

## THE STORY OF EASTER RED EGGS

The resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. The first Christians went out into the world and told the story of Jesus—the Son of God who was born of the Virgin Mary, preached repentance and reconciliation with the heavenly Father, healed wounds and led people to salvation, was rejected by the leaders of the people, suffered and died on the cross for the sins of the world, was buried and rose from the dead on the third day.

The message of the resurrection was not an easy one to proclaim. In a pagan world where inanimate gods reigned and death was the all-powerful enemy Christians preached that Jesus Christ was God Incarnate who died and with his resurrection broke the power of death. Simply put such a message was received as beyond all possibilities and Christians were looked at as people who had lost their mind.

The story is told that Mary Magdalene, a devout follower of Jesus and one of the first people to see the Risen Christ, like all the other disciples, proclaimed the message of the Risen Lord. One day some of her listeners reported her to the authorities for proclaiming falsehood as religious truth. So Mary was arrested and brought before a Roman judge. The judge asked Mary if indeed it was true that she was preaching that Jesus was God and that he died and rose again on the third day. Mary fearlessly affirmed the accusations against her and declared that indeed she herself had seen the Risen Lord after his resurrection. In total disbelief and with much sarcasm the judge said: “I believe that when I see a red egg.” Mary looked in her basket and there, to her surprise, was a red egg. She picked it up and held it for the judge to see. And, so the story goes, the judge and all present believed and converted to the faith of the Risen Christ.

Ever since then the red egg has come to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus.

CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD  
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BLESSED IS THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST  
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# Traditional Armenian Easter Egg Dye



Your students will enjoy dyeing Easter eggs by following an old “Armenian tradition” of using onion skins.

Eggs are a traditional symbol of fertility and rebirth. At Easter, Christians use the (hardboiled) egg to symbolize the empty tomb of Jesus, from which Jesus resurrected. Easter eggs are dyed red to represent the blood of Christ, the hard shell of the egg symbolizes the sealed Tomb of Christ, and the cracking of the egg symbolizes His resurrection.

*\*Optional: Make these eggs together with your students this Sunday and save to distribute to children on Easter Sunday - Students will place their special egg inside an “Easter Egg-holder,” which they will make next Sunday. (Easter Egg-Holder crafts will be shared next Sunday!)*

The recipe below is for dyeing 12 eggs. You may dye more eggs at once in a larger pot - just adjust amounts of other ingredients accordingly.

## Ingredients:

- 12 Eggs at room temperature (*try using a combination of white and brown eggs for different shades of color!*)
- Onion skins
- 3 tablespoons white vinegar
- 2 teaspoons olive oil, or other edible oil

## Directions:

1. Clean the eggs so there are no particles sticking to their shells.
2. Fill the bottom of a stainless steel saucepan with a very shallow amount of water, (*this is just to keep bottom of pan from burning*). Place a layer of onion skins at the bottom of saucepan.
3. Place a layer of eggs on top of the onion skins.
4. Cover eggs with another layer of onion skins.
5. Pour vinegar and water into pot and fill to cover eggs. Bring to boil for 10-12 minutes, so eggs cook through.
6. Remove from heat. Allow eggs to cool in onion skins and water. The longer you allow eggs to stay in saucepan with onion skins, the darker the dye color will be.
7. Remove eggs and cool completely. When cool enough to handle, massage a little olive oil to each. then polish with a paper towel. Keep in refrigerator until time to eat. (or hide!).