



Easter Time Travelling

It may seem strange to us today, but we have the Victorians to thank for many of our popular Easter traditions (although of course, Easter has much older origins).

Before Victoria became Queen in 1837, the emphasis during Easter was on Lent and fasting, but by the time she became Queen, Easter became a time of fairs and various other traditions that we know today. Here are some examples:

Easter Eggs: Chocolate Easter eggs were created in Germany and France in the Victorian age and were initially very expensive to make. However they became popular in the UK and were briefly known as 'French-style' chocolate eggs (Cadbury's launched theirs in 1875).

The Easter Bunny: The easter bunny's origins in Germany and originally played more of a Santa-like role – only well-behaved children would be treated to the brightly coloured eggs he handed out. This led to Easter Egg Hunts where the eggs would be hidden for the participants to find.

Greeting cards: Sending novelty cards such as Easter cards became popular in the Victorian period due to Royal Mail service becoming much cheaper and more widely available.



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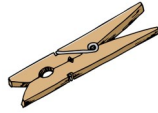
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Make an animated Easter Egg

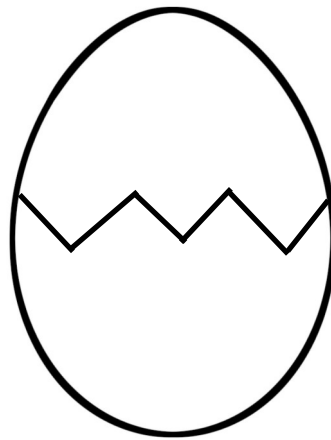
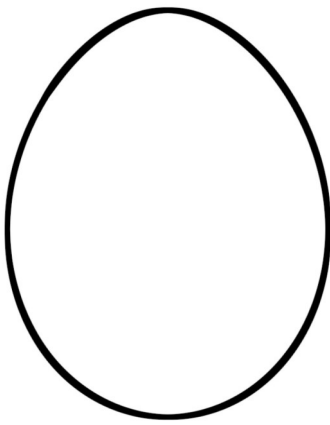
Things you will need:

- A spring clip peg
- Small pieces of card
- Glue
- Paints, felt pens and/or crayons
- Scissors
- Pencil



Instructions

- * Add some colour to the peg using paint, felt tips or crayons. The colour is your choice
- * Cut out an egg shape from card using the template provided and decorate it



- * Cut through the middle of the egg with a zigzag line as though it has cracked open.
- * Stick the two parts of the egg to the opening end of the peg so that when it is pressed, the egg opens up.
- * Draw a small picture of whatever you would like the egg to reveal when opened. This could traditionally be a chick but you can choose something else.
- * Colour in the picture and carefully cut round it.
- * Stick it face down to the top part of the peg behind the top half of the egg.
- * When dry, turn the peg over and it is ready for use.
- * Press the peg open and the Easter Egg will reveal what is inside it.

