

# Passover



# Passover

## Purpose

To understand about and appreciate different cultures and religions through learning about important festivals.

## Entrance of Pupils

*A thought provoking slideshow introducing the theme of 'Passover' for the pupils to enter assembly to (10 minutes)*

## Introduction

Two of the world's religions have one of their most special feasts around the same time as each other. The Jews celebrate Passover or 'Pesach' for 7 days from 15th of the Jewish month, Nisan (usually in April). Around the same time, Christians celebrate Easter with the three key days, Good Friday - Easter Sunday being set within the period of 22nd March to 25th April according to cycles of the moon.

The Jewish festival of Passover remembers the journey from slavery to freedom of Moses and the Israelites - a fascinating tale! It also celebrates Spring, birth and rebirth.

In a similar way, but for very different reasons, Christians celebrate Easter remembering the capture, torture and death of Jesus and then how he rose from the dead three days later. Like the Jewish faith, Easter is also full of symbols about Spring, birth and rebirth.

This is why both faiths associate the time with lambs, daffodils, chicks and for the Christians, Easter eggs.



## The Story Of Passover

In the Old Testament, which is the part of the Bible common to both Christians and Jews, we hear the story of how Moses escaped with his people, the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The story is told in the Books of Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

The Israelites had been the slaves of Pharaoh and the Egyptians for over 300 years. They were made to build the pyramids and other very difficult and arduous work, but because they were strong, Pharaoh was afraid that one day they would rise up against him. He ordered his soldiers to kill all the new born sons of the Israelites.

Moses was just a little baby when this declaration was made. His mother couldn't bear the thought of him being killed, so she put him in a wicker basket and set him to sail down the river. Luckily he was found by Pharaoh's daughter who loved him immediately and adopted him.

As Moses grew into a man, he went to Pharaoh to ask for the Israelites to be set free, but the king refused and so God sent 10 plagues upon Egypt to persuade the Pharaoh to change his mind. The first 9 plagues were horrible:

1. Blood - that turned the rivers red and the wells sticky and undrinkable
2. Frogs - that over ran the houses and throughout every room
3. Lice - big and small, that collected in heaps
4. Wild Beasts - that attacked the farms, animals and people
5. Pestilence - flies that swarmed and demolishes crops
6. Skin Disease - that made the flesh itch unmercifully and without let up
7. Hail - that dropped in huge spheres like stones raining down
8. Locusts - that ate and destroyed every bit of vegetation in the land



**9. Darkness—so deep that nothing could be seen day or night**

During each plague, Pharaoh would promise Moses that he would let him and his people go and with the end of each plague, the king would break his word until finally the last plague came.

**10. The Angel of Death who would fly over every house killing the first born son of each family.**

God told Moses that all Israelite families must kill a lamb and using the blood, draw a cross on their doorway so that the Angel of Death would not harm anyone inside.

Pharaoh was devastated and in a moment of grief he told Moses to take his followers and leave to go to the promised land.

They left immediately and started on their journey, but Pharaoh yet again changed his mind and sent an army of Egyptian soldiers to catch the Israelites and kill them.

As Moses reached the sea, he and the followers were trapped. They could cross the sea but they could hear the Egyptians' chariots racing behind them. God told Moses to raise his walking staff and part the sea.

With faith, this is what Moses did and his followers were able to walk on a now dry sea bed to the other side in safety.

As the army followed, Moses stood on the shore of the other side of the sea, raised his staff again and the sea walks flooded together drowning every soldier that was chasing them.

They were, at last, free.



<b>Beitzah</b>	<b>Roasted egg</b>	<b>Symbolic of the Easter Season, spring and renewal of life. Now that the Jews are free, it's about a new season and new era in our time.</b>
<b>Maror</b>	<b>Bitter herb - Horseradish</b>	<b>Reminds us of the bitterness of what it was like to be enslaved in Egypt as a Jewish people, so it is supposed to be extremely bitter to take to remind us of that sorrow.</b>
<b>Charoset</b>	<b>Apple, nuts, cinnamon and wine</b>	<b>Reminder of the mortar from the bricks where the Jewish people were enslaved building pyramids. It reminds us of the experience of working as slaves without any freedom. It is sweet so complements the Maror.</b>
<b>Zeroa</b>	<b>Lamb shank traditionally but can be chicken from a kosher butcher</b>	<b>Roasted or burnt symbolic of the Pesach temple sacrifice. This is the only meat on the Seder plate.</b>
<b>Karpus</b>	<b>Green vegetable - often parsley</b>	<b>Reminiscent of spring, renewal, rebirth and all things growing at this time of year. During the Passover Seder, it is dipped in salt water to remember the tears the Jewish people shed in slavery and how we still remember that sorrow.</b>
<b>Chazeret</b>	<b>Bitter herb - Kale</b>	<b>Similar to Maror.</b>





### Passover Seder Plate

During the festival of Passover, there are many traditions to remember the events in the story. One of these is the Passover Seder Plate.

Listen to what makes up a Seder Plate and learn some words in Hebrew!



## The Bible Says:

'Then Moses said to the people 'Remember this day in which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place.'

**Exodus 13:3**

## Let's Pray

Dear God

The Jewish faith keep Passover at about the same time as Christians celebrate Easter. Keep reminding us that although we have different traditions, many elements of World Faith religions have clear similarities. Help us to celebrate the similarities and rejoice in the differences.

Amen

## Putting it into Practice

**Make your own Passover Seder Plate from different ingredients that represent the aspects of the Passover Story.**

## Exit of Pupils

*A thought provoking slideshow reminding pupils of the key issues raised in the assembly about the theme of 'Passover' for the pupils to exit assembly to (10 minutes)*



## Collective Worship and Putting it into Practice for the Rest of the Week

### Day 2

Dear God

We pray for those still imprisoned and denied their human rights. Let all God's children sit at his table, drink the wine of deliverance and eat the bread of freedom. *(From the Passover Prayers)*

Amen

**Learn the Hebrew names for the six items on the Passover Seder Plate including how they are pronounced and how they are spelt.**

### Day 3

Dear God

Let your children have freedom from hunger and freedom from want;  
Freedom from hatred and freedom from fear;  
Freedom to think and freedom to speak. *(From the Passover Prayers)*

Amen

**Research other aspects of the Jewish Passover festival. You might like to find out about prayers; candles; wine; preparation of the house.**



## Day 4

Dear God

Let your children have freedom to learn and freedom to love;

Freedom to hope and freedom to rejoice

Soon in our days. *(From the Passover Prayers)*

Amen



One symbol of the Passover is unleavened bread. This remembers that the Israelites had to leave Egypt so quickly that they did not even have time for the bread to rise.

Find a recipe for unleavened bread (flatbread) and see if you can try making it.

## Day 5

Dear God

Help us to learn about different faith traditions so that we understand and appreciate the richness of other traditions. Help us to spread understanding and appreciation about other beliefs to play a part in stopping the ignorance and suspicion that leads to fighting and war.

Amen

Make a pictorial version of the 10 plagues by getting into 10 groups, each representing one of the plagues by a picture, crafted piece or a collage. When you put them together, make sure you have them in the right order!

