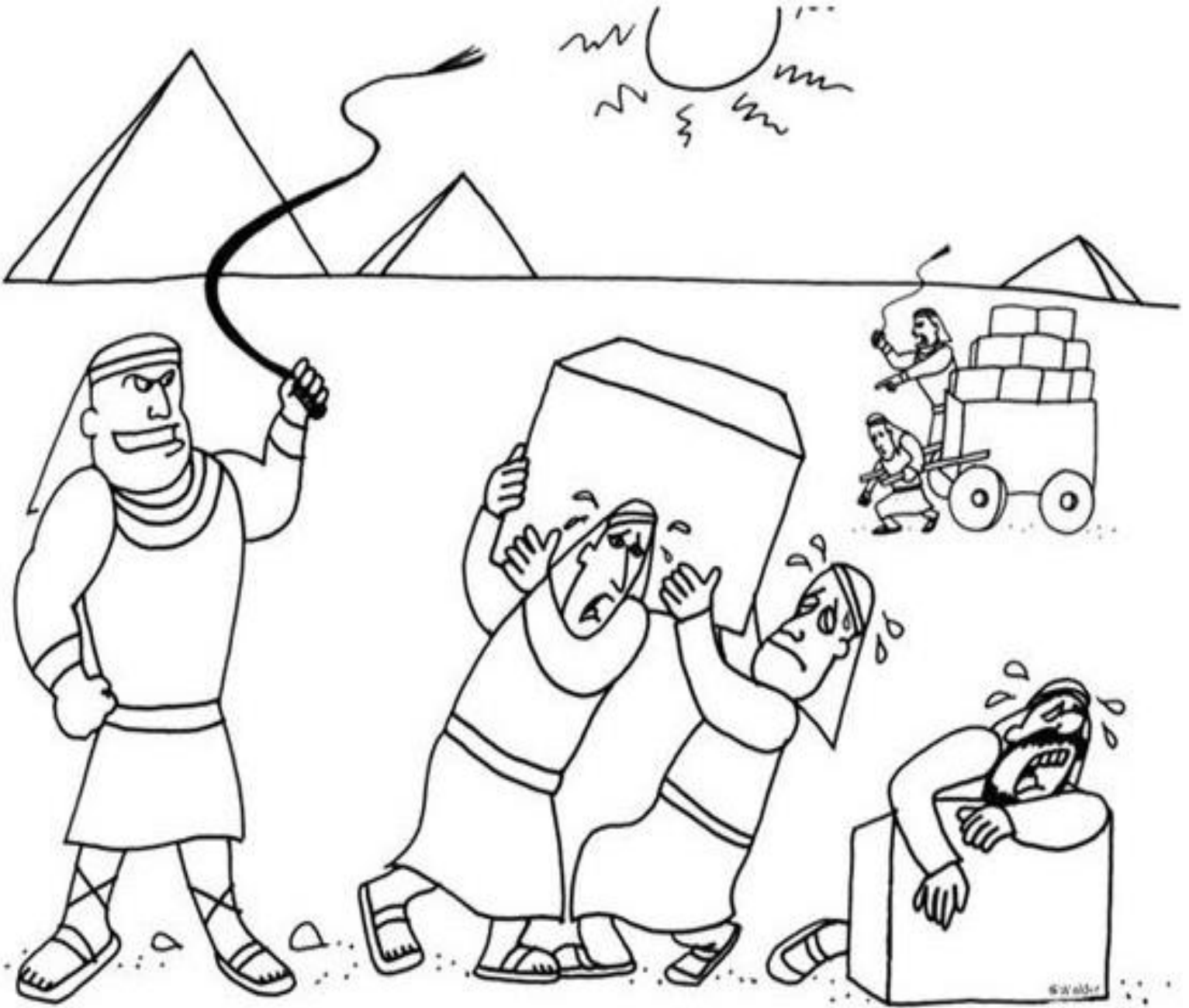




A very long time ago, there was a mean king of Egypt named Pharaoh. The Jewish people were slaves in Egypt and they had to work extremely hard.



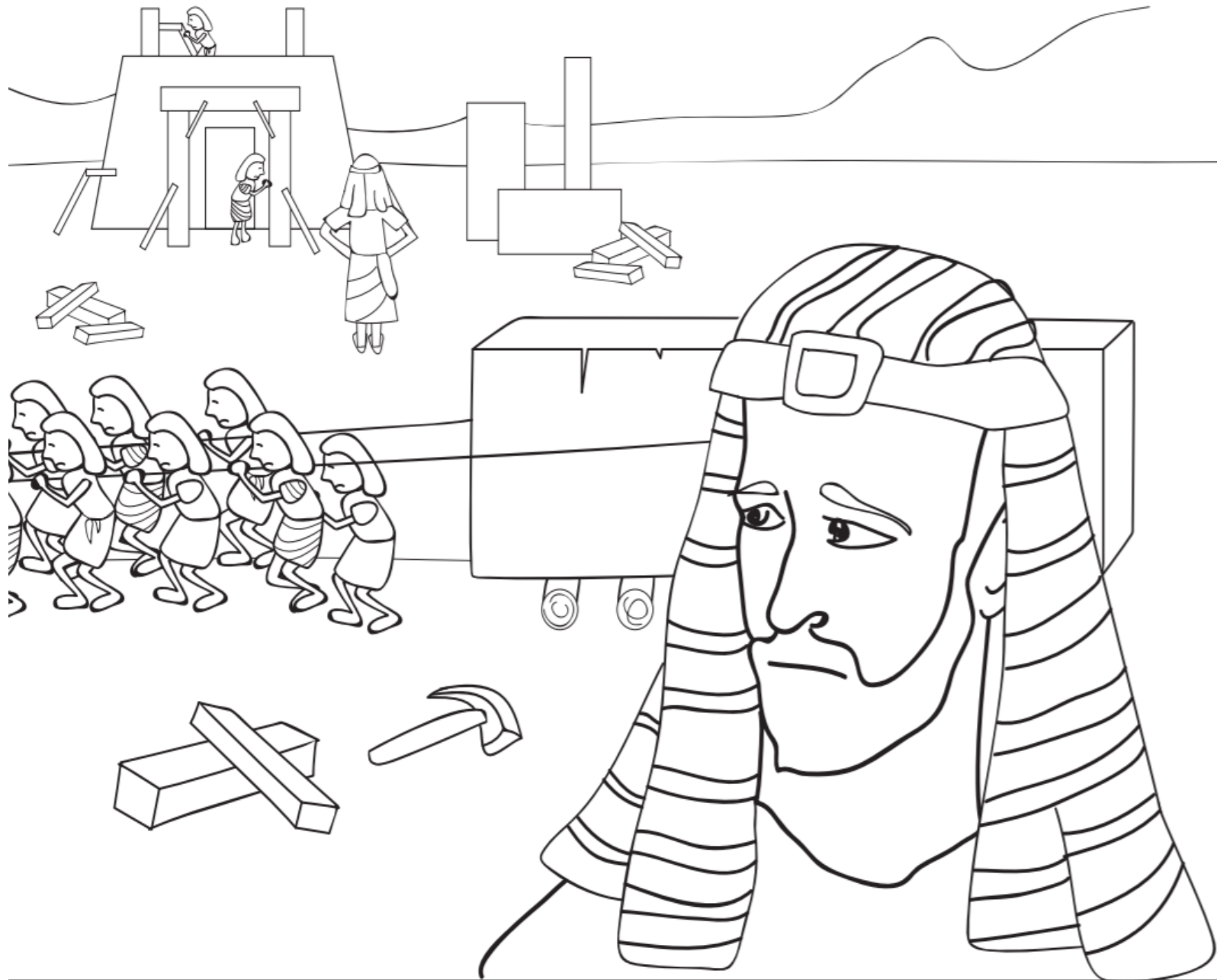
Hashem heard the slaves crying ☹ about how hard their lives were. A very special baby, Moshe, was born to Yocheved and Amram. Yocheved didn't want Pharaoh to find Moshe, so she put him in a basket on the river and his big sister Miriam watched to see where the river would take baby Moshe.



Miriam watched the basket with baby Moshe float on the river to where Pharaoh's daughter- princess Batya was taking a bath! Batya reached out and called the baby Moshe, which means 'pulled out of the river'. She decided to raise him in the palace.



Moshe did not like the way the slaves were treated and had a hard time seeing them suffer. After he protected a Jewish slave from one of the taskmasters, he had to run away from Egypt so Pharaoh wouldn't punish him.



Moshe ran away to Midian, and married Tzipporah, the priest Yitro's daughter. He lived in Midian and worked as a shepherd, until one day Hashem spoke to Moshe from a thornbush that was on fire but wasn't actually burning. Hashem told Moshe to go back to Egypt, tell Pharaoh to let the Jewish slaves go, and perform all kinds of wonders.



Moshe told Pharaoh that he should let the Jewish slaves leave Egypt, and that Hashem would plague Egypt with many punishments if he didn't. Pharaoh's heart was hardened- he said no!

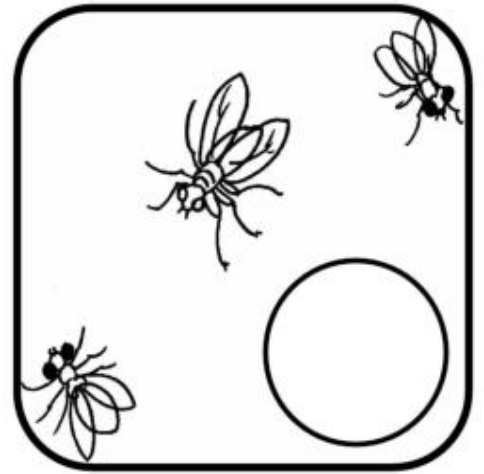


The plagues began. First, the Egyptians' water turned to blood. Then, the land was swarmed with frogs, followed by bugs, wild animals, pestilence that killed the Egyptians' animals, and painful boils. Pharaoh still did not let the Jewish slaves leave after each plague, and so there were more- hail that was ice inside of fire, locusts, and darkness.

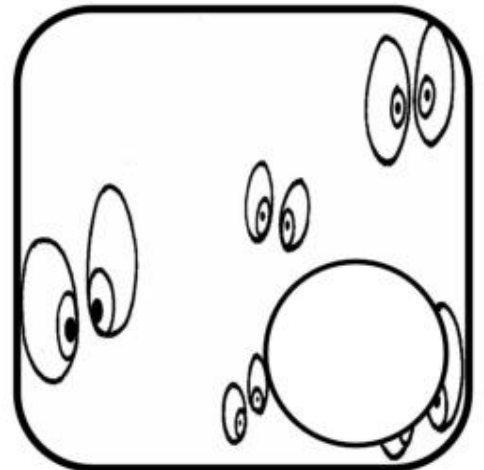
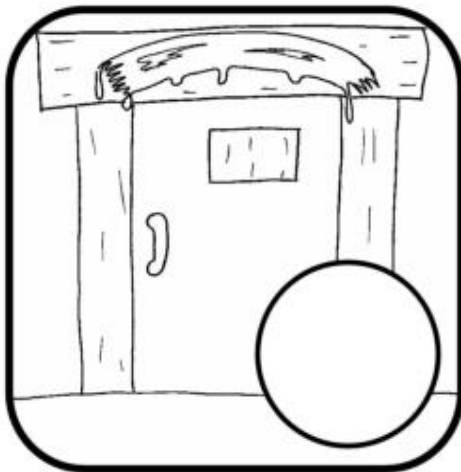




The Ten Plagues of Egypt



Sequence the plagues by placing a number (1-10) in the circle for the order that it happened.



Moshe and his brother Aaron warned Pharaoh that there would be one more terrible plague, but he still didn't let the Jewish slaves go! Moshe and Aaron told the slaves to put a special mark on their doorpost and that the last plague would happen at night, but only in the Egyptian homes. All the firstborn Egyptian boys would be punished.



After the tenth and final plague, Pharaoh told the Jewish slaves to leave Egypt, but they better hurry before he changes his mind. They rushed out but then Pharaoh did change his mind and chased after them with his army- but Hashem made a miracle and split the sea so that the freed slaves could pass safely through!



The sea closed on the Egyptians when the Jewish people were safe on the other side. They broke out in celebration and danced and sang in thanks to Hashem for their new freedom- and that is why we celebrate today!



To get ready for Pesach, we clean and check our homes for **chametz**- leavened food that we are not allowed to eat during Pesach. This is called **bedikat chametz**. We then get rid of the chametz by burning some, which is called **biur chametz**. Some people also sell their chametz to someone who isn't Jewish, which **mechirat chametz**. We want to make sure we don't just not eat chametz- but we don't even see it during Pesach.



On the first night of Pesach (or first two nights for those of us who live outside of Israel), we have a Seder, which means order. We eat certain foods like maror to remember the bitter tears the slaves cried, tell the whole Pesach story, and eat a festive meal. The seder plate on the table is called the 'ke'arah'. We celebrate for 7 days, or 8 days outside of Israel!



When the Jewish people rushed out of Egypt, they didn't have time for their bread to rise, and it turned into flat matzah. We have three matzot on the Seder table during Pesach, and eat it in place of challah or bread during Pesach. The middle matzah, called the afikoman, gets broken and hidden during the Seder, and then eaten for dessert. Will you be able to find the afikoman this year?

