

PLAY YOUR WAY TO ISRAEL THROUGH THE PASSOVER STORY

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Jews everywhere learn and retell the story of Passover. This fun activity is a great way to help pass along both the story AND the journey of our ancestors as they made their way to freedom in our homeland - the Land of Israel. Experience how we became the Jewish People and follow in our ancestors footsteps as they made their way home to Israel.

Here are 3 great options you can do with children aged 5-12 to encourage their connection and pride in the accomplishments of our one and only Jewish state!

This resource can be used as a classroom lesson, an activity run by a youth group leader or community educator, or by parents. Times are to be used as a suggestion. There are several options for different time frames to suit the wide range of educational and situational needs.

TIME

This activity can be run for an hour or can be adapted for a 15 min activity (minimum time) to suit any group or learning environment.

AGE

For children aged 5-12 years old

From tots to preteens, this activity can be adapted for a wide range of ages. By telling the story in more depth and linking to concepts like freedom, and 'what would you do?' and 'how would you feel?' in this situation, this activity can easily be used with older children. Youth can also discuss in pairs/groups so that the lesson is expanded to include dialogue and discussion.

OBJECTIVE

To provide a hands on educational experience for learners of all ages to review, retell and relive the Passover story in a fun and exciting manner.

Israel and Jewish Values Connection: Holiday story, celebration, freedom, leaving Egypt to return to Israel

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Two options of pictures of The Passover Story from [PJLibrary](#) and [Walderman Education](#) (you need a free account to download).
- A [map of Israel](#) (Map credit to Sarel Tours) and/or a map of the journey/distance from Egypt to Israel (Google Images/Pinterest). Choose what is appropriate for you.
- Sefer Shemot/Exodus to show the children the story "inside"

ACTIVITY INTRODUCTION/GETTING STARTED

Focus their attention on the Passover story. Ask the children what they know about the Passover story and if they can name any characters in it.

- Q: Who knows which book of the Torah contains the Passover Story? [The Book of Exodus - Hebrew name is Shemot]
- Q: Which number is that book? [2nd Book]
- Q: Who are some of the main characters in the story? [Moses, Miriam, Yocheved, Batya, who was Pharaoh's daughter, Pharaoh, Aharon, God].

Here are some videos that may help you or your students become more familiar with the Passover story and to kick off the activity in a fun and visual way: [Israel Forever YouTube Passover Playlist](#)

ACTIVITIES (choose one or more depending on time constraints)

Activity 1: Passover Story (15 minutes)

Attach pictures and map(s) to the wall before beginning the lesson. Show the students the pictures hanging around the room. Tell them these are the main parts of the story. Let them know that each of the paragraphs will fit into a part of the story. Once they understand their paragraph, they should go stand near the picture.

Hand out the paragraph cards. If you want, the students can work in pairs. There are pros and cons and perhaps some with work in pairs and some work on their own. You could give them a choice. Let the students know that the madrichim are happy to help.

Tell students to read their paragraphs and choose the part of the story that corresponds to their paragraph.

Once the students are in their groups, tell them to put themselves into order.

Once the students are in order within their part of the story, tell the students to put the entire story in order. If necessary, a teacher/madrich/madricha can help.

Once the students are lined up in order, have them read their cards in order to hear the story.

Activity 2: Cartoon (10 minutes)

Hand out paper and pencils. Ask students to choose one thing that happens in the story and create a cartoon related to it. Another option is for them to draw a picture and provide a caption.

Activity 3: Discussion

Discuss why the journey took such a long time (supposed to be a few days, took 40 years).

What did we have to learn from that?

How did we/what does it mean to change from a slave nation to a free nation?

Transition from Egypt to Israel - What was life like in ancient Egypt, the desert, ancient Israel/Canaan?

EVALUATION/CONCLUSION (5 minutes)

Put children in pairs - ask everyone to tell their partner one thing they learned about the Passover story today.

OTHER RESOURCES TO KEEP THE PASSOVER FUN GOING:

<https://israelforever.org/israel/celebrating/passover/activities/>

<https://israelforever.org/programs/israelinmyart/>

FUN AT YOUR SEDER

Looking for an entertaining way to impart knowledge of the Israelites journey from slavery in Egypt to Freedom in Israel? Use these fun story pictures to play and learn before, during, or after your family's Seder. Nurture your family's creativity as everyone has fun together.

One of the fun ways this can be used during sedarim is to print out multiple sets and have teams put the pictures in order. The groups that puts it in order faster wins. Then, participants get the pictures and stand in order reading the Passover Story in order. Other ideas are to act out the different pictures in a charades game, have students decorate tambourines using markers and craft supplies to depict one of the parts of the Exodus story, our journey from slavery to Israel.

ABOUT THE ISRAEL FOREVER FOUNDATION

The Israel Forever Foundation is an Israel Engagement Organization that develops and promotes experiential learning resources that celebrate and strengthen the personal connection to Israel as an integral part of Jewish life and identity.

We hope you have enjoyed using this resource. We greatly appreciate feedback. Please take a minute to fill out our [evaluation form](#) and help be as effective as possible in providing the resources and tools you need to make the personal Israel connection come to life, whatever the age, wherever you are in the world.