

# A Playful Passover:

A Toddler and Preschool-Friendly Passover Seder  
Kit of Crafts and Activities to Engage, Entertain, &  
Educate Young Kids

**A 2015 TC Jewfolk\* E-Book**

By Leora Itman

With help from her amazing friends and fabulous online resources



\*TCJewfolk.com is the Twin Cities' only independent Jewish news, events and culture online media hub devoted to engaging, informing, and connecting the Twin Cities' local Jewish community

## About This E-Book:

This free e-book was created initially for entirely selfish reasons. My husband and I have a 2-year-old daughter and I wanted to put together a small book of resources to help engage, entertain, and educate her and her young cousins about the Passover holiday. But with the help of friends and community members on Facebook, and parenting bloggers around the country, this e-book grew to something that I hope will be meaningful far beyond our family and our Minnesota community.

There is no wrong way to use this e-book. Bring it along as a supplement to your family's traditional Seder, use it to create your own Seder, or choose from among the fun activities described below an inspiring activity for an otherwise quiet Passover afternoon. You will see that this e-book is organized into three sections: (1) Before the Seder (Mostly Edible), (2) During the Seder, and (3) To Buy (Optional), plus two appendices.

Those of us who have toddlers or preschoolers know that their opinions change by the hour, and definitely with the year, so I expect to put together an updated version of this e-book next year. If you have questions about this e-book, or suggestions or comments for next year's edition, please submit them to the author, [Leora@tcjewfolk.com](mailto:Leora@tcjewfolk.com). Thank you!

Happy Passover!

Leora Itman

Founder, TCJewfolk.com



My daughter and this e-book's inspiration

## Before the Seder (Mostly Edible)

### Build a Matzah House ([Rebecca Gruber at PopSugar.com](#))

**Ideal Age:** 2-6. Looking for an easy and tasty Passover activity for young kids? Make a Matzah House. The core of the house is cardboard covered in chocolate, but then it is decorated with Matzah, and kosher for Passover chocolates, marshmallow puffs, and jellies. Make this before the Seder, display it on the table and eat it for dessert, or make it after the Seder with leftover Passover candy and Matzah. If you think it odd to create something as solid as a house when the Israelites in the desert were living in tents, build a Matzah Tent instead! Materials and building tips can be found online at <http://bit.do/Matzohouse>.



### Make Edible Pyramids! ([CJP-Boston](#))

**Ideal Age:** 2-6. This sounds delicious and fun to make with your kids before the Seder. “Build” an edible pyramid for the Seder table (or just to eat whenever, really). Mix ground almonds, dried figs and dried dates in a food processor to create a soft yet formable dough; roll dough into a ¾ inch log, and then roll it in ground almonds to coat it. Square the log by flattening each side, and then cut it into small cubes. Dip the ends in ground almonds. Then stack on a plate in the shape of a pyramid and eat it!

### Create a Paper Plate Frog ([Crafts for Preschoolers](#))

**Ideal Age:** 3-5. Paint a paper plate green and allow it to dry. Paint both hands and press them down on white construction paper, dry and cut out. Cut out a tongue and curl from red construction paper. To attach tongue, cut a slit where the mouth should be, insert end of tongue and fasten in the back with tape. Add eyes and nose. If you are organized enough to make this ahead of time, this would make a great decoration for the walls of the room where you have your Seder!



### Make (and Eat) Matzo Brei and Charoset

**Ideal Age:** 2-6. If your child is anything like mine, (s)he loves stirring, mixing and helping to cook/bake things that taste good, and then sampling whatever you’re cooking. Matzo Brei and Charoset are crowd-pleasing Passover foods that will be likely to have your little ones happy to help cook, and pleading for “more, please!” Matzo Brei is essentially water-soaked matzo pieces mixed with scrambled eggs and topped with sugar or syrup (or just S&P if you’re a fan of the savory type). Charoset is a sweet Seder food that symbolizes the mortar used by the enslaved Israelites to build pyramids in Egypt. Charoset can be made a thousand different ways, but usually involves various kinds of fruit and nuts, ground or chopped up to varying consistencies. Recipes for both can be found online, so have at it!

### Decorate Elijah and Miriam’s Cups: ([Steph Bitterman, Melissa Ginzburg](#))

**Ideal age:** 2-8. One of the items on the traditional Seder table is a *Kiddush* cup filled with wine for Elijah the Prophet to drink. Modern Seder tables often add a *Kiddush* cup filled with water to celebrate Miriam and her role in the Seder story, to honor the story that Miriam led the women in dancing on the other side

of the Red Sea after they crossed. Before the Seder, decorate Elijah and Miriam's cups, and display the goblets on your Seder table. For younger kids, have them decorate a plastic goblet and choose decorating materials such as tissue paper and stickers. Older kids can decorate glass goblets and use more sophisticated decorating materials such as paint and glitter.

## During the Seder

### **Pesach, What Do You See? Coloring Book** ([Mommzy at JewishHomeschool.blogspot.com](http://Mommzy.at/JewishHomeschool.blogspot.com))

**Ideal age:** 2-6. This is a great coloring book for the little ones at your Seder, based on the excellent book (that you're surely familiar with) "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" by Bill Martin, Jr. and Eric Carle. Mommzy has graciously allowed us to include a copy of her Passover coloring book as part of this e-book, so you can find it in **Appendix 1**! You'll definitely want to print a copy for each young child at your Seder, and can use the coloring book to encourage questions about the items on your Seder table that are featured in the book.

**Materials Needed:** Coloring book pages, markers or crayons.

### **My Pesach Activity Pack** ([Mommzy at JewishHomeschool.blogspot.com](http://Mommzy.at/JewishHomeschool.blogspot.com))

**Ideal age:** 3-6. Mommzy has done it again with the "My Pesach Activity Pack," which she kindly permitted us to include as **Appendix 2** to this e-book. The Pesach Activity Pack includes everything from a Chametz search-and-find to Passover matching games, coloring pages, puzzles, and more. Print this one out in color, and you may want to print some of the pages (like #13 and #15) out on cardstock.

**Materials Needed:** Markers or crayons, scissors.

### **Candy Questions!!** (*Beth Gendler*)

It is SO Jewish to ask questions, and we know the littlest kids have questions about everything, even more so during a ritual as ancient and complicated as a Seder. Encourage kids young and old to ask questions by giving out candy (or stickers or temporary tattoos) for any child who asks a question at any time during the Seder. Every once in a while, stop the Seder and tell the little kids that you can't continue unless someone "saves the Seder" by asking a question.

### **A Seder Adventure** (*Hana Gruenberg*)

This way of engaging kids in the Seder can only be described as a "Seder Adventure." Instead of starting the Seder sitting around a table, Hana's family physically journeys from slavery to freedom. They do the first part of their Seder, the telling the story part, dressed as slaves in some sort of tent, lounging around on pillows covered with pillowcases decorated by their kids specifically for the Passover Seder.

They assign each family a part of the Seder. Some come up with modern day plagues, some write a skit, and some write Passover pop songs (i.e. "I'm Pharaoh and I know it..."). Hana's family has an indoor faux campfire that they bought on Amazon.com and they put up the basic framework and tarp of their *Sukkah* indoors to give the whole thing a tent feel. They do a big platter of vegetable *hors d'oeuvres* and dips to keep little tummies filled and their minds a little more focused.

After they tell the story and move through the main portion of the Seder, when it is time to eat, the family "crosses the red sea" and goes to freedom and their Seder meal. This could mean walking from one room

to another, or from their basement to the dining room to eat. In any case, they line the walls for their journey with murals of water and fish stickers.

During and after the meal, as the kids play, the adults try to have some sort of a more grown up discussion for parents led by one of their guests, followed by lots of singing.

### **Pharaoh's Telephone Game** ([AISH.com](http://AISH.com))

**Ideal age:** 2-4, with an older child to assist. At any time during the Seder, someone (either the Seder hosts or a pre-designated older child) makes a ringing noise. There is a hushed silence and that individual picks up a toy phone. It is Pharaoh on the other end. According to your improvised one-sided conversation, it becomes clear that all young children have to get down from the table and start building a pyramid. If you have several children at the Seder, you can do a competition who can build the tallest tower, or who can build a pyramid the fastest.

**Materials Needed:** A toy telephone and blocks.

**For Big Kids:** Use this opportunity to discuss how the ancient Israelites had to build the pyramids in Egypt, and what that must have felt like, etc.

**Caution:** If you let a pre-designated older child choose when the phone rings, you may want to set the rule that the phone can't start ringing when someone else is talking.

### **Passover Charades: Who am I?**

**Ideal age:** 2-5. Have an adult/teenager at the Seder pick a character or object associated with Passover. This person must then act out and describe that character or object for the young children to guess who they are. Props can be used, but the individual acting out the character or object cannot say the name of the character or object they are demonstrating. Suggested characters or objects for the charades include: Frogs, Matzah, Charoset, Maror, Flies, Wild Beasts, Eggs, Celery, Moses, Miriam, Elijah, Water, Blood, Pillows, Matzoh Balls, Lambs, and Saltwater.

**For Big Kids:** With each character or object identified, ask the older kids to describe the role that the character/object plays in the story.

### **Seder Bingo Cards** ([Dvorah Katz with Jewish Action](http://DvorahKatz.com), [Dena Ackerman](http://DenaAckerman.com))

**Ideal age:** 4-6. Play Passover bingo! Each child can get a different bingo board at the start of the Seder with words (or pictures for those too young to read) mentioned throughout the Seder. Give out stickers to be placed on the board when the word (or picture) is discussed. When your child fills the board, (s)he gets a prize! Make your own cards, or buy pre-made, high quality Passover bingo cards at <http://bit.do/PassoverBingo>.

### **Passover Passports** ([Sharon Rosenberg-Scholl](http://SharonRosenbergScholl.com))

Want to keep your young kids following the order of the Seder? Create a Passover Passport for each, with a 15 squares for each of the 15 steps in the Seder, for your kids to stamp (with a Jewish Star or Smiley face stamp, for ex.) as soon as they're completed. Here's the list of the 15 steps, plus a few details on each: <http://bit.do/Sedersteps>.

### **Plague Baggies** ([Sarah Littman Olitzky](http://SarahLittmanOlitzky.com), [Erica King](http://EricaKing.com) on [MarthaStewart.com](http://MarthaStewart.com))

**Ideal Age:** 3-5. Before the Seder, put together plastic or paper bags representing each of the plagues, and hand out the bags at the point in the Seder when you recite the 10 plagues. Ask the young children to guess which plague is in each bag, and then let them eat the yummy ones, and play with the silly ones.

**Suggestions for the plague bags include:**

**Blood:** Kosher for Passover dark-chocolate-covered cherries; or put a clear plastic cups in each bag and then have someone put a drop of food coloring in each cup at the table and pour water in for a surprise blood effect;

**Frogs:** Plastic toy frogs or frog trinkets;

**Lice:** Sparkling confetti (come on, you're going to have to vacuum anyway);

**Wild beasts:** Plastic lions and tigers and/or animal stickers;

**Cattle disease:** Plastic cows;

**Boils:** Red dot stickers, bubble wrap or sticky googly eyes;

**Hail:** Marshmallows, cotton balls, or bubbles;

**Locusts:** Plastic bugs or bug stickers;

**Darkness:** Plastic sunglasses; and

**Slaying of the first-born:** Instead of putting together a bag for this one, leave this out. If and when the kids notice it is missing, use it as opportunity to mention this last plague in a way age appropriate to the kids at the table and discuss that even though we have had fun with the plagues, they were quite serious and God would have preferred not to have to send the plagues at all.

**Leaving Egypt: A-Z What Would You Take?** (*Rachel Orzoff*)

**Ideal Age:** 3-5. As you reach the point in the story where you discuss the Israelites fleeing slavery in Egypt, have the children alphabetically name something they would take on a journey through the desert. Go through the alphabet, A-Z.

**For Older Kids:** Have the older children try to remember and recite everything that came before. Give them candy (or stickers or temporary tattoos) if they remember A-Z with none or little prompting.

**Opening the Door for a Costumed Elijah** (*Hana Gruenberg*)

Near the end of the Seder, many families open the door for the prophet Elijah and sing "Eliyahu Hanavi" (Elijah the Prophet). Want to make the experience extra special for the little ones? Have one of the adults attending the Seder sneak away from the table before you start singing, get dressed up as Elijah (with a long robe, beard, etc.), and come in the open door when you sing the song. Perhaps he can even bring candy (or stickers, or temporary tattoos) to all kids who sing (or hum or play instruments) along with the song. He can then drink the wine (from the goblet your kids made, see above) and leave the house to "go visit all the other Seders in the neighborhood."

## To Buy (Optional):

This e-book is filled with DIY activities and crafts, but sometimes it's easier (or better) to buy a prop or a book to engage your children in the Passover story. Check these out:

1. **FINGER PUPPETS!** \$14.99 (Amazon Prime). Yes, you can make your own, but for \$15, I'd rather buy 'em online. Let the little kids play with them throughout the Seder, or use them to act out parts of the story. Or both. <http://bit.do/passoverpuppets>
2. **Jumping frogs.** \$4.15 (Amazon Prime). 36 frogs (multi-color). Put them on your table, and encourage your kids to make them jump. Hide them in your house, and offer kids candy as a prize for each frog they find. <http://bit.do/jumpingfrogs>
3. **Passover Plague Masks.** \$10.99 (Amazon Prime). 10 count, foam. Yes, you could make these. But for that price... Amuse the older children by asking them to pick who gets to wear which plague and why. <http://bit.do/plaguemasks>
4. **"Let My People Go"** - \$6.16 (Amazon Prime): Ages 6-8 - *Read alone or with a cast and chorus, this light-hearted, rhyming tale takes readers through the Ten Plagues while the mean Pharaoh continues to shout "NO, NO, NO!"* <http://bit.do/letmypeoplego>
5. **"Sammy Spider's First Haggadah"** - \$5.95 (Amazon Prime): Ages 3-6 — *Sammy Spider gently leads readers through the Passover Seder, preceded by the ritual of discarding leavened products and including all sorts of fun songs set to popular tunes.* <http://bit.do/sammyspiderhaggadah>
6. **Every PJ Library Passover book.** Seriously. First of all, if you're not already signed up for PJ Library (they send you a free age-appropriate Jewish book every month, and sometimes a CD or Jewish toy instead), go to their website, [PJLibrary.org](http://PJLibrary.org), to find your local chapter right now. But you won't get your first book in time for Passover, so go to their website, look at some of the great books, and then this year, buy them on Amazon.com. <http://bit.do/pjlibrarypassover>



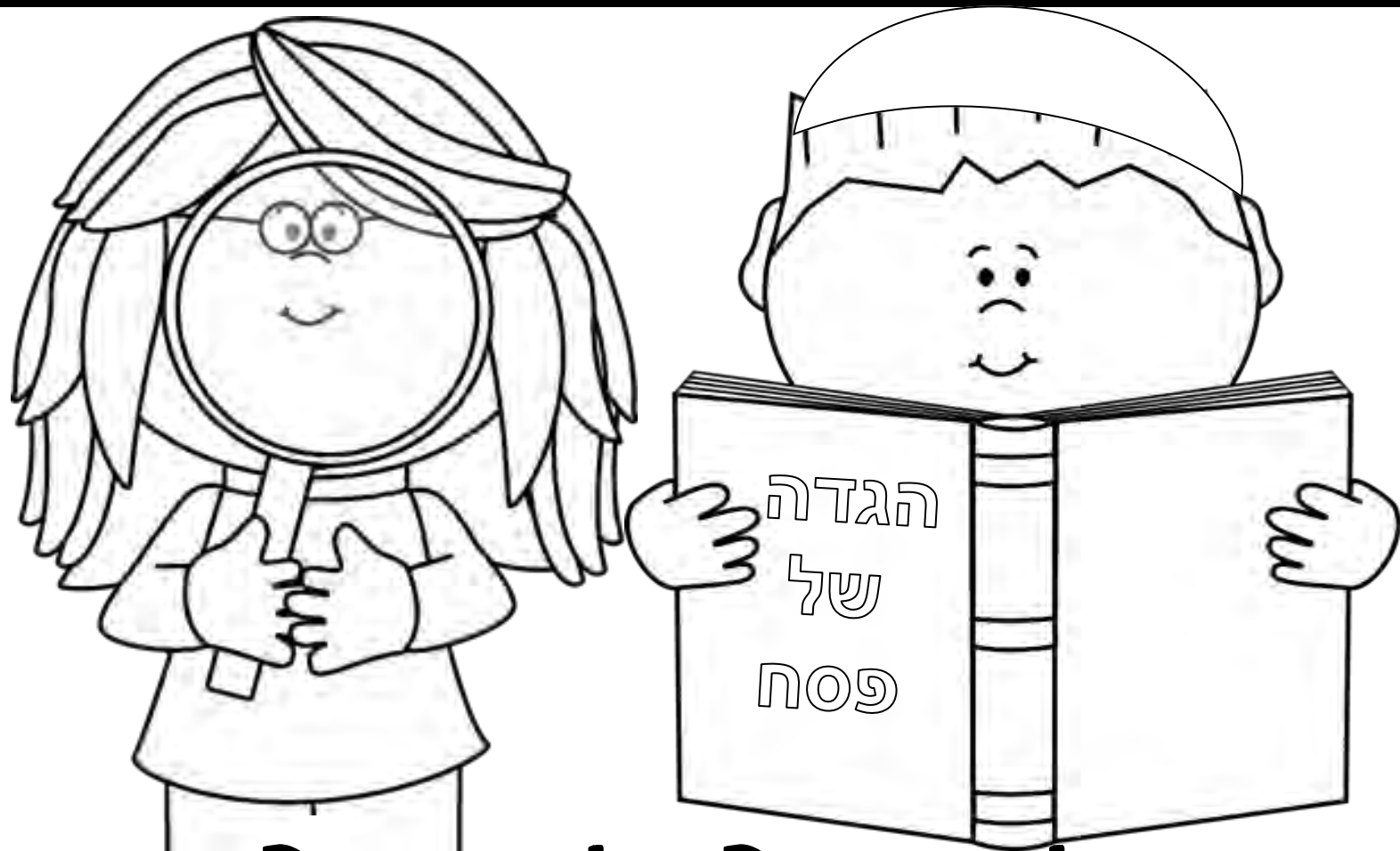
We hope you enjoyed this E-Book! See you online at [www.TCJewfolk.com](http://www.TCJewfolk.com)!

## Appendix 1:

# “Pesach, What Do You See?” Coloring Book

Thanks to [Mommzy at JewishHomeschool.blogspot.com](http://MommzyatJewishHomeschool.blogspot.com)





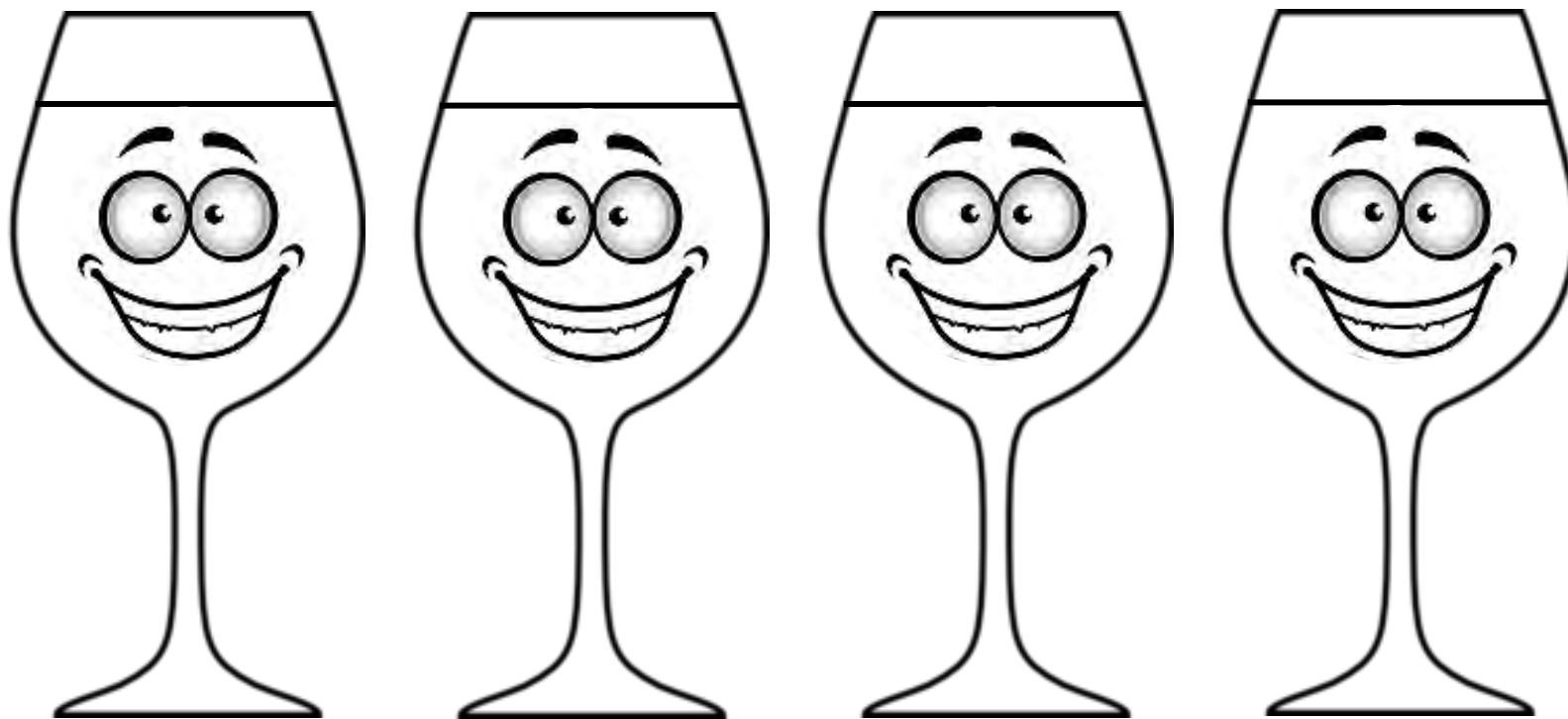
Pesach, Pesach,  
what do you see?

I see 3 Matzos looking at me!



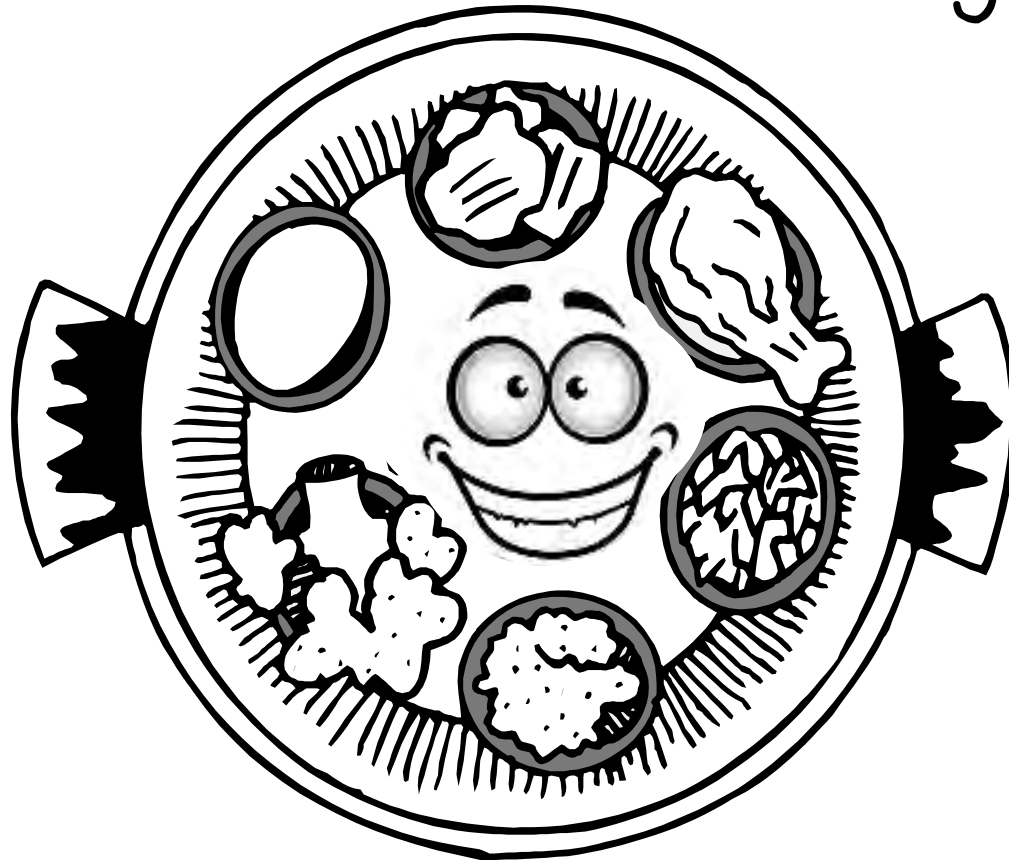
Matzos, Matzos,  
what do you see?

I see 4 Cups of Wine looking at me!



Cups of Wine, Cups of Wine,  
what do you see?

I see the Seder Plate looking at me!



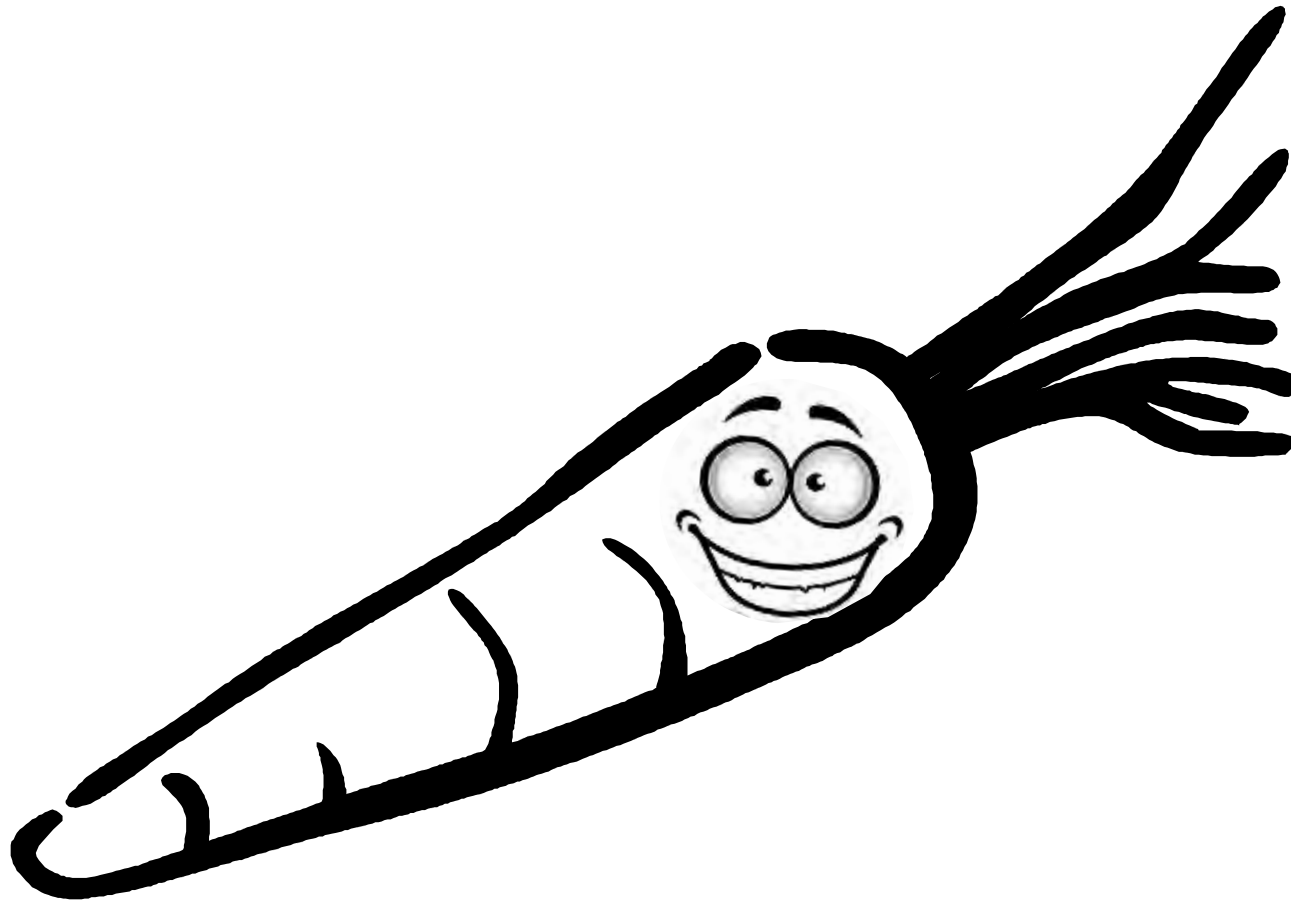
Seder Plate, Seder Plate,  
what do you see?

I see a Haggadah looking at me!



Haggadah, Haggadah, what do you see?

I see bitter Maror looking at me!

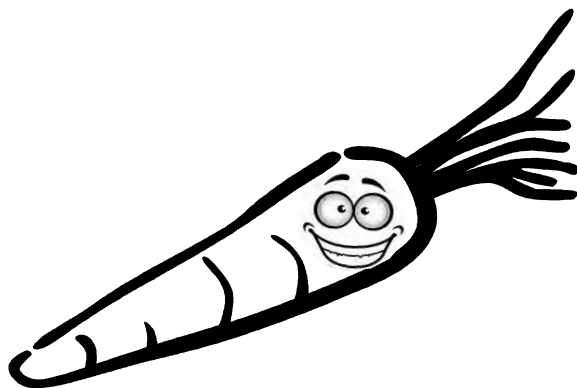
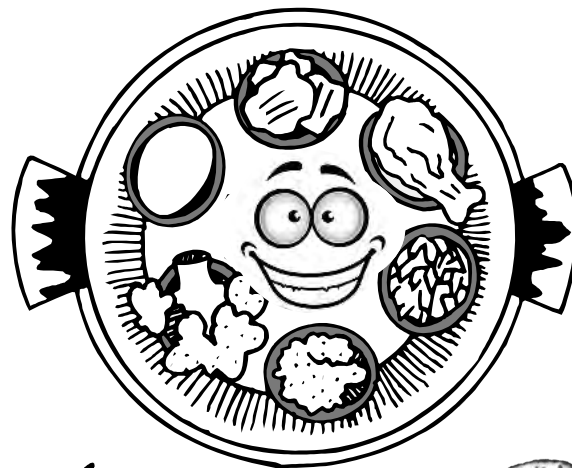


Maror, Maror, what do you see?

I see the Afikoman looking at me!



Afikoman, Afikoman, what do you see?



I see Matzah, Wine, a Seder Plate,  
a Haggadah, Maror and the Afikoman  
looking at me!

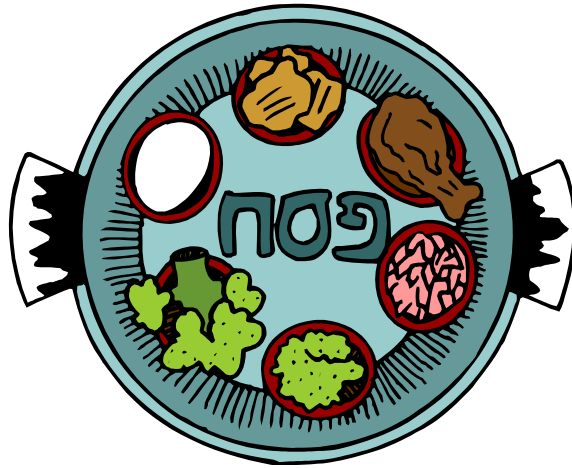


# **Appendix 2:**

## **“My Pesach Activity Pack”**

Thanks to [Mommzy at JewishHomeschool.blogspot.com](http://MommzyatJewishHomeschool.blogspot.com)

# My Pesach Activity Pack!



My Pesach Activity pack contains early learning printables to use with your toddler or preschooler when studying about Pesach. I would highly recommend printing the activities onto cardstock so that they are sturdier for younger hands.

Printables for this Activity Pack include:

- ◆ Circle all the Chametz!
- ◆ Clean YOUR house for Pesach
- ◆ Trace the Pyramid
- ◆ Match the reminders
- ◆ Match the numbers
- ◆ Color the Seder Plate
- ◆ Color the first 4 steps of the Seder
- ◆ The Mah Nishtana
- ◆ The Ten Plagues
- ◆ Make a meal for Shulchan Orech
- ◆ Conclude the Seder
- ◆ Pesach Puzzle

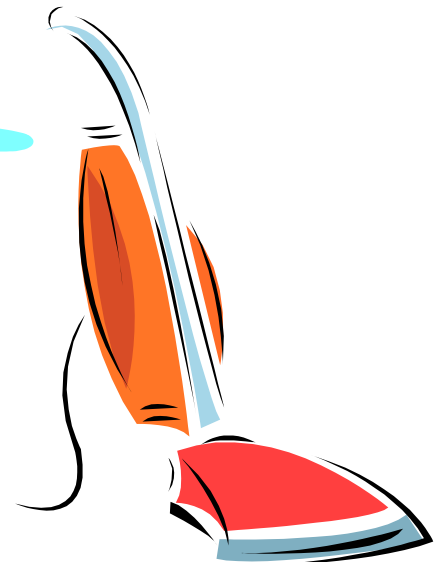
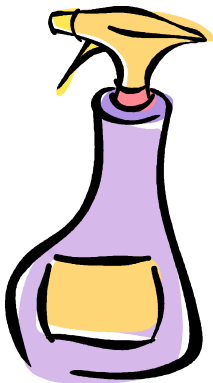
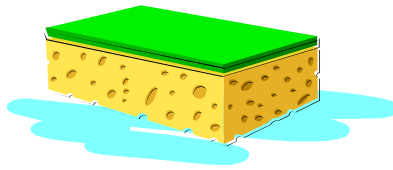
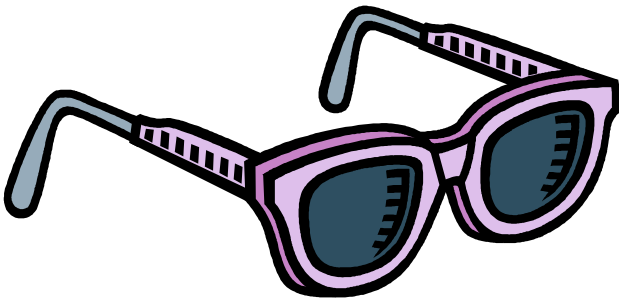
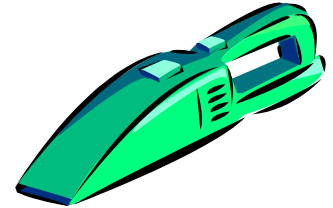
*Please feel free to print this entire pdf file or just a few activities of your choice for your own personal use. They were created for private and non-profit use. Please do not sell or host these files anywhere else.*



Circle all the Chametz that needs to be removed!



# What will YOU use to clean YOUR house for Pesach?



**Trace the Pyramids that the Jews were forced to build for the Egyptians in the hot sun, with no food or water.**

**How do you think the Jews felt being slaves in Egypt?**

**Thank you Hashem for taking us out of Egypt and freeing us from the mean Egyptians!**



**On Pesach we eat special foods to remind us of how difficult life was as slaves in Egypt.**

**Match the special food to what it reminds us of:**



**Maror**

**Tears that the Jews cried in Egypt**



**Salt Water**



**Mortar used to make the bricks**



**Charoset**



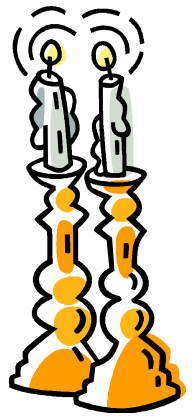
**Remembering the Bitter times for the Jews in Egypt**

# Match up the correct numbers!

4



10



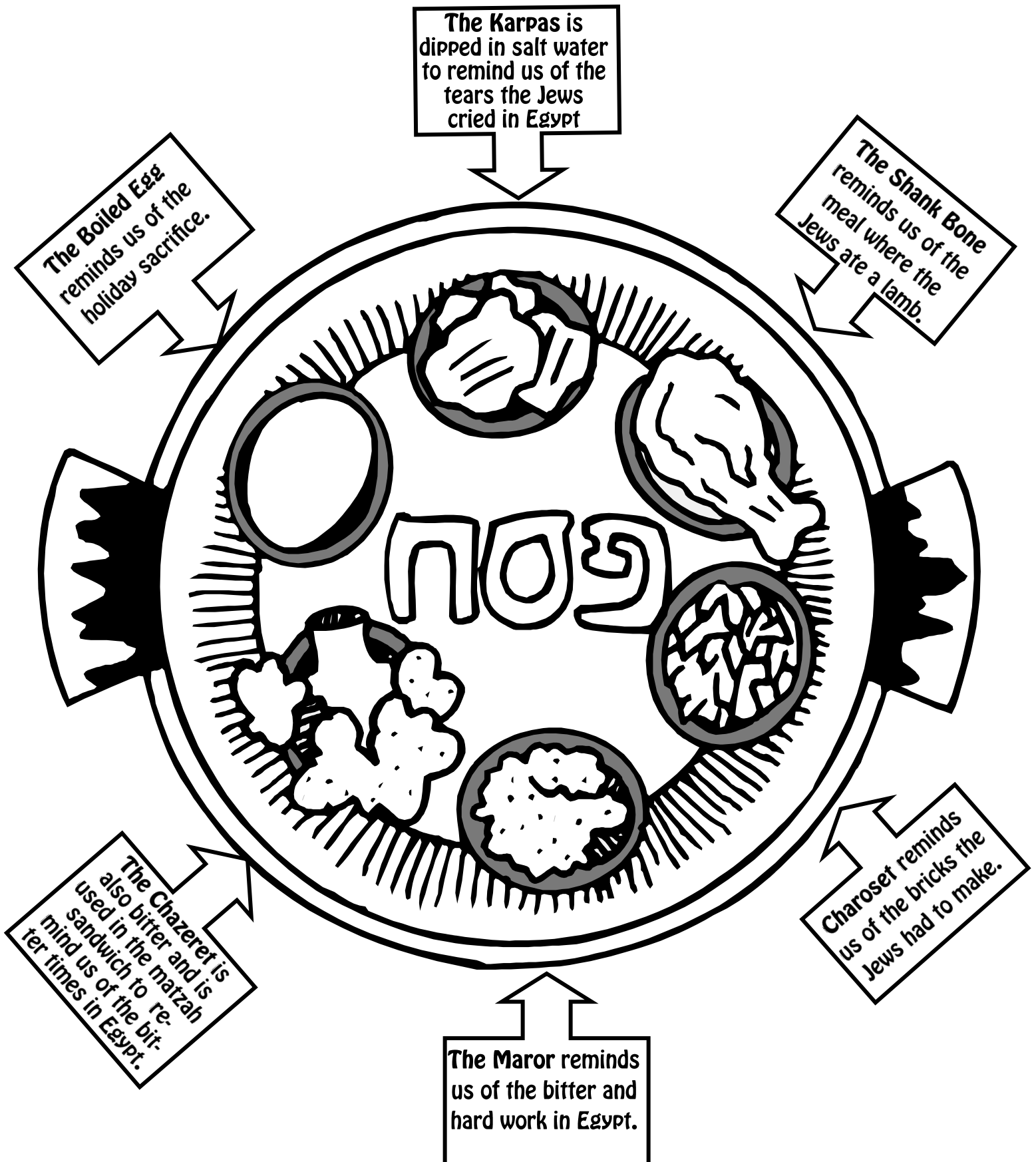
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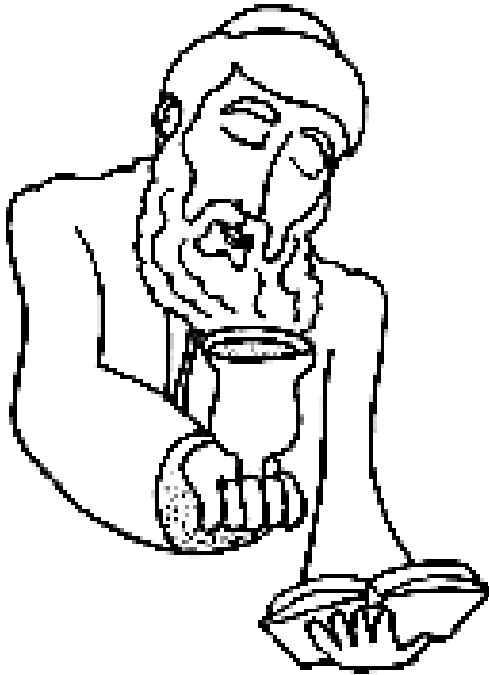


# Color the Seder Plate!





# 1. Kadesh



# 2. Urchatz



# 3. Karpas



# 4. Yachatz



# 5. Maggid: The 4 Questions

? מַה נִשְׁתַּנָּה ?

מה נשתנה הלילה הזה מכל הלילות

**Mah Nishtana HaLaylah HaZeh MiKol HaLaylot**  
**Why is this night different from all other nights?**

1. On all other nights we eat **Chametz or Matzah**



הלילה הזה כולו מצה

**HaLaylah HaZeh Kulo Matzah**

But on this night we only eat **Matzah**



2. On all other nights we don't even **dip once**



הלילה הזה שתי פעמים

**HaLaylah HaZeh Shtay Phiamim**

But on this night we **dip twice**



3. On all other nights we eat **all different kinds of vegetables**



הלילה הזה מרור

**HaLaylah HaZeh Maror**

But on this night we eat **Maror**



4. On all other nights we eat **sitting or reclining**



הלילה הזה כלנו מסבין

**Halaylah HaZeh Kulanu Misubin**

But on this night we eat **reclining**



# Maggid: The 10 Plagues

## 1. Blood

Which drink belongs to the Jews?



## 2. Frogs

How many frogs are on the Egyptians face?



## 3. Lice

Draw lice on the Egyptian



## 4. Wild Animals

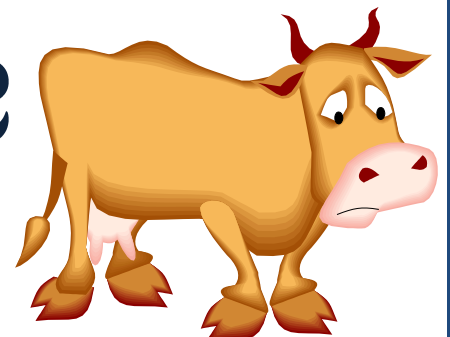


Which animal is NOT wild?



## 5. Cattle Disease

Draw band aids on the sick cow



# Maggid: The 10 Plagues

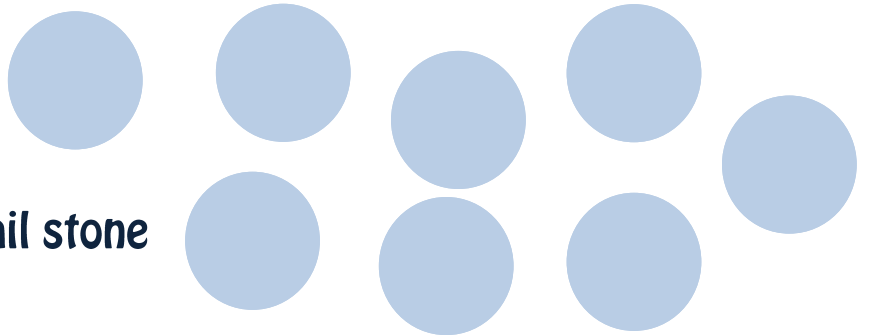
## 6. Boils

Draw Boils on the Egyptians face



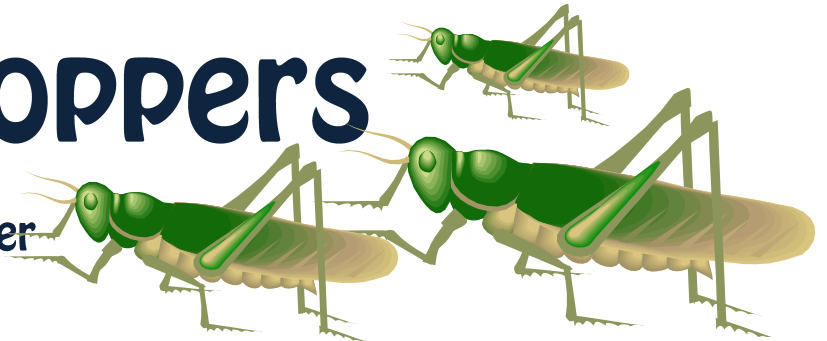
## 7. Hail

Draw a flame inside each hail stone



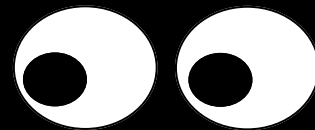
## 8. Grasshoppers

Circle the *smallest* grasshopper



## 9. Darkness

How many pairs of eyes do you see?



## 10. Death of the

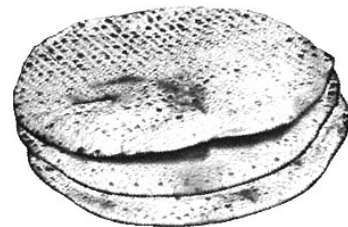


# 6. Rachtzah



“Baruch Ata Ado-nai Elo-heinu Melech Haolam Asher Ki-d’shanu Be-mitzvotav Uetzivanu al Netilat Yadayim.”

# 7. Motzi- 8. Matzah



1-Baruch Ata Ado-nai Elo-heinu Melech Haolam Hamotzi Lechem Min Ha’Aretz.  
2-Barruch Ata Ado-nai Elo-heinu Melech Haolam, Asher Ki-d’shanu Be-mitzvotav Uetzivanu al Achilat Matzah.

# 9. Maror



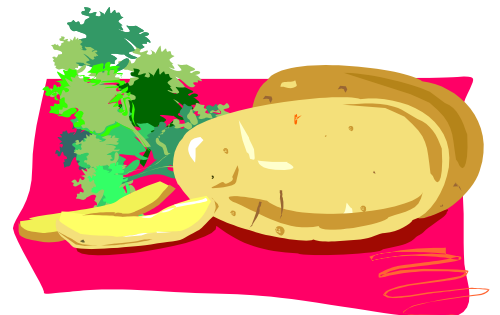
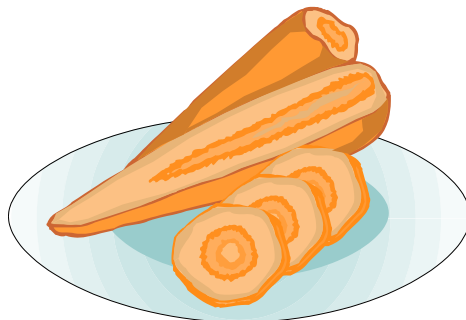
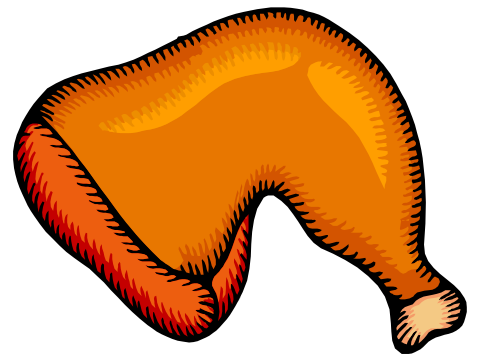
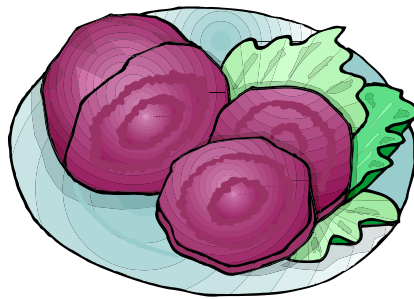
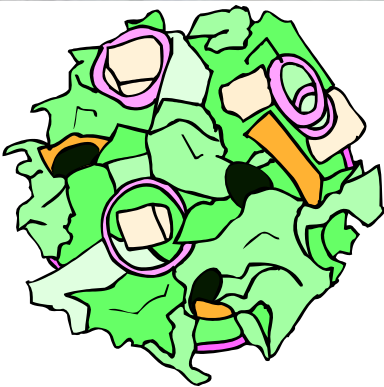
“Baruch Ata Ado-nai Elo-heinu Melech Haolam Asher Ki-d’shanu Be-mitzvotav Uetzivanu al Achilat Maror.”

# 10. Korech



# 11. Shulchan Orech

Cut out and paste the foods on the dinner plate that you would like to eat at your Pesach Seder meal!



# 12. Tzafun

YAY! I found  
the Afikoman!  
Now lets eat  
it!



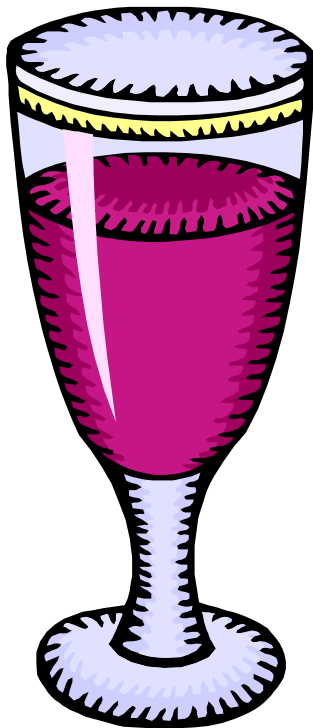
# 13. Berach

“Thank you Hashem for this  
delicious meal!”

We now drink the 3rd cup of wine



# 14. Hallel



Welcome  
Eliyahu Hanavi!

We drink the  
4th cup of wine

# 15. Nirtzah



**NEXT YEAR IN  
JERUSALEM!**

# Cut out the Pesach puzzle and put it back together again!

