

# Passover

How is it celebrated?



# Passover

What do you already  
know about Passover?

Click the **bold words** to find out more.

# What is Passover?

Passover is an important festival in the Jewish year. It is also known as Pesach in **Hebrew**.

**Jewish** people follow **Hebrew** - an ancient language that is in one

**Jewish** - a person whose religion is Judaism

**n** - one of the world's oldest  
s



# When Is Passover?

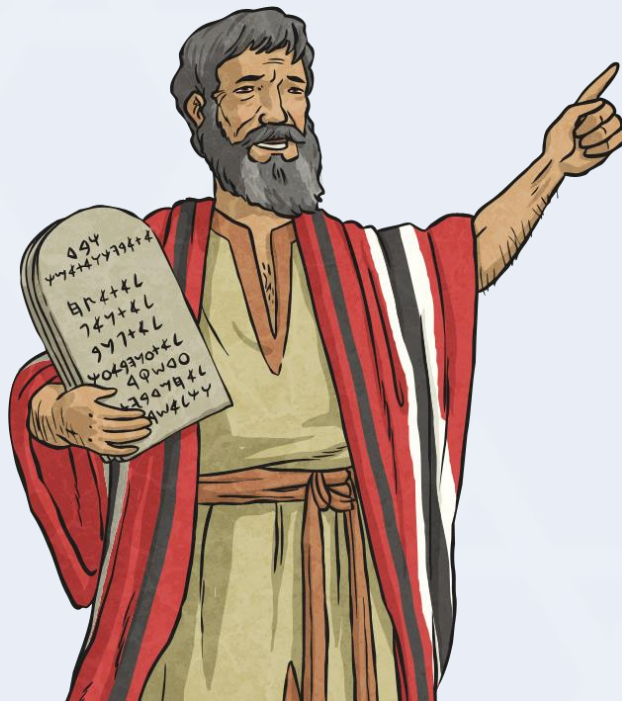
Passover is celebrated by Jewish people in Spring. Christians celebrate Easter at a similar time.



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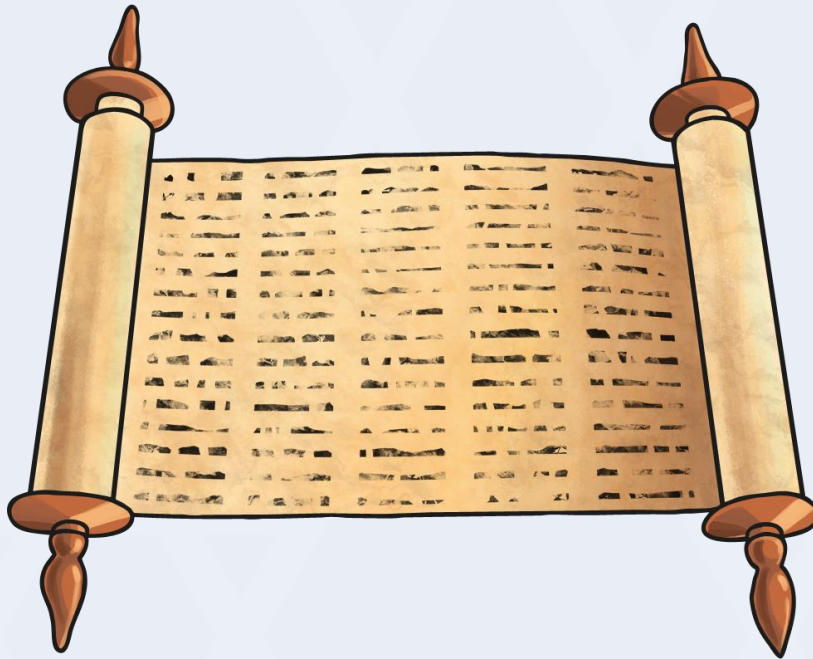
# Why Is Passover Celebrated?

Passover is a time when Jews remember the Israelites' freedom from slavery in Egypt. Moses, an important figure in the Jewish faith, led the Israelites to freedom over 3,000 years ago.



# The Story of the First Passover

According to the Torah, the Israelites were God's chosen people. They observed Jewish law and believed in one God. However, they were enslaved in Egypt, where they were forced to work in difficult conditions, building pyramids and other great buildings.





# The Story of the First Passover

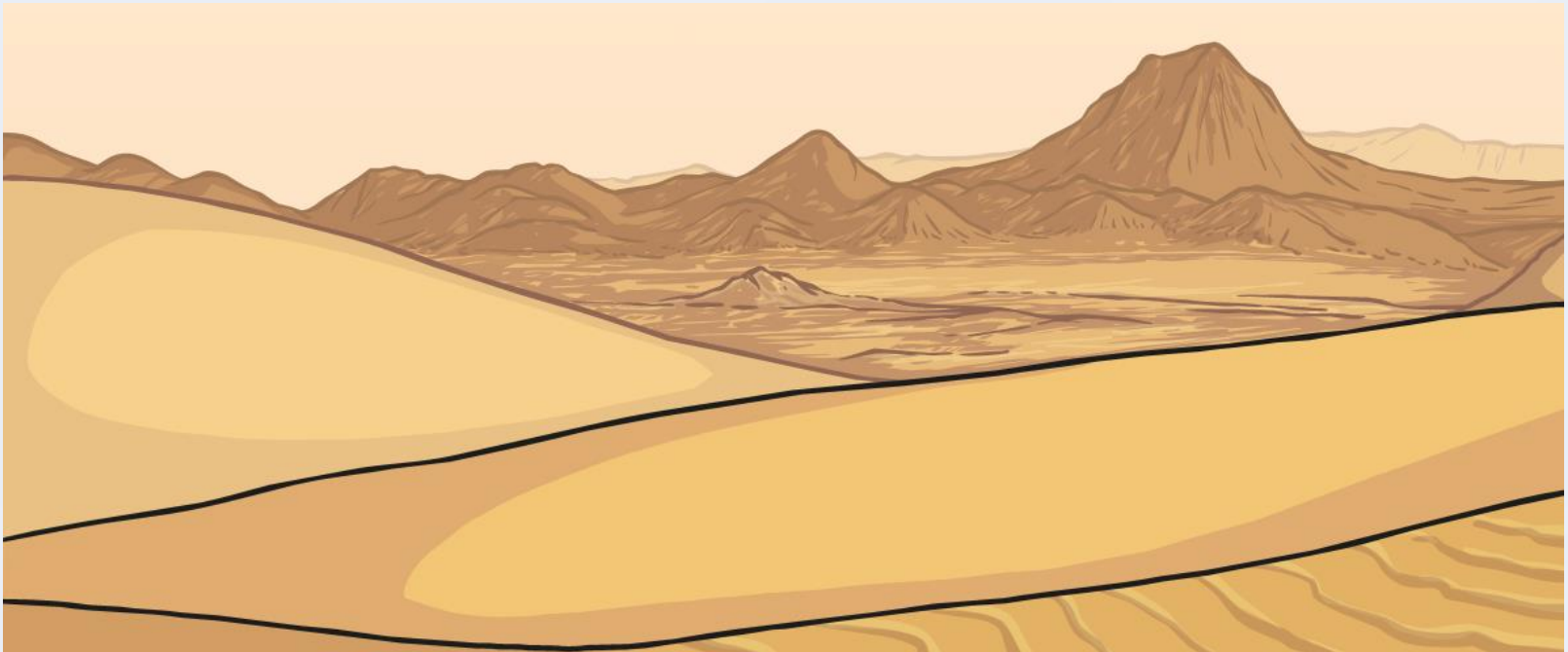
Moses had been born into a Jewish family at a time when Jewish baby boys were in danger. To save him, his mother put him in a basket and sent him down the river, with his sister watching close by. He was found by the Pharaoh's family and raised in the palace.

As he grew older, Moses wanted to learn more about his Jewish heritage. He left the palace, and whilst tending sheep God spoke to him through a burning bush. God chose him to lead His people, the Israelites, to freedom.

It was a long and difficult struggle, but Moses succeeded and led the Israelites to freedom. God even made a miracle happen and parted a sea for His people to walk through!

# The Story of the First Passover

Moses and the Israelites spent many years travelling through the desert to reach the land God had promised them. Often, they had little to eat or drink. But the Torah says that God watched over them, provided for them and protected them.





# How Is Passover Celebrated?

Passover is celebrated for seven or eight days. Some Jewish families clean their house before the festival begins.

A special service called **Seder** happens on the evening before Passover begins.

This takes place with family and friends over a special meal called the seder meal.

**Seder** - 'order' in Hebrew.

At the seder meal, a special plate called the seder plate is used.



# How Is Passover Celebrated?

## The Seder Plate



**Seder plate** - an important part of the Seder meal, this plate has five sections to hold some special Seder foods

# How Is Passover Celebrated?

At the Seder meal, three **matzot** breads are placed on top of each other. The middle matzah is broken in half. The youngest child is given the honor of the hunt for the matzah to win the game.

**Matzot** - an unleavened bread



# How Is Passover Celebrated?

Four small glasses of wine are drunk at the **seder** meal. Although there are different ideas about what these glasses of wine symbolize, it is believed that they are representative of the four cups of wine that were brought out of slavery. They can be seen in the seder plate.

**Seder** - 'order' in Hebrew.

Other believers think the glasses represent the four promises made to the Israelites, promises to protect and save them.



# How Is Passover Celebrated?

The story of the first Passover is told during celebrations.

The story is told from a book called the **Haggadah**.

The retelling of the story is sometimes sung and the youngest child in

**Haggadah** - a special book containing the story of the Israelites fleeing Egypt



# How Is Passover Celebrated?

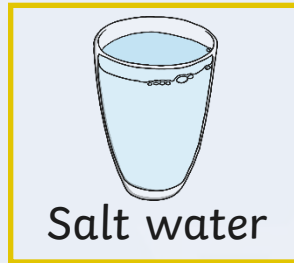
Everyone at the Seder has a cushion to lean on. This is to remind them that the Israelites were freed from slavery to live a more comfortable life.





# Try It!

Match the Pesach symbols to the descriptions.

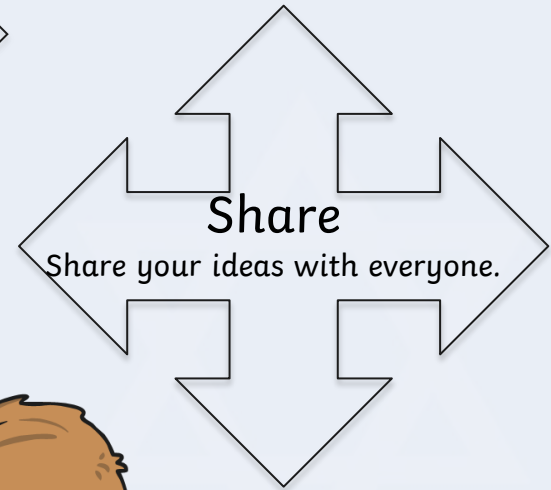
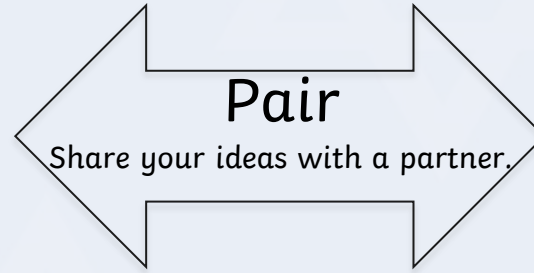


A symbol of the freedom and comfort of the Israelites when they were released from slavery

A symbol of the bitterness of slavery

A symbol of the sweat and tears shed during slavery

# What Did You Find Out about Passover?



# Glossary

**Haggadah** - a special book from which the story of the Israelites fleeing Egypt is read

**Hebrew** - an ancient language that is the official language of Israel

**Jewish** - a person whose religion is Judaism

**Judaism** - one of the world's oldest religions

**Maror** - a bitter herb eaten as part of the Seder meal

**Matzot** - an unleavened bread

**Seder** - means 'order' in Hebrew.

**Seder plate** - an important part of the Seder meal, this plate has five sections to hold some special Seder foods

**Symbol** - something that represents or reminds you of something else

**Torah** - Jewish holy book

