

Purim

Purim is a beautiful Jewish holiday. Purim is a children's holiday. On Purim we wear costumes, masks of something or someone that we admire or do not like. Purim's story is in Esther (book of the Bible). The story happened many years ago in Persia . It's about a queen that was Jewish and a very beautiful woman. No one knew that she was Jewish, even the king named Ahashverosh. That story had very happy end for the Jewish people in Persia .

On Purim, we eat special food. We eat “The ears of the ‘Evil Haman’” to remember that the king hung him by his ears. When the name of Haman is called in the synagogue, everyone there makes noise with the noisemakers. We give and receive little gifts and presents with our friends. The symbol of Purim is a clown. Every kid in Israel likes the Purim holiday. In the schools in Israel , we celebrate the holiday, one day before Purim. On Purim we don't study at school, and there is a vacation.

Hamentaschen recipe

These filled pastries are traditional on Purim. As well as the traditional prune filling given here, Hamentaschen are often filled with either a prepared poppy-seed mixture or with any sort of preserve.

Ingredients for the dough:

4 eggs
225 g sugar
125 ml vegetable oil
3 tbsp lemon juice
grated rind of 1 lemon
1 tsp vanilla essence
2 tsp baking powder
600 g wholemeal flour

Ingredients for the filling:

675 g prune butter
175 g seedless raisins
125 g chopped walnuts
grated rind of 1 lemon or orange
1 tbsp vegetable oil

Beat the eggs in a mixing bowl and gradually stir in the sugar. Gradually mix in the oil, lemon juice, lemon rind and the vanilla essence. Add first the baking powder and then the flour. Turn the dough out on a floured surface and knead (add more flour if necessary) until a stiff, non-sticky dough is formed.

To make the filling mix all the ingredients together well.

Preheat the oven to 190 C. Roll out the dough until thin and cut 2,5 cm circles of dough. Place 1 tsp of the filling in the center of each dough and pinch together 3 points on the circle tightly to make a triangle.

Place the hamentacshen on a greased baking sheet and bake 20 minutes.



Haman's Ears the meaning behind the reason why we eat the ears on Purim

We eat Haman's ears on Purim to remember the cruel man who wanted to destroy the Jewish people in Persia. It was said that he wore a three cornered hat and that he had a crooked nose. By eating Haman's ears at the Purim meal, it symbolizes getting rid of evil opinions this is symbolized by the hearing ears. Amalek which was Haman's tribe hated the Jews and were a real danger to the Jewish people. We celebrate the holiday by eating the ears and to rejoice Ester the queen who had the courage and bravery to influence King Ahashverus a stupid but extremely wealthy king not to destroy her people.

Ester who becomes queen after the king's first wife Vashti is dethroned by the king for not coming to him for a ball when requested.

The king who was easily influenced by his Prime Minister Haman to write a decree stating that all Jews would be executed on the 13th of Adar. Ester using the advice of her Uncle Mordecai goes to King Achshverosh and asks him to prepare a banquet in honor of Haman for her.

The king does not know that Ester is Jewish and he loved her dearly because she was extremely beautiful. She proclaims she is Jewish at the dinner and the king is furious and decides to hang Haman and his sons from the highest tree in the land instead of the Jews.

Now to this day, we celebrate Purim by drinking wine because we are happy and gay and we eat Haman's ears to remember the evil who was destroyed by our heroine Queen Ester who had the courage to save her people.

ESTHER

Esther was a beautiful young woman, and King Ahasheverosh chose her to be his queen. Haman was the king's highest officer, and he didn't like the Jews who lived in his country. Haman had planned to kill all of the Jews. Esther was worried when she found out about his plan. She was also a Jew. Esther wanted to tell the king about Haman's evil plan, but she couldn't go right in to see him. If she went in without the king calling her, the law said that she would be killed. The only way she would live was if the king would hold out his scepter to her. Esther took that chance. She bravely walked right in to see the king. Everyone was shocked! What would the king do? He lowered his scepter to Esther, and she touched it. When Esther told the king about Haman's evil plan, the king had Haman killed. Esther saved her people.

Questions

1. Who chose Esther to be his queen?
2. What evil plan did Haman have?
3. Why was Esther afraid to walk up to the king?
4. What did the king do when Esther walked in?
5. What happened to Haman?
6. When have you had to be brave?

Find the opposites in the story.

ugly lowest
lost left
old

Find the word or words that mean:

attractive land
murder mean, cruel
concerned

Fill in the correct form of the verb: Present simple, progressive, future, past and past progressive.

Purim _____ (be) a happy holiday for children.

People _____ (celebrate) the holiday to remember the miracle of the Jews.

Years ago there _____ (be) a king named Ahasverosh.

He _____ (rule) more than 127 countries and _____ (have) a lot of power.

His Prime Minister Haman _____ (hate) the Jews and _____ (want) to destroy them.

We _____ (have) a weekend off of school for Purim next week.

While the king _____ (plan) his feast, Vashti _____ (refuse) to arrive. The king _____ (become) angry and _____ (order) her to be killed.

He then _____ (hold) a beauty contest to find the most beautiful woman in all of his lands.

He immediately _____ (fall) in love with Ester because of her beauty and charm.

Mordecai, her uncle _____ (hear) Bigatan and Teresh plotting to kill the king.

While the children _____ (get) ready for the party, Mother _____ (prepare) a cake for them.

The class _____ (celebrate) Purim at school this week. It _____ (be) a lot of fun.

We _____ (not want) Purim to end!

They _____ (not recognize) Dan because of his costume. He _____ (look) funny!

_____ you _____ (go) to a party this weekend for Purim? We _____ (hope) you have a great time.

While father _____ (decorate) the classroom, the lights _____ (go) out.

The teachers _____ (wear) costumes for Purim on Friday. They _____ (look) funny!

Last year my Purim holiday _____ (be) great. I _____ (eat) hamantaschen and I _____ (drink) wine at a party. Everyone _____ (danced) until morning. We _____ (sing) many songs too. We _____ (play) games and we _____ (win)

prizes! I _____ (wish) this year is the same!
Happy Purim!