

Passover True or False

Test your knowledge and learn something new about one of the most important of all Jewish holidays.

1. Passover lasts for six days.

Answer: False. Passover is eight days long.

2. Passover is split into three parts.

Answer: True. The first two days and last two days are the crux of the holiday. Jewish people often do not work on those days. The middle four days are less ceremonial and more celebratory, and work is permitted.



3. Spring cleaning is an important Passover ritual.

Answer: True. Homes are cleaned thoroughly before Passover commences.

4. On the day before Passover, any leavened products (pasta, bread, etc.) are put in a bag and stored in a closet until Passover ends.

Answer: False. Leavened products must be removed completely from the home. They are sometimes given away or even burned.

5. At the time the original Passover story took place, 1300 BC, Jewish people were often called "Israelites."

Answer: True. Jewish people, Jews, and Israelites were all terms used to describe people who practiced Judaism in 1300 BC.

6. Passover is a celebration of Jews being able to practice their religion freely in Egypt.

Answer: False. Passover is when Jews were released from slavery in Egypt.

7. Abraham was sent by God to tell the Pharaoh of Egypt to release the Israelites from slavery.

Answer: False. Moses was sent to talk to the Pharaoh.

8. The Pharaoh ignored Moses' message.

Answer: True. The Pharaoh continued to enslave the Jews.

9. Moses received the message from God at the burning bush.

Answer: True. Moses came upon a burning bush, which is when God spoke to him and told him to tell the Pharaoh to release the Jewish people from slavery.

10. When the Pharaoh wouldn't obey, God sent plagues to Egypt, including a swarm of locusts.

Answer: True. Egypt was plagued with locusts when the Pharaoh wouldn't release the Jewish people from slavery.

11. After eight terrible plagues, the Pharaoh set the Israelites free.

Answer: False. It took 10 plagues for the Pharaoh to set the Israelites free. He practically begged them to leave after suffering the plagues.

12. The Israelites prepared for eight days and then began their exodus out of Egypt.

Answer: False. The Israelites left so quickly they didn't even have time to wait for the bread they had baked to rise.

13. The Haggadah is a special plate used during Passover.

Answer: False. The Haggadah is a teaching guide about Passover. Many different Haggadah books are available to use before or during Passover.

14. About 600,000 Israelites left Egypt with Moses when the Pharaoh set them free.

Answer: True. According to the Passover story, approximately 600,000 Israelites followed Moses and made the exodus out of Egypt.

15. Fossils and historical records prove that the events told in the Passover story happened.

Answer: False. There is no scientific evidence that the Passover story is historically accurate or that it is inaccurate.

16. At one point in their journey, the Israelites were trapped between the sea and the Egyptian army, so they began to swim together toward Israel.

Answer: False. When the Israelites found themselves between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army, the waters of the Red Sea miraculously parted.

17. Even vegetarians have to eat meat on Passover.

Answer: False. Vegetarians can replace meat products with beets during Passover.

18. Adults drink red wine during the Seder, or Passover meal.

Answer: True. Wine is part of the ceremonial Passover meal.

19. Beer is forbidden during Passover.

Answer: True. Beer is made with yeast and therefore is not consumed during Passover.

20. The Passover meal, or Seder, is usually a large dinner with fried potatoes and rich puddings.

Answer: False. The Seder includes many different types of light foods, such as lettuce, herbs, and chopped apples.

21. When Moses was born, all male Jewish children were supposed to be killed.

Answer: True. In an effort to stem the growing population of Jews, the Pharaoh of Egypt ordered male Jewish children be killed.

22. When he was an infant, Moses' mother pretended to obey the Pharaoh, but instead she swathed Moses in blankets, put him in a basket, and set him afloat on the Nile River.

Answer: False. Moses' mother put him in a basket and hid the basket in the reeds on the banks of the Nile. He was found and rescued by the Pharaoh's daughter.

23. One of the plagues that beset Egypt was the sudden appearance of millions of snakes.

Answer: False. Millions of frogs appeared in Egypt during the plagues.

24. "Why is this night different than other nights?" is the first of the four questions asked and answered during the Passover Seder.

Answer: True. Although called "the four questions," there are actually five questions. They appear to be statements, but they are asked as questions. They are:

- On all other nights we eat leavened products and matzah, and on this night only matzah.
- On all other nights we eat all vegetables, and on this night only bitter herbs.
- On all other nights we don't dip our food even once, and on this night we dip twice.
- On all other nights we eat sitting or reclining, and on this night we only recline.

25. Passover Seders usually take place in synagogues.

Answer: False. Passover Seders are most often held at home.
