

LI: To understand the symbolism in the Passover (Pesach) meal.

Passover is a celebration of the story of **Exodus**. During Passover, Jews remember how their ancestors left slavery behind them when they were led out of Egypt by Moses. Passover is celebrated with a series of rituals. Each ritual symbolises a different part of the story.

Passover (or **Pesach** in Hebrew) is one of the most important festivals in the Jewish year. It is a **Spring** festival that begins on the 15th day of Nisan, the first month of the Jewish calendar. The celebrations last for seven or eight days, depending on where you live. In 2021 Passover begins on the evening of **Saturday 27 March**.



On the evening before Passover starts, Jews have a special service called a **Seder** (Order). This takes place over a meal with family and friends at home.

During the meal, the story of Exodus is told from a book called the **Haggadah** (Narration). Everybody takes part in reading from the Haggadah. Some parts are read in Hebrew and some parts are read in English.

Everyone at the Seder has a cushion to lean on. This reminds them that they are now free people and no longer slaves. They also sing lots of songs.

1. What does Pesach mean? _____
2. What does Pesach celebrate? _____
3. In the Jewish calendar, on which date does Pesach begin? _____
4. In our calendar, on which date does Pesach begin this year? _____
5. Explain why people sit on comfortable cushions during the Seder meal.



Bitter herbs
Chazeret



Lamb bone
Z'roa



Parsley in salt water
Karpas



Hard boiled egg
Beitzah



Sweet paste
Charoset

The destruction of the temple,
and showing resilience.

The bitterness of slavery.

The clay used to make bricks by
slaves.

The tears of Jewish slaves.

The lamb sacrificed at the
temple.