

Religious Education Knowledge Organiser

Year 2

Spring (ii)

What do you know about Jewish Passover?

Substantive Knowledge – Passover (or Pesach in Hebrew) is one of the most important festivals in the Jewish year. It is a celebration of the story of Exodus.

The Star of David is a Jewish Symbol

The Magen David, which is commonly referred to as the Star of David, is the symbol most frequently associated with Judaism.

The Star of David is believed to be a representation of the shield of King David, who was the first king of Jerusalem. It is in the shape of a hexagram made up of two equilateral triangles.



Jewish Festival of Pesach – Practices and Rituals

Pesach is a festival held in March or April that celebrates the Jews' escape from slavery in Egypt. It lasts for seven to eight days and begins with the Seder, which consists of a service and a meal.



Wine is served, as it is at all Jewish festivals, but on Pesach it takes on another meaning as a symbol of the lambs' blood painted onto the doorposts to save Jewish children from the final of the ten plagues.

Matzah (unleavened bread) is eaten to represent the fact that the Jews did not have time to let the bread rise before their escape.



On the evening before Passover, Jews have a special service called a Seder (order). This takes place over a meal with family and friends at home. Everyone has a cushion to lean on to remind them they are now free and no longer enslaved.

The foods on the Seder plate each symbolise a part of the Exodus story, which is retold during the meal using a book of ritual called the Haggadah.



Jewish Festival of Sukkot – Practices and Rituals

Sukkot is a Jewish festival which celebrates the harvest and commemorates the period after Exodus when the Jews wandered in the wilderness after they were freed from slavery. Their time in the desert is commemorated with the building of tent-like structures called sukkah.



At Sukkot, Jews build tent-like structures called sukkah

The Seder Plate

The foods on the Seder plate each symbolise a part of the Exodus story. These foods are:

- **karpas** - a green vegetable dipped in salt water and symbolising both new life and the tears shed by the Jews in slavery
- **maror** - bitter herbs, symbolising the bitterness of slavery
- **baytsah** - an egg (not to be eaten) to represent sacrifices in the Temple
- **z'roah** - a lamb bone (also not eaten) representing the lamb sacrificed before the Exodus
- **charoset** - a sweet paste to remind Jews that life is sweeter now



The Haggadah

The Exodus story is retold during the Passover meal using a book of ritual called the Haggadah.



Portable Knowledge – What we need to remember

The Star of David reminds Jews that God protect them in all six directions. It also reminds them of King David.

Sukkot is the Jewish Festival of Foods.

The Seder Plate symbolises aspects of Passover.



Core Vocabulary

The Star of David – a six-sided star used as a symbol of Judaism

Passover – a Jewish holiday celebrated in honor of the freeing of Hebrews from slavery in Egypt

Sukkot - commemorating the sheltering of Israelites in the Wilderness

The Seder Plate - symbolic plate used during the Passover

The Haggadah - book containing the story of the biblical Exodus