**Judaism Holiday: Passover**

**Passover** (**Pesach** in Hebrew) is one of the most important festivals in the Jewish year.

At this time Jewish people remember how the children of Israel left slavery behind them when they were led out of Egypt by **Moses** over 3000 years ago. The story can be found in the Book of Exodus; in the Hebrew Bible (the Torah) or the Old Testament of the Christian Bible.

**The story of the Passover**

Moses went to see Pharaoh many times. Each time Pharaoh refused to release the Israelites. Moses warned Pharaoh that God would send terrible plagues on Egypt if Pharaoh did not let them go. The ten plagues were: blood, frogs, gnats, flies, blight of the livestock, boils, hail, locusts, darkness and the death of the first born

The final plague was the death of the first born. God told Moses that the Israelites should mark their doorposts with lamb's blood so that God could 'pass over' their houses and spare them from this plague. This is why the festival is called Passover.

Eventually Pharaoh gave in and told Moses and the Israelites to go at once. They left in such a rush that their bread did not have time to rise. This is why, during Passover, Jewish people eat unleavened bread called **Matzah**. It looks a bit like crisp bread.

**How Passover is celebrated today**

The celebrations last for seven or eight days, depending on where you live.Some families clean their houses thoroughly to remove all crumbs of chametz (leaven). This remembers the Jews leaving Egypt who did not have time to let their bread rise. In many Jewish homes children enjoy taking part in a ritual search for any specks of leaven left behind

On the evening before the Passover begins, a special service called a Seder ('Order') takes place over a meal with family and friends in the home.

During the evening the story of how the Israelites fled from Egypt is retold from a book called the **Haggadah** ('Narration').

Everyone at the Seder each has a cushion to lean on. This is to remind them that they are now free people, no longer slaves.

Everybody takes part in reading the Haggadah, some in Hebrew and some in English, many songs are sung and four questions are asked by the youngest child. The father answers.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Passover and the Exodus**

Directions: After reading about Passover define the following key terms.

1. Moses: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Matzah: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Sedar: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Haggadah: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Answer the following questions.

5. When did Moses lead the Israelites out of Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. Where can the story of Moses be found?

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7. What were the 10 plagues and Why were they sent?

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8. Why is this Jewish holiday called “Passover”?

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9. How do Jewish people celebrate Passover?

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Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

**Word Bank:**

**FROGS EGYPT PASSOVER**

**LAMB’S BLOOD PHAROAH PLAGUES**

**ISRAEL HAIL FIRSTBORN CHILDREN**

**BOILS SLAVERY MOSES**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is one of the most important festivals for Jewish people. At this time people remember how the children of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were led out of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The leader of the Israelites was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Moses went to see \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the king of Egypt, to ask him to release the Israelites from slavery. Pharaoh refused.

God sent terrible \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to punish Pharaoh. He sent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and even \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. But still Pharaoh would not let the children of Israel go.

At last God sent one last plague. He would make all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ die. To protect the Israelites, God told Moses that they should put

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over their doors. God could 'pass over' the doors of the Israelites, so they would not be harmed. That is why the festival is called Passover.