

PASSOVER

Passover celebrates the Jewish people leaving Egypt. A new Pharaoh took control and made the Israelites his slaves because they were different. He subjected them to immense pain. The Jews pleaded with God for help. God sent Moses to Pharaoh and asked him to let the Jewish people go. Pharaoh would not allow this, so God sent 10 plagues. On the tenth one, Pharaoh finally agreed to let the Jewish people go. They had to leave very quickly before their bread was ready. This unleavened bread is called matzah. As the Jews leave, they are chased by Egyptians. They need to cross the Red Sea to

escape to freedom. In a miracle, the sea parts and the Jews are able to cross, while their foes are washed away. The Jews are free. The seder honors this story and allows us to reflect on what our people went through. On this holiday, we remember the pain of the Jewish people and remind ourselves that, like Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "no one is free until we are all free."

CUSTOMS

On Passover, a seder is held with rituals and prayers highlighted in the Haggadah, the special Passover siddur. Jewish families often refrain from eating leavened bread, or chametz, and instead enjoy matzah for the week. At the seder, there are special customs. Young children search for the hidden afikoman, s special piece of hidden matzah, at the end of the seder. We recount the four questions to remember why the Passover seder is special.

SYMBOLS AND VOCABULARY-

10 plagues: blood, frogs, lice, wild beasts, pestilence, boils, hail, locusts and death of the first born were sent by God to convince Pharaoh to free the Jews **Seder plate:** Bitter herbs, parsley, horseradish, maror, egg, charoset and shank bone are symbolic reminders of the hardships Jews faced in their quest for freedom.

PRAYERS FOUR QUESTIONS-

Mah nishtanah halailah hazeh mikol haleilot? How is this night different from all other nights? מַה נִשְׁתַנָה הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה מְכָל הַלֵּילוֹת?

Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin chametz umatzah, בָּכָּל מַלִילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין חָמַץ וּמַצָּה, הַלְיָלָה הַזָּה - כָּלִו מַצָּה, שְׁבְּכָל הַלִילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלין חָמַץ וּמַצָּה, הַלְיָלָה הַזָּה - כָּלָו מַצָּה, halailah hazeh, kuloh matzah?

On all other nights, we eat chametz (leavened foods) and matzah. Why on this night, only matzah?

Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin sh'ar y'rakot, אַבְּכָל הַלֵּילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין חָמֵץ וּמַצֶּה, הַלַיֶּלָה הַזֶּה - כְלוֹ מַצָּה? halailah hazeh, maror?

On all other nights, we eat all vegetables. Why, on this night, maror (bitter herbs)?

Sheb'chol haleilot ein anu matbilin afilu : אַרָּלָלָה הַזָּה שְׁתַי פּעָמים. שֶׁבְּכָל pa'am echat; halailah hazeh, sh'tei f'amim?

On all other nights, we don't dip even once. Why on this night do we dip twice

Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin bein yoshvin (שָׁבְּכָּל הַלִּילוֹת אַנוּ אוֹכְלין בּין ישָׁבִין וּבין מָסְבּין - הַלֵּיָלָה הַזָּה כָּלָמ מְסְבִין uvein m'subin; halailah hazeh, kulanu m'subin?

On all other nights, we eat either sitting upright or reclining. Why on this night do we all recline?



-GO DOWN MOSES -SEDER TABLE

Scan the QR code to enjoy these songs and more in Miss Jenny's Margaux School Holiday Songs playlist on Spotify.

HOLIDAY READING



IZZY THE WHIZ AND PASSOVER MCCLEAN BY YAEL MERMELSTEIN:

Learn about science and Passover as Izzy prepares to clean chametz up before the holiday.



DINOSAUR ON PASSOVER BY DIANE LEVIN RAUCHWERGER:

When a dinosaur arrives, it makes for an interesting Passover for one family.



MORE THAN ENOUGH BY APRIL HALRPIN WAYLAND: A family preps for Passover, dayenu!

VALUES-

Passover is a significant holiday in the Jewish year with important teachings. The Jews plight in Egypt and subsequent freedom remind us of the need to fight for the oppressed and to be appreciative of our own freedoms.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES MS. MAYA'S HOMEMADE MATZOH

Ingredients

1 cups sifted all-purpose flour, plus more for rolling 1⁄2 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more for sprinkling 1⁄2 cup to 3/4 cup water

Directions

Preheat the oven to 500°F

In a large bowl, mix together all the ingredients, using 3/4 cup water, until everything comes together to form a dough. If the dough seems dry, add a little more water, a few drops at a time. If you do not need the matzoh to be kosher for Passover, let the dough rest for 10 to 15 minutes. If you do need the matzoh to be kosher for Passover, proceed immediately to the next step so that you can attempt to finish everything in 18 minutes.

Divide the dough into4 pieces. Simply roll the dough as thinly as possible with a rolling pin on a lightly floured surface. Repeat with the remaining dough pieces.

Use a fork to prick holes in the surface of the dough.

