

Fabergé Eggs

A Design Project



What is a Fabergé Egg?



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- A Fabergé egg is considered to be any one of about 70 jewelled eggs made by Peter Carl Fabergé between 1885 and 1917.
- Fifty of those eggs, known as the Imperial Fabergé Eggs, were presented to the Czars of Russia as gifts for their wives.
- At that time, a tradition was started within the royal Russian family that included making a jewelled egg to commemorate holy days and special celebrations.

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Fabergé eggs are also called *Imperial eggs* since they were created for the Russian Imperial family. The Imperial Easter eggs are regarded as one of Fabergé's greatest artistic achievements. They are also considered some of the world's greatest commissions of art.

Peter Carl Fabergé



Peter Carl Fabergé was born in Russia on 30th May 1846.

He was a Russian jeweller, best known for the famous Fabergé eggs, made in the style of genuine Easter eggs, but using precious metals and gemstones rather than more simple materials.

Peter Carl Fabergé died in Switzerland on 24th September 1920.

The First Fabergé Egg

- In 1885, under the commission of Czar Alexander III of Russia, Peter Carl Fabergé constructed the first Imperial egg.
- It was presented as an Easter gift for the Czar's wife, Maria.
- Empress Maria was so delighted by this gift that Alexander commissioned a gift from Fabergé each year, stipulating only that it be unique and contain a surprise inside.

A Modern Mystery



List of missing Fabergé eggs

- 1886 *Hen with Sapphire Pendant* (missing)
- 1888 *Cherub with Chariot* (missing)
- 1889 *Necessaire* (missing)
- 1896 *Alexander III* (missing)
- 1897 *Mauve Enamel* (missing)
- 1903 *Danish Jubilee* (missing)

Fabergé Eggs





Make a Fabergé Egg

The Process



You will need:

To hollow the eggs:

- Eggs (one egg each)
- Large safety pins
- 2 plastic bowls
- A small cup of water

To paint and decorate the eggs:

- Bamboo cooking skewers
- Small rubber bands
- Acrylic or tempera paint
- Paintbrushes
- Craft glue
- Permanent markers
- Glitter
- Beads
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Glitter glue
- Paper plates for mixing paint
- Paper towels
- Small cardboard roll

How to Hollow Your Eggs



First you need to **empty out the egg white and yolk inside of each egg**. This will leave you with an empty eggshell to decorate.

By hollowing the eggs, you'll be able to save your eggs forever and not have to worry about your egg being perishable.

Gather your supplies needed to hollow the eggs.

Watch [this video](#) to learn how to blow out your egg:

Prepare Your Eggs for Decorating

- Gather your empty eggs and bamboo skewers. The bamboo skewers are a great way to hold your delicate egg and easily decorate all sides.
- Since your egg has two holes (one on each end), **insert the pointed end of a skewer into the bottom hole of the egg and guide it through the top hole** as well. If the top hole is small enough, the egg will sit nicely on the top of the skewer and not slide down.
- If the holes in your egg are too large for the skewer and the egg slips down, you can use this simple trick:
Wrap a small rubber band tightly on the skewer about 1/3 of the way down. **Insert the skewer into the bottom of the egg** and the egg will sit on the rubber band. **Add another rubber band above the egg** and slide down to secure the egg.
- Now that our eggs are ready, let's find some inspiration!

Find a Fabergé Egg That Inspires You



Research

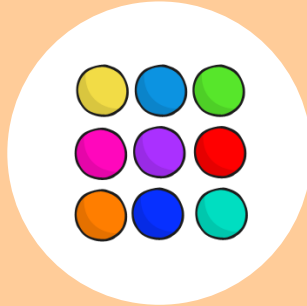
- Choose **an authentic Fabergé egg to inspire you or create a unique design of your own.**
- Use the Internet to research Fabergé eggs. Record your findings on the activity sheet.
- Notice that most eggs have a base color and unique decorations in gold, silver and precious gemstones.

Find a Fabergé Egg That Inspires You

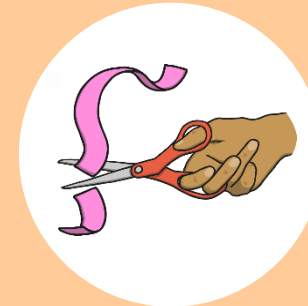
Design



Create your design using the activity sheet.



Think about what type and colour of paint you will use.



Think about what materials you will affix to the egg (ribbon, gemstones, beads, lace etc.)

Top Tip - **Choose a colour to use as your base colour.**

Paint and Decorate Your Egg



Gather your painting and decorating supplies.



Mix your base colour paint.



While the paint is still wet, lightly **sprinkle glitter into your paint to create a shimmering egg.**

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Let the painted egg dry thoroughly.



Apply your decorations to your egg.



Have fun embellishing your eggs!

