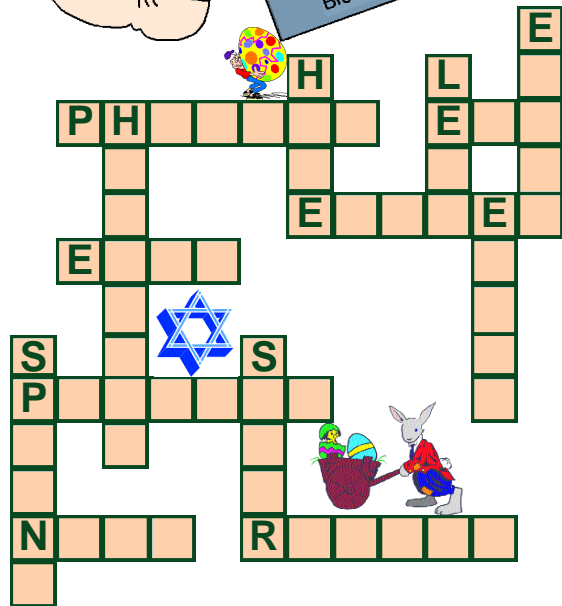


Hi kids. I hope you are having a great year and that you enjoy reading *The Bronx Journal*. Don't forget to send your letters, poems, jokes and drawings to the address on the envelope.



- EAR
- ERROR
- NEON
- SEDER
- EASTER
- HAGGADAH
- PHARAOH
- SPRING
- EGGS
- HOPE
- PLAGUES
- RABBIT
- EGYPT
- LENT
- RABBIT

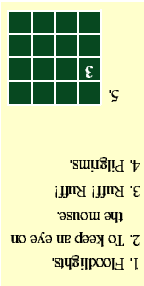
CAN YOU FIGURE OUT WHICH OF THESE WORDS IS NOT FOUND IN THE STORIES IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION?

# Our Wall



### IF I WERE AN ANIMAL

If I were an animal I would be a lady bug because they are pretty and because they are not poison and because they fly and because they have little spots that are black and because they are red and red is my favorite color and because they are girls and because they do not bite



# Spring Holidays

## PASSOVER

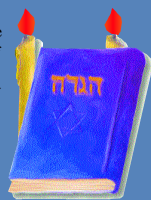
About 3000 years ago the Israelites were enslaved by the Egyptians under the rule of the Pharaoh Ramses II. According to the Book of Exodus - Moses, a simple Jewish shepherd, was instructed by God to go to the pharaoh and demand the freedom of his people. Moses' pleas were ignored. In response God unleashed a series of ten terrible plagues on the people of Egypt. The Pharaoh was unconvincing and refused to free the Jewish slaves until the last plague which was the "Slaying of the First Born."

The holiday's name - Pesach, meaning "passing over" or "protection" in Hebrew, is derived from the instructions given to Moses by God. In order to encourage the Pharaoh to free the Israelites, God intended to kill the first born of both man and beast. To protect themselves, the Israelites were told to mark their dwellings with lamb's blood so that God could identify and "pass over" their homes.

When the Pharaoh finally agreed to free them, the Israelites left their homes so quickly that there wasn't even time to bake their breads. They packed the raw dough to take with them on their journey. As they fled through the desert they would quickly bake the dough in the hot sun into hard crackers called matzohs. Today to commemorate this event, Jews eat matzoh in place of bread during Passover.

The first two nights of the eight day holiday are celebrated with lavish meals called Seders. During Seder the stories and history of Passover are read from the book of Haggadah.

Leading up to the first night of Passover, the home is cleaned and cleared of all yeast foods, called hametz. With its Passover dishware and silverware, the Seder table is different than the regular dinner table. The centerpiece is the Seder plate, a special plate containing the five foods that remind us of the struggle of the Israelites in their quest and journey to freedom.



## EASTER

Easter is the celebration of Jesus Christ's return to life after his crucifixion. His return from death is called the Resurrection. According to the bible, Jesus resurrected three days after his death. Christians, therefore, believe that they too can receive new life after death. Easter is the celebration of this belief.

A long time ago, people used to celebrate when Spring arrived. People used to believe that spirits of gods guided changes in seasons. The blooming of plants and flowers and animals coming out of their hibernation and the return of birds brought life back to the land. This new life in spring symbolizes the new life Christians gain because of Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection. In ancient Egypt, Easter was celebrated at the same time Jesus was crucified during the Passover. This was so for many years. However in 325 A.D., a group of men met in Nicacea, now called Turkey, and decided that Easter should be on a different day. They chose the Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Vernal meaning "spring" and equinox meaning "equal night." This day is the only 24-hour period in spring when both day and night last exactly twelve hours.

Prior to the celebration of Easter, lent is observed. Lent is a forty day period of fasting or doing without certain foods. It is also a period of praying and repentance. This is to serve as a reminder of the forty days Jesus fasted in the wilderness. The last week of Lent is known as the Holy Week. It begins with the observance of Palm Sunday. The name, Palm Sunday originated from Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The crowd laid carpets of palms on the street for him. The last supper is commemorated on Holy Thursday and Good Friday is the anniversary of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on the cross. Then his resurrection is celebrated on Easter Sunday.



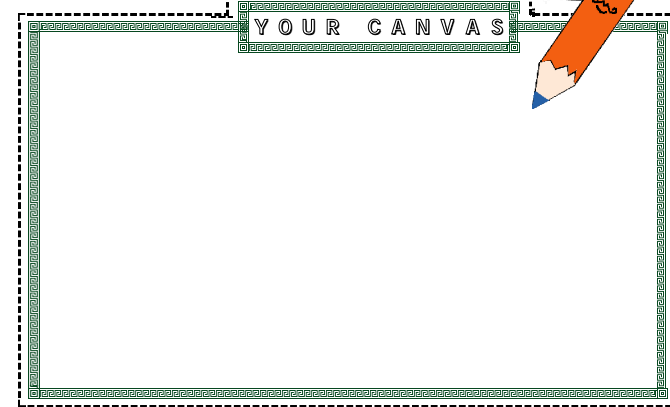
These stories were edited from the following sites:  
<http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Holidays/Easter/Easter.html>  
<http://www.holidays.net/passover/>

### HOW THE EASTER BUNNY CAME TO BE

According to an old German story, a poor woman hid some brightly colored eggs in her garden as Easter treats for children. While the children were searching, a hare hopped past. The children thought that the hare had left the eggs. So every Easter, German children would make nests of leaves and branches in their gardens for the hare. This custom was brought to the United States when the Germans came. The hare became a rabbit because there were more rabbits in the United States. Today, it is called the Easter bunny.



Hi, I AM SCRIBBLI. I WOULD LOVE TO GET DRAWINGS AND LETTERS FROM YOU. YOU CAN USE THIS CANVAS, CUT IT OUT AND MAIL IT TO BRAINY SO THAT HE CAN PUT IT ON "OUR WALL."



1. What kind of lighting did Noah use for his ark?
2. Why did the cat sit on the computer?
3. What does a dog say when he sits on sand paper?

4. If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?

5. Fill in the missing numbers so that the rows up and down and across add up to 20

		5	4
		4	5
5	4		
4	5		

# ANIMAL



RABBIT



Rabbits are native to Europe, the New World, Asia and Africa. The common names "rabbit" and "hare" are used interchangeably in the United States and are sometimes misleading. As a group, rabbits and hares do not differ greatly in structure. The primary difference is that rabbits are naked, blind and helpless at birth. Newborn hares are well-haired and sufficiently advanced so that they can hop about shortly after birth. Rabbits are long-eared and short tailed, with long hind legs and, usually, gray or brown fur. The European rabbit is the best-known species and is the ancestor of all domestic breeds. It was originally found in southwestern Europe and North Africa but has been introduced into Australia, New Zealand, and the Americas. It is an exceedingly prolific animal whose main breeding season runs from February to October, though breeding can occur at practically any time throughout the year. The females, or does, begin breeding at about eight months of age. When about to give birth they dig a new, short burrow in the ground where they construct a nest from leaves and their own fur. The female is able to breed again very shortly after producing a litter. The cottontail rabbits of North America are named for the white on the underside of their tails. They live in burrows and are usually found in open country, frequently near settled areas. Of the roughly thirteen species, the best known is the Florida, or eastern cottontail which ranges over the entire United States east of the Rockies and occupies a wide variety of habitats.

This article was edited from the Britannica website located at:  
<http://www.britannica.com/eb/article?eu=63924&tocid=0>