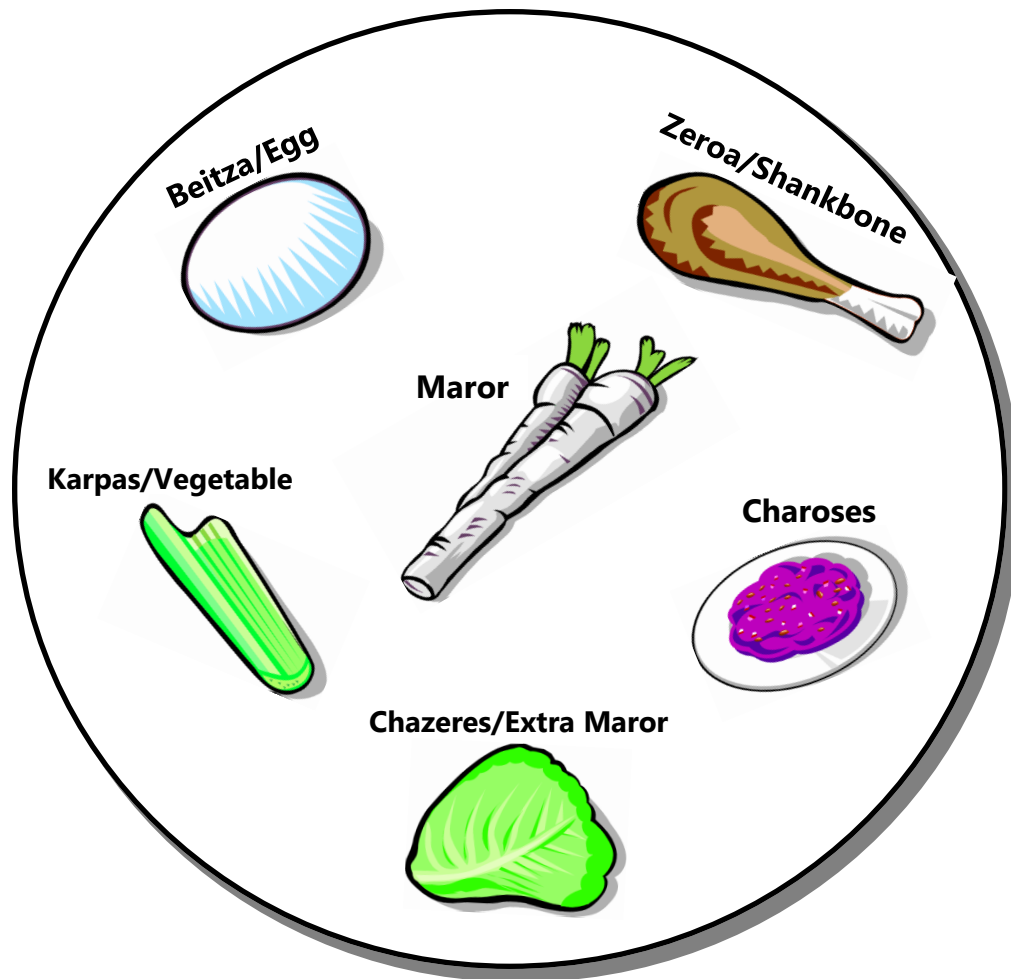


THE SEDER PLATE



Z'ro'a: A Roasted Bone (roasted chicken wing or shank bone) to remind us of the Korban Pesach - Pascal Lamb.



Beitzah: A Hardboiled Egg to remind us of the Korban Chagigah (Holiday Offering) that was offered in the Holy Temple.



Maror: Bitter herbs (grated horseradish or romaine lettuce) which we dip into Charoset before eating.



Charoset: A mixture of ground apples, nuts, ginger, cinnamon, and red sweet wine. The look and feel of mortar symbolizes the bricks and mortar which we were forced to use when we were slaves in Egypt.



Karpas: A vegetable, (most use boiled potato, onion, celery or parsley), which is dipped into salt water and eaten. The salt water reminds us of the tears we shed as slaves.



Chazeret: More of the bitter herbs - this is used for the Koreich sandwich .

THE SEDER

The Seder, meaning "Order," is a meal instituted to fulfill the Torah's commandment to recount the Exodus story to children on Pesach's first night. This structured meal includes eating Matzah and Maror, organized into 14 steps, each described in a brief phrase that forms the traditional Seder rhyme.

1. **KADAISH:** Recite kiddush over a cup of wine (first of four cups), drinking while leaning left.
2. **URCHATZ:** Wash hands with a cup, three times on each hand, without reciting the usual blessing.
3. **KARPAS:** Dip a vegetable in salt water, recite "Boray pri hoadomo," and eat it. (The salt water reminds us of the tears the Jews cried in Egypt.)
4. **YACHATZ:** Break the middle matzo, hide the larger piece for Afikomen, and then fill the second cup of wine.
5. **MAGID:** Read the Haggadah telling at great length, the story of our exodus from Egypt. Included in the Haggadah reading is, The Ma-Nishtana (The Four Questions), the Ten Plagues and Dayeinu. Conclude by drinking the 2nd cup of wine while leaning to the left.
6. **RACHTZA:** Wash hands with a cup, three times on each hand, reciting "Al Netilat yadayim."
7. **MOTZIE MATZOH:** Recite both blessings for matzo, eat while leaning to the left. The actual requirement is to eat a "kazayis," which is about the size of half of a round handmade matzoh or a whole square machine made matzoh.
8. **MAROR:** Eat bitter herbs (horseradish or lettuce) dipped in Charoses, reciting "Al achilas maror" (not leaning). Once again, it is best to eat the amount of a kazayis.

9. **KORECH:** (The maror sandwich) Take a Kazayis size piece of Maror, dip it into charoses, and make a sandwich with a kazayis of Matzoh. Recite the paragraph of "Kein Asah Hillel" and then we eat it (leaning to the left)
10. **SHULCHAN ORECH** Eat the meal. It is customary not to eat anything roasted. Some have the custom to eat the egg from the seder plate, dipped in salt water.
11. **TZAFUN:** Eat the Afikomen (hidden matzo) for dessert, while leaning to the left. It is best not to eat anything after the afikomen.
12. **BEIRACH:** Recite Grace After Meals, drink the third cup of wine leaning left, and fill the fourth cup as well as the cup of Eliyahu. One person then goes to the door to open it for Eliyahu. The paragraph of "Shefoch" is recited while the door is open.
13. **HALLEL:** Recite Hallel, drink the fourth cup of wine leaning left, and recite the after blessing.
14. **NIRTZAH:** We say "Leshana habah beYerushalyim" (Next year in Jerusalem) and we sing the concluding songs.

MA NISHTANA - THE FOUR QUESTIONS

The Ma Nishtana, or "Four Questions," are traditionally asked by the youngest child (or all the children) at the Seder table to highlight the night's unique customs and spark their interest and involvement in the Seder.

WHY IS THIS NIGHT DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER NIGHTS?

1. CHOMETZ OR MATZO

On all other nights we eat Chometz or Matzoh but on this night we eat only Matzo

2. VEGETABLES OR MAROR

On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables but on this night we eat maror

3. DIPPING

On all other nights we don't dip even once but on this night we dip twice

4. RECLINING

On all other nights we eat sitting or reclining but on this night we all recline

THE TEN PLAGUES

It is customary to spill a little wine from your cup as you mention each of the ten plagues.

1. **DAM** (blood)

2. **TZFARDAYAH** (frogs)

3. **KINIM** (lice)

4. **AROV** (wild animals)

5. **DEVER** (cattle disease)

6. **SH'CHIN** (boils)

7. **BARAD** (hail)

8. **ARBEH** (grasshoppers)

9. **CHOSHECH** (darkness)

10. **MAKAS B'CHOROS** (the death of first born child of each family)

PESACH, MATZAH, UMAROR

The great sage Rabbi Gamliel would say: "Anyone who does not say the following three things on Pesach, has not fulfilled his obligation. And these are they:"

- 1. PESACH** - Why did our ancestors eat an offering called Pesach when the Bait Hamikdash still stood? Because Pesach means, literally "to pass over." In Egypt, Hashem passed over the homes of the Jews when He killed the Egyptian firstborn.
- 2. MATZAH** - Why do we eat this *Matzah*? (pointing to the *matzah*) Because it reminds us that when the Jews left the slavery of Egypt they had no time to bake their bread. They took the raw dough on their journey and baked it in the hot desert sun into *matzah*.
- 3. MAROR** - Last and not least, Why do we eat *Marror*? Because *Marror* reminds us of the bitter and cruel way the Egyptians treated the Jewish people when they were slaves.