

1

Passover

Passover is the night when the Lord passed over the homes of the Israelites during the plague of the firstborn in ancient Egypt. The Passover Seder is a ceremony performed by a group or family to retell the Passover story and celebrate the freeing of the Israelites from slavery. Candles, wine, Matzah and the foods of the Seder plate are all elements of the Seder.

- ✍ Before the meal, dip your fingers in a bowl of water. This hand washing is done as a symbol of becoming clean so you can come before God.

2

Wine

On the Seder table there are four cups of wine. They stand for God's four promises to the Israelites (Exodus 6:6-7):

1. "I will bring you out from under the yoke of Egypt."
2. "I will free you from being slaves to them."
3. "I will redeem you with an outstretched arm."
4. "I will take you as my own people and I will be your God."

- ✍ Wine (grape juice) is served several times during the Seder. We will be serving and drinking grape juice with the Charoset.

3

Karpas

Karpas is parsley or celery. It is dipped into salt water as a symbol of the salty tears the Israelites cried as slaves.

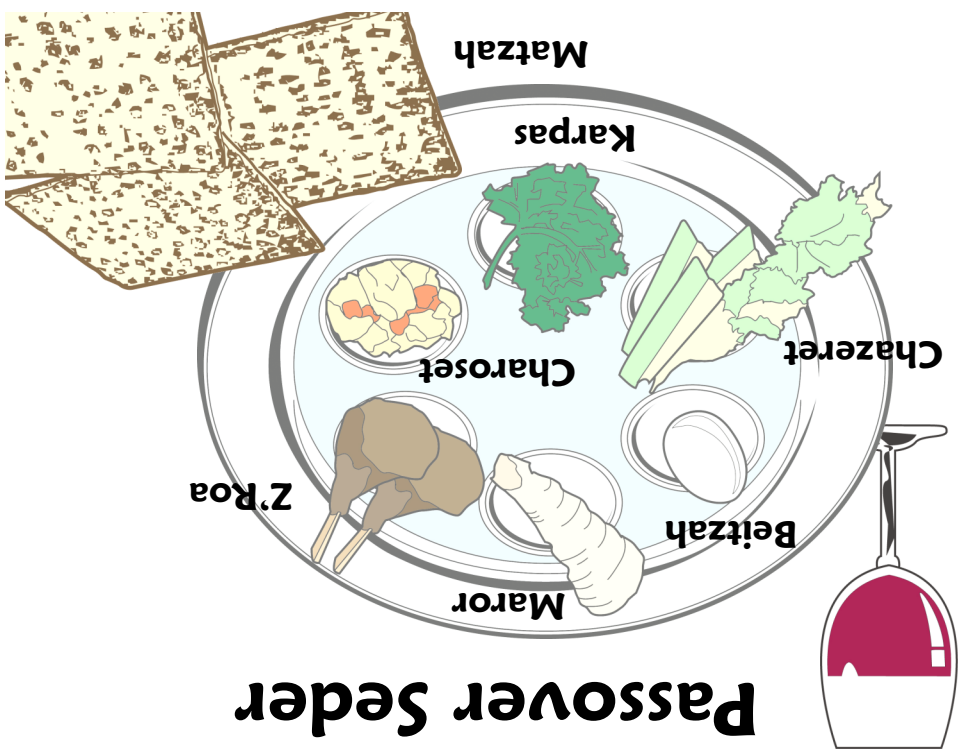
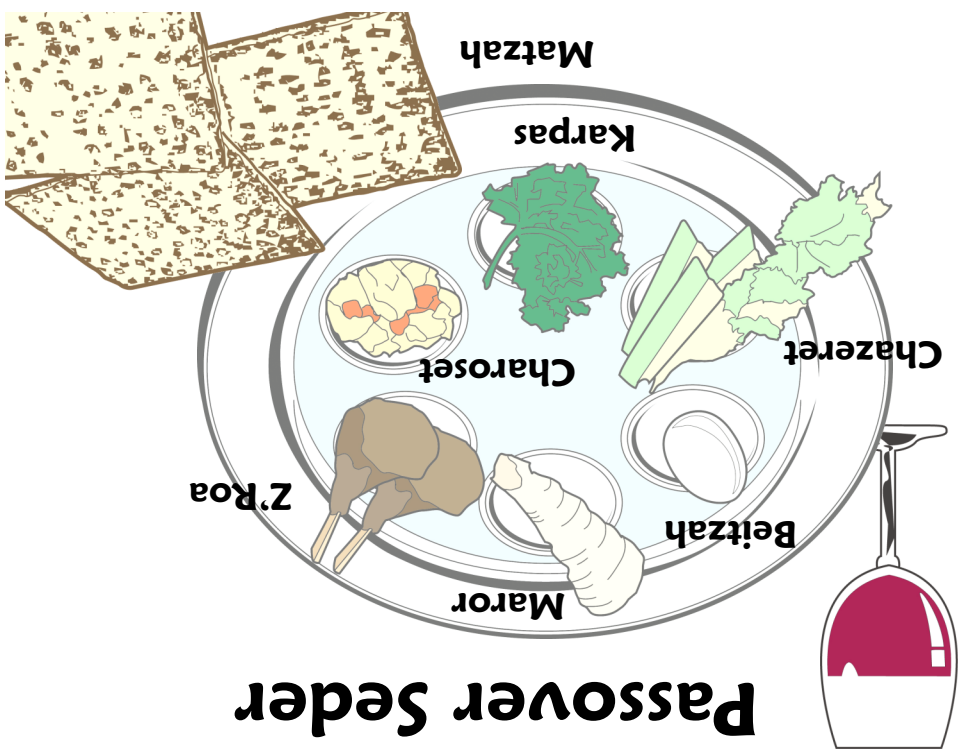
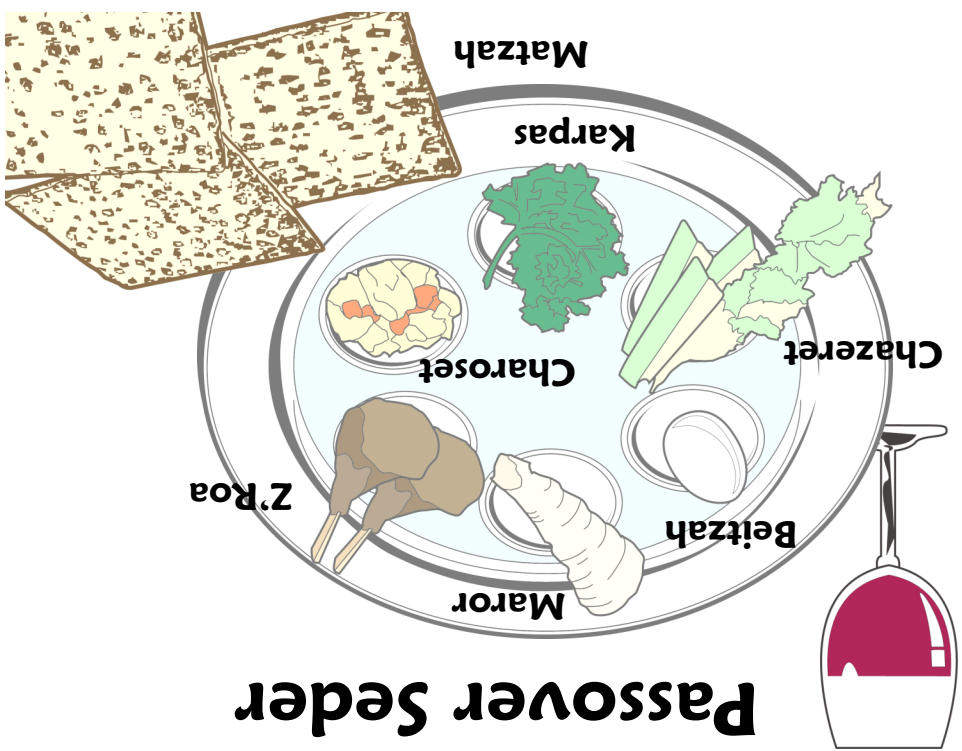
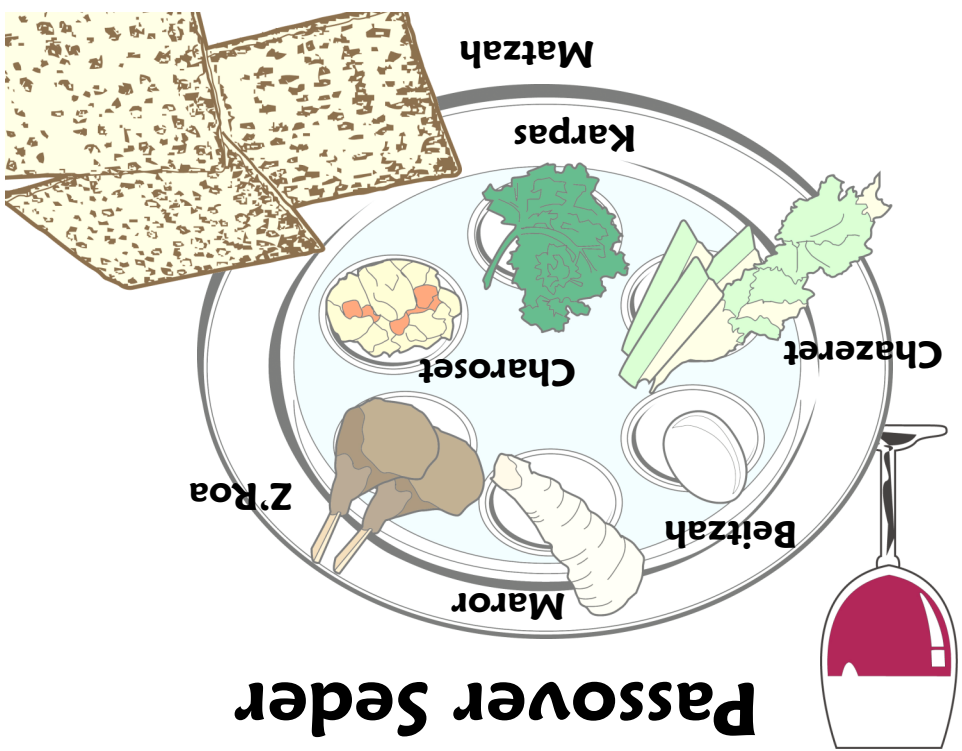
- ✍ Dip the parsley in the bowl of salt water before eating.

4

Matzah

The Matzah bread is flat because it was baked in a hurry as the Israelites fled Egypt. They did not have time to wait for the bread to rise.

- ✍ Remove the wrapped Matzah from under the Seder plate. Take the middle Matzah and break it in half. Wrap the larger half in another napkin and hide it in the classroom. Each person should eat a small piece of Matzah at this time.
- ✍ Matzah is served several times during the Seder.
- ✍ Before finishing the Seder, search for the hidden Matzah and eat it together.



5

Z'roa bone

This lamb bone stays on the plate but is not eaten. It stands for the Passover lamb that was killed so the Israelites could put its blood on their doorframes. They did this so the Lord would pass over their homes with the plague of the firstborn sons.

- ✎ Whoever is leading the Seder should point to the lamb bone. It is only a symbol and should not be eaten.

6

Beitzah

Beitzah is a hardboiled egg. It is a Jewish symbol of mourning (sorrow about death) and the symbol of new life that comes each spring when Passover is held. The roundness of the egg stands for the never-ending cycle of life and death.

- ✎ Give each person a piece of the hard boiled egg to taste.

7

Charoset

Charoset is a sweet mixture of apples, nuts, cinnamon, and wine. It stands for the mortar used by the Israelite slaves in brick laying.

- ✎ Give each person a taste of Charoset on a piece of Matzah. Serve and drink the grape juice at this time. Save some juice for the tasting of the Maror and Chazeret.

8

Maror and Chazeret

Maror and Chazeret are the bitter herbs eaten twice during the Passover meal. Horseradish is often used for Maror. Romaine lettuce is usually used for Chazeret because of its bitter roots. The bitter taste stands for the harshness and bitterness in the life of the Israelite slaves.

- ✎ You are encouraged to try a small taste of the Maror on a piece of Matzah or Chazeret.