

UKRAINIAN HISTORY
AND EDUCATION CENTER

UKRAINIAN EASTER EGGS AND LEGENDS

CRAFTS FOR KIDS @ UHEC

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021



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Legends About Ukrainian Easter Eggs

In this workshop, participants will learn about the legends that exist around the Ukrainian Easter Egg and their holiday tradition. While learning about their use, participants will be able to create their own *krapanka* or *krashanka* Easter egg using the wax-resist method for their own Easter Basket.

About Ukrainian Easter Eggs - Pysanky

In the weeks of Lent, or the weeks of preparation for Easter (Pascha), Ukrainians gathered to make Ukrainian Easter eggs called *pysanky*. *Pysanky* are traditional Ukrainian Easter eggs which are made using a batik, or wax-resist method. *Pysanky* comes from the Ukrainian word “pysaty” which means “to write” and the designs on the egg are written using hot beeswax and dyed one or more colors. Traditional methods used natural-made dyes, but today, we use commercial made dyes (such as non-edible *pysanka* dyes or food coloring)

There are several different types of Ukrainian Easter Eggs that are done during the period of preparation for Easter (Pascha). These include:

- *Krashanky* are hard-boiled eggs which are dyed a single color with the intention to be eaten on Easter (Pascha) Sunday.
- *Krapanky* are raw-egg colored eggs which are decorated only using dots. This method uses the traditional wax-resist method
- *Drop-Pull Pysanky* are eggs traditionally decorated in Western Ukraine and use a stylus with a pin-head. The pin head drops hot wax onto an egg and quickly pull it in a direction to create a “pull” design (or a tail).

Crafts for Kids with the UHEC

Sunday afternoon workshops will provide a hands-on opportunity for kids to learn about Ukrainian art, culture and history based on objects found in the UHEC Museum Collection. Participants will go home with a craft at the end of the workshop. Suitable for grade school aged children.

Supply List for the Workshop

For Krashanky:

- Hard-boiled egg, pre-washed in a vinegar bath
- Edible food dye (such as McCormick Food & Egg Dye); please mix ahead the color(s) you wish to dye your egg

Krashanky Design Variation:

- Leaves, petals, ferns, etc.
- Nylon stockings and/or cheesecloth
- Rubber band and/or twine

For Krapanky:

- Hard-boiled egg, pre-washed in a vinegar bath (at room temperature)
- Edible food dye (such as McCormick Food & Egg Dye); please mix ahead the color(s) you wish to dye your egg
- Beeswax candle to “drop” dots and design unto the egg (with adult supervision)
- White Crayon

Natural Dyes for Coloring Eggs

Yellow to Dusky Gold

- 1 Tbsp. Ground Turmeric
- 1-½ tsp. White Vinegar
- ¾ c. boiling water
- Dying Time: 30-60 minutes (overnight for brown eggs)

Peach to Pumpkin

- 1 c. papery yellow onion skins, packed
- 1-½ tsp. White Vinegar
- ¾ c. boiling water
- Dying Time: 30-60 minutes (overnight for brown eggs)

Pink to Magenta

- ¼ c. shredded peeled beets, packed
- 1-½ tsp. White Vinegar
- ¾ c. boiling water
- Dying Time: 30-60 minutes (overnight for brown eggs)

Purple/Grey

- 1 c. papery red onion skins, packed
- 1-½ tsp. White Vinegar
- ¾ c. boiling water
- Dying Time: 1-2 hours (overnight for brown eggs)

Pale Blue

- ¼ c. finely chopped red cabbage (avoid white ribs)
- 1-½ tsp. White Vinegar
- ¾ c. boiling water
- Dying Time: 2 hours (overnight for brown eggs)

Lime Green to Dark Green

- ¼ c. finely chopped red cabbage
- 1 tsp. ground turmeric
- 1-½ tsp. White Vinegar
- ¾ c. boiling water
- Dying Time: 1-2 hours (overnight for brown eggs)