

The Pardes Center for Jewish Educators presents

An Interactive PARSHA EXPERIENCE



Parsha: Emor

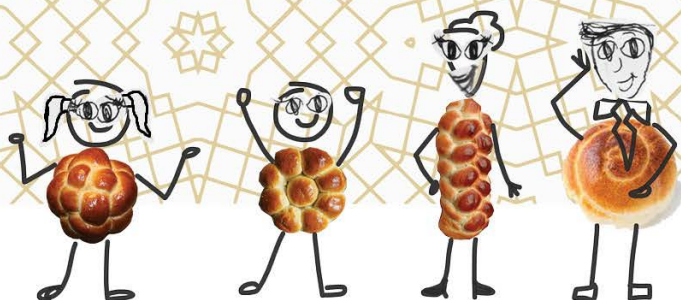
Title: The Gift of the Chagim

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The Parsha at First Glance

Spotlight on the Parsha:

In this *parsha* God, through Moshe, gives us the most detailed list and explanation of the *chagim* – Jewish holidays – found in the Torah. Below are the *chagim* as described in *Parshat Emor*. Can you guess which *chag* is being described?



1. *"On six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there shall be a day of complete rest, a sacred day. You shall do no work..."*

And the chag is?

2. *"...on the fifteenth day of that month the LORD's Feast of Unleavened Bread. You shall eat unleavened bread for seven days."*

And the chag is?

3. *"And from the day on which you bring the...offering—the day after the sabbath—you shall count off seven weeks. They must be complete: you must count until the day after the seventh week—fifty days; then you shall bring an offering of new grain to the LORD. On that same day you shall hold a celebration; it shall be a sacred occasion for you; you shall not work at your occupations. This is a law for all time in all your settlements, throughout the ages."*

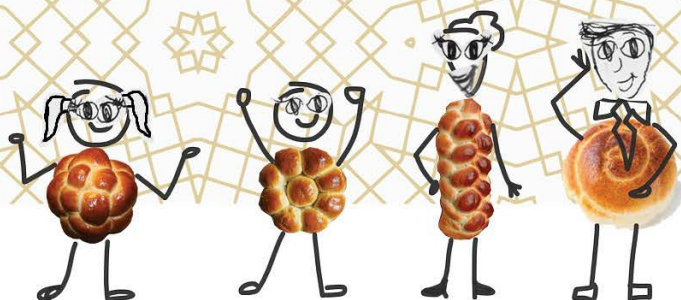
And the chag is?

4. *"...In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe complete rest, a sacred occasion commemorated with loud blasts."*

And the chag is?

5. *"...the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be a sacred occasion for you: you shall deny yourself (no eating), and you shall bring an offering by fire to the LORD; do not do any work on that day, because it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the LORD your God."*

And the chag is?



6. *"...on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruits of your land, you shall observe the festival of the LORD [to last] seven days: a complete rest on the first day, and a complete rest on the eighth day. On the first day you shall take the product of Hadar trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days."*

And the chag is?

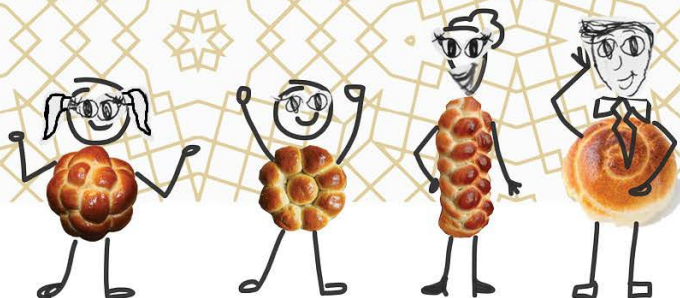
Answer key:

1. Shabbat
2. Pesach
3. Shavuot
4. Rosh Hashanah
5. Yom Kippur
6. Sukkot

Zooming In:

You may have noticed that there are some chagim missing in the list that we are given in the Torah. That's because chagim such as Purim, Chanukah and Simchat Torah (and others) were set after the Torah was already completed.

In any case, the chagim have remained for all these thousands of years an integral part of our Jewish year. It's the way we mark time and milestones. It's the way we choose to celebrate, mourn, and tell our Jewish story. Perhaps it's such a part of our lives as Jews that we take them for granted! What would happen if we didn't take them for granted?



The Parsha Through Another Lens

Parsha Puzzle:

Note: In preparation for this parsha activity, the puzzle template needs to be cut out into pieces and (preferably) colored in. To set up the activity, place the puzzle pieces in the center of the Shabbat table.

Step One: *Imagine* there are no more chagim. They have disappeared from the year. Go around the table and have each person share what they would most miss.

Step Two: Next, each person should *choose* one of the chag-labeled puzzle pieces in the center of the table. Then, going around the table, each person should *complete* the following sentence:

“ _____ (name of your chag) is the most important chag of the year because without it we wouldn’t _____.”

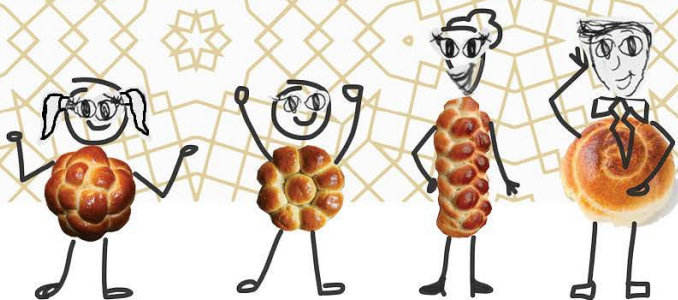
Step Three: *Put* all of the puzzle pieces back. This time everyone should *choose* a different chag puzzle piece and *fill in* the same sentence.

(I hope you discovered that each chag could be considered the most important one of the year!)

Step Four: Now, *assemble* the puzzle and *wonder* together out loud:

- Why is the puzzle in the shape of a circle?
- Why is Shabbat in the middle?

Step Five: *Think:* What would happen if you took out one of the puzzle pieces? The puzzle would not be complete. The same is true for the chagim. If one of the chagim were missing from our year, it would be missed!



(As we celebrate the circle of chagim this year, try and appreciate that each chag has its special gift for us!)



Shabbat Shalom!