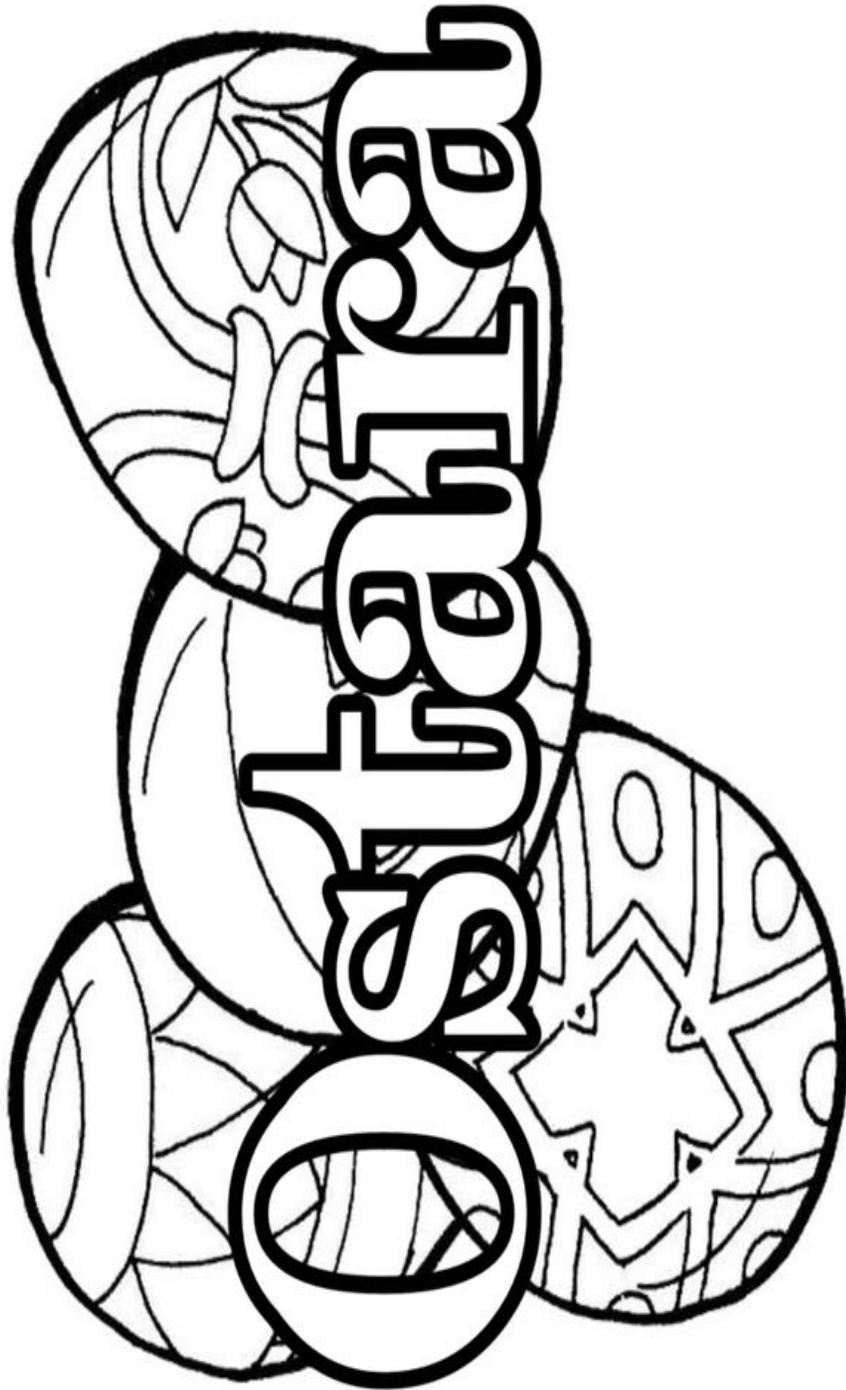




Acorn Hollow



O S T A R A



“Hail the Awakening”

Sources:

The Odinic Rite Book of Blotar, *Summer Finding-Festival of Ostara*

Circle of Ostara, *Ostara* available at : <http://www.odinic-rite.org/Ostara.htm>

About.com, *Secret Language of Symbols* Available at: [http://](http://altreligion.about.com/library/weekly/aa071603a.htm)

altreligion.about.com/library/weekly/aa071603a.htm

About.com, *The pagan origins of the Easter Bunny* Available at: [http://](http://altreligion.about.com/library/bl_easterbunny.htm)

altreligion.about.com/library/bl_easterbunny.htm

Wikipedia, *Easter Bunny* Available at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_Bunny)

[Easter Bunny](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_Bunny)

D.L. Ashliman, *Ostara's Home Page The Germanic Goddess of Springtime*,

Available at: <http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/ostara.html>



Don't forget to check out our new and improved website:

www.odinic-rite.org/acornhollow

We are looking for contributors. If you would like to aid in the education and nurturing of our future, drop an email to orvinfo@odinic-rite.org

Hail the New Awakening!

By Hyndla OR

“Now is the time of awakening. The frosts are drawn back and the earth bursts again into green life. Life is color, warmth and light and the striving for these things. All that is holy we hail, hail to joy and life. May we know the timeless wisdom and strive to give strength and healing. Ostara, may your light shine from us, hail to your fruitful goddess, may we ever love your bounty. This is the time of remaking, the trees unfurl their new foliage. Soon will come the high Midsummer, and we will be reminded of a time years beyond recall, when Earth knew only summers: the dawn time. Sacred Ostara whispers to us of this time and a promise for a bright future we hear. Stir us to achieve that brightness.”

~Book of Blotar - Festival of Ostara - Summer Finding

Warmer days, sowing seeds, celebrating life, this is the beauty of Ostara. As the official end of winter, the days are getting warmer, storms are getting shorter and we look towards the high point of Sunna at Midsummer! As a Folk, we feel the kindling and yearning to start anew. We feel the need to “spring clean” and begin our gardens. This isn’t just a coincidence, but rather an ancient kindling of Folk spirit. What are the meanings behind this ancient festival? From whence did Ostara come? Why bunnies, eggs, and babies? Let us discover the rekindling of our Folk Soul in the Festival of Ostara!

Ancient Tradition

Known most commonly by Easter, Ostara or Eostre marks the beginning of Spring with the official Equinox being on or near March 21st. Although Ostara is celebrated in March, the Germanic Folk called April—Ostara. Also, it is thought that this was celebrated on the first full moon after the equinox, which could possibly happen in April. On this special day the Earth sits “upright” on its axis and the day has equal light and dark hours. Everything is in balance. If one is to put an egg on a flat surface at the very minute of the equinox, it will sit upright. Ostara or Eostre literally means East—where the sun rises. It is also thought that it means Dawn or Morning light, which would be consistent with “East”. This was a day of celebration. In many areas of Europe, the winters were harsh. Although Yule is the rebirth of the Sun, Ostara is the victory of warmth over cold. The day when warmth and light would return and the days would be visibly longer. In the psyche of our ancestral Folk, this was a powerful time when the promises of Charming of the Plough would be fulfilled. The dormant Earth, lying asleep would be regenerated and spring forth with new life. The symbols of this time are in everything and everywhere.

Havamal Cryptograms Puzzle No.3

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
17							24															25			

<u> H </u>			<u> W </u>			<u> A </u>			<u> A W A </u>														
1	24	3	21	13	25	19	26	3	10	17	13	19	26	17	25	17	22	3					
<u> A </u>			<u> H </u>			<u> W </u>			<u> A </u>														
17	8	8	13	19	6	24	1		25	18	4	4	19	3	26	18	14	3	4	17	13	2	
<u> A </u>		<u> A </u>		<u> W H </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> H </u>					
17	6	17	19	13	25	24	3	13	10	18	4	13	19	13	6	4	19	26	3	26	24	3	
<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>					
19	26	4	3	26	1	8	3	26	26	26	1	19	8	8	24	19	26	9	21	4	2	3	13
<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>					
<u> A </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>					
17	26	9	3	12	18	4	3																



The Hare



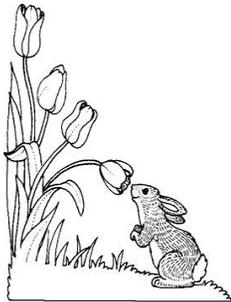
The March Hare is a rabbit native to Europe. With the coming of Spring, the female of the species becomes “superfecund”. The species can be found running wild all over the countryside in Europe. This powerful symbol of fertility ushered in the fertile season and became the consort of the fertility Goddess.

The Egg

The Eggs is one of the most recognized symbols of Ostara. Eggs have always been traditionally associated with fertility, abundance and rebirth. In Alchemy the egg symbolized the Cosmos—the egg containing a “little sun” and the yolk holding all of the necessary material to create life. The egg is the visual symbol of all that lies within us. Ostara’s fecund Hare brings eggs as a message of fertility and new life.



Babies



Typically animals become pregnant in the fall, to give birth in the Spring. Often around the farm, babies of all species are bouncing around in the warm Spring mornings feeding on the new grasses and foods available. This of course makes sense since animals rely upon what nature provides, and in places that have harsh cold winters, spring promises life for their young. Life reborn! Ostara strides across Midgard with her procession of new life, a reminder of her care for new life in Spring!

Blossoms

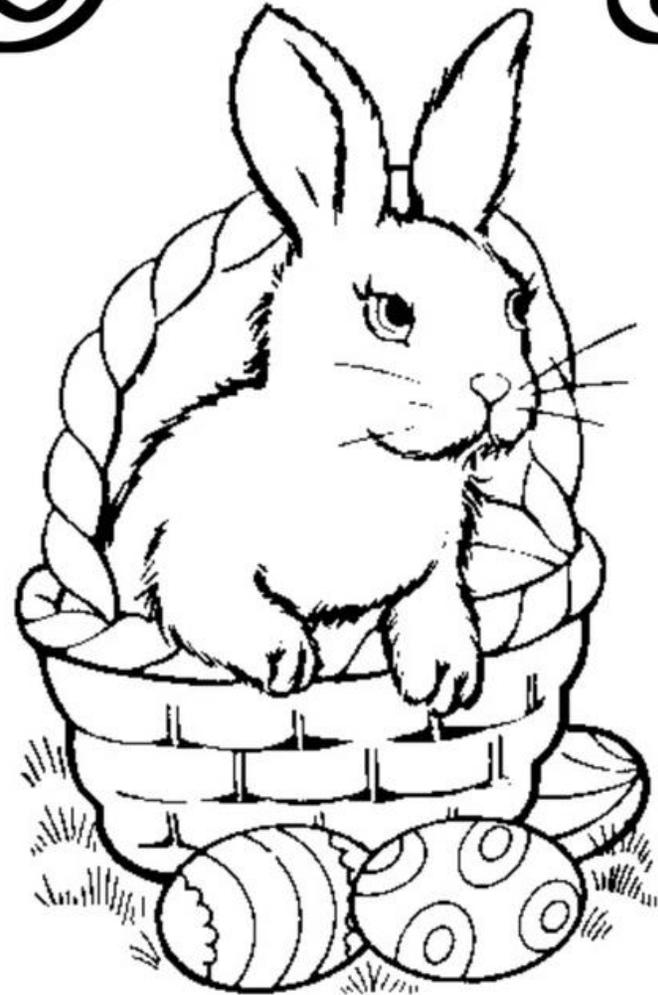
After several months, of cold, still regeneration, our natural world awakens. From fallen seeds buried deep in the Earth, to the fully matured trees life bursts forth in the continuous cycle. Decorations of new flowers adorn houses and Our People alike. It is Our connection and celebration of the beauty of the reborn season.



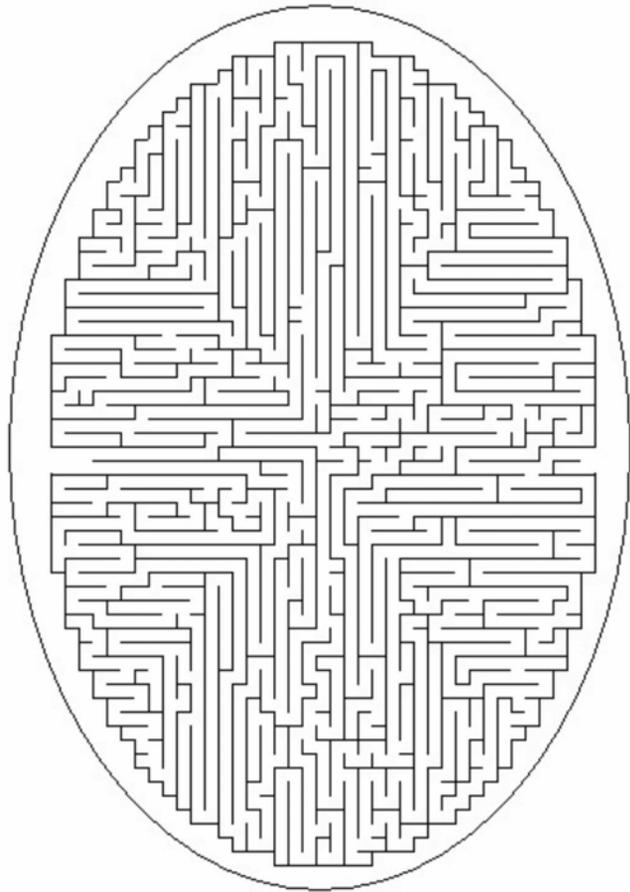
Ostara herself!

4 Ostara

Ostara



Ostara Maze



This lovely Goddess is depicted as young maiden who strides gently on the seedlings of Spring. She represents the awakening after a long deep sleep. She is the beauty of life and rebirth which happens at this time of year. Flowers in her hair, babies in her arms, flowing gown, and bright smile, Ostara is the embodiment of the glorious reawakening after a long slumber, the new life after a cold dark, necessary winter.

Our Soul!

Although Our Ways are in harmony and unison with Nature, we are also a Way of spiritual enlightenment. Ostara is the time of awakening after a long sleep. Our time during Winter is still meditation. The Runes of Winter are Hagalaz, Nauthiz and Isa, the time to reflect, ponder, and meditate. As our minds awake, we take the regeneration and use it as a catalyst for change and growth. The rebirth of our Soul! Ostara aids in our rebirth with bringing us back to beauty, life and awakening with her gentle touch, like that of a mother waking her children from a long slumber. Hail the reawakening!



Ostara Basket

In Medieval Germany, children had to leave out nest for Oshcher Haws—Ostara's Hare. This magical Hare would lay colored eggs for the good children that left out a nest for her. Echoing of Yule, this ancient practice lived on even during the Christian dominance over Europe. Ostara again depicted with a fecund Hare that visits the homes of her Folk bringing fertility and joy.



Ancient wisdom, New Ways

Although our Folk honor our Folkways in many ways, there is a common theme that is present all our celebrations. As modern Odinists, we keep alive many of our ancestral way through modern practices. This begins with the Blot. We honor Ostara and the turning of the wheel into the light half year. Now is a time for light and warmth. We call on Ostara to not only fulfill the promise of a new Spring, a new Dawn, but also awaken our minds and souls, to bring a new dawn in the hearts and minds of our Folk! With her gentle, yet powerful energy she enters our souls and warms it with her embrace. The loving Goddess answers the call of her Folk.

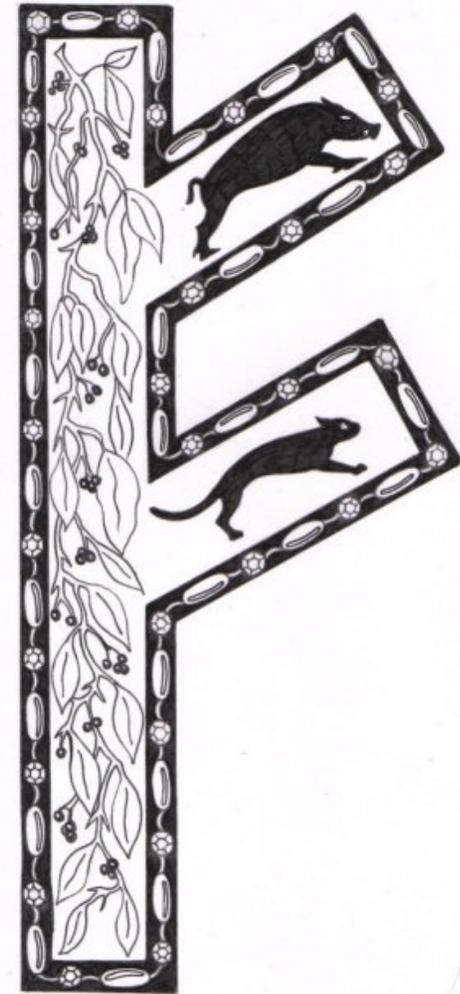
Next we gather to celebrate the coming of a new dawn. This includes many traditional games. The Egg Hunt, ever present in so many celebrations, children hunt for the colorful bounty that Ostara's Hare has left for them. With each egg found, the light and life for the year is renewed! The Egg Toss is the epitome of a Fertility Rite. Typically, couples gather to slowly toss raw eggs to each other being careful to not drop and break it. The winner never breaks their egg and ensures their prosperousness for the coming year.

Although we purposely have these activities at our celebrations, there are many things that also bring good fortune into our lives at this time of year. This was the time to sow seeds into the land. At Yule, we

honor the rebirth of the Sun. Next at Charming of the Plough, we prepare Mother Jorth to accept our seed at Ostara. We continue the chain of life and turning of the wheel. Today the reality of our existence is that many of our Folk do not have the land to have gardens and animals, so we honor Nature and her bounty by bringing in flowers for our Altar and perhaps keeping house plants. There are many ways to maintain the connection we have with Mother Jorth and Honor her daughter, Ostara. Families grow small gardens for food, or flower gardens that attract bees and/or butterflies. Others choose to create window gardens or container gardens. It is the intent in these life affirming activities that tie us to our ancient Mother.

This Ostara, as we hunt for eggs, play fertility games as the egg toss, or put lovely flower wreaths in our young girls' hair. When we work Mother Jorth, plant our gardens, honor our ancestral Folk at our Altars, or nurture our children and animal friends, know that we are reawakening the ancestral spirit. We are exercising our Souls and honoring our Elder Kin at the dawn of the year!

Fair and awesome Ostara, your radiance warms and rouses us. Hail the glory of light, for we are the people of the light and proud shall we be. As you awaken the Earth, so awaken our folk. Hail the new awakening.



FEHU

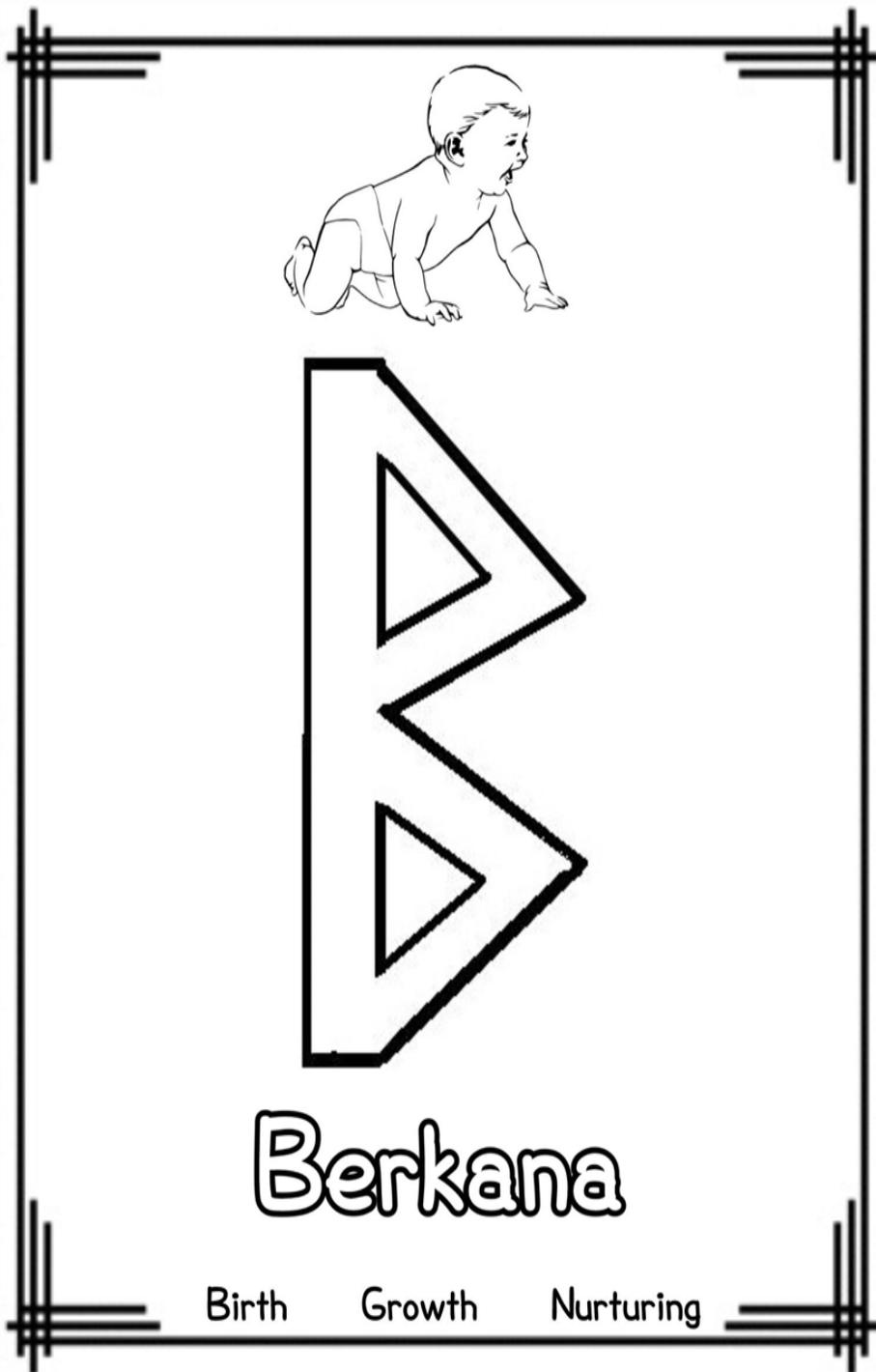
(fay-hoo)

Letter sound F

Frey's aett

Rune poem:

Wealth causes strife among kinsmen, The wolf lurks in the forest.



Ostara:

Gentle, Joyous, Youthful One.



Ostara, also known as Eostre, is the Goddess of spring, youth, renewal and new beginnings. We honor her on the holy day of Ostara, Festival of Summer Finding and participate in traditions associated with her such as dyeing eggs. She was so widely revered and loved by our ancestors that when Christianity came to the land the church could not drive her out of the hearts of the people and had no choice but to appropriate her festival for their own. In fact one of our months, the month of April, we refer to as Ostara, after the beloved Goddess.

Ostara is particularly close to children. So much so that it is she, in addition to Odin, that is called upon in the child's invocation found in the Book of Blotar.

Ostara is a loving and compassionate Goddess who is near to those just beginning new walks of life or just beginning life it's self. A Goddess of dawn and fertility, she can help us to succeed as we start new projects or goals.

May her blessing be ours as we work towards a New Awakening in our people. Hail Ostara Radiant Goddess of Spring!

CRAFTY KIDS

String Eggs

For this craft you need: *string, balloons, white glue & paint.*

Inflate a balloon and tie it. (It is best, easiest and quickest to keep the balloon on the small side, about the size of a cantalope or smaller.) Fill a medium size bowl with glue. Soak string in glue. Wrap balloon with the string going different ways (up, down and diagonal) to get an interesting design. Do not wrap too much in one place, and also be sure to leave open space. Dry completely, then paint it. Make sure the string is completely dry, then pop the balloon and hang up for a unique Ostara decoration.

Confetti Eggs

For this craft you need: raw eggs, colored confetti, tissue paper & a glue stick. Confetti eggs are fun to make for kids of all ages! Carefully poke a hole no bigger than 1/2 inch diameter (1 cm) in one end of a raw egg. Remove the yolk and egg white. Rinse and dry egg thoroughly. Once dry, fill the egg as full as possible with confetti. After the egg is filled, use a glue stick to attach a small piece of paper over the opening of the egg. Decorate the egg with layers of colored tissue paper, felt markers, or paints. (Dye is not recommended.) Use your confetti eggs to play a game of catch...these eggs break in a shower of confetti and fun!

Onion Skin Eggs

For this craft you need: *rubber bands, onion skins & eggs.*

This is a relatively easy craft - but very artistically effective! Gather lots of onion skins; the dry outer layers. (try to get a good variety of colors either brown, red or purple) Gently wrap them around raw eggs and hold them in place with rubber bands. Hard boil the eggs like usual. (approximately 8 minutes) Unwrap them and VOILA - Beautiful colors and designs! You may polish with vegetable oil for a nice gloss. This is a natural dye and the eggs are still quite edible.

Happy eggsploration!

Thor and the Midgard Serpent

Thor _____ out of Asgard disguised as a _____ and came in the evening to a giant called Hymir. Thor stayed there that night. At daybreak Hymir got up and dressed and prepared to go _____ in a _____. Thor sprang up and asked Hymir to let him go _____ with him.

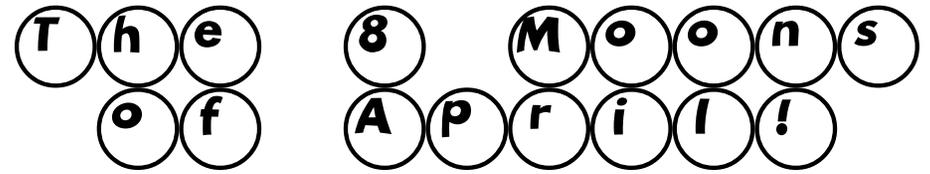
Hymir said that he would not be much help, as he was such a scrap of a _____ fellow: "You'll catch cold if I sit as long and as far out to sea as I usually do."

Thor, however, said he would be able to _____ a long way out from the _____, and that it wasn't certain that he would be the first to demand to be _____ back. He became so _____ with the giant that he was ready to set the hammer ringing on his _____. He controlled himself, however, as he intended to try his strength in another place.

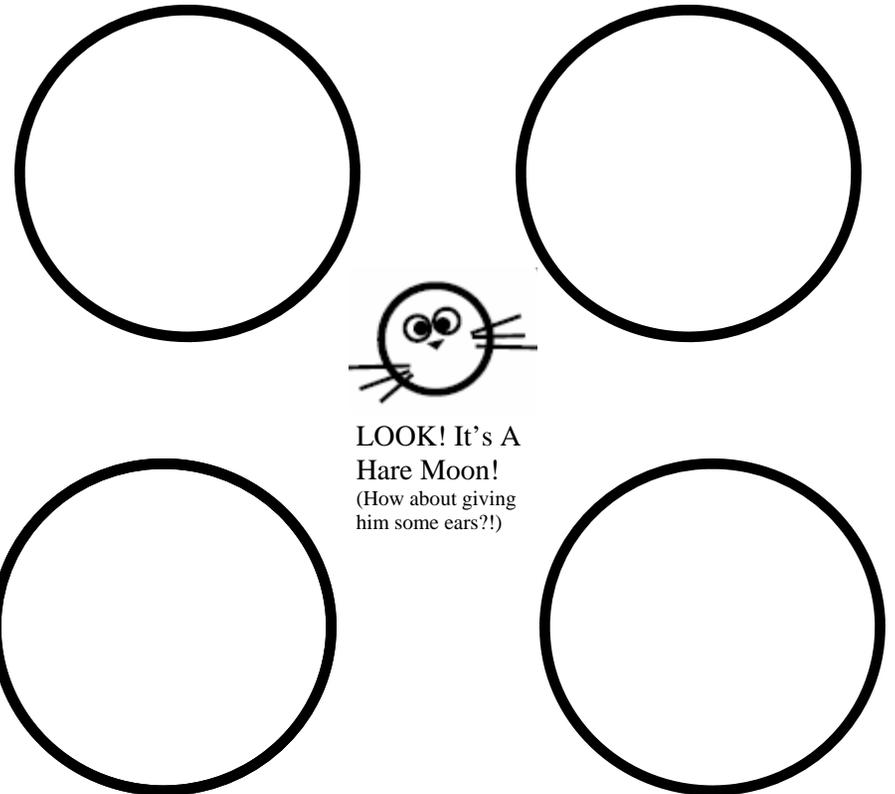
Ad Libs

Choose Your Words Carefully!
Don't Peak at the Story!

1. Action Verb: _____
2. Noun: _____
3. Activity: _____
4. Type of vehicle: _____
5. Action Verb: _____
6. Adjective: _____
7. Action Verb: _____
8. Noun: _____
9. Action Verb with -ed _____
10. Emotion: _____
11. Part of the Body: _____

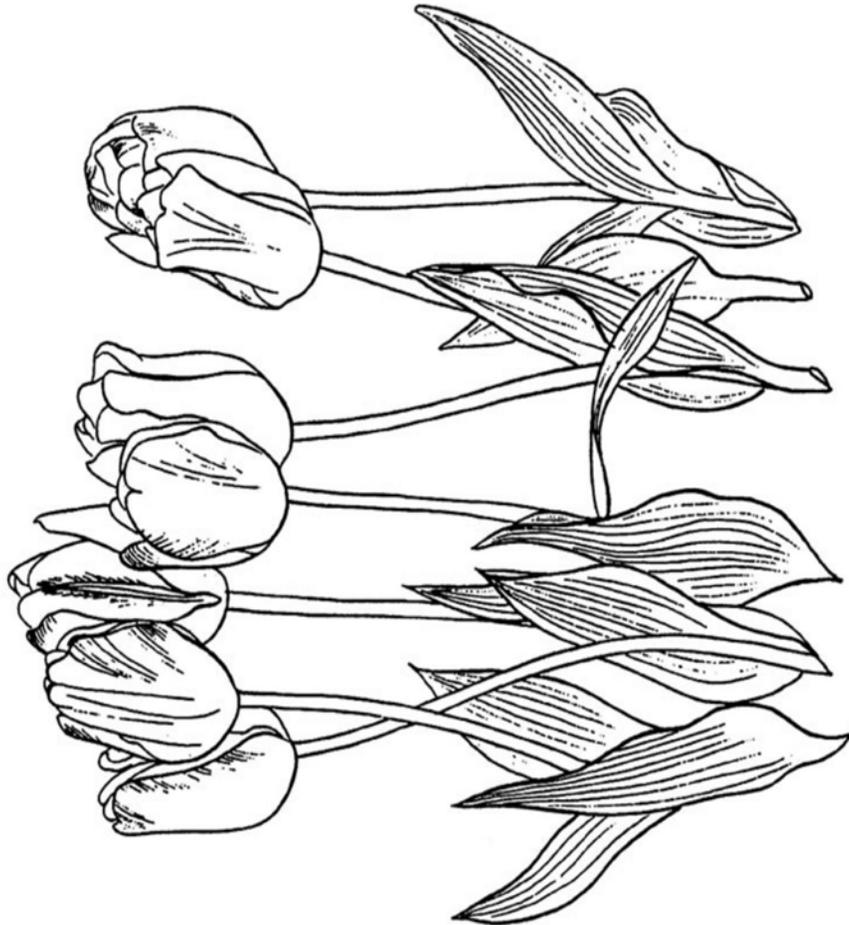


During the month of April, the moon has 8 different names: Growing moon, Hare moon, Seed moon, Planter's moon, Budding moon, Eostere (Ostara) moon, Pink moon and Green Grass moon. Have you ever wondered what a Green Grass moon would look like? Do you think it would be covered in green grass and trees? What about a Hare Moon? Do you think it would have the face of a rabbit? Use your creativity and let your imagination run wild and draw pictures of what you think the moon with these different names would look like!



*Ostara Hail. Your beauty
and bounty is a joy to
all living things. Bright Lady,
awaken the Gods of Summer!
Let your light now burst forth
upon the Earth and stir our
hearts and blood.*

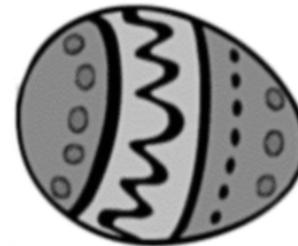
*~Summer Finding Blot
Book of Biotar of
The Odinic Rite*



Ostara

word search

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



BASKET
BLOT
DYE
EGGS
EQUINOX
FLOWERS
GODDESS
HARE
OSTARA
SEEDS
SUMMER FINDING