

## Ten plagues card game

**Cut out the cards and mix them up. Ask those around the table to match the picture with the headline.**

This card game has been created to illustrate the process of the plagues. It is all based on straightforward reading of the Torah itself. If you study the sequences, we watch as Hashem dismantles the empire of Pharaoh. The purpose of the game is to match the appropriate picture with the appropriate headlines in the 'Cairo Times'. When you present this at the seder night table, it will need to be tailored for the audience depending on the knowledge levels. If there is more knowledge, then let them have a go first without giving them the context. If there is less knowledge, let them do what they can, or the easier ones (such as darkness and the first one) and then provide them with some information to match up the rest.

The explanation:

Card 1 – Pharaoh, magicians (on the right of the card) and servants (on the left). The first two plagues could be replicated by the Egyptian magicians. In the view of many, this was actually real black magic and the 'dark arts' so they weren't particularly impressed and in fact they felt quite complacent.

However, they could not replicate the third plague – the plague of lice. This was beyond their magical powers and they were forced to acknowledge that this was the 'finger of G-d'.

It's only in the sixth plague that we are told that the Egyptian magicians could no longer stand next to Pharaoh. We can therefore assume that for plagues three, four and five, whilst they couldn't replicate the plague they still stood by him.

In the plague of wild animals, Pharaoh sent his people to check that it was true that only animals owned by Egyptians died.

In the plague of hailstones every Egyptian had to make a choice. They were told that only livestock left outside would be killed, those taken in would be saved. This forced every Egyptian to choose sides. What a dilemma that must have been!

Prior to the plague of locusts the servants of Pharaoh themselves beg him to relent, saying to him 'do you not know that the land is lost?' In essence, he lost the support of his servants and became more and more isolated.

In the plague of the killing of the firstborns, he was in many respects the last man standing... but not for long.