



# Venture into Passover



## TEN FAST FACTS!

1. **The story of Passover** is the story of when the Jews fled from Egypt and, eventually, into Israel.
2. **The holiday is called Passover** because Jewish households were *passed over* when the plague of killing the firstborn son occurred.
3. **Passover is one of the oldest holidays.** It takes place over 3500 years ago!
4. **Passover begins** on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan, during the spring season.
5. **Passover is usually celebrated with a seder**, a ritual meal that retells the story as symbolic foods are eaten.
6. **Jews use a Haggadah**, a special book that tells the story of Passover and the rituals, at the seder.
7. **The seder plate** is an important part of the celebration. It includes 6 ceremonial items:
  1. *Beitzah* (bay-tzah): a cooked egg, representing sacrifice and new life
  2. *Charoset* (cha-ro-set): a sweet mix of fruits, nuts, and wine that symbolizes the mortar used by Jews during their enslavement
  3. *Karpas* (car-pahs): a green vegetable signifying spring
  4. *Maror* (mah-roar): bitter herbs (often horseradish) to represent the bitterness of slavery
  5. *Zeroa* (zeh-ro-uh): A shank bone (or a chicken neck) to remember the sacrifice.
  6. *Matzah* (mah-ztah): flat, unrisen cracker-like bread to remember the haste with which the Hebrews had to leave Egypt.
8. **Some modern additions to the traditional seder plate** include an orange (to recognize the LGBTQ+ community) artichoke (to recognize interfaith families), or fair trade chocolate (to remember that there's still slavery around the world.)
9. **At the Passover seder, Jews pour one glass of wine for Elijah**, who it is said will come to signal that there is finally peace in the world. Some seder tables also include Miriam's cup (of water) and/or Ruth's cup. (Read more about Miriam and Ruth here!)
10. **During Passover, Jews are forbidden to eat chametz**, which is anything made from wheat, barley, rye, oats, or spelt that mixes with water and rises.