

- 1) Imagine being a slave all your life and not ever learning how to swim. You have the Egyptians chasing behind you and the sea in front. How would you feel when Hashem did the great miracle of splitting the sea and you could safely pass through?
- 2) In your opinion, should Paro have to go back and face the remaining people in his country?
- 3) How does the word, liquid, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

In last week's Parasha, Paro (Pharaoh) commanded the Jewish people to leave Egypt. Three days later, he changed his mind once more and he and his army chased the Jewish people. The Jewish people were now trapped with Paro's army behind them and the Yam Suf (Red Sea) in front. Hashem (G-d) told Moshe (Moses) to raise his stick over the water and Hashem split it into two, with a dry pathway in between. This allowed the Jewish people to pass through, and once they were safely across to the other side, Hashem closed the water, thereby drowning the Egyptians who had followed them. Moshe, Miriam and the Jewish people sang a song of praise and gratitude to Hashem.

Whilst walking through the desert to Israel (which was then known as Cena'an), the people were thirsty and hungry, and kept complaining to Moshe and Aharon (Aaron) that at least they had food in Egypt, forgetting the bland, measly servant portions that they were given. Hashem miraculously sweetened the waters of Marah which were naturally bitter. Soon after, He told Moshe to make water appear from a rock by hitting it with his stick. To feed the people, Hashem brought mahn (manna) to rain down from the heavens together with the dew each morning, and quail birds appeared in the camp each evening. The mahn could taste of anything they wanted bar a few foods which could have been dangerous to them.

The Jewish people were instructed to gather a double portion of mahn each Friday, as none would appear on Shabbat as it is the day of rest. Anyone who went searching for mahn on Shabbat found nothing. Aharon kept a some mahn, as proof for future generations, who would never see it.

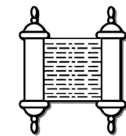
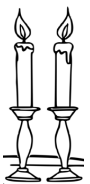
In Refidim, the people were attacked by the Amalek nation but Moshe's prayers together with Yehoshua's (Joshua) army, prevent them from harming the Jewish nation.

Discovery

Did you know that again, Paro was spared and he didn't drown when the sea closed. He had to go back to the remaining people of his nation and face their cries and anguish over how badly he'd led the country, instead of allowing them to prosper.

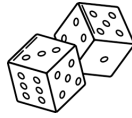
Did you know that when Miriam led the women in dancing and singing, she used a musical instrument called a timbrel.

Did you know that a group of Egyptians who saw a glimmer of truth in Hashem ways, asked Moshe if they could join the Jewish nation. This is because they didn't want to suffer with any more plagues. Moshe asked Hashem if they may join and Hashem said they can but just know, that in the future, they will cause the Jewish people a lot of trouble. This is one time they caused trouble – they were the ones who started the complaining about the food and water. This group was called the Erev Rav.



Who has done something special for you this week and what did they do? (If they are present, go up to them and say thank you!)

Games



1) Paper cup towers

Divide group into two teams and ask them quiz questions based on the Parasha summary. Each time a team gets a question right, they earn a paper cup. They need to pile up the cups (right way up, wrong way up etc.) and the team that makes the highest tower wins.

Resources: paper cups.

2) Limbo with a twist

Link: the sea split for the Jewish people and closed on the Egyptians

Place two skipping ropes on the floor, 1m apart. Each child has to walk through. Move the ropes slightly closer to each other and each child has to walk through. Continue narrowing the distance between the ropes until they need to walk on tip toes and side step. Anyone who touches the rope is out.

3) Locate my Dish

Link: the mahn could taste of virtually anything, apart from foods that were dangerous to them.

Read out the dishes below, individually, and children need to guess where each of these foods come from.

Italy	France	India	Hungary	Japan	Greece
Pizza	Baguette	Aloo Gobi	Halászlé	Sushi	Moussaka
Pasta	Crème Brulee	Tikka Masala	Goulash	Miso Soup	Taramasalata

Story



(One of the children can read this out loud – encourage them to use expression.)

“I don’t want to go,” huffed Nate, “I go swimming every week, I come out of the pool exhausted after all the swimming, it’s absolutely freezing, my hair is wet and then I have to dry and change into my normal clothes. It’s the middle of winter and I just want one week off!” Mum did not want to argue so she looked at him and said, “If you’re sure!” Nate nodded but didn’t dare show a smile in case his mum changed her mind.

The next day at school, all his friends were proudly displaying their life-saving badges that they got from swimming class last night. Nate froze as he remembered that is was test day at swimming last night and that everyone who got the life-saving badge would be moving up to the next group. Now he’s have to swim with the Year Fours and wait six months until he could take the test and then hopefully move up to the next group with all his Year 5 friends.

Nate came home looking a little glum. He told his mum what had happened and he said, “I thought I was so clever, getting out of the swimming lesson but look at me now, I am the one who actually missed out. It’s one thing that I didn’t get my badge but another that if someone really needs help in the water, I won’t be able to save their life.

Mum saw that Nate was really sorry for his mistake and called the swimming coach. The coach said that just this once, he’d allow Nate to join the Sunday class and take his test then. Did Nate grumble on Sunday? No! Did he pass? YES! – Mazal Tov, Nate.

- 1) What can we learn from this story and how does it connect to the Parasha?
- 2) Have you ever put something off and then realised you should have actually just done it?
- 3) In your opinion, which was worse; Nate not being able to swim with his classmates, Nate grumbling about the cold or Nate not getting the lifesaving skills to be able to save someone in the water?