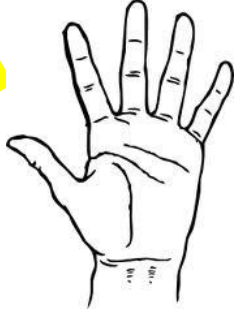


Starter



What kind of special days or occasions do we celebrate by having a meal with our family or friends?



Title: Pesach

Can I explain why and how Jews celebrate Passover?



So why is Pesach (Passover) celebrated?



1

The eight-day festival of Passover (or in Hebrew 'Pesach') is celebrated in the early spring, It commemorates the **escape** of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. By following the **rituals** of Passover, Jews relive and experience the **freedom** that their ancestors gained.



Israelites

The Hebrew people, who have a special relationship with G-d

dreamstime.com



1313 BC

After many decades of slavery to the Egyptian pharaohs, G-d saw the people's distress



G-d sent **Moses** to ask the Pharaoh to free His people. But despite many warnings, Pharaoh refused to follow G-d's command.

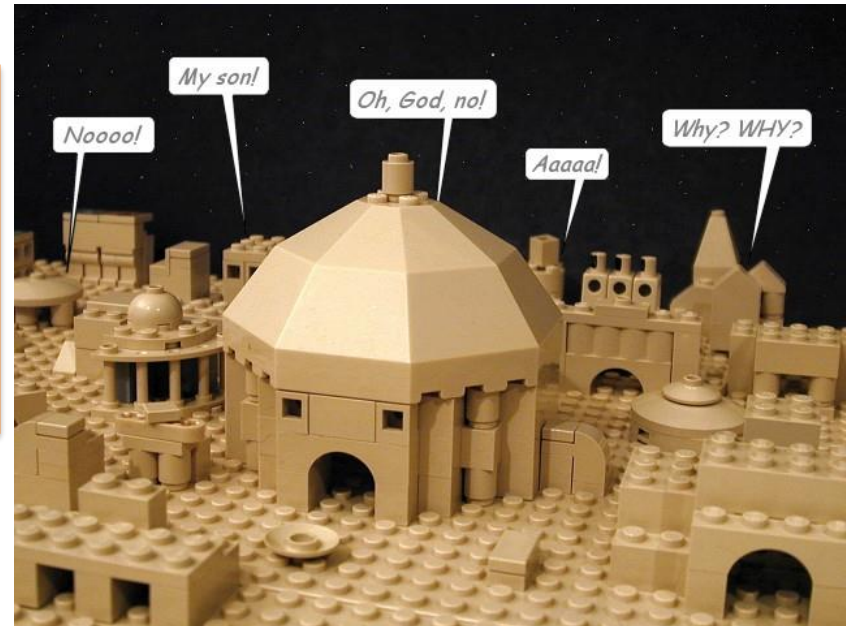




So G-d sent **ten** devastating plagues, afflicting them and destroying everything from their animals to their crops.

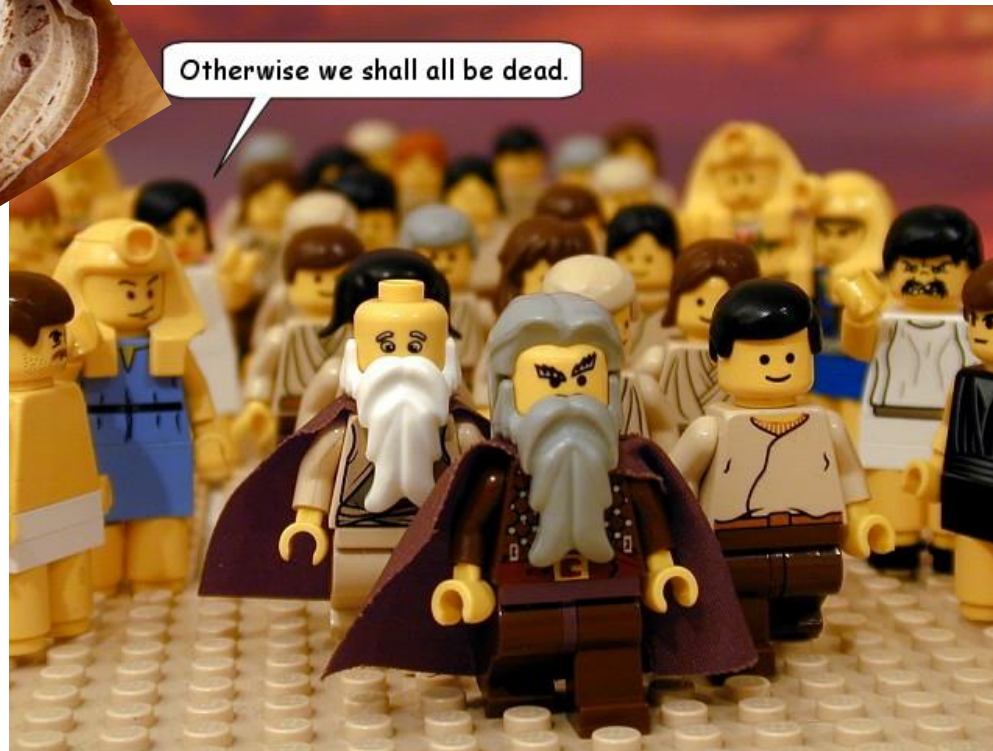


The last of the ten plagues was to kill all the **first born sons** in Egypt. However G-d spared the firstborns of the **Israelites**, “passing over” their homes—hence the name of the festival ‘Passover’.



Finally Pharaoh gave in (his own first born son was killed), and he chased his former slaves out of the land.

The Israelites left in such a hurry that the bread they baked as provisions for the way did not have time to rise.



So how do Jews celebrate Passover?

They have a special meal called the **Seder**

Different foods are eaten during the Seder and they each symbolise an aspect of the Passover story



Roasted egg



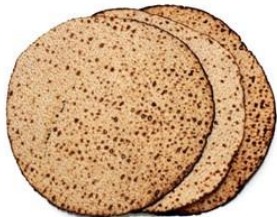
Lamb shank bone



Horse radish



Apple, nut and wine paste



Unleavened bread



Parsley/green veg



Salt water



Four cups of wine

<https://www.bbc.co>

<https://www.bbc.co>



1



Roasted egg

The strength of the Jewish people

- ***The longer the egg is burnt or cooked the harder it becomes***
- ***The egg is not actually eaten***



Lamb shank bone

The offering made to G-d in the desert

- ***When the Jews escaped to the desert they sacrificed a lamb to thank G-d***
- ***The bone is not eaten***



Horse radish
(Maror)

The bitterness of slavery

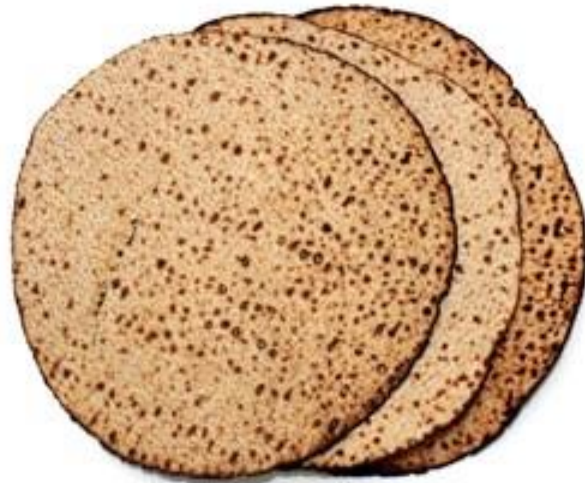
- ***Horse radish has a bitter taste that reminds Jews of their ancestors slavery.***



Apple, nut and
wine paste
(Charoset)

***The mortar that the Jews made and the
sweetness of freedom***

- ***The Israelites were forced to make bricks and mortar, the paste reminds Jews of this. However it has a sweet taste.***
- ***The bitter herb is dipped into the Charoset***



Unleavened bread
(Matzah)

*The food eaten in the desert,
symbolising freedom*

- Unleavened bread is bread that has not risen, it reminds Jews of how the Israelites had no time to let their bread rise.***
- In the days leading up to Pesach, Jews clean their entire house to make sure there is no leavened bread ANYWHERE!***



Parsley/green veg

The hard work of slavery

- ***vegetables have to be pulled from the ground, this reminds Jews of the hard labour that the Israelites were forced to do.***
- ***The green veg is dipped into the salt water.***



Salt water

The tears of the Jewish ancestors in Egypt

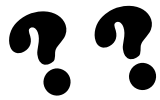
- The vegetables are dipped in to the salt water.



Four cups of wine

Joy and happiness!

- ***A blessing is said over the wine. This is called **Kiddush*****
- ***When drinking the wine you should **lean to your left**. This leaning represents freedom, because at the time of slavery, wealthy free people would lie on their side when eating and drinking.***



The Four Questions



The festival of Pesach focuses mainly on the children in the family. It is a time for them to learn about the history of their ancestors.

During the Seder meal the children are allowed to ask four questions. Then, usually the father answers them, by telling them parts of the Passover story.

Take it in turns to ask each other the four questions!

1. Tonight, why do we only eat Matzah?
2. Tonight, why do we eat bitter herb?
3. Tonight, why do we dip twice?
4. Tonight why do we lean as we eat?



3

Extension task:
On a post it note, write down a question you might ask or be asked at dinner time

https://youtu.be/zpxsH3i_zGc