

# Signs and Symbols

Learning Objective:

To find out how symbolic food can be used to remember important events.

Do you  
know  
what this  
is?





This is a Seder plate that Jews use during a festival called Passover. Each different item on the plate is a symbol for something in the story.

Watch the video to find out about the festival of Passover and the story that is remembered.

You only need to watch the first video which last 1m 38sec.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/znwhfg8/articles/zn22382>

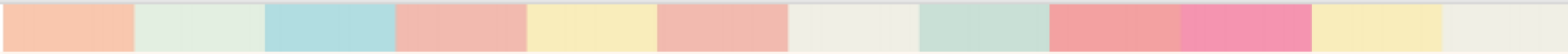




The Israelites were free! They celebrated and praised God that they had been freed from the evil Pharaoh and that God had looked out for His people, just as he had promised.

This is the story Jews remember at Passover. Why do you think the festival is called Passover?





It is called Passover because death 'passed over' all the Jewish sons. Moses and the Jews finally managed to escape from Egypt to live in freedom.

Look on the next slides to find out what each of the foods on the plate symbolises.

### **Matzos - unleavened bread**

There are lots of reasons why Jews don't eat leavened bread during Passover. It reminds some Jews of how they left Egypt in such a hurry that they didn't have time for the bread to rise.



### **Maror - bitter herbs**

These bitter herbs remind Jews of the bitterness of slavery.



### **Karpas - vegetables**

Parsley is often dipped into salt water which represents the tears of the Jewish slaves. The vegetables remind Jews of the coming of spring after the symbolic winter of slavery.



### **Chezeret - bitter herbs**

Chazeret is a bitter herb, usually the roots of Romaine lettuce. It symbolises the bitterness of slavery.





### **Charoset - a fruit paste**

This paste is made of apples, nuts and wine and represents the mortar the Jews used when they worked for Pharaoh.



### **Beitzah - roasted egg**

The egg symbolises life and death.



### **Z'roa - lamb bone**

This represents the sacrifice of the lamb in the Temple of Jerusalem.



### **Wine**

Red wine is dipped 10 times to represent the 10 plagues God sent to Egypt. The red wine also symbolises blood.



## Do you have any foods that are symbolic for you?

Maybe you have a special meal on your birthday...



Maybe you have a food that always reminds you of someone...

Maybe you always have the same meal at your favourite restaurant...

