

Yavneh Primary School



Pesach Pack For Parents

This pack contains:



Background Information about the Festival of Pesach



Fun ideas to enhance your Seder!



Pesach songs



A list of Websites to help you support your child!

Facts about Pesach

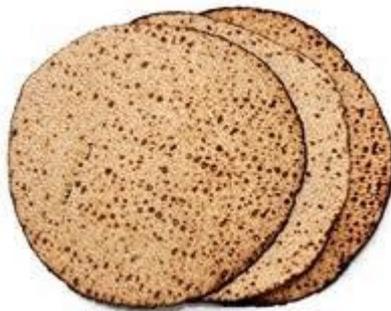


When is Pesach and for how long does it last?

Pesach starts on 15th Nissan and lasts for eight days. The first two days and the last two days are known as Yom Tov. The middle four days are known as Chol Hamo'ed. Pesach is translated as "passover." The name derives from the fact that during the final plague - the slaying of the first born – G-d "passed over" the Jewish homes so that the plague did not enter them.

How do we celebrate Pesach?

The holiday is marked by the celebration of an elaborate Seder on the first two nights. The Seder is designed to give each Jew the experience of "going from slavery to freedom." As recorded in the Haggadah, we tell the Exodus story and recount the Ten Plagues. We eat symbols of slavery and freedom, and the festive meal includes many delicious foods that people look forward to all year. We recite the Hallel prayer of praise, and end the Seder with the hope of "Next year in Jerusalem!"



During the week of Pesach, Jews don't eat or possess any chametz (leavened grain). For this reason, we dispose of (or sell) all bread, biscuits, pasta, beer, etc. - and purchase only products labelled "Kosher for Passover." (Ashkenazi Jews also refrain from eating kitniyot - rice, beans, etc.) To avoid any problems of residual chametz, we also have special sets of

dishes and pots for Passover. As a practical consideration, many people begin cleaning for Passover weeks before the holiday begins. On the evening before Pesach, we conduct a careful search of the home for chametz. It is done by candlelight and is a memorable experience for the whole family. Any remaining chametz is either burned the next morning or is sold to a non-Jew for the week of Pesach. The sale must be serious and legally binding; it should be done only through the assistance of a qualified Rabbi. Any food that is sold must be put in a cabinet and taped shut.

Why do we celebrate Pesach?



The holiday of Pesach marks the anniversary of the birth of the Jewish nation. The story of the Jewish nation is one of individuals who became a family and then became a people. The great individuals who laid the spiritual foundation of Jewish peoplehood were Avraham and Sarah, their son and daughter-in-law Yitschak and Rivkah, and their son and daughters-in-law Yaacov, Rachel, and Leah.

From Yaacov, Rachel, and Leah came a family of seventy people who, due to a famine in Israel, were forced to migrate to Egypt. In Egypt, this family grew and prospered to such an extent that they eventually came to be seen as a threat by their Egyptian hosts. Respect and admiration turned to contempt and, finally, to an organised programme of enslavement and oppression. After 210 years and following a series of unheeded warnings by Moshe to Pharaoh (resulting in the Ten Plagues and a spectacular crossing through the split waters of the Red Sea), G-d liberated a nation which had grown from the original family of seventy people. Seven weeks later, this newly conceived nation received the Torah at Mount Sinai.

Why do we read the Haggadah on Seder night?



The Haggadah is the story of the birth of the Jews as a people. It deals

primarily with the events in Egypt which led from slavery to liberation, though it also spans the entire period from Avraham to the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. One could say that the Haggadah is our national birth certificate as well as our Declaration of Independence. More than just a historical document, it also speaks of the ideals and values which constitute the essence of our national consciousness and identity.

What is on the Seder plate and why is it there?



KARPAS

Karpas is a vegetable (other than bitter herbs) such as celery, parsley, or boiled potato. It must be a vegetable on which we make the blessing, *Borei Pri Ha'Adamah*. Pesach is the Spring festival when we celebrate the birth of our nation - and these vegetables are a symbol of rebirth and rejuvenation.

MAROR & CHAZERET

These are the bitter herbs which symbolise the lot of the Hebrew slaves whose lives were embittered by the hard labour. Many people use horseradish for Maror and Romaine lettuce for Chazeret.

CHAROSET

Charoset reminds us of the hard Jewish labour performed with bricks and mortar. Charoset is a pasty mixture of nuts, dates, apples, wine and cinnamon. The Talmud says this serves as an "antidote" to dilute the harsh effects of the Maror.

ZERO'A

During the times of the Temple in Jerusalem, the Korban Pesach (Paschal Lamb) was brought to the Temple on the eve of Pesach. It was roasted and was the last thing eaten at the Seder meal. To commemorate this offering, we place on the Seder plate a roasted chicken bone with a little meat remaining. In Temple times, every Jew was "registered" to eat the Korban Pesach with his particular group. The Talmud says that the bigger the group, the better. This is a source for having large Seder gatherings!

BEITZAH

A second offering, called the *Chagigah*, was brought to the Temple and eaten as the main course of the Seder meal. Today, instead of a second piece of meat, we use a roasted egg - which is traditionally a symbol of mourning - to remind us of the destruction of the Temple. The Talmud points out that every year, the first day of Pesach falls out on the same day of the week as Tisha b'Av, the day of mourning for the destruction of the Temple.

MATZAH

At the Seder, it is a special mitzvah to eat matzah, the Seder's main symbol, while leaning to the left. The most common reason for eating matzah is that, on the morning of the Exodus, the Jews were so rushed in getting out of Egypt that the bread did not have time to rise. At the end of the festive meal, the special "dessert" is another piece of matzah, called the Afikoman. It reminds us of the Korban Pesach that, as explained above, was the last food eaten at the Seder in Temple times.

WINE

At the Seder, we drink four cups of wine - corresponding to the four expressions of freedom mentioned in the Torah (Exodus 6:6-7). Everyone should have their own cup and, as an expression of freedom, we lean to the left while drinking the Four Cups. (Grape juice is also acceptable for those who prefer not to drink wine!)

Fun ideas for the Seder!

Seder night is one of the most memorable parts of the Jewish calendar. Many of us have fond memories of our family Sedarim. Others just remember the grown-ups reading the Haggadah round the table as our tummies rumbled and we wondered if dinner was ever coming. But the Seder should not be dull! Long before the days of multimedia, in the times of the Mishna, the Seder was an audio-visual re-enactment of the going out of Egypt for the children. In some communities, the father would dress up in white robes, holding a stick and walk around the table chanting the passage, "We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt..." The whole aim was - and continues to be - to stimulate the children to ask questions and get involved in the Seder. The "props" - be it the Seder plate, or the cushions for leaning - are all there in order to arouse curiosity in our children and get them asking questions.

Below are a number of ideas to make the Seder fun and meaningful for everyone. All the games are suitable for all ages and are a lot of fun.

☒☒ Tell parts of the story with mistakes (The King of Egypt was called "Philip") and have the children listen carefully and correct them.

☒☒ Prepare props for the plagues (plastic balls for hail, toy grasshoppers for locusts, sunglasses for darkness, etc).

☞☞ Ahead of time, get the older children to prepare a news report about the Ten Plagues and the Crossing of the Red Sea.

☞☞ As part of the "broadcast" they can interview some of the guests as Pharaoh, Moses, Aaron, etc. These characters can be totally improvised or described on an index card that you hand to the guests. For example: "You are Pharaoh. You have just been woken up in the middle of the night by your adviser who has told you that there is no water to drink in the whole of Egypt, only blood. The radio reporter wants to hear your statement about what you're going to do."

☞☞ Use a banana (or something similar) to pretend the phone is ringing and Pharaoh is calling. Conduct a conversation or have the children do so.

☞☞ In advance of Seder night, write out on separate pieces of paper the names of characters or objects associated with Seder night. For example: Pharaoh, Elijah the Prophet, The Wise Son, Maror, Charoset, Matzah, Chametz, Frog, Wild Beast, etc. During the Seder, choose a volunteer. Tie a scarf around his forehead and stick a name on the scarf so that everyone can see it but him. Now he has to ask questions about himself to which everyone answers Yes/No until he deduces who he is. If he guesses in five or less questions, he gets a prize.

☞☞ Have an ongoing quiz, with prizes for correct answers.

☞☞ During *Chad Gadya*, have someone [or everyone!] do the animal effects - the children will love it.

☞☞ Hand out prizes or treats to people who ask or answer good questions or who find references to freedom in the Haggadah.

(Ideas by Doron Kornbluth and Rebecca Rubinstein)

Pesach Songs



Kadesh Urchatz

Kadesh, Urchatz, Karpas, Yachatz,
Magid, Rochtza, Motzi Matza,
Maror, Korech, Shulchan Orech,
Tzafun, Barech, Halel, Nirtza.

Mah Nishtanah

Mah nishtanah halayla hazeh, mikol halaylot
Shebechol halaylot anu ochlim chametz oo matzah
Halaylah hazeh culo matza
Shebechol halaylot anu ochlim she'ar yeracot
Halaylah hazeh maror
Shebechol halaylot ayn anu matbilil afilu paam echat
Halaylah hazeh shetai pe'amim
Shebechol halaylot anu ochlim beyn yoshvin oo bayn mesubim
Halaylah hazeh culanu mesubim

It's work, work, work

Bang! Bang! Bang!
Hold your hammer low,
Bang! Bang! Bang!
Give a heavy blow –

For it's work, work, work
Every day and every night
And it's work, work, work
When it's dark and when it's light.

For it's work etc...

Frogs

One Morning King Paroh awoke in his bed
There were frogs on his pillow and frogs on his head –
Frogs on his nose and frogs on his toes,
Frogs here, frogs there,
Frogs just jumping everywhere

Pesach Candles

Pesach candles, Pesach candles
Burning bright, burning bright
Matzah on the table, matzah on the table
It's Seder night, It's Seder night.

עֲבָדִים הָיִינוּ
עֲבָדִים הָיִינוּ לְפָרְעָה בְּמִצְרַיִם
עֲבָדִים הָיִינוּ לְפָרְעָה בְּמִצְרַיִם

דִּיּוּנוּ



אלו הוציאנו ממצרים
דיינו

אֶחָד מִי יוֹדֵעַ



אֶחָד אֲנִי יוֹדֵעַ: אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמַיִם וּבְאָרֶץ

שְׁנַיִם מִי יוֹדֵעַ

**שְׁנַיִם אֲנִי יוֹדֵעַ: שְׁנֵי לְחוֹת הַבְּרִית. אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ
שְׁבַשְׁמַיִם וּבְאָרֶץ.**

שְׁלֹשָׁה מִי יוֹדֵעַ

**שְׁלֹשָׁה אֲנִי יוֹדֵעַ: שְׁלֹשָׁה אָבוֹת, שְׁנֵי לְחוֹת הַבְּרִית, אֶחָד
אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמַיִם וּבְאָרֶץ**

אַרְבַּע מִי יוֹדֵעַ

**אַרְבַּע אֲנִי יוֹדֵעַ: אַרְבַּע אִמֹּהוֹת, שְׁלֹשָׁה אָבוֹת, שְׁנֵי לְחוֹת
הַבְּרִית, אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמַיִם וּבְאָרֶץ**

חֲמִשָּׁה מִי יוֹדֵעַ

חַמְשָׁה אֲנִי יוֹדֵעַ: חַמְשָׁה חוּמְשֵׁי תוֹרָה, אַרְבַּע אֲמָהוֹת,
שְׁלֹשָׁה אָבוֹת, שְׁנֵי לַחֹת הַבְּרִית, אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמִים
וּבְאֶרֶץ



Who knows one? I Know one.
One is Hashem, one is Hashem, one is Hashem
In the heaven and the earth, in the heaven and the earth.

Who knows 2? I know 2.
Two are the luchot that Moshe brought
And one is Hashem etc.

Who knows 3? We know 3.
3 are the fathers and 2 are the luchot that Moshe brought
And 1 is Hashem

Who knows 4? I know 4. 4 are the mothers and 3 are the fathers and 2 are the luchot
etc.

Who knows 5? I know 5. 5 are the books of the Torah and 4 are the mothers etc

Just a Tad of Charoset (To the tune of 'Just a spoon full of sugar')

Chorus: Just a tad of Charoset helps the bitter herbs go down, The bitter herbs go
down, the bitter herbs go down. Just a tad of Charoset helps the bitter herbs go
down, In the most delightful way.

Oh, back in Egypt long ago, The Jews were slaves under Pharaoh They sweat and
toiled and labored through the day. So when we gather Pesach night, We do what we
think right. Maror, we chew, To feel what they went through.

Chorus: Just a Tad of Charoset (To the tune of 'Just a spoon full of sugar') Chorus: Just
a tad of Charoset helps the bitter herbs go down, The bitter herbs go down, the bitter
herbs go down. Just a tad of Charoset helps the bitter herbs go down, In the most
delightful way

Shalom Sesame Les Matzarables Song:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpzLKo3diWk>

Fountainheads Pesach Song:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_RmVJLfRoM

Websites



Would you like to find out more about Pesach?

Useful Websites with information about Purim as well as videos, arts and crafts ideas and songs:

www.akhlah.com

<http://www.akhlah.com/holidays/Pesach>

www.shalomsesame.org

<http://www.shalomsesame.org/parents-and-educators/Pesach>

www.chabad.org

<http://www.chabad.org/holidays/Pesach>

www.jewishinteractive.net

<http://jewishinteractive.net/site/families/>