



Plague Bookmarks

Topic

Passover

Grade Level(s)

All

Goals for the Lesson/Activity

Students will

- Reflect on artistic representations of the 10 *Makkot* (Plagues)
- Create reminders of the 10 *Makkot* that can be used in family *Haggadot*

Materials needed

- 8-10 Different *Haggadot*
- Cardstock cut into ten 2½" x 8½" rectangles (one set per student)
- Photocopies of the names of the *Makkot* (included)
- Red food coloring
- Straws
- Frog die-cut or frog stickers
- Bits of rubber bands
- Torn animal-print paper or foam wild animals
- Animal rubber stamps, especially cows
- Hand die-cut with bubble wrap
- Styrofoam balls or ping-pong balls cut in half
- Photocopies of locust (included)
- Black construction paper
- Small person die-cuts
- Pens, Markers, etc.

Background for Teachers

While the *Haggadah* has many standard elements, different versions of the *Haggadah* throughout history have added their own perspectives on the Exodus narrative. One way in which these *Haggadot* interpret the narrative is through artistic representations. One classic example is the different ways that the four children are represented throughout history. The ways in which the *makkot* are



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represented also help to give us insight into how people understand what befell the Egyptians.

Description of Activities

1. Explain to students that they will have an opportunity to see how different *Haggadot* represent the *makkot*/plagues.
2. Pass around *Haggadot*. Ask students to note artistic representations that they find compelling, surprising, or unusual.
3. When students have had a chance to see multiple representations, ask students to share some of their observations. How are the *makkot* represented?
4. Tell students that they will be making their own representations of the *makkot*/plague with bookmarks that they and others at their Seders can use to hold their places in their *Haggadot*.
 - a. Each student receives 10 rectangles of cardstock.
 - b. Students glue the names of the *makkot*/plagues to their cardstock (i.e. one name for each rectangle).
 - c. Students decorate their bookmarks with representations of each *makkah*/plague (i.e. one representation/bookmark). Ideas for representing each of the plagues are listed below.
 - d. Providing a variety of craft materials will inspire your students to create a dynamic set of bookmarks for their family's *Haggadot*.

5. Ideas for Representing *Makkot*/Plagues

- a. דָּם (**Blood**) – red food coloring dropped onto the bookmark, and then blown around the paper through a straw
- b. צְפַרְדֵּי (**Frogs**) – frog die-cut, or frog stickers
- c. כְּנָיִם (**Lice/Vermin**) – bits of rubber bands glued to the paper
- d. עָרוֹב (**Wild Beasts**) – torn animal print paper, or foam wild animals, or rubber stamps
- e. דֵּבֶר (**Cattle Disease**) – cow rubber stamps, or cow scrapbooking paper, or stickers
- f. שָׁחִין (**Boils**) – hand die-cut covered with bubble wrap
- g. בָּרָד (**Hail**) – styrofoam balls cut in half or ping-pong balls
- h. אַרְבֵּה (**Locust**) – photocopy of picture of a locust
- i. חֹשֶׁךְ (**Darkness**) – black construction paper
- j. מַכַּת בְּכוֹרוֹת (**Death of the First Born**) – Small person die-cuts (purchase at a store or make your own)



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דָּם

Blood

צְפַרְדֵּי

Frogs

כְּנֵיִם

Lice/Vermin

עָרוֹב

Wild Beasts

דָּבָר

Cattle Disease



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שָׁחִין

Boils

בָּרָד

Hail

אַרְבֵּה

Locust

חֹשֶׁךְ

Darkness

מִמַּת בְּכֹרוֹת

Death of the First Born

עֶשֶׂר מַפּוֹת

The Ten Plagues

