

Ideas to make this seder different from All other seders

1. ***Prepare individual Seder Plates*** - Since the leader and the few people seated next to him/her are the only participants at the table who have immediate access to the foods on the Seder plate itself, some families prepare miniature Seder plates at each setting. Each plate should hold portions of *karpas*, *maror*, *charoset*, and perhaps a hard-boiled egg and a tiny cup of salt water. It is not necessary to add *z'roah* to these individual plates.
2. ***Distribute nuts to the children at the Mah Nishtanah*** - The Talmud talks of distributing nuts to the children following Mah Nishtanah, perhaps as a way to keep them occupied during the Maggid story to come.
3. ***Ask a modern set of "Four Questions"*** - Many families ask additional sets of Four Questions with a more modern ring to them:
 1. Why is it that with all the work we have done on ourselves, there are still ways in which we feel un-free, ways in which we constrain ourselves?
 2. Why is it that with all our self-knowledge, there is still so much misunderstanding between parent and child, husband and wife, employer and employee, friend and friend?
 3. Why is it that with all that we know about conflict resolution there are still wars between nations, there are still children going to war, there are still innocent people dying?
 2. Why is it that with all that we know about our inter-relationship with our planet, we still allow ourselves and others to dishonor her through one of a million detrimental actions?
5. ***List 10 Plagues that plague us today*** - Ask participants to list ten plagues which "plague" us today. Are there any from which you think God can redeem us? Why?
6. ***"Beat" each other with scallions during Dayyenu*** - There is a unique custom practiced in some Sephardic communities at Dayyenu. Seder participants pick up bunches of green onions, scallions, or leeks and literally beat each other on the back and shoulders. Of course, this "beating" is done half-heartedly, but nevertheless provides a remarkable simulation of the whippings endured by the Israelite slaves in Egypt.
7. ***Pass Elijah's cup for everyone to contribute to it*** - Before opening the door for Elijah, pass Elijah's cup around the table, each participant adding some wine from his or her cup. This was the custom of Rabbi Naftali of Ropshitz as a demonstration that we must all work together to bring the Messianic time.
8. ***Dedicate a Matzah of Hope*** - A recent addition to the Seder in which a single matzah is set aside and a prayer is recited dedicated to the plight of Oppressed Jewry. A Matzah of Hope prayer can be found in "Readings for the Passover Seder."
9. ***Use a creative Afikomen Hunt idea*** - There are many creative afikomen hunts that can be used at your Seder to enhance involvement of children. An example is provided in this packet.

10. ***Sing Hatikvah at the conclusion of the Seder*** - Many families have adopted the custom of singing "Hatikvah", the national anthem of the state of Israel, at the conclusion of the Seder.
11. ***Create your own Maggid*** - Tell the story of Passover in a new and different way. Relate the Maggid through a short puppet show, magic show, or dramalogue. There are many well written Passover stories which can be read out loud during the Seder. Make copies of the "Skit for the Passover Story" found in your packet, assign parts and bring the Maggid to life.
12. ***Paraphrase Passover Story*** - Have the guests read or paraphrase their parts of the Passover story with an accent or as a well-known character. Try Jewish characters, or try characters like John Wayne, Mae West, or perhaps the Bushes. Try using excerpts from "Uncle Eli's Special-for-Kids Most Fun Ever Under-the-Table Passover Haggadah."
13. ***Serve one cup of White Wine*** - During the Middle Ages, Jews had to stop using red wine when the communities in which they lived accused them of drinking the blood of Christian children at their Seders. Have a discussion about anti-Semitism.
14. ***"Elijah Was Here"*** - Make a sign that says something like "I was here and I knocked, Where were you? Signed, Elijah." Hang it on the outside door after all the guest have arrived and let the children go to the door at the proper time to open it for Elijah.
16. ***Yachatz*** - When the middle matzah is broken, have each child, starting with the older children and finishing with the younger children, take a turn at putting the Afikomen on one of their shoulders while walking over to an adult and saying "In haste we went out of Mitzrayim." The adult responds "It is true; in haste we went out of Mitzrayim." The last adult to be approached by a child must hide the afikomen during the meal.
17. ***Welcome Elijah*** - If you can find someone willing to dress up in costume, have them sneak away from the table just before it is time to open the door and dress up as Elijah. The costume is as simple as a fake beard, a white cap and a robe. The kids will be really surprised when "Elijah" walks through the door!
18. ***Knaidelach Surprise!*** - While preparing knaidelach, insert a raisin inside 3 of them. During the Seder meal, whoever finds one in his/her bowl when served must sing a song or tell a story (or anything you choose!)
19. ***Add Songs to your Seder*** - There's no better way to bring everyone's attention back to the Seder than by adding a special song. There's a full collection on the song sheet enclosed with this packet. Enjoy!
20. ***Charoset Around the World*** - Although most Americans are familiar with the mixture of apples, almonds, cinnamon and wine, this is by no means the only combination possible. Each culture has created their own version of Charoset. Choose two or three new versions of Charoset from the recipes provided and take a journey around the world!
21. ***"Beat" each other with scallions during Dayyenu*** - There is a unique custom practiced in some Sephardic homes at Dayyenu. Seder participants pick up bunches of green onions, scallions or leeks and literally beat each other on the back and shoulders. Of course, this "beating" is done half-heartedly, but nevertheless provides a remarkable simulation of the whippings endured by the Israelite slaves in Egypt.