

# JUDAISM

Why is Moses so important to Jews?



**LDBE**  
Lichfield Diocesan  
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## **Background Information:**

### **Who was Moses?**

Moses was a Jew. The king of Egypt wanted to stop the Jewish nation from growing too large and powerful, so he ordered all the Jewish baby boys to be killed! When he was three months old, he was put into a waterproof basket on the River Nile so that he would not be harmed. G-d kept Moses safe and even arranged for the king's daughter to find Moses on the river and bring him up as her own child.

When Moses grew up, he lived in the palace, but was very sad because his people (the Jews) were treated like slaves. He had to run away when he killed an Egyptian slave-master. After this, he lived in the Midian desert for 40 years. This gave him plenty of time to get married and start a family!

One day G-d spoke to him from a bush that seemed to be on fire... and sent him right back to Egypt to help set his people free. Unfortunately, the king did not want to let G-d's people go, and so many terrible things (called 'the 10 plagues') happened to the Egyptian people before the king finally gave in. Moses led the Israelites, which is another name for the Jews, out into the desert – they were not slaves anymore - they were free!

Moses did not really want the job of setting his people free. He didn't think he was a very good speaker. He was afraid of the king, and he generally worried about not being up to the challenge. G-d had to keep reminding him that He was more powerful than any king and would help Moses do the job he had asked him to do!

## Key Words

Key Word	Meaning
<b>Moses</b>	The greatest of all of the prophets.
<b>G-d</b>	How God is written by Jewish people.
<b>Prophet / Prophetess</b>	A spokesperson for God, chosen to convey a message or teaching. Prophets were role models of holiness, wisdom, and closeness to God
<b>Miriam</b>	Older sister of Moses and Aaron, and a prophetess in her own right. She helped Moses and Aaron lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt.
<b>Aaron</b>	Older brother of Moses. Founder of the priesthood, and the first High Priest. He helped Moses lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt.
<b>Hebrew</b>	The language that the Torah is written in and in which all prayer should be said.
<b>Hebrews</b>	People who are descendants of Abraham. Now the term Jew is often used to refer to the Hebrew people.
<b>Israelites</b>	The Hebrew people who are the direct descendants of Jacob (also called Israel) - Abraham's grandson.
<b>Egypt</b>	Egypt is a country in North Africa, on the Mediterranean Sea, and is home to one of the oldest civilizations on earth.
<b>Pharaoh</b>	A term that is used use as a general name for all Egyptian kings in the Hebrew Bible.
<b>Slave</b>	Slavery was common in Ancient Egypt. Some of the slaves in Egypt were the poor who had to sell their children into slavery. A slave might be seen as a "person owned by a master.'
<b>Burning Bush</b>	Described by the Book of Exodus as being located on Mount Horeb; according to the Bible, the bush was on fire, but was not consumed by the flames. In the Bible account, the burning bush is where Moses was appointed by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and into Canaan
<b>Holy</b>	A word used to describe an object or place that is directly associated with God.
<b>I AM WHO I AM</b>	Moses asks God for His name, so he will have an answer when the people of Israel ask. The name of I AM is how God chose to introduce himself.
<b>River Nile</b>	The longest river in the world. The Nile was crucial for life in Egypt and was seen as the source of all life by the Ancient Egyptians.
<b>Passover / Pesach</b>	Holiday commemorating the Exodus from Egypt. The holiday also marks the beginning of the harvest season. It is sometimes called Pesach.
<b>Passover Lamb / Paschal lamb</b>	The paschal lamb, in Temple times, was sacrificed on this holiday. It is also a reminder of the blood that was put over the doors of the Hebrew homes.
<b>Exodus</b>	The freeing of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt under the leadership of Moses; also, the Old Testament book of the same name that tells the story.

# **Websites**

## **Supportive Videos**

### **The Prince of Egypt – Moses Life**

#### **Moses in the Bullrushes**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o\\_cVUc0O5Dk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_cVUc0O5Dk)

#### **Burning Bush**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYW-lmfbk2Y>

#### **10 Plagues of Egypt**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJleW4TCQM0>

#### **Death of the First Born**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJ2nxYVKbD4>

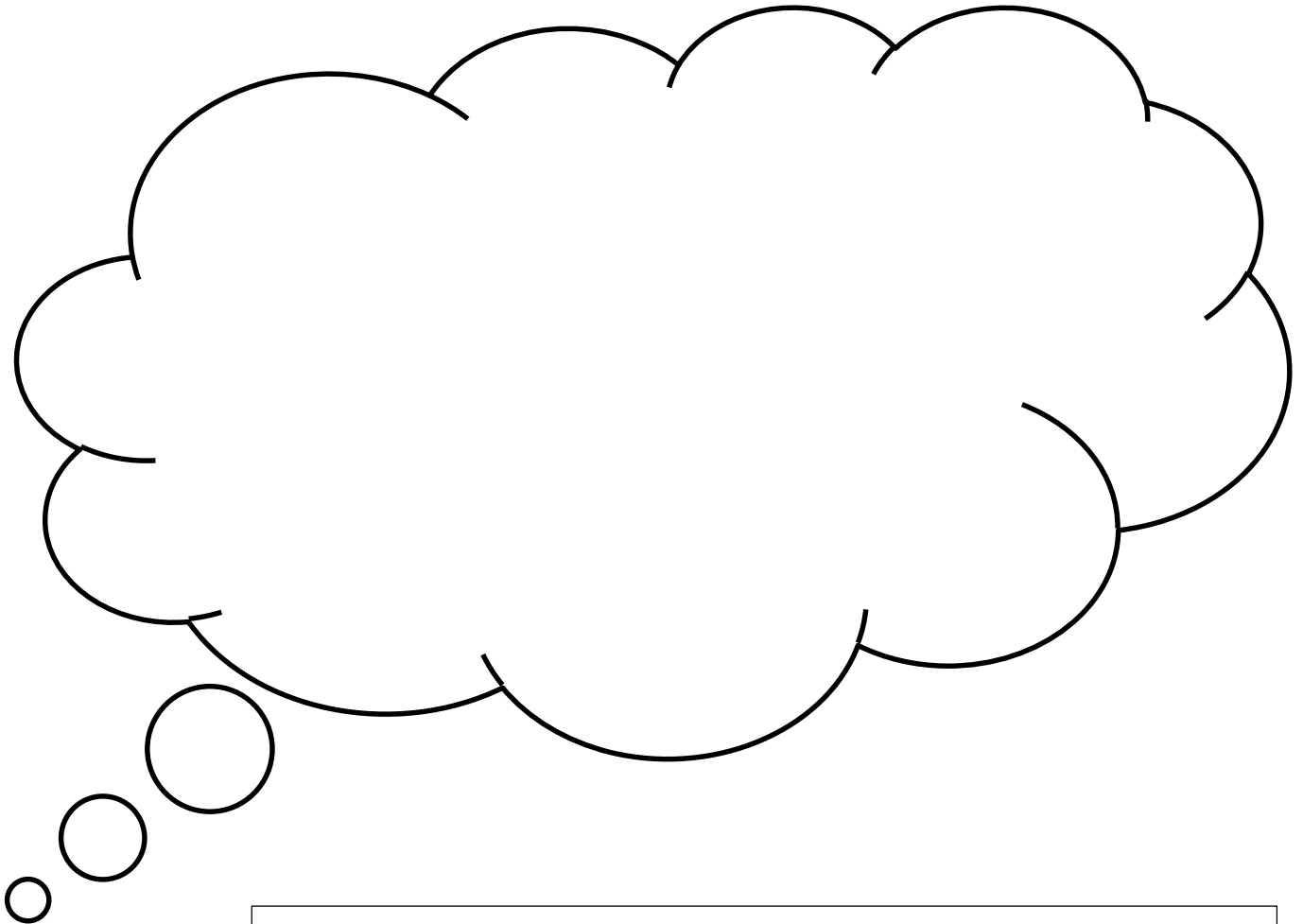
### **Pesach**

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

# Moses

*What do I already know about Moses?*

Write or draw your ideas.



*Questions I have about Moses.*

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# Art/Craft Activities

*Be creative and use any 'junk' you can find at home in the recycling box – cardboard/milk containers/lids etc*

- ☐ Weave a basket for baby Moses.
- ☐ Create an image/painting/collage of one of the events from the life of Moses/
- ☐ Create a plague of locusts/frogs.
- ☐ Create puppets for one of the stories of Moses.

**Be inspired here:**

[https://www.pinterest.co.uk/search/pins/?q=Moses%20crafts&rs=typed&term\\_meta\[\]=Moses%7Ctyped&term\\_meta\[\]=crafts%7Ctyped](https://www.pinterest.co.uk/search/pins/?q=Moses%20crafts&rs=typed&term_meta[]=Moses%7Ctyped&term_meta[]=crafts%7Ctyped)



# **Lesson 1:**

## **Who was Moses?**





# Lesson 1:

## Who was Moses?

### Read

<sup>1</sup>There was a man from the family of Levi. He married a woman who was also from the family of Levi. <sup>2</sup> She became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw how wonderful the baby was, and she hid him for three months. <sup>3</sup> But after three months, she was not able to hide the baby any longer. So she got a basket made of reeds and covered it with tar so that it would float. She put the baby in the basket. Then she put the basket among the tall grass at the edge of the Nile River. <sup>4</sup> The baby's sister stood a short distance away. She wanted to see what would happen to him.

<sup>5</sup> Then the daughter of the king of Egypt came to the river. She was going to take a bath. Her servant girls were walking beside the river. She saw the basket in the tall grass. So she sent her slave girl to get it. <sup>6</sup> The king's daughter opened the basket and saw the baby boy. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. She said, "This is one of the Hebrew babies." <sup>7</sup> Then the baby's sister asked the king's daughter, "Would you like me to find a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?" <sup>8</sup> The king's daughter said, "Yes, please." So the girl went and got the baby's own mother. <sup>9</sup> The king's daughter said to the woman, "Take this baby and nurse him for me. I will pay you." So the woman took her baby and nursed him. <sup>10</sup> After the child had grown older, the woman took him to the king's daughter. She adopted the baby as her own son. The king's daughter named him Moses, because she had pulled him out of the water.

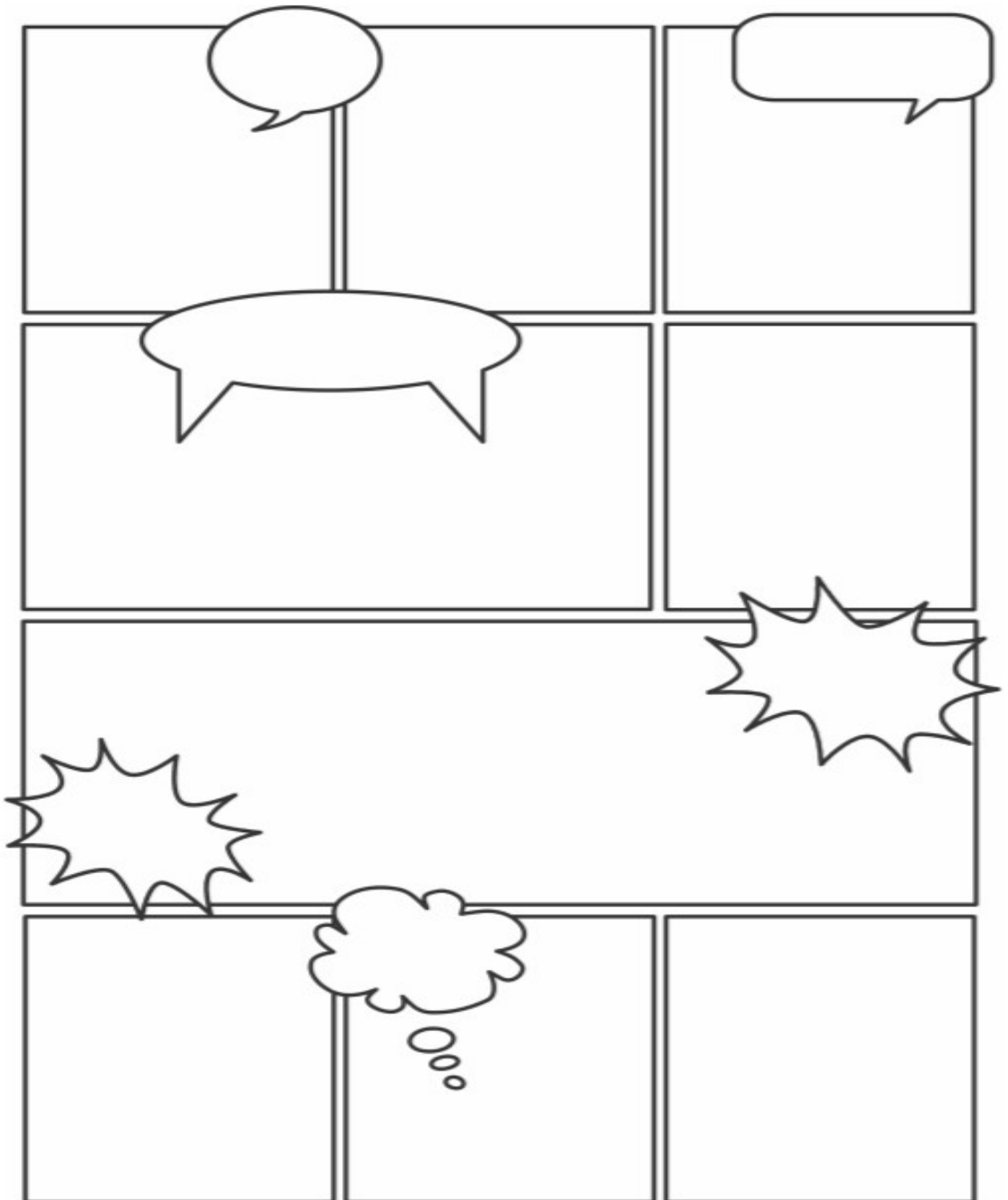
<sup>11</sup> Moses grew and became a man. One day he visited his people, the Hebrews. He saw that they were forced to work very hard. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew man, one of Moses' own people. <sup>12</sup> Moses looked all around and saw that no one was watching. So he killed the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand. <sup>13</sup> The next day Moses returned and saw two Hebrew men fighting each other. He saw that one man was in the wrong. Moses said to that man, "Why are you hitting one of your own people?" <sup>14</sup> The man answered, "Who made you our ruler and judge? Are you going to kill me as you killed the Egyptian? Then Moses was afraid. He thought, "Now everyone knows what I did." <sup>15</sup> When the king heard about what Moses had done, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses ran away from the king and went to live in the land of Midian.

**Exodus 2: 1-10**



Create a comic strip to retell the story.

Use speech and thought bubbles to show thoughts and feelings.





## **What was Moses like?**

Think of words to describe his character based on the passage read.

Think of words to describe what Moses was like?



*You may wish to use these sentence openers*

I would not choose Moses as a leader because...

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**Lesson 2:**

**Why is Moses  
Important to Jewish  
People?**



## Lesson 2:

# Why is Moses Important to Jewish people?

**Background:** Moses lived in the land of Midian for a long time and became a shepherd. Meanwhile, in Egypt, the King died and the people of Israel were forced to work very hard. The Israelites cried to G-d for help and G-d heard them. One day when Moses was looking after the sheep, an angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in flames coming out of a bush; the bush was on fire but not burning up. G-d spoke to Moses and told him about the troubles his people were having in Egypt. G-d said to Moses, "I have heard the cries of the people of Israel. I have seen the way the Egyptians have made life hard for them. So now I am sending you to the king of Egypt. Go! Bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt!"

Moses did not think he was right for the job, but G-d told him that He would be with Moses. Moses was worried that the Israelites would not believe that G-d had sent him, but G-d told Moses that Moses would convince them with two miracles. Moses was also worried that he was not a good speaker, but G-d told Moses that He would help him to speak.

Moses went to Egypt with his brother Aaron and told the King to let G-d's people go. The King did not listen and made the work more difficult for the Israelites and they became angry with Moses. Moses complained to G-d as the Israelites would not listen but G-d commanded Moses to go to the King and tell him to let the Israelites leave Egypt. The King did not listen so G-d punished Egypt with ten plagues: water turning to blood, frogs, lice, flies, livestock pestilence, boils, hail, locusts, darkness and the killing of firstborn children.

### Watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFU5NrPgutA> (Animated version of the whole story of Moses)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzcYLCYltuc> (Short overview of the story. This is less serious than the clip above)



# The Plague of the Locusts

## Read

### The Locusts

<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “Go to the king of Egypt. I have made him and his officers stubborn. I did this so I could show them my powerful miracles. <sup>2</sup> I also did this so you could tell your children and your grandchildren. Tell them how I made fools of the Egyptians. Tell them about the miracles I did among them. Then all of you will know that I am the Lord.”

<sup>3</sup> So Moses and Aaron went to the king. They told him, “This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: ‘How long will you refuse to be sorry for what you have done? Let my people go to worship me. <sup>4</sup> If you refuse to let my people go, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country. <sup>5</sup> They will cover the land, and no one will be able to see the ground. They will eat anything that was left from the hailstorm. They will eat the leaves from every tree growing in the field. <sup>6</sup> They will fill your palaces and all your officers’ houses. They will fill the houses of all the Egyptian people. There will be more locusts than your fathers or ancestors have ever seen. There will be more locusts than there have been since people began living in Egypt.’” Then Moses turned and walked away from the king.

<sup>7</sup> The king’s officers asked him, “How long will this man make trouble for us? Let the Israelite men go to worship the Lord their God. Don’t you know that Egypt is ruined?”

<sup>8</sup> So Moses and Aaron were brought back to the king. He said to them, “Go and worship the Lord your God. But tell me, just who is going?”

<sup>9</sup> Moses answered, “We will go with our young and our old people, our sons and daughters and sheep and cattle. This is because we are going to have a feast to honor the Lord.”

<sup>10</sup> The king said to them, “The Lord really will have to be with you if ever I let you and all of your children leave Egypt. See, you are planning something evil.

<sup>11</sup> No! Only the men may go and worship the Lord. That is what you have been asking for.” Then the king forced Moses and Aaron out of his palace.



# The Plague of the Locusts

## Read

### The Locusts

<sup>12</sup> The Lord told Moses, "Raise your hand over the land of Egypt, and the locusts will come. They will spread all over the land of Egypt. They will eat all the plants that the hail did not destroy."

<sup>13</sup> So Moses raised his walking stick over the land of Egypt. And the Lord caused a strong wind to blow from the east. It blew across the land all that day and night. When morning came, the east wind had brought the locusts. <sup>14</sup> Swarms of locusts covered all the land of Egypt and settled everywhere. There were more locusts than ever before or after. <sup>15</sup> The locusts covered the whole land so that it was black. They ate everything that was left after the hail. They ate every plant in the field and all the fruit on the trees. Nothing green was left on any tree or plant anywhere in Egypt.

<sup>16</sup> The king quickly called for Moses and Aaron. He said, "I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. <sup>17</sup> Now forgive my sin this time. Pray to the Lord your God. Ask him to stop this punishment that kills."

<sup>18</sup> Moses left the king and prayed to the Lord. <sup>19</sup> So the Lord changed the wind. He made a very strong wind to blow from the west. It blew the locusts away into the Red Sea. Not one locust was left anywhere in Egypt. <sup>20</sup> But the Lord caused the king to be stubborn again. And he did not let the people of Israel go.

**Exodus 10: 1-20**

This plague was the eighth plague G-d sent to punish Egypt. G-d told Moses to keep trying to get Pharaoh to listen and let His people go.

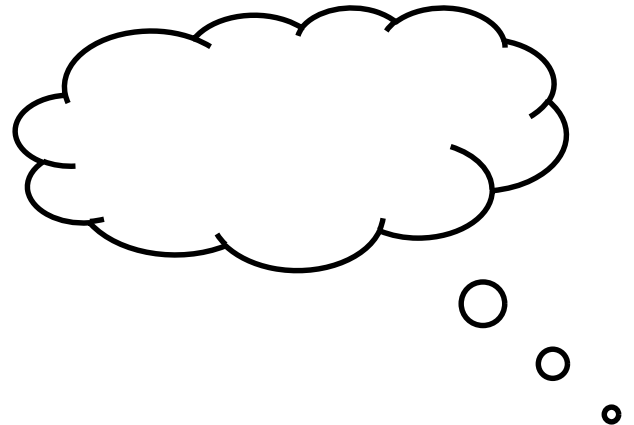
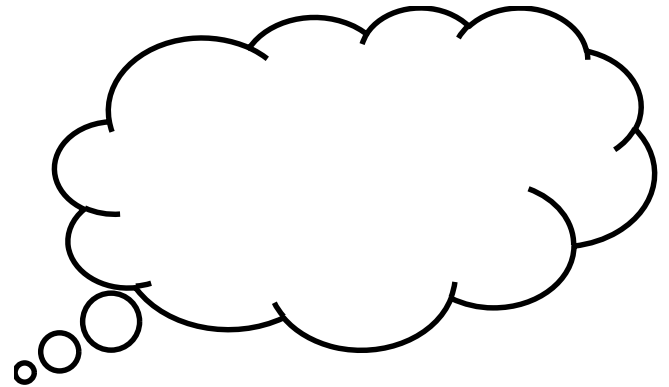
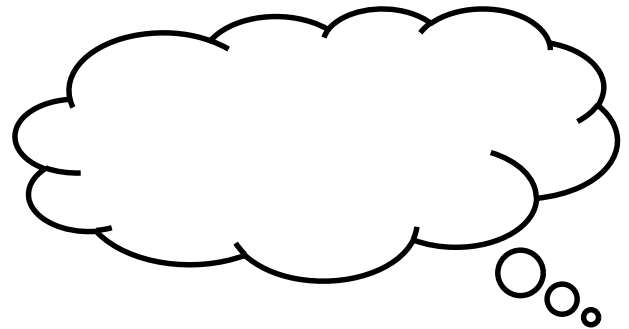
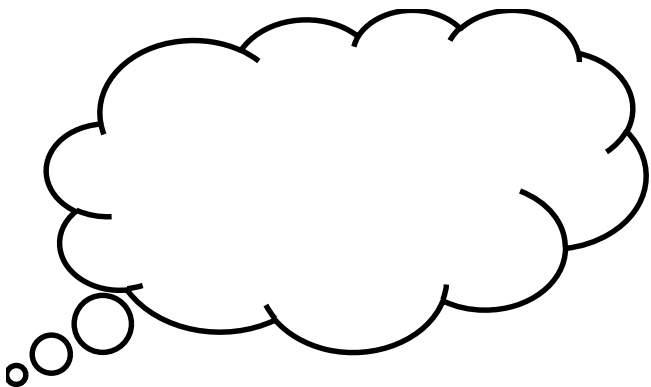
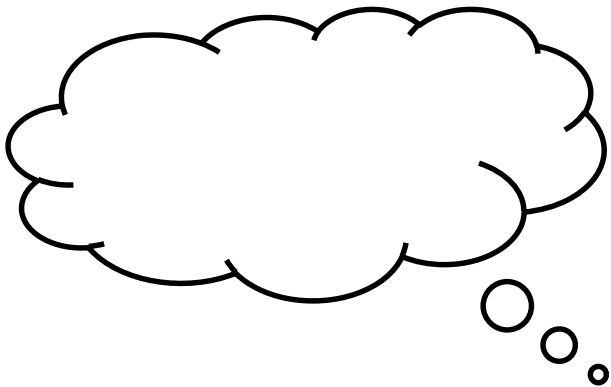
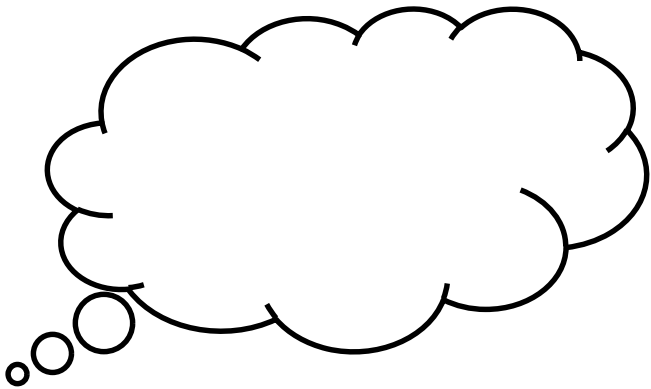




Should Moses continue following G-d's will to try to free the slaves?

Reasons for Moses to follow G-d's will and try to get the slaves released

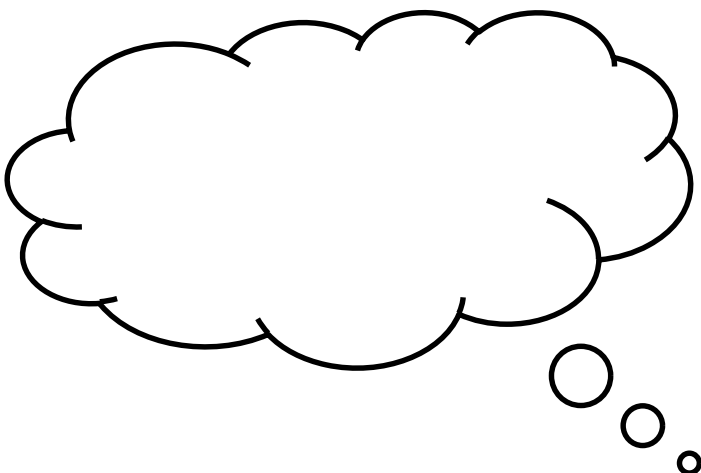
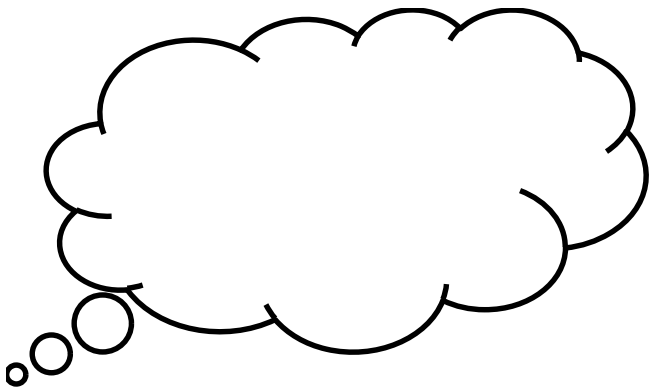
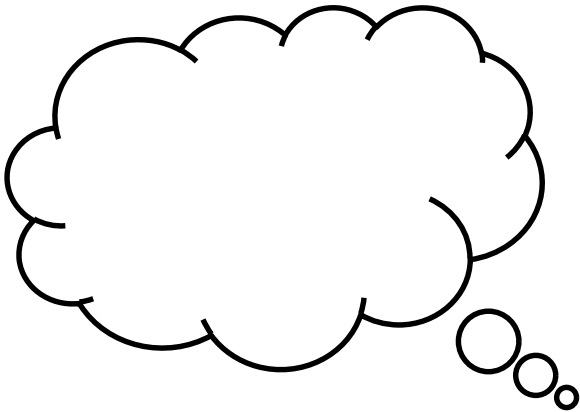
Reasons for Moses to give up



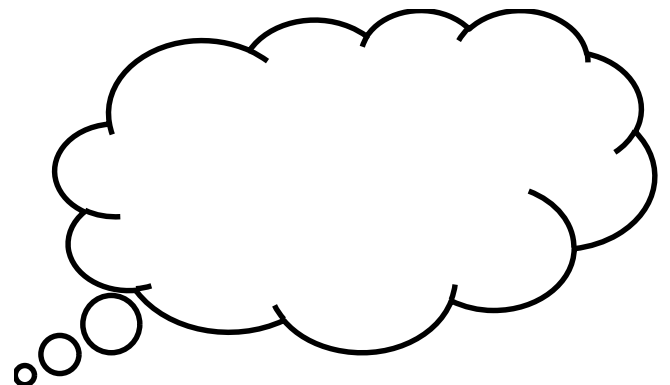
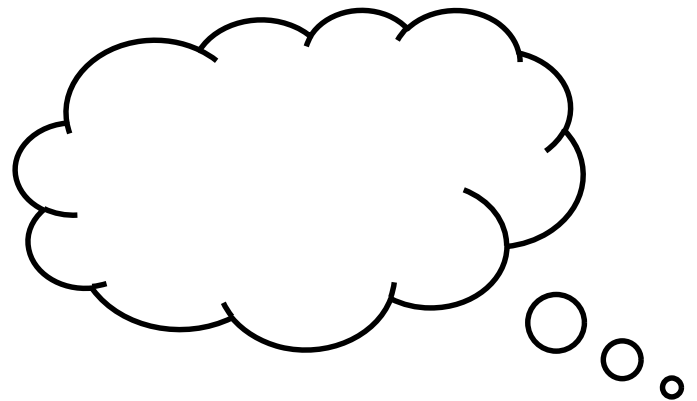
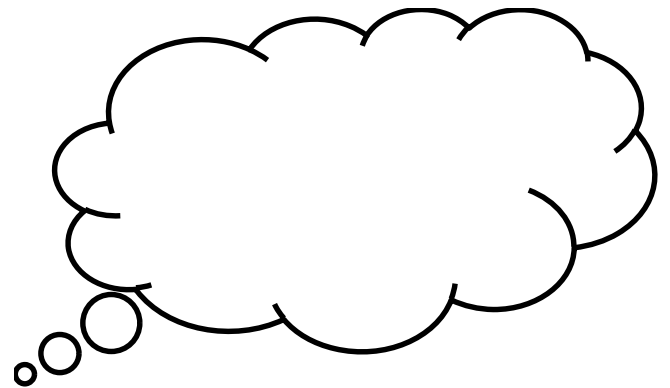


## Should Pharaoh let the slaves go?

Why should Pharaoh let the slaves go?



Why should Pharaoh keep the Israelites as slaves?





**Why do you think Moses is important to Jewish people?**

Draw or write your ideas.

**What do these stories teach Jewish people about G-d?**

Draw or write your ideas.



## What can you learn from the Exodus stories about Moses?


**Lesson 3:**

**Why is Pesach  
(Passover)  
Important to Jewish  
People?**



## Lesson 3

# Why is Pesach important to Jewish People?

**Watch** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJ2nxYVKbD4>

**or Read**

### Passover

<sup>1</sup>The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup> “This month will be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup> Both of you are to tell the whole community of Israel: On the tenth day of this month each man must get one lamb. It is for the people in his house. <sup>4</sup> There may not be enough people in his house to eat a whole lamb. Then he must share it with his closest neighbour. There must be enough lamb for everyone to eat. <sup>5</sup> The lamb must be a one-year-old male. It must have nothing wrong with it. This animal can be either a young sheep or a young goat. <sup>6</sup> Keep the animal with you to take care of it until the fourteenth day of the month. On that day all the people of the community of Israel will kill these animals. They will do this as soon as the sun goes down. <sup>7</sup> The people must take some of the blood. They must put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes. These are the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. <sup>8</sup> On this night they must roast the lamb over a fire. Then they must eat it with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast. <sup>9</sup> Do not eat the lamb raw or boiled in water. Roast the whole lamb over a fire—with its head, legs and inner organs. <sup>10</sup> You must not leave any of it until morning. But if any of it is left over until morning, you must burn it with fire.

<sup>11</sup> “This is the way you must eat it: You must be fully dressed as if you were going on a trip. You must have your sandals on, and you must have your walking stick in your hand. You must eat it in a hurry. This is the Lord’s Passover.

<sup>12</sup> “That night I will go through the land of Egypt. I will kill all the firstborn of animals and people in the land of Egypt. I will punish all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. <sup>13</sup> But the blood will be a sign on the houses where you are. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. Nothing terrible will hurt you when I punish the land of Egypt.



## Read

### Passover

<sup>14</sup> "You are always to remember this day. Celebrate it with a feast to the Lord. Your descendants are to honour the Lord with this feast from now on. <sup>15</sup> For this feast you must eat bread made without yeast for seven days. On the first day of this feast, you are to remove all the yeast from your houses. No one should eat any yeast for the full seven days of the feast. If anyone eats yeast, then that person will be separated from Israel. <sup>16</sup> You are to have holy meetings on the first and last days of the feast. You must not do any work on these days. The only work you may do on these days is to prepare your meals. <sup>17</sup> You must celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Do this because on this very day I brought your divisions of people out of Egypt. So all of your descendants must celebrate this day. This is a law that will last from now on. <sup>18</sup> You are to eat bread made without yeast. Start this on the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month of your year. Eat this until the evening of the twenty-first day. <sup>19</sup> For seven days there must not be any yeast in your houses. Anybody who eats yeast during this time must be separated from the community of Israel. This includes Israelites and non-Israelites. <sup>20</sup> During this feast you must not eat yeast. You must eat bread made without yeast wherever you live."

<sup>21</sup> Then Moses called all the elders of Israel together. He told them, "Get the animals for your families. Kill the animals for the Passover. <sup>22</sup> Take a branch of the hyssop plant and dip it into the bowl filled with blood. Wipe the blood on the sides and tops of the doorframes. No one may leave his house until morning. <sup>23</sup> The Lord will go through Egypt to kill the Egyptians. He will see the blood on the sides and tops of the doorframes. Then the Lord will pass over that house. He will not let the one who brings death come into your houses and kill you."



## Read

### Passover

<sup>24</sup> "You must keep this command. This law is for you and your descendants from now on. <sup>25</sup> Do this when you go to the land the Lord has promised to give to you. <sup>26</sup> When your children ask you, 'Why are we doing these things?' <sup>27</sup> you will say, 'This is the Passover sacrifice to honour the Lord. When we were in Egypt, the Lord passed over the houses of Israel. The Lord killed the Egyptians, but he saved our homes.'" So now the people bowed down and worshiped the Lord. <sup>28</sup> They did just as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

<sup>29</sup> At midnight the Lord killed all the firstborn sons in the land of Egypt. The firstborn of the king, who sat on the throne, died. Even the firstborn of the prisoner in jail died. Also all the firstborn farm animals died. <sup>30</sup> The king, his officers and all the Egyptians got up during the night. Someone had died in every house. So there was loud crying everywhere in Egypt.

### Israel Leaves Egypt

<sup>31</sup> During the night the king called for Moses and Aaron. He said to them, "Get up and leave my people. You and your people may do as you have asked. Go and worship the Lord. <sup>32</sup> Take all of your sheep and cattle as you have asked. Go. And also bless me." <sup>33</sup> The Egyptians also asked the Israelites to hurry and leave. They said, "If you don't leave, we will all die!"

<sup>50</sup> So all the Israelites did just as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron. <sup>51</sup> Then on that same day, the Lord led the Israelites out of Egypt.





## **Can you retell the story of Pesach (Passover)?**

### **Be creative!**

*You could make puppets/models and film yourself telling the story.*

*You could make a little book/comic to retell the story.*

*You could make a poster of the main events in the story.*

*Design your own 'Exodus' board game, telling the story of the escape from Egypt.*



## **What can Jewish people learn about G-d from the story of Pesach (Passover)**

Write or draw your ideas about what G-d is like.



**Lesson 4:**

**How do Jewish  
People Celebrate  
Pesach (Passover) ?**



## Lesson 4

# How do Jewish people remember Pesach (Passover)?

### How do Jewish people remember Pesach (Passover)?

Draw or write your ideas.

## Lesson 4



### How do Jewish people remember Pesach (Passover)?



What do you think is on this Seder plate? What might the food represent?

## Lesson 4



# How do Jewish people remember Pesach (Passover)?



Watch the following video about Pesach.

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

Write or draw anything you find out about how Pesach (Passover is celebrated).



**Beitzah (roasted egg)**

At Pesach Jewish people used to give a special festival offering. This offering was given at the temple in Jerusalem.

**Maror (bitter herbs)**

The bitterness of slavery in Egypt.

**Charoset (a sweet mixture containing apples, nuts, spice and wine)**

The mortar that the Children of Israel used when building while they were slaves in Egypt.



**Zeroah (roasted shank bone)**

The Children of Israel put lamb's blood onto the doorframes of their houses. This meant that they did not suffer the tenth plague.

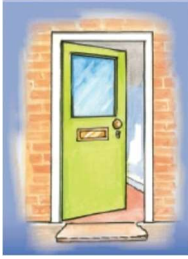
**Salt water**

The salty tears that the Children of Israel wept when they were slaves in Egypt.

**Karpas (vegetable)**

Many Jewish people use a vegetable to remind them of springtime. The karpas is dipped into the salt water.





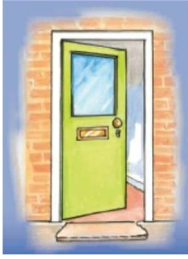
## Lesson 4

# How do Jewish people remember Pesach (Passover)?

Use the Seder Plate template on the page below:

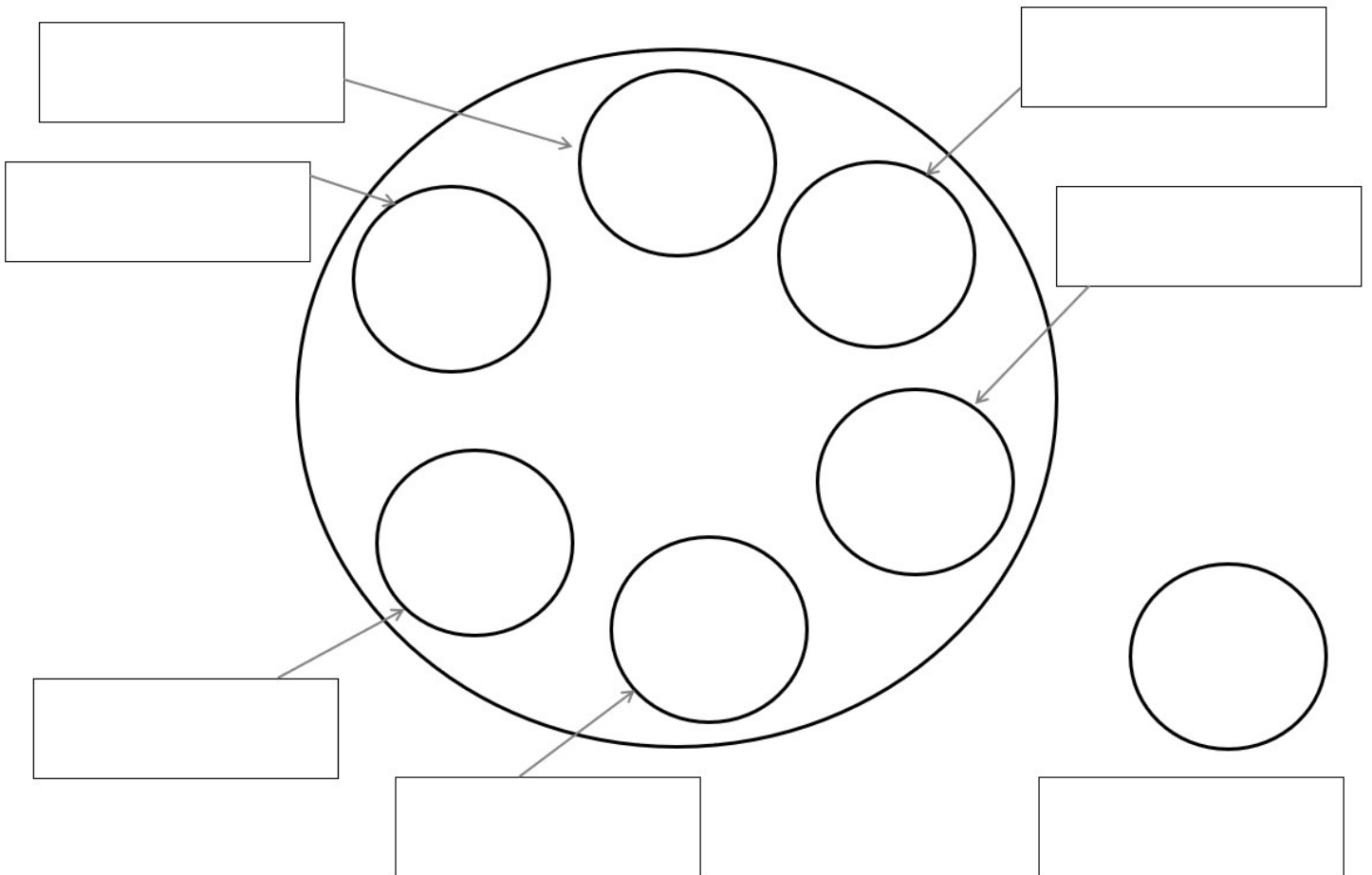
Use the sections of the plate to draw a symbol of your own that makes links with the Jewish symbols:

- Bitter herbs: slavery. [Draw something that] ties me down
- Green vegetable: growth [draw something that is] a sign of new life to me
- Salt water: tears [draw something that] makes me cry
- Charoset: sweet freedom [draw something that] sets me free
- Lamb bone: sacrifice [draw someone who] makes sacrifices for me
- Egg: new life [draw something that] gives me hope for the future
- Wine: joy [draw something that] makes me laugh



## Lesson 4

# How do Jewish people remember Pesach (Passover)?



# **Lesson 5:**

# **Holocaust Memorial**

**See KS2/3 Pack**

