

The Exodus



1. As the pupils enter

Have **the webpage** open. Play your chosen music and display any images.

2. Introduction

There is an ancient festival that is celebrated each year at about this time (you could give a specific date). Indeed, the festival is so ancient that when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem - an event Christians remember on Palm Sunday - he was actually there to celebrate this festival. It's the festival of Passover - or 'Pesach' in Hebrew - and it is celebrated by Jewish people all around the world. The festival commemorates a key event told in the Old Testament of the Bible - an event known as the Exodus. The Exodus describes how the Jewish people were living in Egypt several thousand years ago, where they had been enslaved, and how they were led to freedom by a great leader, called Moses. We're going to watch a short animation, with Moses telling us about his life. And if you watch carefully you'll find out why the festival is called 'Passover'.

3. Play the video

Duration 4' 30". The final words are: '...I know we will find our Promised Land.'

4. Time to talk

Ask everyone to turn to the person next to them and say two things they remember from the story of Moses. Then lead a discussion about the story by asking some or all of the following questions:

- Where are the Jewish people living at the time of Moses? (Egypt)
- Why does Moses' mother place him in a basket on the river? (To protect him from the Pharaoh's plan against first-born Jewish children)
- Why must Moses flee Egypt? (Moses kills an Egyptian guard)
- What does Moses see in the desert? (A burning bush - the bush speaks as God, telling Moses to return to Egypt)
- What happens when the Pharaoh refuses to release the Egyptians? (God sends ten plagues against the Egyptians)
- How do the Jewish people escape the Egyptian chariots? (Moses parts the Red Sea)
- Why do you think Moses proved such an effective leader of his people? (He listened to what God told him; he was brave and assertive; he stood up for his people and challenged authority; he trusted in God; etc)
- What do you think we can learn from Moses? How can we apply what we've heard about him to our own lives? (Gather responses)

5. Opportunity to sing

See the webpage for suggestions.

Link to video page



6. Opportunity to reflect

We've been thinking today about the festival of Passover...

We've heard about a great leader - Moses - and how he listened to God and bravely led the Jewish people out of Egypt...

There are times in all our lives when we are called upon to lead...

Sometimes it can be hard to do...

...because sometimes it takes courage to lead...

Think to yourself about a time when you've been a leader...

What happened..? How did you feel..?

What will you need to do to be an even better leader next time..?

7. Opportunity for prayer

Use your usual form of address ('Dear God', 'Let us pray', etc) and:

Thank you for the ancient story of Moses...

How he stood up to the Pharaoh and led his people out of Egypt to freedom.

Thank you for the things that we can learn from Moses and his story.

Amen.