How Passover Is Celebrated

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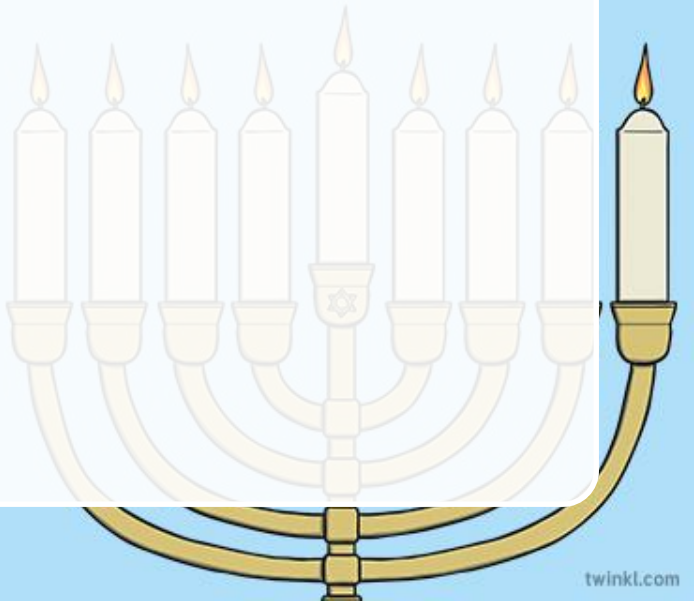
Passover

What do you already know about Passover?



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What Is Passover?

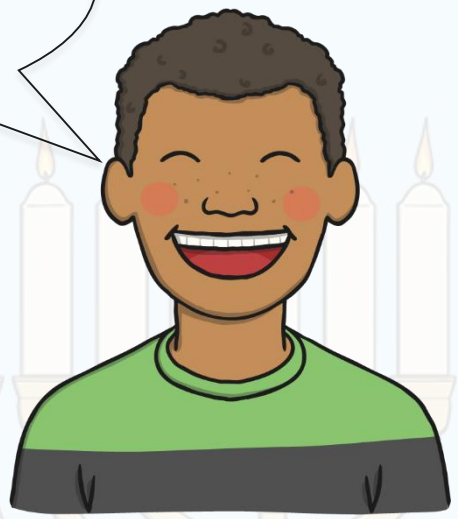
Passover is one of the most important festivals in the **Jewish** year.

Passover is called Pesach in **Hebrew**.

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

Hebrew – an ancient language that is the official language of Israel

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



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When Is Passover?

Passover is celebrated in spring by Jewish people.

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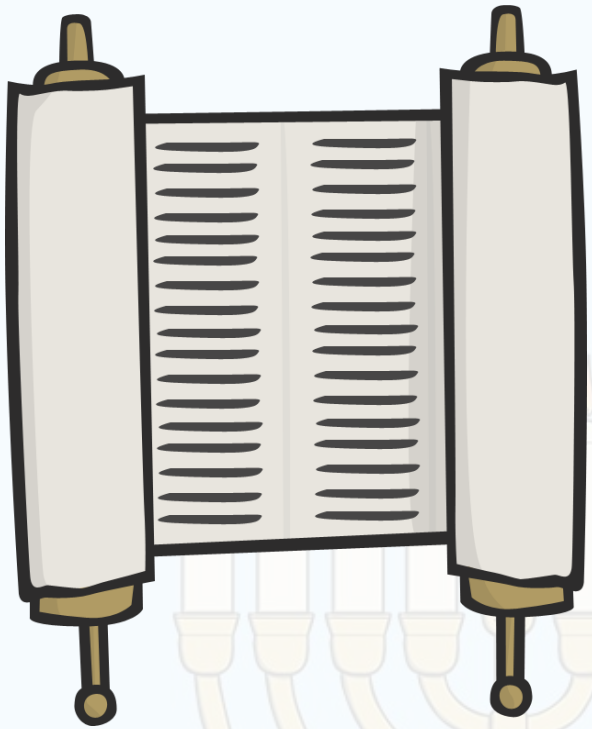
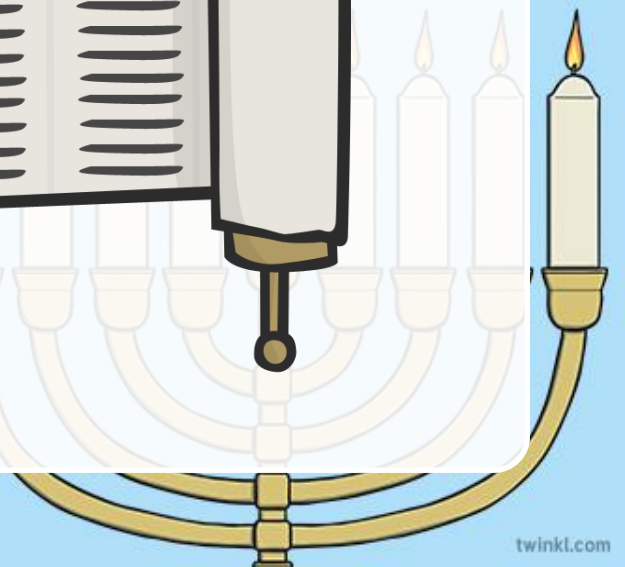
Why Is Passover Celebrated?

Passover is celebrated by Jewish people, who remember how the Israelite people were freed from slavery by Moses over 3000 years ago. The story of Passover is in the **Torah**, the Jewish holy book.

Torah – Jewish holy book

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





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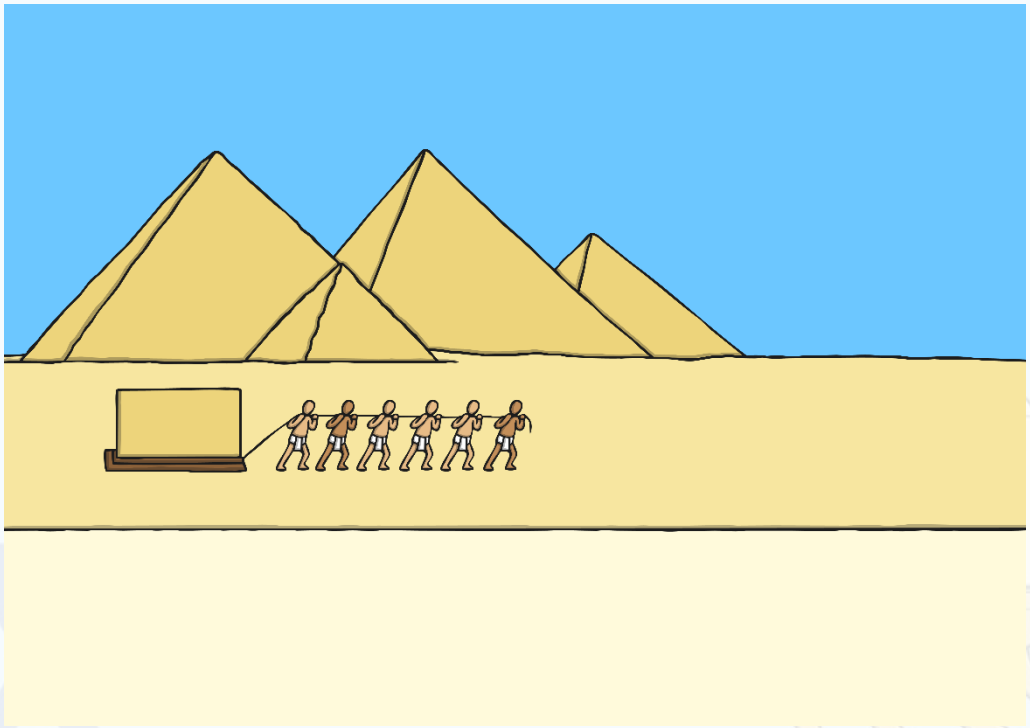
Moses

The Israelites were God's chosen people.
They were enslaved by the Egyptian pharaoh and were forced to work hard and make buildings.



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Moses

Moses was chosen by God to lead them into freedom.
It was a long and difficult struggle.
Eventually, Moses led the Israelites away from Egypt until they had to stop when they reached the Red Sea.
Then a miracle happened! Moses asked God for help, and the Red Sea parted.
The Israelites were saved! They were able to walk through the sea to freedom.

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Moses

Moses and the Israelites spent many years travelling through the desert with no food and water.
God watched over them and provided for them.

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Moses

After three months, God gave Moses ten laws for people to live by. These became the Ten Commandments.

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How Is Passover Celebrated?

Passover is celebrated for seven or eight days.

On the evening before Passover begins, there is a special service called a **Seder**.

At the Seder meal there is a special **Seder plate** on the table.

Seder – means 'order' in Hebrew.

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

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

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How Is Passover Celebrated?

Beitzah – a roasted, hard-boiled egg that represents sacrifice but also new life

Maror and chazeret – Two types of bitter herbs, reminding people of the bitterness of slavery

Karpas – a fresh green vegetable, often parsley, which symbolises the freshness of spring

Zeroa – A roasted lamb or chicken bone to symbolises offerings made to God

Charoset – a mixture of ground apples, nuts, ginger, cinnamon and wine, which symbolises the mortar used by the Israelites when they were forced to make bricks

Salt water – symbolises the tears and sweat of enslavement

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How Is Passover Celebrated?

At the Seder meal, three **matzot** breads are placed on top of each other. The middle matzah is broken and the biggest piece is hidden. Children hunt for the matzah and to win a prize.

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

Matzot –an unleavened bread

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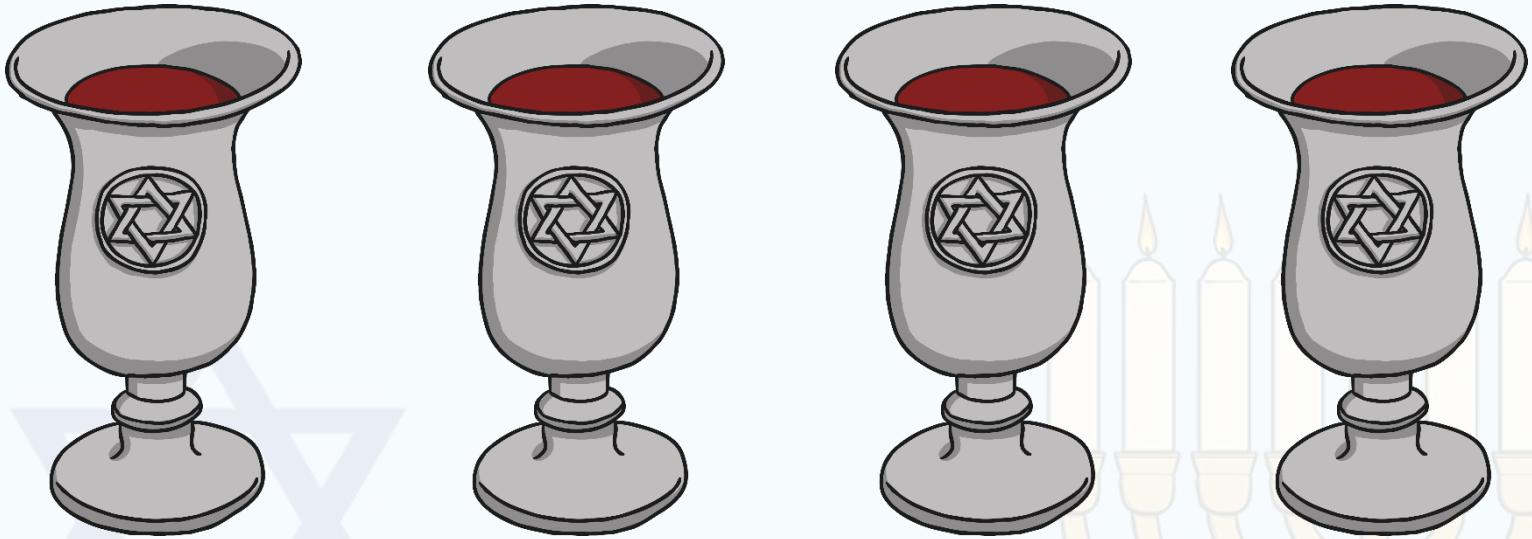
How Is Passover Celebrated?

Four small glasses of wine are drunk. People have different ideas about what this symbolises.

Some people think that the wine is a symbol of freedom. They believe that the four cups represent four promises made by God to save and protect the Israelites.



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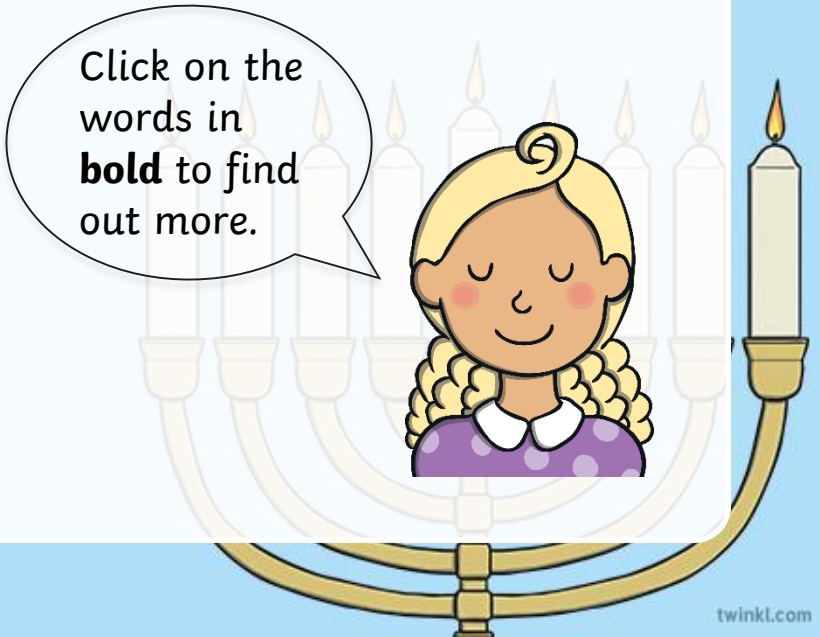
How Is Passover Celebrated?

The story of how the Israelites fled from Egypt is retold at Passover. It is read from a book called the **Haggadah.**

Haggadah –a special book from which the story of the Israelites fleeing Egypt is read.



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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.

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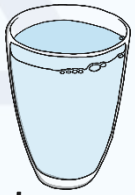
Try It!

Match the Pesach **symbols** to the descriptions.



Salt water

Maror

Cushion

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

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What Did You Find Out about Passover?

Think
What can you remember about Passover?

Pair
Share your ideas with a partner.

Share
Share your ideas with everyone.

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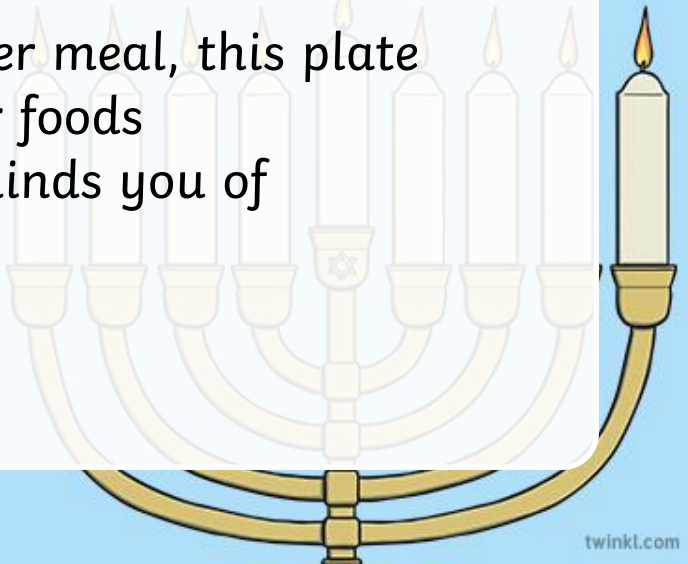
Glossary

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



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