

# Bring It Home: Create Your Own Tokhm-e Morgh— Decorated Egg



## *Extend the culture and traditions of Persia to your home*

Decorated eggs (*Tokhm-e Morgh*) are some of the special and symbolic items used in celebration of the Persian New Year. The celebration of the New Year is the oldest of all holidays. About 4,000 years ago, this holiday was first observed in Babylon, and since then, different cultures have adopted various ways of celebrating the beginning of a new year. For the Persian community, the celebration of the “New Day” is called Norooz.

The *Sofreh*, the Norooz celebration table, is decorated with many wonderful items, including the painted eggs. The eggs represent fertility or the expectation of new life. The painting and decorating of eggs is a common tradition of many cultures throughout the year. It’s similar to painting Easter eggs in America. With this simple activity guide, you’ll be able to paint your own egg to put in celebration of new life or the new year!

### **Materials:**

Wooden or cooled boiled eggs  
Permanent markers  
Paint brush  
Food coloring  
Small bowls  
Water  
Paper towels

### **Get Started:**

1. Pour water in several small bowls.
2. Add drops of food coloring to the water to create a variety of colors.
3. Paint or dip the eggs in the food coloring. Then place on paper towel to dry.
4. When dry, use the markers to complete your design.



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## Resources for learning more about Persian culture:

### Books:

*Babak & Friends: A First Norooz*, By Dustin Ellis and Rodd Miller

*Babak & Friends: A Visit from Maman Borzorg*, By Dustin Ellis and Rodd Miller

*Milet Mini Picture Dictionary: English-Farsi*, By Sedat Turhan, Sally Hagin

### Websites:

<https://netfiles.uiuc.edu/ro/www/PersianCulturalAssociation/>

“The purpose of the Persian Cultural Association shall be to raise awareness of Persian culture within the University of Illinois community.”

<http://persianmirror.com/index.cfm>

Learn about the music, art, and celebrations of the Persian community.



The Boeing Company is the Lead Supporter of Cultural Programs at Chicago Children's Museum.

