

Pesach (Passover) - a key Jewish Festival	Year Group: KS2	No. of lessons: 5
Learning objectives: To discover how Passover is celebrated and empathise with its importance for Jews.		
Themes to discuss: Celebration, freedom, faith, community, identity, God the saviour, God's special people.		
Activities and experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food with symbolic meanings – think together of special foods for special occasions such as birthday cakes, Easter eggs. Think about a time you may have to put a meal together to celebrate a special event in the life of your family – what symbolic food would you choose and why? This is the most important of symbolic meals for Jews: • Retell the story of the Exodus to the crossing of the Red Sea – you may like to experiment with drama / poetry / music or make an emotion-graph. With older pupils you can discuss the balance of joy and sadness in the story – freedom for some, but a violent death for others – is it right to celebrate the death of the Egyptians (firstborn and soldiers)? • This is a very special story for Jews (see next page) and it is celebrated annually with a seder followed by a wonderful meal. Discover together the foods which are eaten, and make a picture chart to show them with their symbolic meaning which could be used as a crib sheet during the seder. (This could be done on paper plates of course.) To emphasise Kosher food laws for the seder, open up your class lunch boxes (if children are willing!) and see what food is there which could be eaten at seder (e.g. no bread, although crackers are fine, no pork products, no milk and meat in the same lunch box). • “Celebrate” the seder together - simulate the meal and taste the foods. • Talk together about how Jews might feel celebrating this special meal more than three thousand years after the original event .(Jesus celebrated Passover, and it was old then!) Why do it? What is the meaning for them today (see the “beliefs” and “personal experiences” boxes on the next page for themes to discuss)? • Share very briefly the rest of the story – the 40 year journey to the Promised Land. 		
Websites and resources: http://www.holidays.net/passover/ is a very thorough Passover site – with dreadfully intrusive adverts! However, you can find songs, video, clips, instructions on the seder etc etc.		