

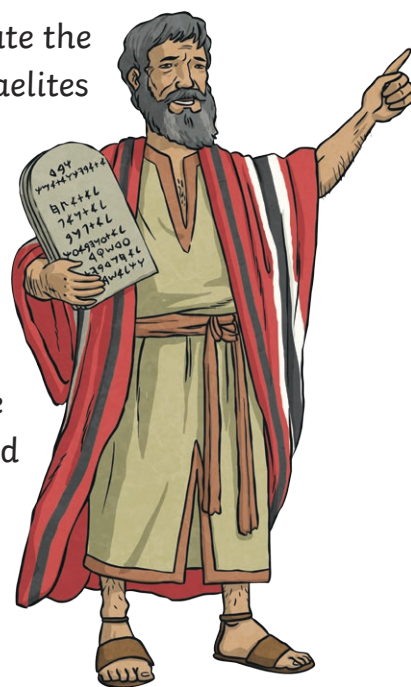
# Passover

Passover is an important Jewish festival. Jews celebrate the Feast of Passover to remember how Moses led the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land.

## The Passover Story

Many years ago, the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. God didn't like this and wanted them to be free. His voice spoke to Moses from a burning bush and told him to ask the Pharaoh to free the Israelites. The Pharaoh refused. Moses warned him that God would not be happy but the Pharaoh still did not listen.

God was angered and he unleashed ten plagues upon Egypt as a punishment.



## Blood

First of all, God turned the River Nile's water to blood. The fish all died but, still, the Pharaoh did not free the Israelites.

## Frogs

Then God sent a plague of frogs. The entire country was overrun with them. Still, the Pharaoh did not free the Israelites.

## Lice

God then turned all the country's dust into lice. They began crawling all over the people and their animals.

## Flies

The next plague was a swarm of flies. They filled people's homes and covered their food.

## Livestock

This plague killed the Egyptians' animals. Horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep and goats all died.



## Boils

Then nasty boils (like painful spots) appeared on people's bodies.

## Hail

Egypt suffered the worst hailstorm ever to hit the country of Egypt. It destroyed most of the country's crops.

**Locusts**

A swarm of locusts invaded Egypt next. Any crops left standing after the hailstorm were eaten by the hungry insects.

**Darkness**

For the ninth punishment, God cast Egypt into darkness for three days. The Pharaoh still refused to release the Israelites.

**The Plague on the Firstborn**

God was now angrier than ever. He told Moses to prepare the Israelites for the tenth plague.

They needed to mark their doorways with the blood of a male lamb. Then, they were to roast the lamb and eat it with bitter herbs.

That night, the angel of death struck down every firstborn Egyptian. He knew to pass over the Israelites' homes as they had the lamb's blood on their doors. This is where the name Passover comes from.

**The Pharaoh Releases the Israelites**

In the morning, every Egyptian firstborn child was dead, including the eldest son of the Pharaoh.

The Pharaoh gave in and told Moses to lead the Israelites from Egypt. This was known as the Exodus.

**Passover Today**

Today, Passover is a big family celebration and lasts seven or eight days (depending on where the celebration is happening).

**Seder Meal**

A special meal is eaten called the Seder. The food on the plate symbolises different parts of the Passover story and is eaten in a particular order.



# The Seder Plate



**matzo**  
(bread without yeast)



**bone of lamb**



**egg**



**greenery**  
(usually lettuce)



**salt water**



**four cups of wine**



**charoset**  
(a paste made of apples, nuts,  
cinnamon and wine)

# Questions

1. Why is Passover important to Jewish people? Tick **one**.

- ☐ because they have lovely food
- ☐ because God wasn't happy
- ☐ because it remembers how Moses led the Israelites from Egypt
- ☐ to remember the Pharaoh

2. What didn't God like about the way the Pharaoh was treating the Israelites?

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3. How did God appear to Moses? Tick **one**.

- ☐ in a dream
- ☐ as a pharaoh
- ☐ as a burning bush
- ☐ as a plague

4. Put these events in time order from 1 to 5. Number 1 is the event that happened first.

- ☐ Crops were eaten by hungry insects.
- ☐ Horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep and goats all died.
- ☐ Moses led the Israelites from Egypt.
- ☒ 1 The River Nile turned to blood.
- ☐ Egypt was overrun with frogs.

5. How do you think the Pharaoh was feeling after the plague on the firstborn?

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6. What is charoset made with? Tick **all that apply**.

- ☐ eggs
- ☐ apples
- ☐ cinnamon
- ☐ wine

7. How did Passover acquire its name?

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8. Explain what you think is the most important part of the Passover celebration.

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# Answers

1. Why is Passover important to Jewish people? Tick **one**.
  - ☐ because they have lovely food
  - ☐ because God wasn't happy
  - ☒ **because it remembers how Moses led the Israelites from Egypt**
  - ☐ to remember the Pharaoh
2. What didn't God like about the way the Pharaoh was treating the Israelites?  
**God didn't like that the Pharaoh was keeping the Israelites as slaves.**
3. How did God appear to Moses? Tick **one**.
  - ☐ in a dream
  - ☐ as a pharaoh
  - ☒ **as a burning bush**
  - ☐ as a plague
4. Put these events in time order from 1 to 5. Number 1 is the event that happened first.
  - Crops were eaten by hungry insects.
  - Horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep and goats all died.
  - Moses led the Israelites from Egypt.
  - The River Nile turned to blood.
  - Egypt was overrun with frogs.
5. How do you think the Pharaoh was feeling after the plague on the firstborn?  
**Accept any suitable answer, such as: The Pharaoh would have felt heartbroken/sad/devastated because his son had died.**
6. What is charoset made with? Tick **all that apply**.
  - ☐ eggs
  - ☒ **apples**
  - ☒ **cinnamon**
  - ☒ **wine**
7. How did Passover acquire its name?  
**Passover acquired its name because the angel of death knew to pass over the Israelites' homes as they had the lamb's blood on their doors.**
8. Explain what you think is the most important part of the Passover celebration.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the most important part of the Passover celebrations are the remembrance of the difficult time that the Israelites had to go through to achieve freedom.**