

Answers

- What are the months of spring according to the meteorological calendar?
 - February, March, April
 - March, April, May**
 - March and April
- What are some of the migrating birds that return in spring?
 - swallows, swifts and house martins**
 - crows, robins, ravens
 - chaffinches and goldfinches
- Is this sentence true or false? Tick one. 'Easter Sunday is not on the same date each year.'
 - True**
 - False
- Match up the phrases correctly to describe the Irish hare.

They can run at speeds of up to...	oldest mammals
They are one of Ireland's...	leverets
Baby hares are called...	45 miles per hour
A hare's home is known as...	a form

- What festival marked the beginning of spring in pre-Christian times?
A festival called Imbolc marked the beginning of spring in pre-Christian times.
- How did hares inspire the old expression 'mad as a March hare'?
The behaviour of hares in springtime inspired this expression, as during this season they can be seen boxing and leaping about.
- Which mammals wake from hibernation in spring?
Hedgehogs and bats are mammals that wake from hibernation in spring.

8. Why do you think some birds migrate and only return to Northern Ireland in the spring?

Answers such as: I think that winter temperatures in Northern Ireland are too low for some birds to be able to survive, so they have to go somewhere warmer. There is also less food for many birds during the winter.

Answers

1. What mammals awaken from hibernation in spring in Northern Ireland?
 - swallows and chiffchaffs
 - hedgehogs and bats**
 - hares and squirrels
2. According to the Celtic calendar, what were the three months of spring?
 - February, March and April**
 - March, April and May
 - January, February, March
3. Is this sentence true or false? Tick one. 'Imbolc was an ancient Celtic festival that marked the end of winter.'
 - True**
 - False
4. What is meteorology?

Meteorology is a science concerned with atmosphere and the weather.
5. Name two saints associated with spring in Ireland.

Saint Brigid and Saint Patrick are two saints associated with springtime in Ireland.
6. What inspired the simile 'mad as a March hare'?

The behaviour of hares in springtime as they 'boxed' and leapt inspired the simile, 'Mad as a March hare'.
7. Why are lambs often born in spring?

Lambs are often born in spring because the days are usually warmer and the grass is growing well for the ewes to make milk to feed the lambs.
8. What do you think 'lunar cycle' refers to?

I think 'lunar cycle' refers to the different phases of the moon.
9. Why might birds join the dawn chorus in springtime?

Birds might join the dawn chorus in springtime because they are seeking to defend their territory and to find a mate.