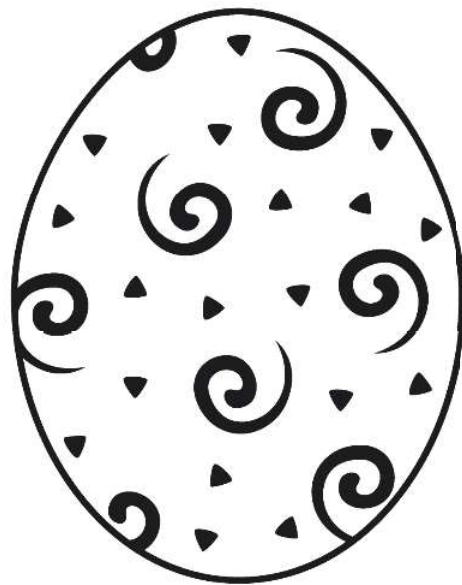
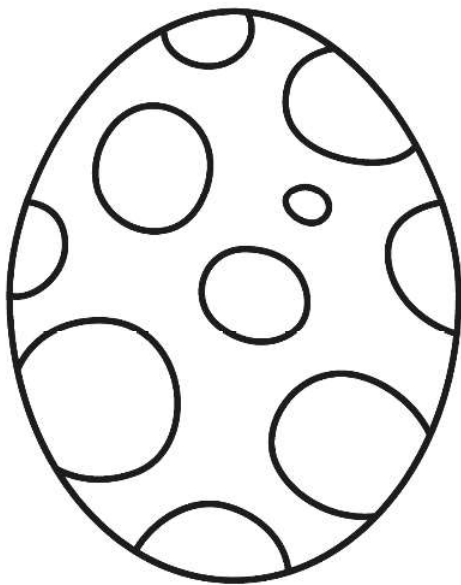
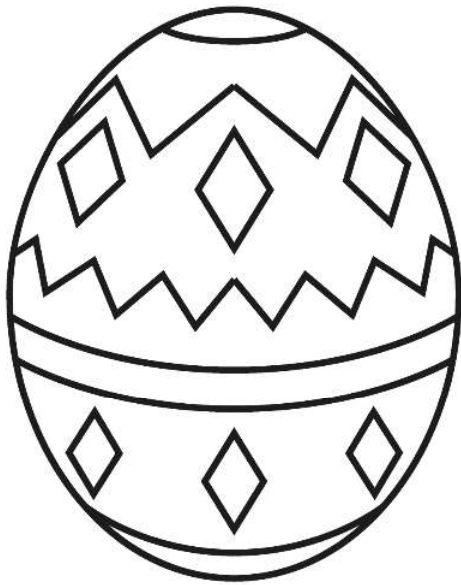
In 1885, Russian Tsar Alexander III gave his wife, Empress Maria Feodorovna, a golden egg covered in jewels, for Easter. The bejeweled egg had been made by jeweler Peter Carl Fabergé. Inside the egg was a round “yolk” made of gold, and inside that was a golden hen sitting on golden straw. Inside the hen was a tiny replica of the royal crown, made of diamonds, and a ruby pendant, a gift for Maria.

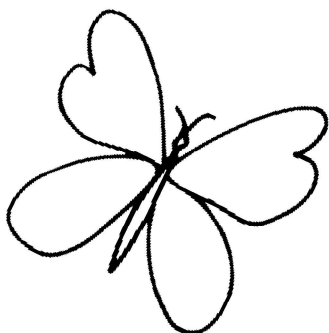


Easter egg decorating ideas, including natural egg dyes, can be found at [www.chickens.org](http://www.chickens.org) ~

# HAPPY EASTER!







## FUN CHAT



### Questions to share with your family or friends

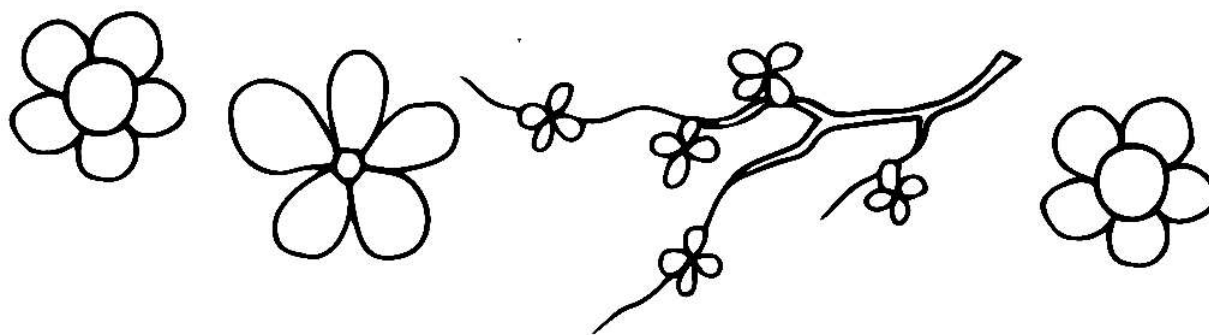
*Suggestion: Share these Qs in a group setting with 1 or more other people. One person reads a question. Everyone answers, taking turns, if they have an answer they'd like to share. Or they can pass - no pressure, this is fun! Sometimes answers include fun or interesting stories. Listening to each other and sharing pieces of our stories help us to know and understand each other better.*

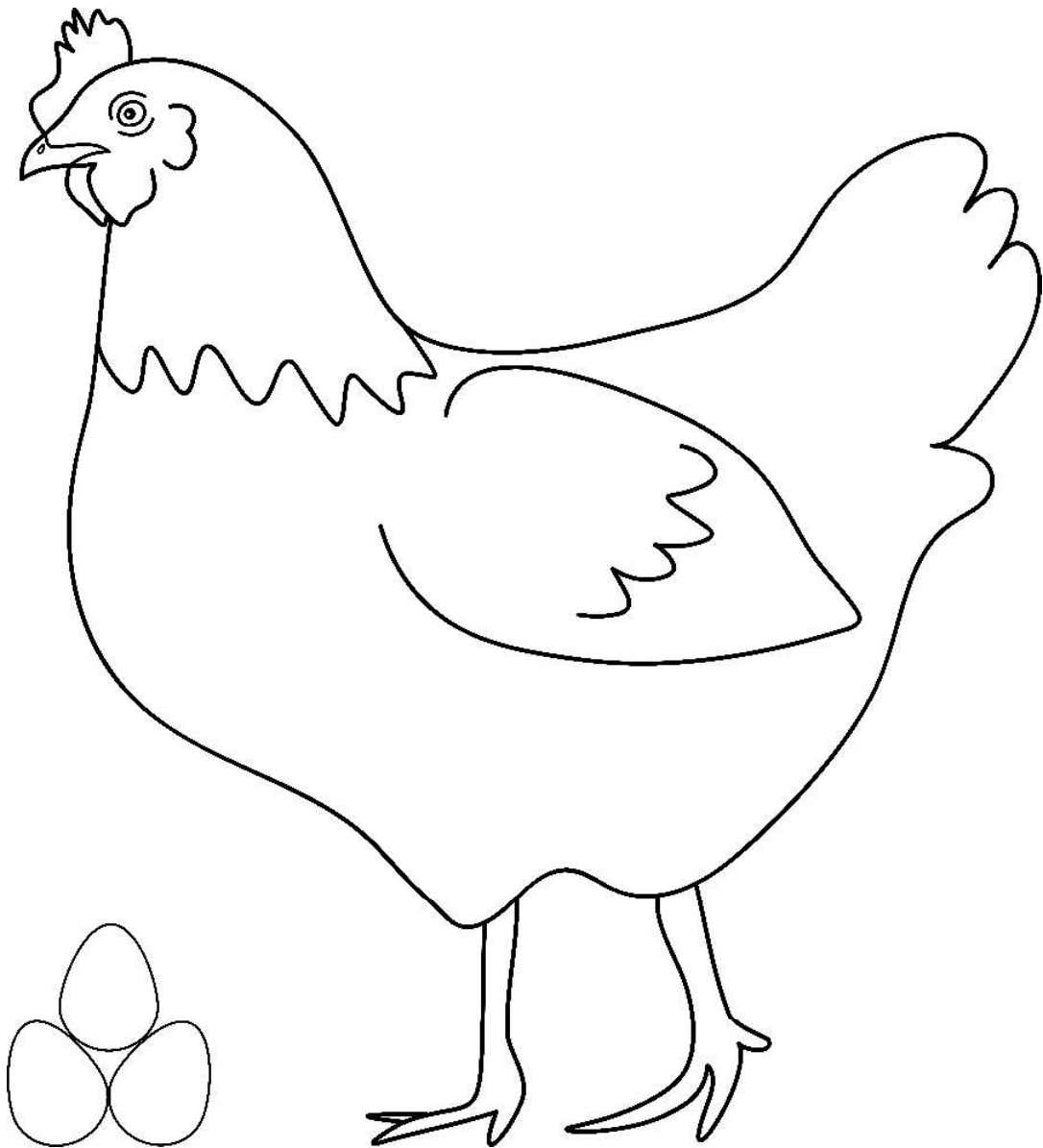
What is one of your favorite Easter memories?

What is your favorite color?

What is your favorite Easter candy?

What color (or flavor) jelly bean do you like best? What color (or flavor) do you like least?





Chickens.org offers free resources for people who raise chickens, want to raise chickens, or are just curious about them (and we have fun!). We also visit schools to teach kids about chickens, eggs, gardening and nutrition.

*Chickens.org is a program of Capax World ([www.capax.org](http://www.capax.org)), a 501(c)3 charity that combats malnutrition and poverty through education, agriculture, business development and more.*



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