

# Passover



**Passover** is one of the most important holidays in the Jewish tradition. Originally an ancient harvest festival, it now celebrates the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt around 1225 B.C.E. The holiday begins with a ritual meal called a Seder. The Haggadah, the text that guides the Seder, tells the Biblical tale of the ten plagues visited upon Egypt to convince the Pharaoh to free the slaves. According to the tale, the Pharaoh finally released the slaves, but changed his mind and began to pursue them. They fled toward the Red Sea, carrying their bread with them. The bread did not have time to rise, and baked into flat cakes in the desert sun. This part of the story is the reason matzah, the traditional flat bread, is a central part of the Seder.

## Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. Passover takes place during the Hebrew month of \_\_\_\_\_ . NNSAI
2. The Hebrew name for the holiday of Passover is \_\_\_\_\_ . CHPAES
3. The story of the Israelites' escape from Egypt takes place in the Biblical book of \_\_\_\_\_ , one of the five books of Moses. XOUSDE

The themes of Passover are slavery and freedom. What does freedom mean to you?