

Passover Text for Older Children

This year we are slaves, next year may we be free people. (The Passover Haggadah)

Every year we begin our Seder with the words above. However, slavery still exists today. Two organizations have teamed up to remind us that even the things we use for the Passover Seder are produced by slaves. The two organizations are Slavery Footprint and Rabbis for Human Rights - North America. Together they created the graphic below, which shows how many slaves produced the goods on our Seder tables:



Hard-boiled egg = 0.2 slaves; Dining Room set = 2 slaves; Lettuce = 0.3 slaves; Salt = 0.1 slaves; Matzah = 0.5 slaves; Horseradish = 0.3 slaves; Shankbone = 0.1 slaves; Orange = 0.1 slaves; Beef = 0.2 slaves; Charoset = 0.9 slaves; Wine = 0.1 slaves; Celery = 0.2 slaves

1. Have you ever thought about slaves in connection to the things you eat weekly? What have you learned about slaves in school?
2. Who would be considered "slaves" today?
3. Using the above graphic, count the number of slaves you think it took to make your seder meal. How does this make you feel?
4. Bring the above graphic to your seder, and before showing it to your family/friends/guests, ask the question: How many slaves do you think produced the goods on this table? Then show them the picture and use it to teach the other guests about slavery today.