

The Seder Plate

The Seder Plate is a special plate placed on the table on Seder night. Six foods are placed on the plate, each representing an idea connected to the Seder and the Exodus from Egypt. Each of the six foods is eaten or presented in a different part of the Passover Haggadah to help illustrate the Haggadah.

What are the foods?

Maror, Beitza, a Karpas, Haroset, Zroah, and matzah.

Afikoman - Three matzahs are placed on the Seder Plate. The afikoman is the name of the matzah that is eaten at the end of the Seder night. The custom is to take one of the three matzahs from the Seder plate, split it in half, and hide it until the end of the Seder night. In some Jewish communities, children steal the afikoman, hide it and receive a reward when it is found

! A Custom of Yemenite Jews on Seder Night

*There is no Seder Plate. The vegetables are arranged around the table.
The child who sings Mah Nishtanah receives a prize: a rolled egg.*

? Questions

What is the Seder Plate?

What is the Afikoman?

What is the special custom of Yemenite Jews on Seder Night?

Present the special customs to the class



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! A Custom of Kurdistan Jews on Seder Night

in water for several days. The dates are squeezed, nuts and ground peanuts are added, and the mixture is cooked until it is a puree.

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Photo: Foody website



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! A Custom of Tunisian Jews on Seder Night

At the end of the meal, the house owner gives each of his guests two slices of afikoman, one on top of the other. The guests eat the top slice and keep the other for the rest of the year.- for good luck (among other things, it is believed to calm a stormy sea).

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Photo: Thetzi.it



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! A Custom of Iraqi Jews on Seder Night

the Haroset is prepared as early as the month of Tishrei when the dates are soft. The Seder leader wraps the afikoman in an expensive silk handkerchief and ties it diagonally across his little son's back, saying to him, "I entrust this deposit to you until the end of the meal, until the time of the afikoman comes. If it is stolen from you, you must pay me a sum of a thousand golden liras!"

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Photo: Babylon Jewish Heritage Center, Or Yehuda



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! A Custom of Libyan Jews on Seder Night

According to the number of family members, eggs are placed on the Seder Plate. One of the household members takes the afikoman, puts it in a napkin on his shoulder, and leaves the room while all the family members call after him, "Thief! Thief!" When he returns, the Seder leader asks him, "Where were you?" He answers, "In Egypt." The leader asks, "And where are you going?" He answers, "To Jerusalem." Everyone sitting around the table says, "Next Year in Jerusalem. They do this three times and then start reading the Haggadah.

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Photo: Or Shalom, Center for the Preservation of the Heritage of Libyan Jews, Bat Yam



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! A Custom of Moroccan Jews on Seder Night

At the beginning of the Seder night, they lift the Seder Plate and spin it over the heads of all the people sitting at the table as they sing, "In haste, we left Egypt...Ha Lachma Anya...Bnei Horin." Some people also go to their relatives' houses and wave their Seder Plate over their heads too. The Seder leader leaves the room and returns, leaning on a long stick with the afikoman on his shoulder wrapped in a napkin. He tells the guests that he has just left Egypt, G-d has just split the Red Sea, and since he was in a rush, the dough did not have time to rise, so he arrived with matzah.

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Photo: Union Sefardi Mundial



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! A Custom of Iranian Jews on Seder Night

While reading Dayenu in the Haggadah, each person whips his neighbor's back with a green onion. - The afikoman is given to a child to safeguard, and if he manages to stay awake until the end of the Seder, he receives a reward. - Part of the afikoman is eaten, and part of it is kept in pockets of clothes all year round as a talisman for abundance and blessing.

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Photo: Kedma Association



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! A Custom of Hasidic Ashkenazi Jews on Seder Night

The haroset is made from apples, pears, and nuts. They are careful not to allow matzah to come into contact with water. At the end of the Seder Night, participants leave while dancing.

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Photo: <https://www.breslev.org/>



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! A Custom of Ashkenazi Jerusalemite Jews on Seder Night

On the eve of Pesach, the eldest sons usually fast. The three matzahs are placed on the Seder Plate to represent Israel, Levi, and Kohen. On Hol HaMoed- the days after Seder Night- Jerusalemites used to walk around the city walls.

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