

## NACHSHON

1. Nachshon was the Egyptian Sheep-God worshipped in Northern Egypt at the time of the Exodus. The reason the children of Israel were told to take a lamb was to show that they were not afraid of the Egyptian gods. (B)
2. Nachshon is the name given by Persian Jews to a ceremony before Pesach involving the community burning all their bread together in the village or town square. (B)
3. Nachshon was Pharaoh's lead magician of Egypt who tried to show that he could match God's miracles. When Moses first visited Pharaoh, he turned his rod into a snake. Nachshon also made a stick turn into a snake but Moses' snake ate Nachshon's snake. (B)
4. Nachshon was the leader of the tribe of Judah at the Exodus. When the Jews gathered at the red sea, it is said that the waters did not split immediately. Instead, Nachshon jumped in to show his faith and then the waters split.\*
5. When the Jews left Egypt, they were given gold jewellery by the Egyptians. This was later used to make the golden calf and is known as the "Nachshon" - what we would call a ransom. It is a custom for some Hungarian Jews to place all their family jewellery on the seder table as a symbol of the Nachshon. (B)

## SICHON

1. Sichon is the ceremony carried out by Iraqi and Afghanistani Jews before they sing the song Dayenu when they hit each other on the back with Spring Onions. Some say this is a symbol of the Egyptian taskmasters who uses to whip the Jewish slaves. Others say it is because when the Jews complained about the manna, they compared it to the juicy Egyptian onions they used to eat. (B)
2. Sichon was a king of the Amorites and refused the children of Israel passage through his land. As a result all his cities were conquered. \*
3. Picture yourself in an Ethiopian Falasha village in the build-up to Passover. Two days before Passover begins you are called to the outside of the village elders hut where you asked to carry out Sichon. This means you must break all your plates and bowls so you cannot use them during Pesach. If you refuse you are expelled from the village until the following Passover. (B)
4. The Sichon district in Kathmandu in Nepal is host every year to what is regarded as the largest seder anywhere in the world. (B)
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## MOFLETTA

1. Mofletta is a thin pancake or crepe made from water, flour and oil. It is usually served warm, spread with butter, honey, syrup or jam and is eaten during the Mimouna celebration which North African Jews hold the day after Pesach \*
2. The Indian Jews of Cochin take Passover very seriously. So seriously they start their preparations straight after Chanukah and ferociously search for any item that may be chametz. Although they eat rice on Passover, every grain of rice has to be checked by women with razor sharp eyesight to make sure there are no cracks in the grains. These women and the whole business of checking are both called Mofletta. (BLUFF but jews of cochin do do this)
3. Mofletta was the name of the daughter of Pharaoh who was bathing and found the baby Moses in the bullrushes in the river Nile and raised him in the Palace. (B)
4. Mofletta or Mufaletta is an Italian custom during the seder meal. Whilst we will open the door for Elijah, the Italian sephardi jews would roll out a red carpet and leave a seat at the table for Elijah which they decorate with beads. After the meal they go into the streets and shout out “Mofaletta, Mufaletta, Mofletta!” which literally means “the bringer”, as it is thought Elijah will reappear just before the arrival of the Messiah (B)
5. Mofletta is the name given to kosher for passover food which has been accidentally made not kosher for passover. If a rabbi rules that something is Mofletta you must get rid of it immediately. (B)

## OSHI MASOZGOSHAK

1. We eat egg and saltwater as a traditional starter to our Seder meal but the Jews from Bucharria (in Russia near Azerbaijan) also eat a traditional soup in the seder meal they call the “Oshi Masozgoshak’ made with egg, matzahs, and meat \*
2. The oshi masozgoshak is the Yiddish pronunciation of what Talmud scholars would now call in Hebrew, oseh ma’aseh Goshen (the creator of the work in Goshen). This is a term used for God to recognise that he is not only the creator of good but the creator of the terrible work the Jews had to endure in building the store city of Goshen in Egypt. (B)
3. No, that’s not right, the oshi masozgoshak is the name of both a famous Yeshiva in Hungary and the shorter form of Haggadah that was produced by it and sent to towns and villages in Poland in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, for people who were worried during the time of the pogroms that they would show themselves as jews if they stayed up all night for the full Haggadah. (B)
4. In the kabbalistic tradition, the oshi masozgoshak are the 3 companions who journey with Elijah and accompany him as he visits seder tables around the world. They are all people who the Torah appears to indicate that they did not die but were taken away by Hashem – they are Enoch, Judah and Joshua. (B)
5. Oshi Masozgoshak is a kabbalistic expression but it means the 10 paths of righteousness which a Jew may follow. This is based on the idea that the Red Sea actually split into 10 separate paths, one for each tribe and retreated in front of them with each step. (B)

## GORA KALWARIA

1. The Gora Kalvaria was a controversial prayer added to the Hagadah during the Spanish Inquisition, asking God to show no mercy to those who had converted to Christianity. It was removed when the authorities became aware of the prayer - leading to many deaths in the town of Toledo in 1488. (B)
2. Imagine you are travelling to Jerusalem in the days of the Temple for the feast of Passover. When you arrive near the temple, there is a street outside the temple walls filled with market stalls selling all sorts of cattle and herbs needed for the sacrifices. You have arrived at the road the Romans called the Gora Kalwaria....(B)
3. Gora Kalwaria is a small town in Poland. If you live there and are Jewish you are probably a member of a small Hasidic sect which celebrates the crossing of the Red sea on Passover by spilling water across the whole floor, leaving only a small channel which they can cross. Whilst crossing they recite the names of villages in Poland where their ancestors lived. \*
4. Gora Kalwaria was a famous female Talmudic scholar who lived in Lithuania in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Her opinions were respected and observed by all the other leading rabbis of the age. She was most famous for her opinion that even though the prohibition against eating rice, corn lentils and pulses (kitniyot) dated back to times when cross contamination of foods was more common due to crop rotation, it still needed to be kept as it now formed a tradition (or minhag) amongst European Jews. (B)
5. The correct pronunciation is in fact Goria Kalvaria. When Joseph was in Egypt he interpreted Pharaoh's dreams about 7 years of fortune followed by 7 years of famine. Eventually he rose to power, and was appointed as the Goria Kalvaria or as we would say it the Prime Minister. (B)

## SEHARANE

1. Seharane is the name given by Moroccan and Libyan Jews to the customary song on the second day of Pesach when we stop praying for rain and begin to pray for dew. (B)
2. In 14<sup>th</sup> century Spain the leader of the seder would before saying Ha Lachma anya (this is the bread of affliction), walk around the table, tapping a piece of matza 3 times on each person's head saying Seharane Seharane Seharane. The taps would get harder with each person! ( Bluff ALTHOUGH IT IS TRUE THAT JEWS FROM THIS PERIOD WOULD WALK AROUND AND TAP THE SEDER PLATE ON GUESTS HEADS THREE TIMES)
3. Picture yourself in a Jewish Kurdish Village before the 1950s and Pesach has just ended. Your family are packing up as it is time to observe the Seharane, a nature festival starting the day after Pesach. Communities would leave their villages and go camping for several days celebrating with nature walks and singing and dancing. When the community relocated to Israel in the 1950s, the festival stopped being observed. There have been attempts to resurrect it but due to the widespread celebration of Mimouna in Israel , the Seharane has been moved to the middle of Sukkot. \*
4. Seharane is a Gibraltar custom of mixing the dust from actual bricks into their charoset to make it really authentic. The bricks are smashed whilst chanting "Avadim Hayinu" (we were slaves) to a tune also called the Seherane (Bluff BUT SOME GIBRALTTAR JEWS DO MIX REAL BRICK DUST IN WITH THEIR CHAROSET )
5. The Seherane was the name of the great Rabbi who is believed to have compiled the Haggadah – whilst prayers differ amongst jews around the world, uniquely the Haggadah is the same for all jews from all countries. Not much is known about the Seherane – it is believed he was exiled to Babylon after the destruction of the first temple and founded the school where the Babylonian Talmud was compiled. (B)

## BECHORIM

1. BECHORIM were the first fruits brought to the temple in Jerusalem and given to God. It was not permitted for a farmer to eat or sell his fruits until he had been to the Temple and offered up the first fruits. (B)
2. BECHORIM are the 4 cups of wine we drink at the seder, which represent different expressions used for the bringing out of the Jews from Egypt (B)
3. The BECHORIM is a name that is given in the Talmud for Christians who wished to celebrate the Passover at the same time as the Jews rather than at the following Easter weekend. In Christianity they were known as the Quartodecimani (meaning the fourteeners) as they wanted to celebrate on the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month of Spring (called Nissan in the Jewish calendar). (B)
4. The Bechorim are the 4 sons spoken about in the Hagadah – the wise one; the wicked one; the simple one and the one who doesn't know what questions to ask? (B)
5. BECHORIM is Hebrew for firstborn. The fast of the firstborn is held on the day before Pesach to mark the death of the firstborn of Egypt. \* (B)

## ASHURA

1. Ashura is a special fast day observed by Sunni Muslims on the 10th day of the month of Muharram. The fasting is to commemorate the day when Moses and his followers were saved from Pharaoh by Allah by creating a path in the Red Sea. According to Muslim tradition, the Jews of Medina used to fast on the tenth day to observe the Passover. \*
2. Contrary to what you have just heard, Ashura is the name of a midwife mentioned in the Torah. When Pharaoh wanted to kill the Jewish boys he asked two midwives to help him (but of course they did not) –their names were Shifrah and Ashura. (B)
3. Ashura was the God of the Nile worshipped by the Egyptians as it was the floods from the Nile that were needed to water their fields. It is a little known fact that because Moses stayed afloat in the Nile and was rescued as a baby, he did not perform the miracle of turning the Nile waters into blood? Instead, Aaron held the rod over the waters of the Nile. (B)
4. In some communities to this day, when a woman is pregnant it is announced to the family by passing the seder plate around her head twice at the Passover meal. (B)
5. ASHURA was Moses's wife. She was the daughter of Jethro , a priest Of Midian - Moses stayed with them after fleeing Egypt when he killed a taskmaster. It is thought that as Jethro and Ashura lived in the land of Cush (now in Ethiopia) they were both black. (B)





## PAN DE SEMITA

1. Pan decemita - is the tenth bite of matza taken by Jews from Spanish countries, including Peru and Argentina, during the seder. Because the number ten is significant in Judaism (ten commandments etc) a special prayer is read at this point followed by the leader asking the following questions and everyone shouting the answers: (i) Who are You? We are the Jews. (ii) Where are you coming from? We come from Egypt. (iii) where are you going? To Jerusalem. (B)
2. Pandesemita – is the name of a remote group living in Jurgesoft in Finland that have claimed to be one of the lost tribes of Israel. Their claim is based on the fact that they celebrate a form of Passover by not eating bread for 8 days around Easter and observe new year in September. They are not accepted as Jews by the rabbinic authorities. (B)
3. Pan de semita is the name given by some southern Italian Jews to the last bread eaten before Pesach. A festive meal is held before the fast of the first born - half the bread must be eaten and the other half burnt. (B)
4. Pan de semita literally means semitic bread. It was eaten first in Spain but is still eaten at Passover time in Mexico and by Mexican-Americans along the Texas border. Some historians believe this population originated from a group which escaped from the Spanish inquisition. Pan de semita is unleavened bread made by combining two cups of flour, one half cup of water and a few tablespoons of olive oil. Mexicans say that pork lard is prohibited, hence the name, "semitic." The same recipe is used in Calabria, in the deep south of Italy and is called "pane azimo."
5. Pan de semita – is a type of Pesach cake filled with jam which is popular amongst the Jews of El Salvador and Guatemala. Extreme caution has to be taken that the pastry does not rise -so great skill is required is required to cook it, A chef who has learned to make pan de semita is required to also learn a song called somacho semita somacho semita. (B)

**TRUE**

**BLUFF**