



That's Enough!

Topic

Passover

Grade Level(s)

7th-12th

Goals for the Lesson/Activity

Students will:

- Identify the Biblical sources of *Dayenu*
- Appraise the chronology of *Dayenu*
- Integrate ideas from *Dayenu* into their own Seders

Materials needed

- *Haggadot* (collect different versions if possible)
- Copies of *Shemot* (Exodus) chapters 12-24
- Pencils/Highlighters

Technology needed

- [Dayenu Blendspace](#) (optional)

Background for Teachers

The song *Dayenu* comes toward the end of the *Maggid* (retelling of the Passover narrative) section of the Seder and shortly before the *Hallel* (series of Psalms praising God) section. The word *dayenu* expresses the feeling, "It would have been enough for us."

The song seems to encapsulate the entirety of the Passover narrative in 15 short stanzas while also positing that each step along the way would have been enough. These stanzas can be divided in different ways. For example, the first five all deal with God's actions in Egypt. The second five deal with God's actions in helping *B'nei Yisrael* (the Israelites) evade the Egyptians outside of Egypt. The last five deal with the spiritual redemption (i.e. cementing the relationship with God) and physical redemption (entering the land of Israel) of *B'nei Yisrael*.

Interesting custom: Persian Jews have the custom to hit each other with green onions beginning with the ninth stanza of *Dayenu*. Some say this custom recalls *B'nei Yisrael* longing to return to Egypt, where they ate onions instead of the manna that God provided in the desert (*Bemidbar* (Numbers) 11:5-6). Others say the green onions are a reminder of the whips of the Egyptian taskmasters and act as a rebuke for desiring to return to Egypt.



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Description of Activities

1. Students search for the words of *Dayenu* in chapters 12-24 of *Shemot*. Students can highlight the connected *pesukim* (verses) on photocopies of the text, or they can use the blank grid to write down the corresponding words along with the *perek* (chapter) and *pasuk* (verse) where they appear.
 - a. Note that stanzas 1, 2, 9, 14, and 15 appear in other locations.
 - b. Students should notice that *Dayenu* follows the chronology of *Shemot*.
 - c. Music Option: Play different versions of *Dayenu* as students search.
2. Discuss why each stanza ends with the word *Dayenu*, "It would have been enough for us." Possible points of discussion include (but are not limited to):
 - a. Had God done nothing else, we would not have known that things could have been even better.
 - b. Had God done nothing else, we would have been thankful to get as far as we did. As a corollary, discuss *Dayenu's* proximity to *Hallel*.
 - c. Being thankful for the incomplete or partial is important too.
 - d. Sometimes, it is necessary to be happy with what you have and not ask for more.
 - e. Other probing questions to ask might include:
 - i. How does *Dayenu* combine elements of *Maggid* and *Hallel*?
 - ii. How is *Dayenu's* idea of the final redemption similar/different to where the full Seder ends?
3. Ask students to write down a time in their life that they either said "*Dayenu*" or wish they had said "*Dayenu*." Students share their reflections with the class.
4. Students explore the layout and artwork of the *Dayenu* section in different *Haggadot*.
 - a. Ask students how the layout and artwork of the different *Haggadot* affect their understanding of the song.
5. Ask students how they will integrate the ideas of these discussions into their own Seders.

Differentiation Options

Knowing that students learn in a variety of ways and modalities, the following options are provided to adjust the above lesson to meet the unique needs of your learners.

For learners who need more assistance

- Give the location of the Biblical reference and have students find it.
- Students use art in response to step 3.

For learners who need extension opportunities

- Students write their own commentaries to part (or all) of *Dayenu*.
- Students write their own *Dayenu* about a situation in their own lives.



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ציטוט דינו Words of <i>Dayenu</i>	ספר/פרק/פסוק Book/Chapter/Verse	ציטוט תנ"ך Quote from Tanakh*
הוציאנו ממצרים Took us out of Egypt	<i>Devarim</i> (Deuteronomy) 26:8	וַיּוֹצֵאֵנוּ יְיָ מִמִּצְרָיִם YHVH freed us from Egypt.
עָשָׂה בָּהֶם שְׁפָטִים Made judgements on them	<i>Yechezkel</i> (Ezekiel) 30:19	וְעָשִׂיתִי שְׁפָטִים בְּמִצְרָיִם I will execute judgement on Egypt.
עָשָׂה בֵּאלֵהֵיהֶם Made [the judgements] on their gods	<i>Shemot</i> 12:12	וּבְכָל־אֱלֹהֵי מִצְרָיִם אֶעֱשֶׂה שְׁפָטִים And I will mete out punishments to all the gods of Egypt
הָרַג אֶת בְּכוֹרֵיהֶם Killed their first borns	<i>Shemot</i> 12:29	וַיְהִי הַכָּה כָּל־בְּכוֹר בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם מִבְּכֹר פַּרְעֹה הַיֹּשֵׁב עַל־כִּסְאוֹ עַד בְּכוֹר הַשִּׁבְי אֲשֶׁר בְּבֵית הַבּוֹר וְכָל בְּכוֹר בְּהֶמְהָ YHVH struck down all the first-born in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sat on the throne to the first-born of the captive who was in the dungeon.
נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת מָמוֹנָם Gave us their money	<i>Shemot</i> 12:35-36	לְהַבְנִי יִשְׂרָאֵל עָשׂוּ כְּדִבַּר מֹשֶׁה וַיִּשְׁאַלּוּ מִמִּצְרָיִם כְּלִיכֶסֶף וְכָלִי זָהָב וּשְׂמָלֹת: לַיּוֹי נָתַן אֶת־חֹן הָעַם בְּעֵינֵי מִצְרָיִם וַיִּשְׁאַלּוּם וַיִּנְאַלּוּ אֶת־מִצְרָיִם <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> had done Moshe's bidding and borrowed from the Egyptians objects of silver and gold, and clothing. And YHVH had disposed the Egyptians favorable toward the people, and they let them have their request; thus they stripped the Egyptians.
קָרַע לָנוּ אֶת הַיָּם Split the sea for us	<i>Shemot</i> 14:21	וַיִּט מֹשֶׁה אֶת־יָדוֹ עַל־הַיָּם וַיּוֹלֶךְ יְיָ אֶת־הַיָּם בְּרוּחַ קָדִים עֲזָה כָּל־הַלַּיְלָה וַיִּשָּׂם אֶת־הַיָּם לְחֶרֶבָה וַיִּבָּקְעוּ הַמַּיִם Then Moshe held out his arm over the sea and YHVH drove back the sea with a strong east wind all that night, and turned the sea into dry ground. The waters were split.
הָעִבְרָנוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ בְּחֶרֶבָה Brought us through it on dry land	<i>Shemot</i> 14:22	וַיָּבֹאוּ בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּתוֹךְ הַיָּם בַּיַּבֵּשָׁה וְהַמַּיִם לָהֶם חוֹמָה מִיְּמִינָם וּמִשְׁמָאלָם And <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.



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שָׁקַע צָרֵינוּ בְּתוֹכוֹ Pushed down our enemies in it	<i>Shemot 14:28</i>	וַיָּשְׁבוּ הַמַּיִם וַיִּכְסּוּ אֶת־הָרֶכֶב וְאֶת־הַפָּרָשִׁים לְכָל חֵיל פְּרָעָה הַבָּאִים אֲחֵרֵיהֶם בָּיִם The waters turned back and covered the chariots and horsemen... not one of them remained.
סָפַק צָרָכֵנוּ בַּמִּדְבָּר אֲרָבָעִים שָׁנָה Took care of our needs in the desert for 40 years	<i>Devarim 2:7</i>	אֲרָבָעִים שָׁנָה יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ עִמָּךְ לֹא חָסַרְתָּ דָּבָר YHVH your God has been with you these past forty years: you have lacked nothing.
הָאֵכִילָנוּ אֶת הַמָּן Fed us manna	<i>Shemot 16:14-15</i>	וַיֵּרְאוּ בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל־אָחִיו מֶה־הוּא וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֲלֵהֶם הוּא הַלֶּחֶם אֲשֶׁר נָתַן יְיָ לָכֶם לֶאֱכֹלָה When B'nei Yisrael saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?"—for they did not know what it was. And Moshe said to them, "That is the bread which YHVH has given you to eat..."
נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת הַשַּׁבָּת Gave us Shabbat	<i>Shemot 16:29</i>	רְאוּ כִּי־נָתַן לָכֶם הַשַּׁבָּת Mark that YHVH has given you the sabbath...
קָרְבָנוּ לִפְנֵי הַר סִינִי Brought us close to Mount Sinai	<i>Shemot 19:17</i>	וַיּוֹצֵא מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הָעָם לִקְרַאת הָאֱלֹהִים מִן־הַמַּחֲנֶה וַיִּתְנַצְּבוּ בְּתַחֲתֵית הָהָר Moshe led the people out of the camp toward God, and they took their places at the foot of the mountain.
נָתַן לָנוּ אֶת הַתּוֹרָה Gave us the Torah	<i>Shemot 24:12</i>	וְאֶתְנֶנָּה לָּךְ אֶת־לַחֹת הָאֲבֹן וְהַתּוֹרָה וְהַמִּצְוָה אֲשֶׁר כָּתַבְתִּי לְהוֹרֹתָם "...and I will give you the stone tablets with the teachings and commandments which I have inscribed to instruct them."
הֵכֵינֵסְנוּ לְאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל Brought us into the Land of Israel	<i>Yehoshua (Joshua) 4:19</i>	וְהָעָם עָלוּ מִן־הַיַּרְדֵּן בַּעֲשׂוֹר לַחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּגִלְגָּל בִּקְצֵה מְזִרְחָ יְרִיחוֹ The people came up from the Jordan... and encamped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho.
בָּנָה לָנוּ אֶת בֵּית הַבְּחִירָה Built for us the Chosen House	<i>Devarim 14:23</i>	וְאָכַלְתָּ לִפְנֵי יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ בַּמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־יִבְחַר לְשֹׁכֵן שְׁמוֹ שָׁם You shall consume... in the presence of YHVH your God in the place where He will choose to establish His name...

*All Biblical translations other than names are taken from the JPS Hebrew-English TANAKH.