



## Creating Content Rich Jewish Learning Experiences for Passover

- **Make a *Bruchim Habayim* sign to welcome friends and family to your Seder.** Supplies needed: cardboard or pizza wheel, markers, small pictures of Passover items, die-cuts, markers, old calendar pictures, glue sticks, whole punches and ribbons. Using cardboard or a large pizza wheel as a base, write the words *Bruchim Habayim*\* in the center of the pizza wheel. Then, collage Passover images and die-cuts around the words. Add string and hang on the front door to welcome guests to the Seder. The phrase “Let all who are hungry come eat” may also be added.
  - **An alternative:** Make a *Mizrach* to hang in your house during Passover. Write “Next year in Jerusalem” in the middle of your sign. Use die-cuts, pictures and rubber stamps to decorate.  
\*Download the separate handout with *Bruchim Habayim* and *L'Shanah Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim* and *Let All Who Are Hungry...* to include with your collage materials.
- **Take a matzah taste test.** One of the names of Passover is *Chag HaMatzot* (The Holiday of Matzah). Have a taste test of different types of matzah. Include standard square matzah, *shemurah* matzah, oat matzah, etc. You can even include Tam-Tams. Have students record their thoughts about the matzah: How do they taste different? How are their textures different? What does each one remind you of?
  - **An alternative:** Some people refrain from eating matzah for up to 30 days before the beginning of Passover. Have a grape juice taste test instead. Include purple grape juice, white grape juice, sparkling grape juice, etc.
- **Sing some songs of freedom.** One of the names of Passover is *Zeman Cheiruteinu* (The Time of Our Freedom). What does freedom sound like? Sing songs from the Seder and ask students how they feel when they sing these songs. Do they feel different when they sing fast songs and slow songs? What kinds of songs should be sung fast? Which ones should be sung slowly? Check out modern musical selections on the [JTeach.org Blendspace](https://www.jteach.org/blendspace).
- **Explore Jewish symbols.** Before *B'nei Yisrael* (the Children of Israel) left Egypt, they put blood on their doorposts. For older students, ask whether God really needed a reminder to pass over the houses of *B'nei Yisrael*. For whom was the blood a reminder? Why? For all ages, take a tour of your building and hunt for *mezuzot*. Where do the *mezuzot* appear? What is the connection to Passover? You can also differentiate among which types of rooms the *mezuzot* appear on.
- **Set up a sensory garden.** You might include: matzah, hard-boiled egg, celery/lettuce/parsley, grass, sand, bowl of water, toy bugs, etc. Ask students to explore the sensory garden and make connections to the four names of Passover: Pesach (Passover), *Chag HaMatzot* (The Matzah Holiday), *Zeman Cheiruteinu* (Time of Our Freedom), *Chag HaAviv* (The Spring Holiday).
  - You can also list the different names and senses and ask students to make their own connections. What sounds, sights, smells, etc. do they associate with each of the different names of Passover?
  - Try using **Popplet** on the iPad or any browser to record student connections. Learn more [here](https://www.jteach.org/popplet).



## Creating Content Rich Jewish Learning Experiences for Passover

- **Be nosy!** Bring in different kinds of foods that go on the Seder plate. Ask students to close their eyes (or blindfold them) and ask them to identify the different items by smell. You can even bring in different kinds of *maror* or *karpas*. Ask students what the different smells remind them of.
- **The Next Olympic Event - Frog Jumping.** Who can jump the farthest? After the jumping competition, sing the frog song. Lyrics are below or share this [video](#).
  - **The Frog Song (Shirley Cohen)**  
One morning when Pharaoh awoke in his bed  
There were frogs in his bed, and frogs on his head  
Frogs on his nose and frogs on his toes  
Frogs here, frogs there  
Frogs were jumping everywhere.
- **Make matzah rubbings coasters.** Supplies needed: beige paper, unwrapped brown crayons, ribbed cardboard and deckle edge scissors (optional). Place paper on top of the cardboard and using the side of the crayon, make a rubbing the size of a *matzah* board. Cut around the edges with the deckle scissors. Write Elijah or Miriam in the middle, laminate or cover with contact paper and use it as a coaster.
- **Perform slave labor.** Divide students into 2 teams (Ra'amses and Pithom). Using cardboard boxes or blocks, see which group can work together to make the tallest storage facility without speaking (think slavery). Sing [Avadim Hayinu](#) all together when done.
- **Create "Time to Eat" bookmarks.** Use frog stickers, rubber stamps, markers, etc. to create Passover bookmarks. Make one for each person in your family.
- **Decorate graffiti wall.** Hang a long roll of paper on one large wall and invite students to write or draw their favorite family Passover custom.
- **Next Year in Jerusalem.** Plant the seed that a trip to Israel could be in the family's future by creating a travel postcard. Ask students to find where the phrase *Next Year in Jerusalem* appears in the *Hagaddah*. Then, search for and download a picture of Israel to be a background for the travel postcard. Use [PicCollage](#) (Free; iPhone, iPad, and Android) to overlay a family picture and add the words "Next year in Jerusalem." Share your travel postcard with family and friends via text or email.