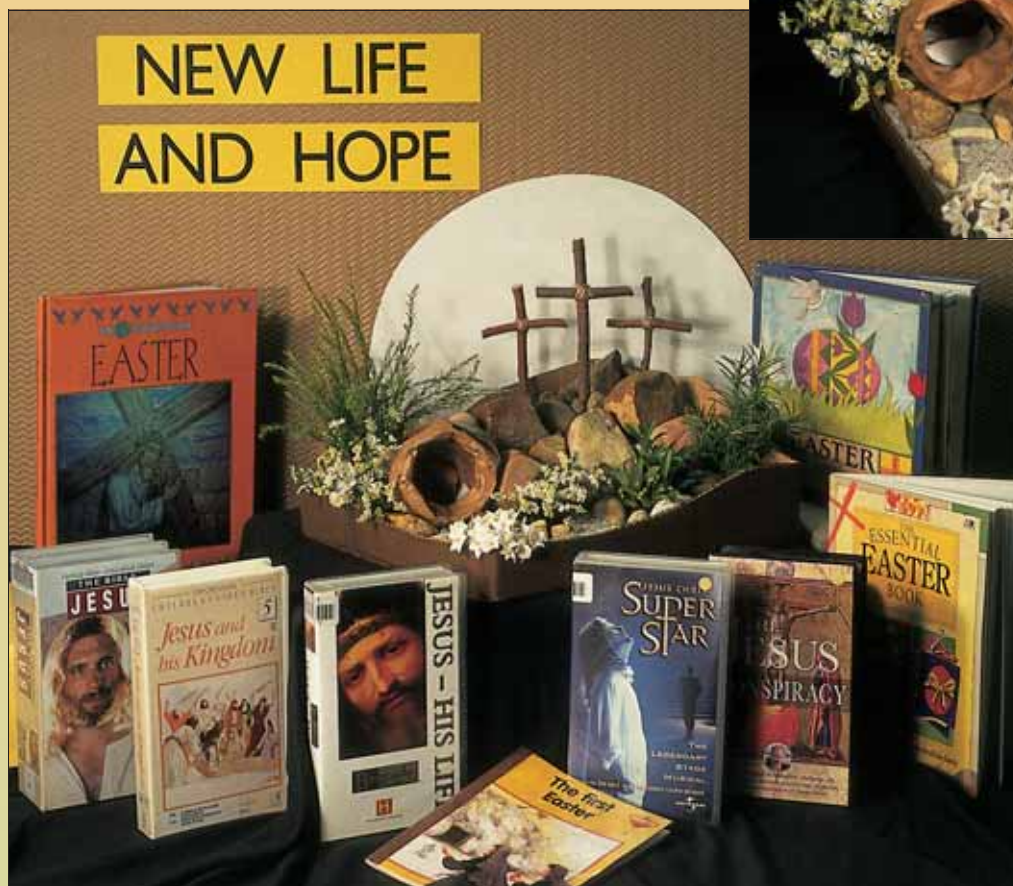


EASTER

a garden in a box



To assemble

Place a chunk of polystyrene in one corner of the box to an approximate height of 13cm. This will hold the crosses upright if you push them gently into it, then pile the stones around it. The stones are heavy, so your box must be strong.

Cut or break twigs into three long and three short pieces. Tie one of each size together with string or cotton thread, to form the three crosses (the middle cross is slightly larger). Press these into the polystyrene and scatter the soil over it.

Crumple the brown paper around your deep container, adding glue where necessary and press into the sand and add a few stones to resemble a cave (like a garden tomb). The paper will create a rock-like effect if you smudge it with a sponge here and there with some dark paint or mud.

Make a pathway from the cave with sand and gravel. Put the greenery and flowers into the cups filled with water and push them into the sand and between the rocks around the tomb area. Artificial or paper flowers can also be used. In order to keep the scale realistic we used very small flowers and film containers were cut to reduce their height.

This display needs minimal effort and cost. Busy librarians can coax people to help in the assembling of materials, which will probably take the most time.

If you are inspired to create your own Easter garden, please send us photos of your displays for publication.

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Graphic Designer

Easter represents many things to many people. At the time of the ancient Greeks and Romans people celebrated Easter with a festival of dancing and singing to welcome the arrival of spring. This celebration was named 'Ostara' which is possibly from where we get the name Easter. The egg was used in many ways to symbolise renewal of life, including decorations and edibles.

As we have previously made many displays of eggs in various forms we decided on highlighting the tradition that begins with the suffering of Jesus Christ and his death on the cross and ends with his rebirth at Easter. The garden in a box theme has been kept as simple and inexpensive as possible, and will

enable you to make an unusual display to supplement your Easter library material.

You will need

- a strong cardboard box in a size suitable for your display area. Our size is 33cm x 29cm. (See photo for the trim of the box where the height varies from 13cm where the crosses are positioned and 5cm at the tomb)
- a chunk of polystyrene or florist's oasis
- rocks, sand, gravel and soil
- straight, thick twigs (or branches, if on a larger scale)
- deep circular container (cottage cheese, yoghurt, or cream)
- brown wrapping paper
- small sprigs of greenery and flowers, especially those that last well in water, and have small leaves to keep the scale accurate (see picture)
- egg cups or cut-down polystyrene cups or empty film containers.

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