



# The Spring Equinox

# What is equinox? Do you know how to read it?

## equinox

*noun* [C]

UK  /'ek.wɪ.nɒks/ US  /'ek.wə.nɑːks/

Add to word list 

either of the two occasions in the year when the centre of the sun is directly above the **Equator**, and day and night are approximately equal in length:

- the **vernal** (= spring) equinox
- the **autumn** equinox

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/equinox?q=Equinox>

# The Spring Equinox

Do you know answers for the following questions?

- ◆ When do we celebrate the Spring Equinox?
- ◆ Why do we celebrate it?
- ◆ How do we celebrate it?





# Match the words to their Russian equivalents

1. equidistant position

a. весеннее равноденствие

2. rebirth

b. трилистник

3. hemisphere

c. равноудаленная позиция

4. Good Friday

d. полушарие

5. shamrock

e. Страстная Пятница

6. gravitational forces

f. сила тяготения

7. vernal equinox

g. перерождение

# Solve the crossword puzzle.

## Use dictionary if necessary

### Across

[2] an occasion when you win a game, competition, election, war, etc. or the fact that you have won

[4] the fact of arriving somewhere

[5] a fixed set of actions and words, especially as part of a religious ceremony

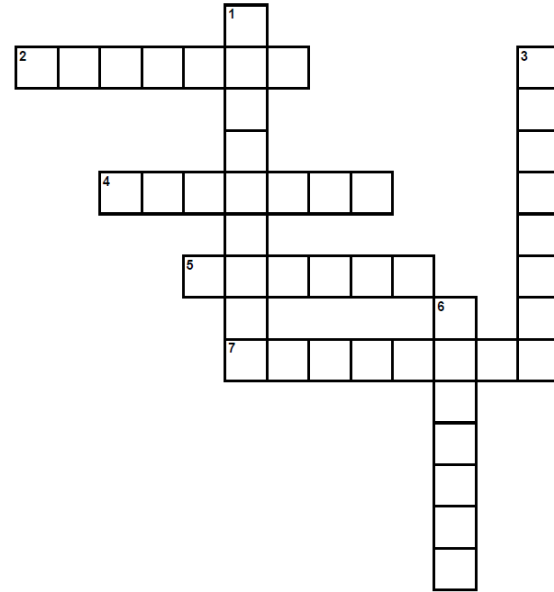
[7] situated in, toward, or facing the north

### Down

[1] a belief, principle, or way of acting that people in a particular society or group have continued to follow for a long time, or all of these beliefs, etc.

[3] situated in, toward, or facing the south

[6] snake



## Read the first part of the text. Fill in the gaps with the given words:

traditions, victory, rebirth, hemisphere (2), forces (2), arrival (2), shamrock (2), tradition, vernal, gravitational (2)

- ◆ The March equinox is celebrated as a time of \_\_\_\_\_(1) in the Northern hemisphere for a long time. After spending short, chilled days and nights, it's time to celebrate the \_\_\_\_\_(2) of the long-awaited warmer, and longer days. There are five weird \_\_\_\_\_(3), or you can say rituals, that people follow to mark these celebrations:
- ◆ **Balance an egg**
- ◆ This is an ancient Chinese \_\_\_\_\_(4) that you can make an egg stand on its end on the first day of spring. This is explained by the special \_\_\_\_\_(5) \_\_\_\_\_(6) that apply specifically on that day itself. These \_\_\_\_\_(7) \_\_\_\_\_(8) are a result of the sun's equidistant position between the northern \_\_\_\_\_(9) and the southern \_\_\_\_\_(10) at the time of the equinox.
- ◆ **Throw some colored powder**
- ◆ The \_\_\_\_\_(11) of good over evil is celebrated in the Hindu culture in an event known as Holi. It is known to be celebrated every year during the time of the \_\_\_\_\_(12) equinox. It is known as a "festival of colors", where vibrant colors are tossed onto one another while dancing in the streets continues with music playing throughout the day.
- ◆ **Wear a \_\_\_\_\_(13)**
- ◆ Worn on St. Patrick's Day, the \_\_\_\_\_(14) is thought to be a symbolic power of nature which regenerates energy in the atmosphere. Thus, when the spring season arrives, people are seen to be wearing it to celebrate the \_\_\_\_\_(15) of the new season which brings a different, and new, form of energy into the surroundings.



## Read the second part of the text and complete the task

### ◆ **Plant seeds**

- ◆ In Italy, it is traditional for women to plant seeds on the upcoming of the spring season every year. The first day of spring – the spring equinox – is known as a symbol of rebirth, renewal, and growth.
- ◆ Seeds of grains are planted such as lentils, lettuce, flowers, and fennels, in baskets or pots. This tradition is highly celebrated in Sicily. When these grains sprout, the stalks are tied with red ribbons and are placed on graves on Good Friday. This is a symbol of the triumph of life over death.


### ◆ **Visit an ancient monument**

- ◆ Built as astrological calendars, many of the world's monuments map the course of the movements of the Sun over the Earth every year. They were built to keep track of time every year as no calendars existed as they do now!
- ◆ The 1st day is a great time to visit these monuments as they are aligned in such a way that the Sun's position is witnessed in the unique way possible.
- ◆ At Stonehenge in Wiltshire, the sun rises precisely between two stones, whereas the Chichen Itza pyramid – built in about AD 1000 by the Mayan people – in Mexico, the rising sun results in the transformation of one edge of a giant pyramid into a blazing serpent. The serpent is represented as a symbol of the Mayan god – Kukulcan.

## Say if the following statements are True, False or Not Given

- ◆ 1. Planting seeds in Italy is a tradition for women every spring.
- ◆ 2. The spring equinox is celebrated with fireworks in Italy.
- ◆ 3. Only flowers are planted in Italy during the spring season.
- ◆ 4. In the future, this tradition will spread to other regions of Italy.
- ◆ 5. The red ribbons are used to decorate homes during the spring season.
- ◆ 6. Monuments around the world track the Sun's movements annually.
- ◆ 7. The monuments are always crowded with tourists on the 1st day of spring.
- ◆ 8. The sun never rises between stones at Stonehenge.
- ◆ 9. The rising sun at Chichen Itza pyramid creates a serpent shape on the pyramid.
- ◆ 10. In the future, the serpent symbol will be replaced by a different Mayan god.





Let's learn a few more things  
about equinox!

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# Watch the video and complete the task.

[https://vk.com/video556210500\\_456239040](https://vk.com/video556210500_456239040)



# Choose the correct answer

- ◆ **1. Why doesn't the equinox have equal day and night?**
  - ◆ A. The sun is a point instead of a disk.
  - ◆ B. Earth's atmosphere bends the sun's rays near the horizon.
  - ◆ C. The equator is perpendicular to the sun.
  - ◆ D. The equinox is a whole day.
- ◆ **2. What causes the date when night and day are exactly equal, the equilux, to happen a few days earlier than the equinox in March?**
  - ◆ A. Earth's elliptical orbit.
  - ◆ B. The equator's position.
  - ◆ C. The sun's speed in its solar orbit.
  - ◆ D. The solstices.
- ◆ **3. Why does "day" on the date of the equinox last longer than "night"?**
  - ◆ A. The equinox is a whole day.
  - ◆ B. Earth's axis is pointing away from the sun.
  - ◆ C. The sun rises above the horizon.
  - ◆ D. The equinox is a specific moment.
- ◆ **4. How does Earth's orbit being elliptical affect the division of the year by solstices and equinoxes?**
  - ◆ A. It creates even halves and quarters.
  - ◆ B. It causes the equinox to have equal day and night.
  - ◆ C. It speeds up Earth's travel in its solar orbit.
  - ◆ D. It results in more days on the June side of the equinoxes.
- ◆ **5. What happens a few days later in September after the equinox?**
  - ◆ A. The equinox occurs.
  - ◆ B. The equilux happens.
  - ◆ C. The solstice arrives.
  - ◆ D. The days get shorter.

## Complete the dialogue with the given phrases:

It's going to be so much fun / everything is coming back to life after winter / Today is the spring equinox / Happy spring equinox / it starts to get warmer

Mark: Hey, Sara! Did you notice anything different today?

Sara: It's a bit colder than usual.

Mark: (1) \_\_\_\_\_!

Sara: Oh, wow!

Mark: I love this time of year when (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and all the flowers start blooming.

Sara: Me too. Feels like (3) \_\_\_\_\_.

Mark: Let's plan our bike trip for spring break.

Sara: Yes, let's do that! Have you been cycling?

Mark: Almost every day. How about you?

Sara: Same here. Ready for some beautiful rides during spring break.

Mark: (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

Sara: Absolutely. By the way, have you finished your history paper yet?

Mark: Just need to add a few more details. But enough about school, let's enjoy the first day of spring!

Sara: (5) \_\_\_\_\_, Mark.

Mark: You too, Sara.



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# Happy Spring Equinox!

A vibrant spring landscape featuring a field of pink and white flowers in the foreground, rolling green hills in the background, and several butterflies flying in the sky. The scene is bright and cheerful, with a clear blue sky and soft clouds.