

Passover/Links with celebration of Mass

Read the story of the **Last supper** from the **Gospel of Luke**.

What special Jewish meal was Jesus celebrating with his apostles?

Recall previous learning from year Four about Moses being called by God to lead the people of Israel from Egypt to their own land. What can you remember?

Read the story of the plagues and share the story of the Passover from the Book of Exodus.

What does this tell us about God's care for his people?

What is Passover?

[What is Passover? - BBC Bitesize](#)

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.



When is Passover?

- 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 2022 Passover begins on the evening of **Friday 15 April**.

How is Passover celebrated?

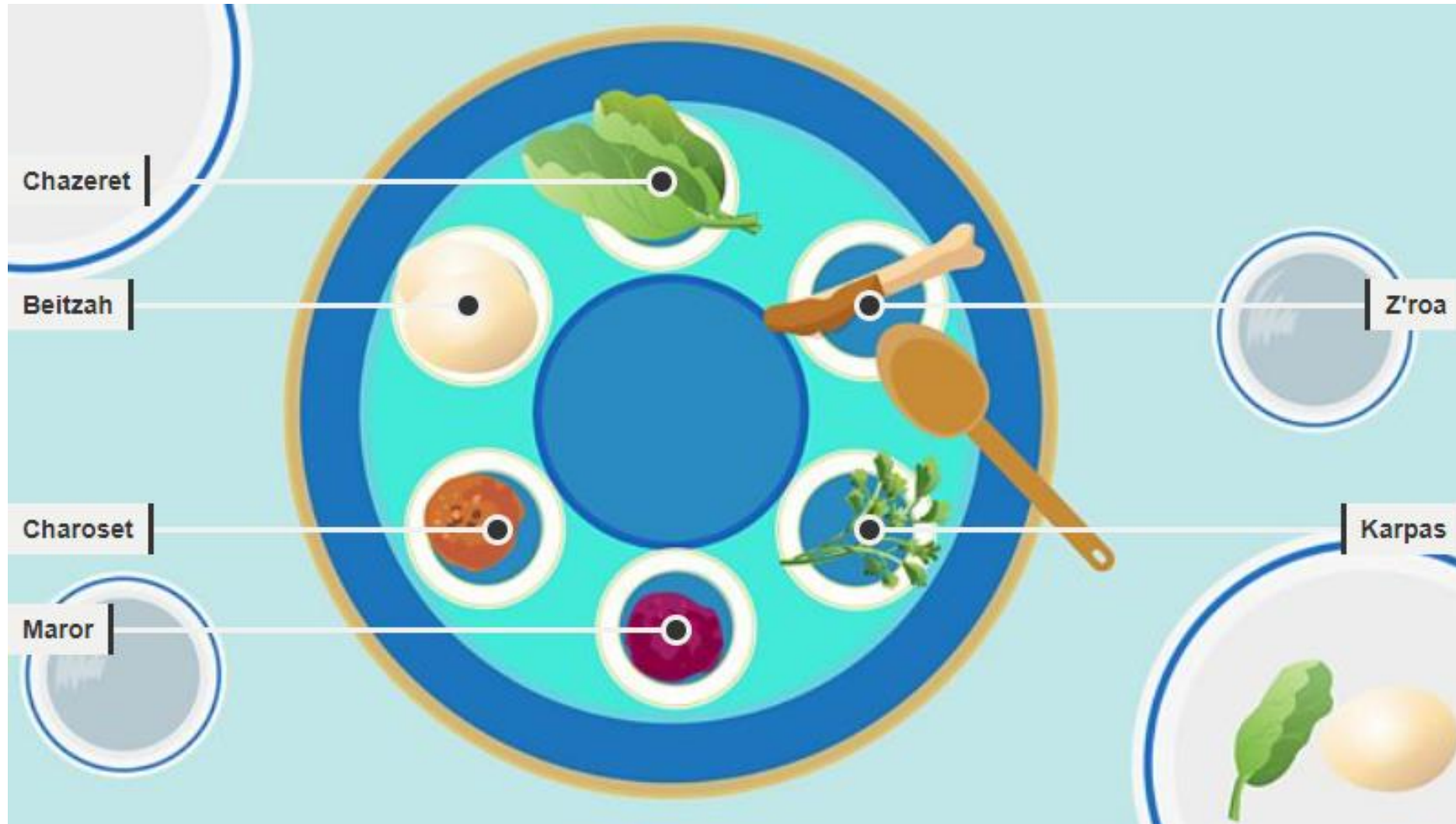
- On the evening before Passover starts, Jews have a special service called a **Seder** (Order). This takes place over a meal with family and friends at home.
- During the meal, the story of Exodus is told from a book called the **Haggadah** (Narration). Everybody takes part in reading from the Haggadah. 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 enslaved. They also sing lots of songs.

The Seder plate

Look at the Seder plate to learn the significance of the six items.

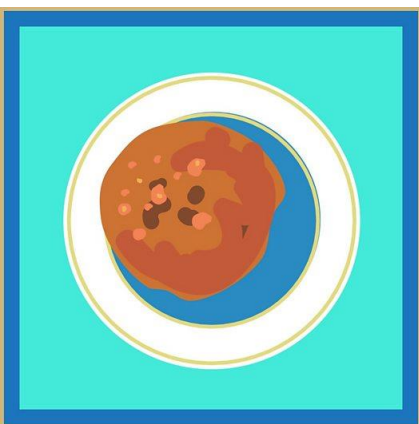




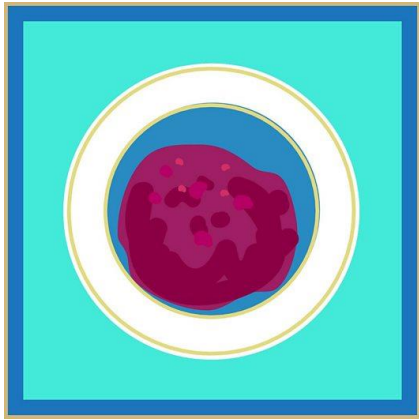
Chazaret: Bitter herbs such as romaine lettuce and endive. These represent the bitterness of slavery.



Beitzah: A hard boiled egg as a symbol of mourning. This is to remember the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. It also has another meaning. Food usually becomes soft when cooked, but eggs become harder, so the egg is a symbol of the Jews' determination to keep their faith.



Charoset: A sweet brown paste made of fruit and nuts. This represents the mortar that the Israelites used for building bricks when they were slaves in Egypt.



Maror: Bitter herbs which are often made from horseradish. Like the Chazeret, they are a symbol of the bitter suffering of the Israelites when they were slaves in Egypt.



Karpas: Celery stalks or parsley are dipped into a little bowl of salted water during the Seder. Karpas is a symbol of the spring harvest and the salty water represents the Israelites' tears when they were slaves.



Z'roa A lamb bone which represents the lamb that was sacrificed and brought to the temple the night before the Israelites left Egypt.

Matzah

On the table there are three **Matzah** (bread that is flat because it has not risen). At the start of the Seder, the middle Matzah is broken and the largest piece is hidden. During the Seder the children hunt for it. The one who finds it receives a small prize.

Wine

Four small glasses of wine remind Jews of the four times God promised freedom to the Israelites. An extra cup of wine is placed on the table and the door is left open for the prophet **Elijah**. Jews believe that one day, Elijah will reappear and he will announce the coming of the Messiah.

Respond

Task:
Draw pictures of the items on the Seder plate and write a brief explanation about them.

Challenge: Write down any other facts that you have learnt about Passover



Reflect

Passover was the story that Jesus and the apostles were remembering and the meal they were celebrating.

Focus on what Jesus did with the Passover bread and wine.

What new meaning did he give to them?

Read aloud with the children the words of the Institution of the Eucharist from the Last Supper story. What do they tell us about Jesus' forthcoming suffering and death?

The celebration of Mass - the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ and those same words of Jesus are said again.

This is one of the reasons the Mass is called a sacrifice.

