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SONG CONTEST
UNITED KINGDOM
LIVERPOOL 2023

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The History of Pysanky Eggs

The history of the pysanka egg goes back many centuries although no one is exactly sure when it began. The name for these eggs, pysanka in the singular (pronounced pys-an-ka) and pysanky as plural, comes from the Ukrainian verb pysaty, which means “to write,” or писати in Ukrainian.



However, in the case of pysanky eggs the ‘writing’ is done in the form of elaborate geometric designs and symbols which can be interpreted rather than words.

There are a number of different stories about the origin of these eggs dating back many years before any association with religious festivals. One of these stories suggests that the ritual is meant to represent the return of sunshine after a long winter, and eggs are used because the yellow yolk is thought to resemble the sun. Another pre-Christian legend tells the story of a monster (the personification of evil) in the Carpathian mountains. In the story the more pysanky eggs people made, the tighter the chains were wrapped around the monster, therefore keeping it at bay so that it didn’t destroy the world.

During the pre-Christian days, Ukrainians decorated eggs to celebrate the springtime with its new life and rebirth. Symbols during this period typically represented health, happiness, love, harvest and fertility. After Ukrainians accepted Christianity (988AD), they continued with their egg art traditions and their pysanky designs reflected this. The egg became a symbol of the Resurrection and a promise of life eternal.

Class Activity

Find out about other countries that decorate eggs.

What do they call them?

What is the history behind it?

Today, many communities decorate pysanky eggs to celebrate springtime. It has become an art form in itself and there are many specialist artists who create them, taking the decoration to another level. One of these artists is Lorrie Popow who has earned the

credit ‘Master of Pysanky’ (click here to view some of her work).

<https://lorriepopow.com/?s=pysanky>



How a pysanka egg is decorated

The art of decorating a pysanka egg is one that can take many years of practice to perfect. The technique used to create these designs really hasn't changed much since the custom for decorating them began. The technique used is a wax-resist batik method. The decoration is applied to the surface of a 'real' blown out eggshell. Usually this is a hen's egg although it can also be done on turkey, guinea fowl and quail's eggs. A white egg should be used so that the decoration shows up clearly. First, the design is drawn onto the surface of the egg with a pencil. This pencil line is then covered with a thin line of hot wax. The wax used is bees wax. A tiny piece is put into the end of a tool called a '**Kistka**'. (<https://www.bestpysanky.com/en-gb/collections/kistka>)

The end of the kistka is then held over a candle flame to heat it up. As it gets hot the bees wax melts and flows through the tip. This is used to 'draw' the design onto the egg. After the first lines are drawn the egg is put into some dye. In the case of the illustration above it would be orange dye. The first lines drawn will become the white lines (the colour of the egg). The dye will not colour where the wax is on the egg's surface. The wax '**resists**' the dye. The next stage of the decoration is now done drawing more lines of wax onto the egg. The egg is now put into black dye. These lines show as orange on the finished egg. Once the decoration has been applied the egg is held over the flame so the wax lines will melt. As it melts it is wiped off. Once all the wax has been melted, the different colours of the decoration can be seen underneath. Some designs are very intricate and take many hours to complete.

Click this link to watch a short film showing the traditional method of decorating pysanky eggs.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OY6fxZWmT3s>

There is a unique museum in Ukraine dedicated to showcasing this artwork (click here for more information). <https://pysanka.museum/welcome/>

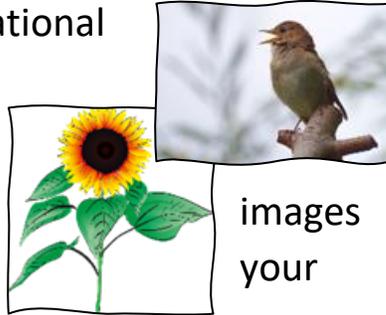


Themes for decorating your pysanka egg

Traditional pysanka egg designs link to nature. This is possibly because of their origin as the welcoming of spring which is linked to new growth. Many of the designs show images of plants, animals and birds. These images are usually drawn in a very simplified way. There are also lots of symbols used in the designs. A symbol is a mark or image made that is used to represent something else.

The colour of the design is also carefully thought out, as each colour traditionally had a meaning. For example **yellow** means happiness and **blue** will bring good health.

The national flower of Ukraine is the **Sunflower** and the national bird is the **Nightingale**.



You could use these to incorporate into designs.

images
your

Colours & their meanings

White: purity, light, birth

Yellow: sun, stars, moon, harvest, warmth, youth, happiness

Orange: endurance, strength, ambition

Red: happiness, hope, passion, sun

Blue: sky, air, good health

Green: spring, hope, freshness, renewal

Brown: Mother Earth

Black: darkest time before dawn, eternity, respect for the dead

Symbols & their meanings

Horse: wealth and prosperity

Flowers: wisdom, beauty, and elegance

Bird: coming of spring and fertility

Oak Leaf/Acorn: strength and persistence

Spirals: defence and protection

Pine Bough: strength, growth, and eternal life

Crosses: Christ and the four corners of the world

Roses: love and caring

Deer: masculinity, victory, and leadership

Challenge

What is the message of a design with a Flower & a bird in it?



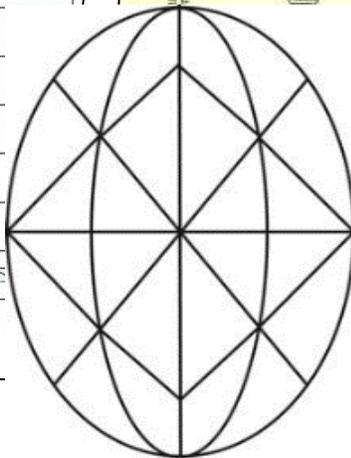
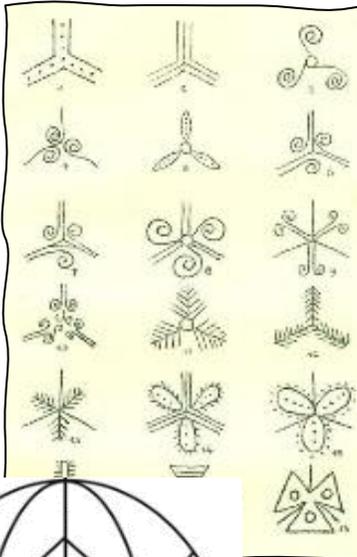
Can you make up some of your own secret messages?

Developing your ideas for pysanka egg designs

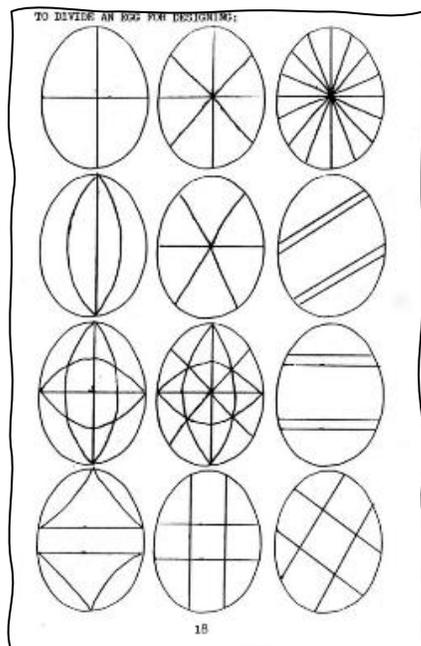
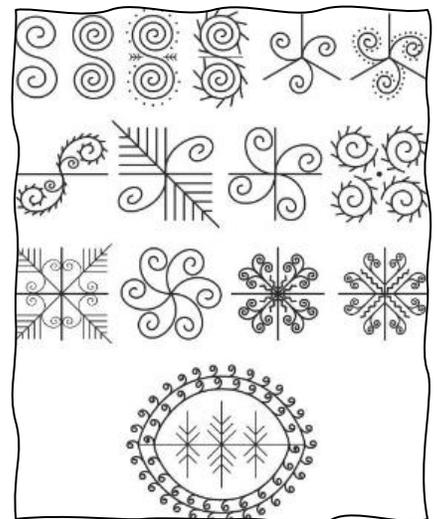
Look at these ideas to help you develop your own ideas for a pysanka egg design. Your design should include geometric patterns and images from nature. It could also use symbols to show a 'secret' meaning.

Symbol	Meaning	Examples
Lily of the Valley	Early spring flower, purity, humility, a young bride	
Oak Leaves	Strength, persistence, cycle of life	
Periwinkle	3 leaves, traditional wedding wreath, sacred to the goddess of love, pure love	
Petal	Same as whole flower, humility	
Pine Needles	Eternal youth and health, stamina, endurance	
Pinwheel	Sometimes associated with the sun, sometimes with windmills	
Pods/Seeds	A plant symbol for fertility and hope for a fruitful harvest	
Poppy	Ukrainian art motif, symbolizing joy and beauty	
Pussy Willows	Anticipation of spring	
Rake	Reference to the harvest, putting things into order	
Ram	Masculine, Leadership, strength in the face of opposition, perseverance, dignity	
Ram's Horns	Leadership, and the kind of strength that overcomes problems	
Rooster / Rooster's Comb	Masculine, rich married life and many children	
Rose	Used interchangeably with the Star. Feminine, wisdom, beauty, elegance	
Saw	Symbolizes fire, life giving heat. See also: Wolves teeth	

Page 3 of 4



Design Ideas
As well as the theme of nature, pysanka egg designs also use geometric shapes and swirling patterns.

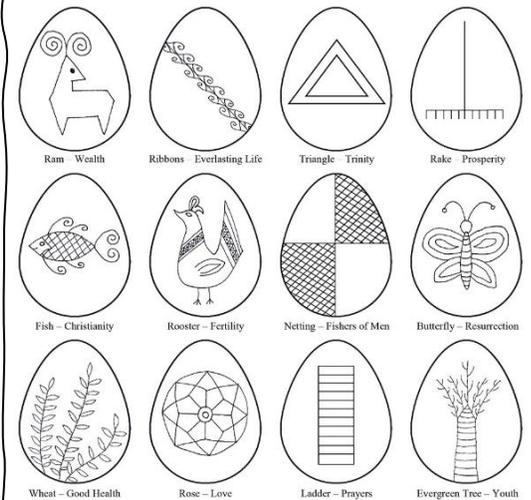


Design Challenge
Images shown here are traditional Ukrainian pysanka egg symbols. These may vary from region to region. Do other countries who decorate eggs have symbols of their own? Can you find out what they are?

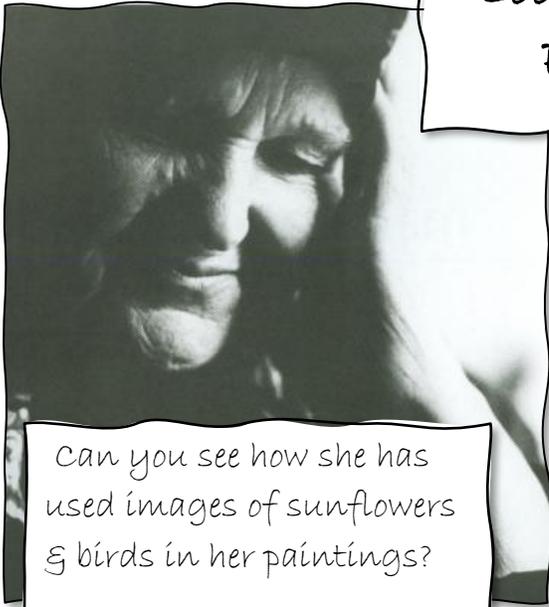
Symbols

This art form is traditionally conveyed by using symbols. Many of these symbols contain images of nature, such as animals and plants. Other symbols are comprised of geometric shapes. Most of these symbols originated during pre-Christian times; however, their current meaning has roots in Christianity.

Illustrations by Sarah Wolfe.



Look at the work of Ukrainian artist Maria Prymachenko for ideas & inspiration.



Can you see how she has used images of sunflowers & birds in her paintings?

The colours she used are also linked to the **pysanka** egg tradition of yellow for happiness & blue for good health.

Maria Prymachenko was a self-taught artist who painted in a style known as Naïve Art (Primitivism).

She was born in January 12, 1908 and died August 18, 1997.

She lived her whole life in the village of Bolotnya in the Ivankiv Raion, Kyiv Oblast, situated only 30 km from Chernobyl.

Maria was ill with polio as a child and this painful disease influenced her life. Maria grew into a thoughtful and considerate person, who had a lot of compassion for nature and every living thing.

It is the theme of nature and in particular, the flowers & birds of Ukraine, that was the main theme of her work.



Click to watch a film about her work (NB note Ukraine pronunciation is Kyiv not Kiev)

Also a cartoon about her

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsxNEP>



Click the dove to see more of her work



Look at her artwork to give you ideas for your pysanka egg designs



Different ways to decorate a pysanka style egg

The traditional method of decorating a pysanka egg uses a wax-resist batik method. This requires specialist tools and can be quite hard to do, particularly with large numbers of students. So here are some different ways that you could explore to decorate your eggs. They use the idea and style of pysanky eggs, but are created using different techniques. All these ideas use materials that are commonly used in schools and don't require any specialist tools or equipment.

Polystyrene Press Print



Scratch Art Technique

Oil Pastel & Dye



Paint & Pens

Papier Mache Balloon Egg



Egg Dye



3D Modelling



How to decorate a pysanka egg using....

Blowing & Dyeing an Egg

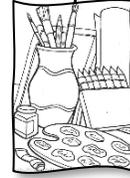
You will need:

- *Eggs - White or brown
- *Egg Dye
- *Water
- *Vinegar
- *Paper towels
- *Jam jar (or containers)
- *Cocktail stick
- *Push pin (sharp)
- *Bowl

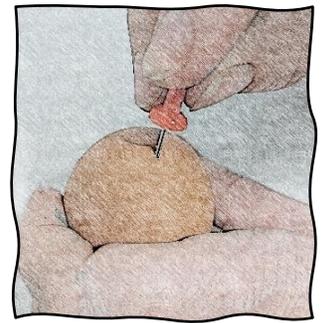
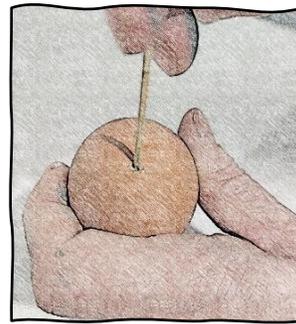
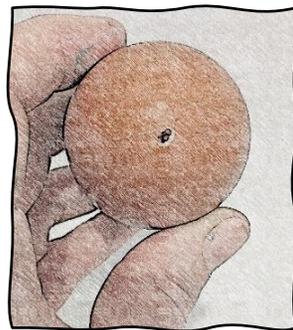
Using a 'real' egg to make your pysanka eggs gives the finish a more authentic look.

You can hard-boil the egg but it can go off & get smelly. If you keep the egg raw & it breaks it will make a lot of mess!

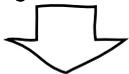
So, it's best to 'blow' the egg. It can be messy but it's lots of fun too!



1 - First get your equipment ready. Using a white or brown egg will depend on availability & the colour you want to achieve. These are brown & white eggs using the same dye showing the variation



5 - When all the egg is blown out the hole wipe the surface of the egg with some vinegar. This will clean off any oils & help it dye better.



Dye or food colouring? Having tried out both, egg dye produces much better results. The colours are strong & it works out much cheaper as well (£3 for 5 colours 100+ eggs) The results we achieved using food colouring were very poor & not worth trying & also cost more.



6 - Mix the dye according in instructions. Use a spoon to lower the egg into the dye. It will float so hold it under the dye for 2 mins



7 - Remove the egg from the dye & pat it dry with a paper towel. It's now all ready for more decorations however you decide to do it.



Click here to watch a video of 'how to' create this egg decoration design.



How to decorate a pysanka egg using....

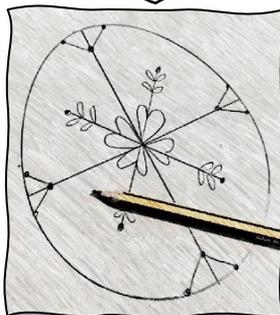
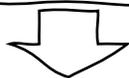
Scratch Art



You will need:

- *Scratch art egg kit (available online)
- Or to make your own
- *cartridge paper
- *Oil pastels
- *Acrylic paint
- *Egg template
- *Wooden kebab skewer or similar

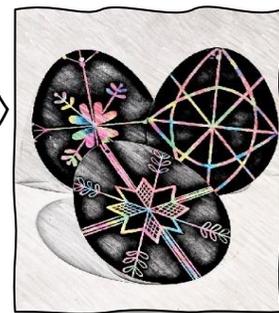
Using a scratch art kit is a quick & easy way to create beautiful designs. The kit comes with all you need to make these eggs.



1 - Draw around the egg template & create your design.

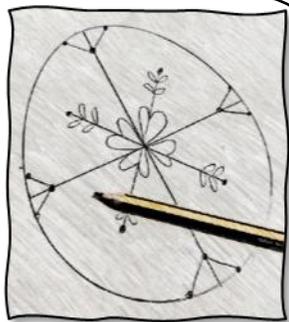


2 - Copy your design onto the egg using the wooden 'scratching' tool. Draw with the tool to reveal the colours beneath the black surface.



3 - Your finished design. Hang up with the rest of your class for a beautiful display.

However, making your own scratch art paper is easy as well as fun to do. Follow these steps to create your own scratch art Pysanka egg design.



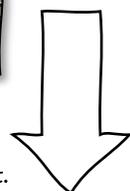
1 - Draw around an egg template & create your design.



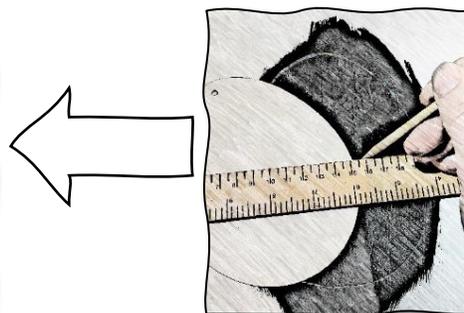
2 - Draw around the template on cartridge paper. Using oil pastels, cover the egg shape you have drawn. Don't leave any gaps!



3 - Paint over the oil pastel egg using black acrylic paint. Leave to dry.



4 - Place the egg template on top of the painted egg. Draw around it. Use a wooden skewer to copy your design onto the paper. Scratch the surface to reveal the colours below.



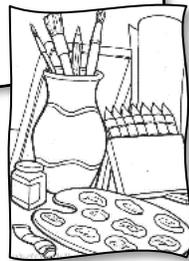
5 - Carefully cut out the egg. Follow the outline you have drawn.



These are the 2 different methods to compare. Click here to watch a video of 'how to' create this egg design.

How to decorate a pysanka egg using....

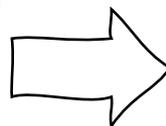
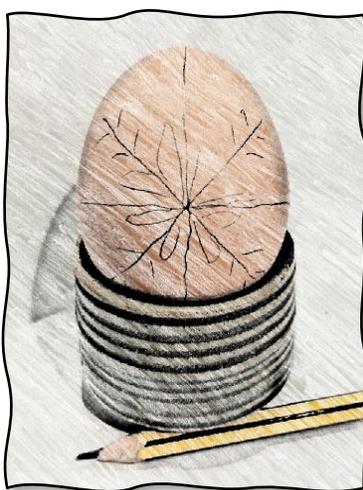
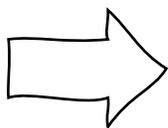
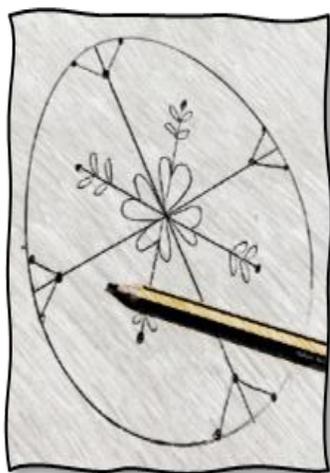
Oil Pastel & Dye



You will need:

- *Brown or white eggs
- *Egg dye
- *Oil pastels
- *Pencil
- *Paper towels

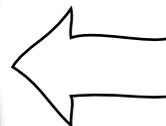
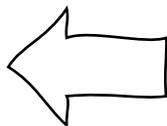
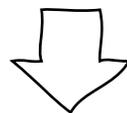
Using oil pastel to draw your design on the egg works in a similar way to the traditional pysanka wax batik method. When you put the egg into the dye the oil pastel will resist the dye so it will only dye the eggshell. The final effect is very similar to the traditional pysanka egg method but much easier to achieve.



1 - First create your design so you have it to refer to when you work.

2 - Copy your design onto the egg using a feint pencil mark.

3 - Draw over the pencil lines with oil pastels.



5 - After 2 minutes remove the egg from the dye. Gently pat it dry. It's now finished & ready to display.

4 - Carefully lower the egg into the dye. Hold it under the surface with a spoon as it will float if it's been blown.



[Click here to watch a video of 'how to' create this egg decoration design.](#)

How to decorate a pysanka egg using....

Papier Mache Balloon Egg

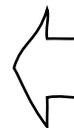
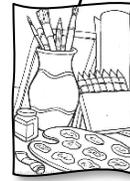
You will need:

- *Balloons
- *Wallpaper paste (or similar)
- *Newspaper
- *Scissors
- *Acrylic paint
- *Pencil
- *Paintbrushes (various)
- *Old can or similar as a stand

Making a papier mache egg can be messy but fun! You need a 'form' to papier mache onto - a balloon is ideal as it's egg shaped.

Cut up lots of strips of paper before you start - it's tricky to do this when your hands are covered in glue. Plan ahead as it takes a while to dry. Paint with acrylic paint as it covers the newsprint.

1 - First collect everything you need. Cut lots of thin strips of paper & mix up the paste.

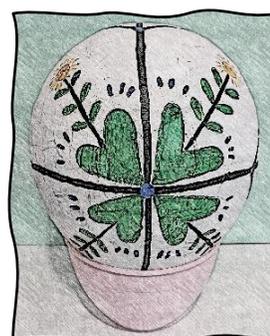
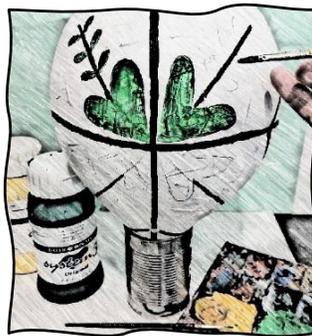
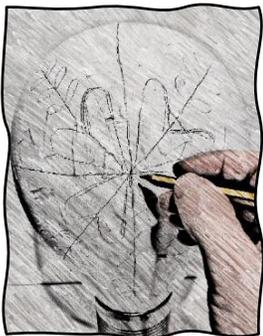


5 - When it's dry paint a base layer over the whole balloon. Acrylic paint is best as it is opaque & gives a good coverage over the newsprint.

4 - When the whole balloon is covered leave it to dry. Don't put it near too much heat or the balloon will expand & split the paper. It may take a few days.

3 - Keep adding strips of paper. Wipe off excess glue on the edge of the bowl. Work around the balloon overlapping the strips.

2 - Dip a strip of paper into the paste & press it onto the balloon. Smooth it flat before adding the next piece.



6 - Draw your design onto the balloon using a pencil

7 - Carefully paint your design onto the egg. Make sure you leave each colour to dry before painting the next.

8 - When it's all painted you can add a ribbon to hang it up or display it in a large bowl like a giant egg cup.



Click here to watch a video of 'how to' create this egg decoration design.



How to decorate a pysanka egg using....

Pens & Paint

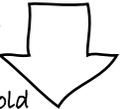
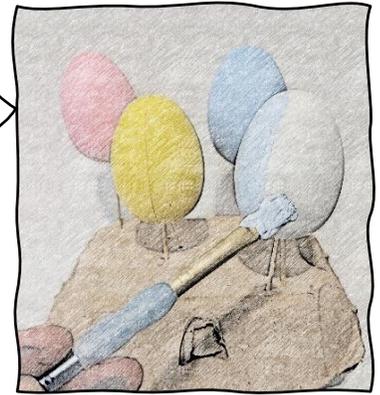
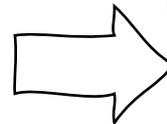
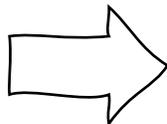
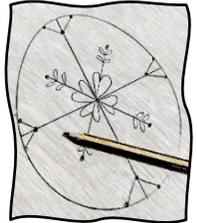
You will need:

- *Egg to decorate :
real, wooden, plastic, polystyrene
- *Egg dye or acrylic paint
- *Felt tip pens
- *Chalk pens
- *Permanent marker pen
- *Felt, thread, and needle
- *Glue stick

There are lots of different types of egg available to buy that you can use as your base egg. The plastic ones often come as a kit with hangers & thread making it easy to finish them off. You can also get polystyrene, wooden or ceramic eggs. Alternatively use a real egg and 'blow' it first.

What you use to decorate your egg will depend on the base egg material. Choose your colours carefully - if you are using pens they need a light base as the colours won't show up on a dark background. However chalk pens do so use these if you want to use lighter colours on a dark background.

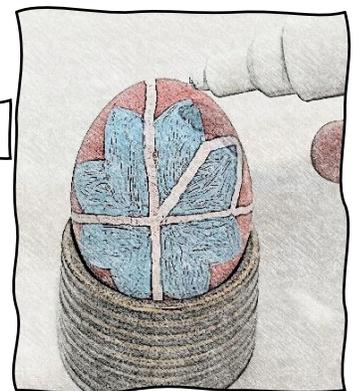
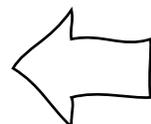
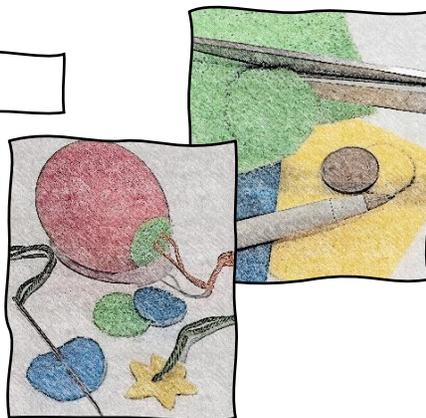
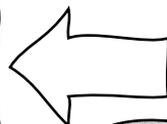
First create your design so you have it to refer to when you work.



1 - First decide which type of egg you will decorate & choose your materials that work with the egg.

2 - Dyeing a real egg. Choose the colour dye. The final shade will depend on whether your egg is white or brown. Leave in the dye for 2 mins. Remove & pat dry.

3 - Painting a polystyrene or plastic egg. Push a cocktail stick into the base. You can hold this to make painting it easier. Once it's painted push the stick into an egg box & leave it to dry.



Click here to watch a video of 'how to' create this egg decoration design.

5 - To make your own hanger. Draw around a 5p onto some felt. Cut it out. Thread a large needle with some thread or wool. Make a tiny stitch through the centre of the felt pulling the threads even. Stick this to the top of the egg to hang up.

4 - Draw your design onto the egg with pencil. Next add colour to your design using your chosen medium. Display in an egg cup or hanging up.

How to create a printed pysanka egg using...

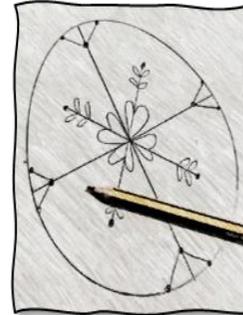
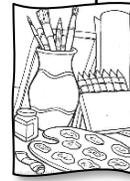
Polystyrene Press Printing

You will need:

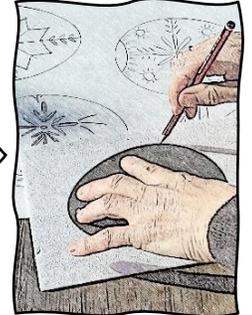
- *Polystyrene sheets
- *Pencil
- *Cartridge paper
- *Coloured card
- *Printing Ink
- *Roller (brayer)
- *Egg template
- *Glue stick
- *Newspaper

Print making using polystyrene is a fun way of creating amazing works of art. And once you've made the printing block you can print multiple prints, again & again & again!

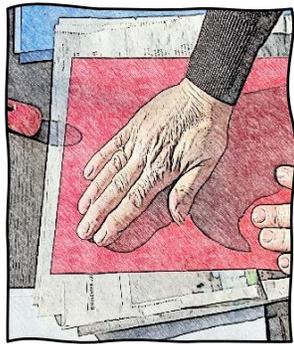
These prints could be made into cards, displayed as a print or cut into egg shapes & hung up as bunting.



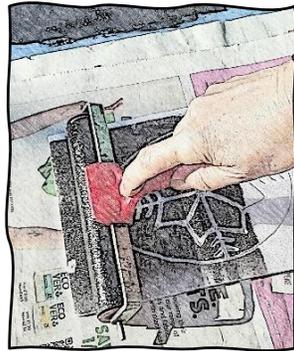
1 - First create your design.



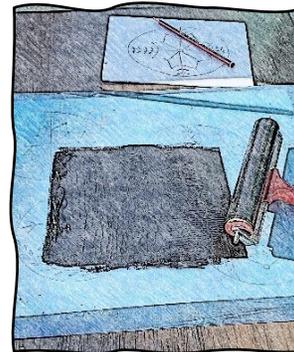
2 - Draw around an egg template onto the polystyrene.



6 - Put a piece of paper on top of the inked polystyrene. Press down firmly all over the back of the paper. Make sure you feel for the edges.



5 - Roll the ink over the surface of the polystyrene. It will sit on the surface & won't go into the grooves you have made. Too much ink will fill the grooves.



4 - Roll out your printing ink. Not too thick. You should hear it make a 'sticky' noise when it's ready to use.



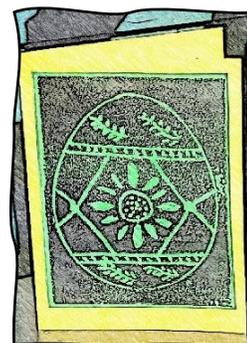
3 - Copy your design onto the polystyrene. Press gently using a slightly blunt pencil. The mark should be about 2mm deep so the ink won't fill it.



7 - Carefully peel up the paper to reveal your amazing print! Leave somewhere to dry - printing ink can take a while.



8 - When it's dry you could cut around the outside to make an egg shaped print. These could be hung in a row as bunting.



9 - Or the print could be stuck down to make into a greetings card.



Click here to watch a video of 'how to' create this egg decoration design.



How to create a pysanka egg using....

3D Modelling

You will need:

- *Air drying clay
- *Plasticine
- *Play dough-salt dough
- *Modelling tools
- *Cocktail stick
- *Paint & pens (various)
- *Fine paint brush

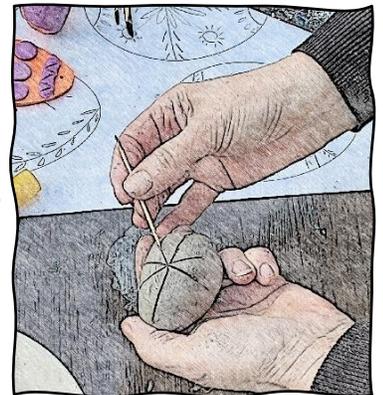
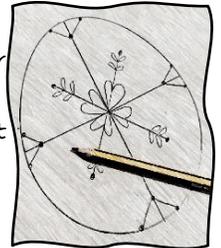
Making an egg is an easy way to introduce 3D modelling as it's a fairly basic shape to start with.

The technique for making is the same for using clay, plasticine or play dough so just choose which you will use before you start. You can also make your own salt dough & bake it in the oven

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/how-make-salt-dough-recipe> Clay will need to fully dry out before you start to decorate it. This may take a few days depending on the size.



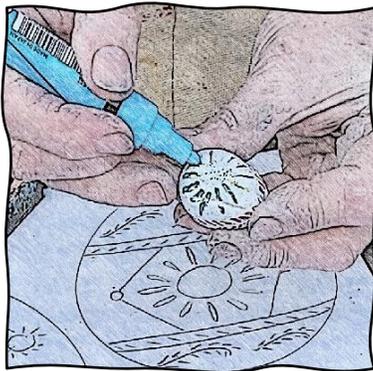
1 - First create your design so you have it to refer to when you work.



4 - If using clay leave it to dry before painting. First paint a base coat over the whole egg. Then paint the details using a fine brush.

3 - Use your modelling tools to create your design. This can be a scored design 'into the surface or a raised relief design by adding or removing clay on the surface.

2 - Take your modelling material & roll it in your hands. Mould it into an egg shape. Smooth it flat (use a damp sponge if using clay).



5 - Chalk pens are a great alternative to paint as the colours show up well. They are also easier to control than using a fine paintbrush. You can also use permanent felt tip pens on top of a painted base. Again, good for fine detail.

6 - Another way of making your egg could be creating a flat egg shape using your modelling material. You can then add decorative shapes on top or score patterns into the surface. This works well with salt dough as you can bake them to make them hard. Make a hole beforehand & add ribbons to make hanging decorations.

Click here to watch a video of 'how to' create this egg decoration



ways to display your pysanky eggs.



2D work can be mounted & hung on the wall to create a class 'Gallery'



Scratch art & prints can be cut out & made into strings of decorative bunting.



Or you could make a card with the egg design on the front.



It's important to think about how you intend to display the decorated eggs at the start of the project. Involving students in deciding how this could be done can make them feel they are actively involved & inspire them to do their best. Sharing their work publicly can help them feel proud of their achievements.



If your egg has a 'hanger' on it then you could hang them on a branch in the classroom. This could be part of a nature display table where students can display their springtime finds.



Eggs could also be hung on trees in the playground for everyone else to enjoy.



Larger papier mache eggs look great displayed in plant pots. Or they could be hung from the ceiling at different lengths.

A great way of getting students outside & engaging with nature is to arrange an egg hunt. A class could hide their eggs in the school grounds for another class to find.



A fun way to display eggs is in an eggcup. Ask students to bring one from home. This is also an opportunity to link to DT product analysis.



Find different baskets or bowls to display the students eggs in.

Eggs could also be displayed in recycled egg boxes. These could also be decorated by students on the outside of the box.



Finally.....

There are bound to be loads of fabulous pysanky eggs created by your students. Why not celebrate this by adding it to the Culture Liverpool website for everyone to see and enjoy.

Watch a video showing you how to decorate a pysanka style egg



Blow & Dye an egg

A computer monitor displaying a video thumbnail. The thumbnail shows a blue container labeled 'BLUE' with a green egg inside, and other dyed eggs in red, yellow, and white. To the right of the image is a blue play button icon.



How are these eggs made?
Traditional Ukrainian technique using bees wax & Kistka

A computer monitor displaying a video thumbnail. The thumbnail features a colorful, intricate pysanka egg and a small book titled 'Ukrainian Egg Cores'. To the right of the image is a blue play button icon.



Scratch Art

A computer monitor displaying a video thumbnail. The thumbnail shows two dark eggs decorated with colorful scratch art patterns. To the right of the image is a blue play button icon.



Oil pastel & dye

A computer monitor displaying a video thumbnail. The thumbnail shows a brown egg decorated with colorful oil pastel patterns, with several oil pastel sticks in the foreground. To the right of the image is a blue play button icon.



Paint & Pen

A computer monitor displaying a video thumbnail. The thumbnail shows several eggs decorated with colorful patterns using paint and a pen. To the right of the image is a blue play button icon.



Polystyrene press print

A computer monitor displaying a video thumbnail. The thumbnail shows two eggs decorated with patterns created using a polystyrene press print technique. To the right of the image is a blue play button icon.



3D Modelling

A computer monitor displaying a video thumbnail. The thumbnail shows several eggs decorated with 3D modelling techniques, including one with a textured, woven appearance. To the right of the image is a blue play button icon.



Papier Mache balloon egg

A computer monitor displaying a video thumbnail. The thumbnail shows a white egg decorated with green and blue patterns, created using a papier mache balloon technique. To the right of the image is a blue play button icon.

The Wonderful World of Eurovision.

Liverpool is incredibly proud to be hosting the Eurovision Song Contest on behalf of Ukraine. This also gives schools the opportunity to learn more about Ukraine and the other 37 countries that are involved.

The BBC TV official website is packed with information about the Eurovision song contest and covers the history of the competition, details of each country that is performing, how they have performed in the past, the different competitors and so much more! It's definitely worth exploring.

Click this link to check it out for yourself.

<https://eurovisionworld.com/eurovision/2023/event>

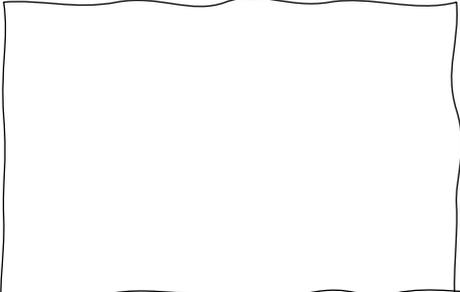
Here are the 37 countries that are performing in this year's contest.



With so many countries involved it opens up lots of opportunities for cross-curricular projects and links to other subjects. One activity could be to allocate students a different country to complete a 'Fact File' about the country. There are many websites & books that could be used or you could start with BBC Bitesize -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

All about.....



Where in the world...

Write about where the country is in the world.
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.....

This is the national flag for
.....

Draw or stick a map here showing where the country is.

Every country has its own special food. What sort of food is traditionally eaten here?
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.....
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Geographical Fact File

Population.....
.....
Mountains.....
.....
Rivers.....
.....
Capital City.....
.....
Regions.....
.....
Climate.....
.....

Famous People from

Scientists.....
.....
Writers.....
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Poets.....
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Artists.....
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Musicians.....
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Composers.....
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Designers.....
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Dancers.....
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Does the country have any special festivals or celebrations? What are they called?
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Eurovision History

How many times have they been in the Eurovision Song Contest?
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How many times have they won?
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What is the name of their 2023 song entry?
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Who is singing it?
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Anything else you found out?
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ways to involve the wider school community

Taking part in a whole school project like this gives your pupils the opportunity to get together as a whole school and involve the wider community in celebrating the event and project.

There are many different activities that could be done, here are a few ideas:

Themed Assemblies

Multi-lingual assembly to celebrate the different countries involved in Eurovision.

Classes can give an assembly presentation on the different countries involved in Eurovision.

Invite in parents who speak a different language to English to give language taster sessions to students.

Invite in parents or those from the community who have lived in any of the Eurovision countries to talk about their experience of living there.

Community Day

Invite the wider community to the school for a Eurovision celebration. Showcase the different activities that students have been doing as part of the Eurovision project. This could be their story writing, music or work from the pysanka egg projects. The food served in the dining room that day could be dishes from some of the different Eurovision countries. Students could bring in a packed lunch themed to a different Eurovision country if they bring food from home. Students could dress up in colours of the flags for different countries or some of their traditional costumes.

Drop Off Breakfasts – Pick Up Teas

Informal get togethers could be arranged to give people the opportunity to chat and try out a food snack from one of the Eurovision countries. These snacks could be prepared by students as part of their Design Technology food lessons.

Cross - Curricular teaching ideas

As well as creating these eggs as part of the Art curriculum there are many other ways that the theme of pysanky eggs can be looked at in other subjects.

English

- As part of the EuroLearn programme, Liverpool Learning Partnership has developed a Creative Writing, Reading & Story Telling resource for schools. Check the EuroLearn website for more details.
- Poems could be written based on the symbols and meanings used in traditional pysanka egg decoration.
- Secret messages could be created using the meanings of the symbols instead of words. These could be written on paper & put inside an egg and hidden around the school grounds so that other students find them to read out or keep.
- Students could learn about the Nursery Rhyme character Humpty Dumpty https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humpty_Dumpty
- Create a travel brochure advertising the country as a holiday destination.



Music

- As part of the EuroLearn programme Resonate, Liverpool Music Hub has developed a Music resource pack for schools. Check the EuroLearn website for more details.
- Students could explore the history of each country's Eurovision Song Contest entries. This link takes you to an interactive site with information on each country. <https://eurovision.tv/countries>

Design / Food Technology

Pysanky eggs are an excellent theme to link into Design / Food Technology lessons.

- While learning about pysanky eggs and Ukraine it is an opportunity to look at the traditional foods of Ukraine. As well as creating posters showing the different foods, they could research recipes for making simple dishes. This

link takes you to a great site showing traditional Ukrainian foods.

<https://klopotenko.com/en/cuisine/ukrainian/>

- Pupils could also research the traditional foods of other Eurovision countries.
- Egg based recipes could also be a focus and simple recipes could be made or taste tested such as pancakes or scrambled eggs.

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/healthy-kids-egg-recipes>

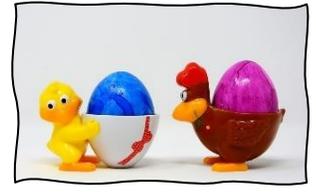
- Weave a basket from paper to display their pysanka egg in.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qM9YECwZHiA>

- Make a pop up card using simple mechanisms.

<https://www.science-sparks.com/mechanisms-pop-up-cards/>

- Ask each student to bring in an egg cup from home. This will create an interesting collection. Students can look at product design and investigate why something is designed the way it is and what makes a good or bad design. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zrrvgdm/revision/1>



- Design a 'safe' storage container to protect an egg and/or a vehicle to safely transport an egg.
- Set up an 'egg drop challenge'. Can an egg be dropped from a height without breaking? What is the best type of parachute to use and how can you protect the egg? <https://www.science-sparks.com/gravity-and-air-resistance/>
- Design and make a box to display your egg. What could it be made of? How will it be decorated? What size should it be?
- Students could design their own flags using symbols and images that have a special meaning to them about the countries that they are from or have visited.
- Look at different costumes worn at the Eurovision Song Contest over the years. If the pupils were in the contest what costume would they design to wear themselves?
- Look at the traditional dress worn in the different participating countries.

Maths

- Pysanky eggs use lots of geometric patterns in their designs. Students could look at repeat patterns, drawing shapes, work with angles, protractors and symmetry.
- Look out for an additional maths learning resource from Liverpool Learning Partnership.
- What is the currency used in each country? Money conversion & calculation activities using different currency.

History

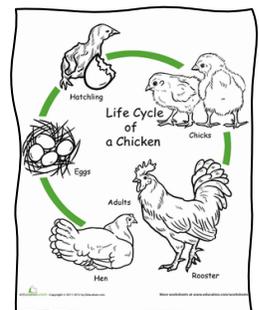
- Students could look at the history of egg decoration done in other countries and find out the traditions behind it.
- Students could find out about famous people from each country. Who were the Kings, Queens or Country's rulers? Create a time line of key events that happened in each country. Were there any famous battles, wars or historical events?

Geography

- Which other countries also decorate eggs as part of a springtime tradition? Students could find out about these countries and research facts about the country. Where it is? What is its population? Mountains & rivers etc.
- Research and create posters showing facts about the Physical and Human geography of the different countries.

Science

- Students could learn about the life cycle of a bird from egg to adult.
<https://www.education.com/worksheet/article/color-life-cycle-2/>
- There are loads of easy to set up and fun experiments that can be done using eggs. This link shows more than 20 different ones.
<https://gosciencegirls.com/science-experiments-with-eggs/>



- Who were the famous scientists from each country? What is it they are best known for doing?
- Look at the different habitats in each country. What are the birds, animals and plants that are found in each habitat?

Early Years Education



School improvement Liverpool have developed an additional education resource called **Ukraine Early Years Activities**.

<https://www.cultureliverpool.co.uk/early-years/>

If you have a subscription to Twinkl then it's also worth looking at the resources they have for Egg based curriculum ideas

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/search?q=ideas+based+on+eggs&c=244&r=parent>

M.F.L

- What is the language spoken in each country? Can students challenge themselves to learn how to say 'hello' in all the participating countries different languages?
- Take the register each day with students answering in a different language.

Art

- Who are the famous artists from each country? Students could each research a different artist and create a fact file about them and their work.
- Pupils could make posters, flags and banners about their favourite Eurovision entries imagining that they could be used at the event.

Drama

- Students could research traditional folktales and stories from different countries and act them out.
- Are there any famous actors from the country? Who were they and what did they do?

Religious Studies

- Students could explore different religions across Europe and the wider Eurovision countries.

Nature used as a theme for decorating pysanky eggs and links to the wider curriculum.

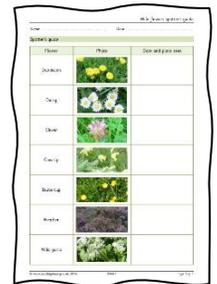
Pysanky eggs are traditionally decorated using images of plants, animals and birds. When students are learning about the design and tradition of pysanky eggs it is an excellent opportunity to get outside and explore. It's also an excellent way to promote well-being and positive mental health.

This could be in your school grounds or you could venture further afield and visit one of Liverpool's parks or gardens near your school. This link will take you to a full list of all of Liverpool's parks and green spaces.

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-wellbeing/parks-and-greenspaces/>

Nature Walks

Whilst on your walk students could complete a 'spotter guide' ticking off what they have found. Natural objects and interesting finds could be taken back to the classroom to create a nature table. This could be linked to a display of decorated pysanky eggs that could be hung from a tree branch.



<https://www.teachit.co.uk/resources/primary/wild-flowers-spotters-guide>

RSPB Nature Activities for Schools

The RSPB Wild Challenge award is a specially developed suite of activities for schools to engage children with nature and provide practical learning opportunities.



<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/schools-wild-challenge/>

One of the activities is **Habitat Explorers** which looks at how many different types of habitat there are in your school grounds.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/schools-wild-challenge/activities/habitat-explorers/>

Eco-Schools

Several of the activities listed in this pack can help your school achieve its Eco-Schools Green Flag especially Biodiversity and Global Citizenship.

<https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/about/what-is-eco-schools/>

Art Outdoors

Students could be introduced to the work of Andy Goldsworthy, a British sculptor and photographer who creates temporary pieces of work outdoors using natural materials that he finds on site.

Students could create their own pieces of temporary art based on pysanka egg patterns that can be photographed and displayed inside.



https://www.boredpanda.com/land-art-andy-goldsworthy/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic

Photography



Walking around the school grounds or city also gives you an excellent opportunity to look at pattern. Students could be given the task to find different types of patterns. These could either be found in natural or manmade materials or structures.

Great examples of pattern can be found on manhole covers. The patterns that are found could be used to develop geometric patterns and designs to decorate a **pysanka egg**.



Camera-less photography



A fun way to learn about the history of photography and cyanotype images is to use Sunprint paper. Natural found objects like leaves can be placed on the paper which is then exposed to sunlight for a few minutes. The paper is held under water to expose it. The results can be great and could be used to create a **pysanka egg** design from natural materials. The image made could be used to stick on the front of a card.

Eurovision events across the city

As Liverpool prepares for hosting The Eurovision Contest 2023 there are many events, public art installations, exhibitions and performances being planned by organisations across the city. Many of these are suitable for visits by schools and families. Details will be updated regularly on:

<https://www.cultureliverpool.co.uk/eurozone/>

Liverpool ONE Public Art Egg Trail

Working in partnership with Liverpool ONE, Culture Liverpool have commissioned 6 artists to work with selected schools and members of the Ukrainian community from across the Liverpool City Region to create 7 large-scale pysanka eggs. The eggs will form part of an 'eggs-citing' public art installation in Liverpool ONE. Taking inspiration from the Ukrainian tradition of egg painting or 'pysanka', each egg will be designed and decorated in a series of artist-led workshops.

The commissioned artists are Amrit Singh, Caroline Daly, Jo Eyles, Nicola McGovern, Pamela Sullivan and Ruta Staseviciute.

The public exhibition of the 7 eggs will be located in Liverpool ONE from 1 April until 15 May.

Check out the EuroZone website for more images of the eggs in progress. Click this link to find out more:

<https://www.cultureliverpool.co.uk/eurozone/>

Suggested resources

It's a good idea to have

Lots of newspaper, paper towels, rubber gloves (the egg dye can stain your hands) wooden cocktail or kebab sticks, empty egg boxes

Egg related supplies and craft supplies are readily available (especially with Easter approaching) at most of the major hobby and craft retailers. Supplies can either be bought online or in their shops. Many of the products mentioned in the individual 'How to decorate' sheets have been bought very cheaply, often for £1.00

Products to look out for are mentioned below. Many of them have been tried and tested for these projects and performed well.

Real eggs - White shell eggs – These were quite hard to get hold of but work SO much better than brown eggs. We found them in the major supermarkets but they went pretty quickly when they were in stock so it's worth planning ahead if you are planning to use real eggs as they are worth trying to get hold of if you can.

Manufactured eggs - We tried various types of egg to paint and decorate. Many companies online sell packs of plastic eggs that come in packs with a stopper to insert into the top and a ribbon hanger to tie through to hang them up. These are very good value and give you all you need.

You could also use wooden, polystyrene or ceramic eggs – readily available online or instore. Always consider the sustainability of the items you purchase, whether they will be re-used multiple times, thrown away or recycled, there are alternatives listed.

Egg dye - Recommended over food colouring. Much better results & stronger colours when tested (& cheaper too) There are many specialist egg dyes available online. Most of them come as a pack of 4 or 5 colours and cost around £3.50 with enough dye to colour 100+ eggs.

Scratch art eggs – these can be bought in large class size packs, as a pack with ribbon hangers and wooden scratching tools. If looking online search for 'Scratch Art Egg kit' and you should be able to buy a pack for about £5.00

Kistka traditional tool – most listed online are being shipped from Ukraine or Eastern Europe so allow plenty of time for delivery.

Chalk pens – work brilliantly on all surfaces, especially if you want to use lighter colours on a darker base. The colours stay as they are and don't change or react to the base colour.

Polystyrene printing sheets – class size packs of 25 A4 sheets (use A5) for about £10 -£15 depending on the supplier. Again, consider the sustainability of your materials, will they be re-used, recycled and how you will dispose of them.

Printing ink – gives a much better result than using paint as it doesn't fill the lines so worth buying if you can.

Sunprint paper if you fancy trying out camera-less photography nature prints. It costs about £4-£5 for a pack of 10 sheets.

EUROVISION
SONG CONTEST
UNITED KINGDOM
LIVERPOOL 2023

cultureliverpool.co.uk/eurolearn

