



Celebrate with Us! Passover

Pre-Visit Activities

Learning Objective

To introduce children to the Passover story and vocabulary before they visit the museum.



Matzo

Materials

- World map or globe

What is Passover?

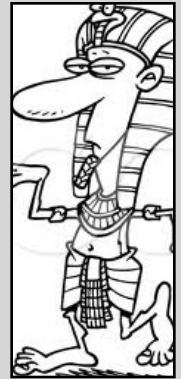
Passover is a Jewish holiday celebrated every spring. During Passover, it is a **tradition** to eat special foods, sing special songs, and tell a *very special* (and famous) story.

Passover is a holiday about freedom and the story begins like this:

Thousands of years ago, an evil king called the **Pharaoh** ruled the land of **Egypt**. Pharaoh decided that the Jewish people in his kingdom - then known as the **Israelites** - would become his **slaves**. "Work!" he roared. "Work, work, work! All day, every day! Sunrise to sunset! Do whatever I say, *whenever* I say it! No fun, no freedom for anyone. Not *even* the kids!"

No fun? No freedom? Hey, NO FAIR!

The Israelites were very unhappy. After all, who wants to work all day, every day, sunrise to sunset? Do you? They wanted to be free. They wanted to run away! But how? And who would help them?



"I will help you," said a brave man named **Moses**.

"I will tell Pharaoh that he is wrong!"

"I will tell Pharaoh to set you free!"

"I will tell Pharaoh to **let my people go!**"

Good plan, but will it be that simple? Well ... no.

What happens next? You'll be amazed. The rest of the story - when you visit the Museum at Eldridge Street!

Plagues, miracles, and matzo -
Passover vocabulary, next page

Good words to talk about before you visit:

Egypt: A country on the continent of Africa. Can you find it on a world map?

Exodus: When many people leave the same place at the same time. The story of Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt is called The Exodus.

Freedom: The right to think, speak, and believe what you want.

Hero: The good guy. In the Passover story, Moses is the hero. The opposite of hero is villain!

Matzo: During Passover, Jewish people don't eat bread. Instead, they eat Matzo which is like a large cracker. As you'll find out, eating matzo reminds us of a very important part of the Passover story.

Miracle: Something amazing and wonderful that happens. So amazing, you can hardly believe it!

Nile River: A river in Egypt and one of the longest rivers in the world.

Pharaoh: The ruler of Egypt thousands of years ago.

Plague: Something bad that happens to many people at the same time. In the Passover story, there are **ten** plagues.

Slave: A person who is forced to work and is never paid. A person who is not free.

Tradition: A tradition is something we do the same way at the same time year after year. For example, it's a tradition to eat turkey on Thanksgiving.

Villain: The bad guy. In the Passover story, Pharaoh is the villain. The opposite of villain is hero.



Questions to think about or discuss:

Passover is in the Spring. What other holidays do people celebrate in the Spring?

What are some of your favorite holidays? What are your favorite holiday traditions?

On the holiday of Passover, it is a tradition to tell the Passover story and to remember the importance of freedom. What does freedom mean to you?