

2016 - Pesach Trivia

1. How many cups of wine do we drink? (4)
2. Who is the 5th cup for? (Eliyahu)
3. What do we open right near the end of the seder? (the door)
4. What do we do while drinking the wine? (lean)
5. Which way do we lean? (right)
6. How many *matzot* do we have on the table for the Seder plate? (3)
7. Why do we eat *maror*? (because slavery was bitter)
8. Name a vegetable you can use for *karpas*?
9. What do we dip *karpas* in? (salt water)
10. Why salt water? (tears of slaves, bitter)
11. What on the seder plate symbolizes the korban pesach (shankbone, chicken bone)
12. What animal did the Jews use to bring as a korban pesach? (a sheep)
13. What did the Jews do with the blood of the sheep before leaving Egypt? (put it on their doorposts)
14. Why do we have an egg on the seder plate? (korban chagiga)
15. Name 3 things on the seder plate
16. Name the 4 sons? (rasha, chacham, tam, she'eino yodea lish'eol)
17. Why don't we eat the zroah? (Korban Pesach)
18. What is another name for Chag ha'pesach? (chag hamatzot, chag ha'aviv)
19. What do we eat with the matzah? (maror and charoset)
20. Name something you can use for maror?
21. Why do we eat charoset? (mortar for bricks that Jews made as slaves)
22. Name 5 plagues
23. Name 5 other plagues
24. What did the Jewish firstborns put on their doors to be safe during makat bechorot? (blood)
25. What is the afikomen? (the matzah we hide)
26. What are 5 stages of the seder (kadesh, urchatz, karpas, yahatz...)
27. How many times do we wash our hands during the seder? (2)
28. How many times do we say a blessing on washing our hands? (once)
29. How many seders do we have in chutz la'aretz? (2)
30. How many seders do Israelis have? (1)
31. What do we get rid of before Pesach? (chametz)
32. Name 3 things that are chametz?
33. What are ways to get rid of chametz? (burn it, throw it out, flush it down the toilet, eat it)
34. How did God first appear to Moses? (burning bush)
35. What was the ninth plague? (darkness)
36. What was the name of the area of Egypt where the Hebrews lived since the time of Joseph? (Goshen)
37. Where did God tell the Hebrew people to put the blood of the lamb so the Angel of Death would pass over their home? (doorposts)
38. What was the name of Moses' mother? (Jocheved)
39. Where did Moses flee to after killing the Egyptian? (Midian)
40. Whose bones did Moses take out of Egypt? (Joseph)
41. How many days did darkness cover Egypt? (three)
42. Give 2 explanations for the word Pesach. (the Angel of Death passed over the house, sweet mouth)

43. What is the one item that we don't eat from the Seder plate and why? (*zroah*, because it is similar to Korban Pesach)
44. Which three things we should definitely mention at the Seder? (Pesach, Matza, Maror)
45. In Israel, how many days we celebrate Pesach? (seven)
46. What are the 3 mitzvot the Torah requires on Pesach? (eating matzah, telling the Exodus story and not eating or owning chametz)
47. How should Jews feel at the Seder? (as if they left Egypt)
48. In Chad Gadya, what does the dog do to the cat? (bit the cat)
49. How many times does Moshe's name appear in the Haggadah? (once)
50. Which book is read in the synagogue during Pesach? (Shir Hashirim)
51. All first-born males are obligated to fast on the day before Pesach. How can one get out of this obligation? (by taking part in a *seudat mitzvah*)
52. On what day do we start saying Tefilat Tal? (on the first day of Pesach)
53. According to tradition, how old was Moshe's mother Yocheved, when Moshe was born? (130)
54. Why are perforations made in the matzot before putting in the oven? (to allow air to escape and prevent fermentation)
55. After which plague did Hashem begin to "harden Pharaoh's heart"? (plague 6: boils)
56. What does the Omer symbolize? (the barley offering in the Temple)
57. Matzah Ashirah (egg matzah) can only be used on Pesach by... (people who, due to their health, cannot eat regular matzah)
58. Why did Bnei Israel move to Egypt in the first place? (famine)
59. How did Hashem guide Bnei Israel in the desert in daylight? (pillar of cloud)
60. Who was chosen to lead Bnei Israel after Moshe? (Yehoshua)
61. How many people went down to Egypt in the time of Jacob? (70)
62. We search the house for chametz on the ____ of Nisan (14)
63. What year in the Jewish calendar did the Exodus happen? (2248)
64. When do we begin counting the Omer? (the second Seder)
65. What group of people still performs the Korban Pesach today? (the Samaritans)
66. Some Sephardic Jews remember the lashings the Jewish slaves received in Egypt by bringing what edible plant to the Seder table? (scallion)
67. Why do we have the cup of Eliyahu at the Seder (disagreement between the rabbis as to 4 or 5 cups)
68. What is the last word of the Haggadah? (gadya)
69. Name some halachot of Korban Pesach? (eaten before *chatzot*, don't break bones, roast)
70. Which *tefillah* is split during the Seder? (Hallel)

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- 1. Eating matzah on Pesach is to remember the Exodus. Were the Jewish people coming out of Egypt the first to be mentioned in the Torah to bake matzah?** No. Abraham's nephew, Lot, who lived 400 years before the Exodus, is the first one mentioned in the Torah to bake matzot. It is mentioned that he served the angels who came to his home, when they came to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:3).
- 2. Why do we wash at the Seder twice, once before bread and once before *karpas*?** It is also customary to wash our hands when we eat something which we dip into liquid. However, we wash without a blessing over the washing. Thus, before dipping into the salt-water we wash.
- 3. How old was Moshe when G-d sent him to command Pharaoh to let the Jewish people free?** Moshe was 80 and Aaron was 83.
- 4. How many people left Egypt at the time of the Exodus?** 600,000 men (over the age of 20). In addition, there were women, children, and a multitude of people from other nations that left with them. A few million people left Egypt at the Exodus.
- 5. Did all the Jews who were enslaved in Egypt leave at the time of the Exodus?** No. Only one fifth (*chamushim*) came out, the other four fifths didn't want to leave. G-d punished them and they died during the plague of darkness. Also, 200,000 people of the tribe of Ephraim escaped thirty years before the Exodus and were killed by the people of Gat.
- 6. What is the significance of the three matzot on the Seder Plate?** 1) They represent the three categories of the Jewish people; Kohen, Levi and Yisrael. 2) They also represent the three patriarchs; Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- 7. Why do we break the middle matzah?** The Torah refers to matzah as *Lechem oni* - "bread of poverty." A poor man when he has a loaf of bread will always think about the next meal. He fears that he may not have anything to eat later, so before he eats his meal he usually breaks off a piece and saves it for later. Thus, we leave the smaller piece on the table and recite the story of the Exodus over it - representing the bread of poverty which the Jewish people ate in Egypt.
- 8. What is the reason for "wrapping" the Afikoman and "hiding" it?** The Torah says that at the time of the Exodus Jews were so rushed that they didn't have time to bake their dough into bread. Instead, they "*took their dough before it became leavened and they bound it up in their clothes upon their shoulders.*" By wrapping the Afikoman, we recall the fact that the dough was "*bound in their clothes.*"
- 9. We have a meal every Shabbat and every holiday. Why is the meal we eat Pesach night different than all other meals of a whole year. that it is called Seder?** "Seder" means "order." On Shabbat as well as other holidays the only requirement at the meal is that we recite the Kiddush over wine and then recite the blessing over two Challah. Then we can eat our delicious Shabbat and holiday meal. But on Pesach, there is a "Seder" - "order" of things we have to follow, before we eat the meal and

also after.

10. **On Shabbat and holidays, we place two Challah on the table. We recite the Kiddush and then recite the blessing over the Challah. On Pesach we are prohibited from eating Challah, so we replace it with matzah. But for the Seder we place three matzot, instead of two every Shabbat. Why?** When we recite the blessing over the Challah or matzah they should be whole. We slice it only after the blessing. But on Pesach, we break the middle matzah at the beginning of the Seder and hide half for the Afikoman. In order to have two whole matzot when we recite the Hamotzi blessing over the matzot later, we need the third matzah which is whole. This is one reason for the third matzah. We also need the third matzah for the matzah and maror sandwich, called Korach, which we eat at the Seder.
11. **What are the names of the holiday of Pesach and what do they mean?** Chag Hamatzot (Ex. 23:15), Chag HaPesach (Ex. 34:25), Chag HaAviv, Zman Heiruteinu, Crossing Feast (Philon din Alexandria)
12. **What does the word Pesach mean and what is its origin?** Pesach - Passover; *Peh sach* - sweet mouth; *Piseach* - lame.
13. **Where in the Haggadah are the "stars" of Pesach (Moses and Eliyahu) mentioned?** Moses is mentioned only once, in the explanation Rabi Yose haGlili gives for the calculation of plagues (after Detzach Adash Beachav). Eliyahu is only mentioned in Birkat Hamazon.
14. **Why do we talk about the four sons at the Seder? What is the origin for their questions?** Actually, they are straight from the Torah! Wise - *"What are the testimonies, the statutes and the laws the L-rd our G-d has commanded you?"* (Deut. 6:20-25) Wicked - *"What is this service to you?"* (Ex. 12:26-27) Simple - *"What is this? By strength of hand the Lord brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage."* (Ex. 13:14) Clueless - *"?"* *"It is because of that which the Lord did for me when I came forth out of Egypt."* (Ex. 13:8)
15. **How many Pesachs are there and what can you say about them?** The Torah provides for a second Pesach for those who were unable to offer the Pesach sacrifice on 14 Nisan (Num. 9:9-14). Why did this "second chance" exist? Offering the Pesach sacrifice was so important that an alternative date was needed to give those who might have not been able to get to the Temple in time, or those who were in a state of ritual impurity, another opportunity to satisfy this obligation. Called Pesach Sheni, "Second Pesach," it occurs one month later on 14 Iyar. Some people still observe Pesach Sheni by eating a piece of matzoh. Luckily, though, there is no Pesach kashrut requirement for this date!
16. **Where does the word Afikoman come from?** It's a very old (Greek?) word, usually translated as "desert". In the Yemenite Haggadah, the word is an acrostich of אַגוזים - nuts, פירות - fruits, יין - wine, גְּלִיּוֹת - roasted foods, וְבֶשֶׂר - meat, מַיִם - water, נְרִדִים - spikenard (perfume). In this interpretation, all these things are forbidden to be eaten/used after the afikoman has been eaten. (We are allowed to drink water.)
17. **Name at least 3 differences between regular Hallel and Hallel at the Seder.** No bracha; sitting/standing; break in between; night/day; women are required to recite it at the Seder.
18. **In Ma Nishtana, we ask four questions. In the time of the Beit Hamikdash, five questions were asked instead. What was the fifth question?** Why on all other nights do we eat cooked and roasted,

and on this night just roasted.

19. **How many times is Pharaoh's heart hardened?** Eleven times: once after the first sign (Moshe's staff becoming a snake) and once after each plague.
20. **On what days can't the first day of Pesach land?** On Monday, Wednesday and Friday (*lo badu pesach*).
21. **During the last of the plagues, the firstborn in each house died. What happened if there was no firstborn in a house?** The oldest person in the house died. (Rashi on Ex. 12:30)
22. **What don't we say when going to bed on Pesach night and why?** We don't say Shema al HaMita, because it is *leil shimorim*, and Hashem watches us tonight.
23. **Who was the first person who went into the Sea of Reeds and what tribe was he from? What can you tell us about them?** Nachshon ben Aminadav from the tribe of Yehuda.
24. **Why do we say in Dayeinu that "if G-d would have brought us to Har Sinai but not given us the Torah, that would have been enough"?** *Achdut* - unity.
25. **Name five or more non-Jewish characters mentioned in the Haggadah?** Paraoh, Lavan, Esav, Terach, Nachor, Og, Sichon.
26. **Why is the Zeroah not eaten during the Seder?** Because today, in absence of the Beit Hamikdash, it is forbidden to offer sacrifices (*korbanot*).
27. **How old is the oldest known complete Haggadah manuscript we have today?** Tenth century, included in the Saadia Gaon prayer book.
28. **There are three symbols on Pesach: Pesach, Matza and Marror. Why do we start the story (Maggid) with Matza and not with one of the other ones?** Because Matza is the only *deoraita* remaining today.
29. **Why does it say that Lavan tried to destroy the whole Bnei Israel?** Because if he would have succeeded in taking back his daughters (Leah and Rachel) and his grandchildren, he would have trained them for idol worship and there never would have been a Jewish nation committed to Hashem.
30. **During World War I in Poland, kosher wine was very hard to obtain. The local rabbis made an announcement to allow which beverage instead, for the traditional four cups of wine?** Sweet tea.
31. **Where does the largest Passover Seder in the world take place nowadays?** In Nepal. In 2010, they had over 2000 people in the audience, and the numbers have grown since.
32. **At the Seder, after the Kiddush, before eating the festive meal, we recite the Haggadah. Why don't we eat immediately after the Kiddush and recite the Haggadah afterwards?** Our rabbis instituted this order to make sure that we stay awake for the Seder. If we would eat the meal first,

there is a good chance that they will become tired and drowsy and not perform the Seder properly.

33. **Why is it customary for the children to hide the Afikoman at the beginning of the Seder?** In order to keep them awake throughout the Seder. The excitement of receiving a reward for returning the Afikoman at the end of the meal, will keep them up during the Seder.
34. **At the Seder we place on the table items which remind us of the enslavement in Egypt (bitter herbs) and the Exodus (matzah, four cups of wine). The Torah tells us that at the Exodus, the Jewish people came out of Egypt with great wealth, just as G-d had promised Abraham many years earlier. Why don't we make any symbol for the great wealth we took with us at the Exodus?** The Lubavitcher Rebbe, writes, "Jewish wealth is not houses and gold. Everlasting Jewish wealth are the Torah and mitzvot we perform and bringing into the world children and grandchildren who keep Torah and mitzvot and continue our rich Jewish tradition." The fact that we all sit at the Seder table, together with our family members, surrounded by our children and grandchildren, who participate in the customs and traditions of the Seder and the great Nachas we derive this night, this is the greatest display of our everlasting great wealth!
35. **On all other holidays, we say "Chag Sameach!". Why do we say "Chag Kasher veSameach!" on Pesach?** The laws of Pesach are very strict and the prohibitions for Pesach are many. Even food which is kosher all year long may not be kosher for Passover. Thus, we need to make extra effort to be sure that our home is kosher for Pesach. Not only are we not allowed to eat foods which are prohibited on Pesach, but we are also not allowed to have them in our possession during the holiday.
36. **Between the four cups of wine we recite part of the Haggadah, the Maggid. What happens if one drinks all four cups of wine one after the other, will they be performing the mitzvah of drinking the four cups?** No. The four cups of wine have to be spread out throughout the Seder. If one drinks them together it would be counted as only one cup. The reason is, being that each of the cups represents a different expression and a distinct aspect of the redemption, each cup of wine has to be given his distinct significance.
37. **Why do some have the custom of not eat roast meat at the Seder?** Because the *Korban Pesach* was roasted in the time of the Beit Hamikdash. Today, since we cannot offer korbanot anymore, we refrain from eating roast meat altogether at the Seder.
38. **Why do we eat the Afikoman at the end of the meal?** Because we want to have the taste of matzah stay with us throughout the night.
39. **Why was an egg chosen to represent the Korban Chagiga at the Seder?** A few reasons: it symbolizes mourning (a mourner eats hard boiled eggs dipped in ashes for the first meal at the beginning of *shiva*). It also symbolizes the cycle of life, and it reminds us, in times of joy, that the Temple is still not rebuilt. A third reason relates to the fact that eggs were forbidden food in Egypt, so the egg is a symbol of freedom from the Egyptian oppression.

40. **A PESACH JOKE:**

A little boy once returned home from Hebrew school. His father asked, "What did you learn today?"

The boy answered, "The Rabbi told us how Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt."

"How did he?" asked the father.

The boy said "Moses was a big strong man and he beat Pharoah up. Then while he was down, he got all the people together and ran towards the sea. When they got there, the Corps of Engineers build a huge pontoon bridge. Once they got on the other side, they blew up the bridge while the Egyptians were trying to cross."

The father was shocked. "Is that what the Rabbi taught you?"

The boy replied, "No. But you'd never believe the story he DID tell us!"