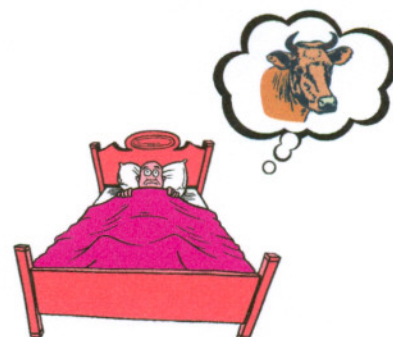


Genesis 40

Do you have many cows near your home? Do you sometimes go for a drive and see cows in a field? Do you know what cows eat? They eat grass and grain like wheat and barley.

One day a great king called Pharaoh had a dream about cows and it made him very worried. He wondered why he would have such a strange dream. He also dreamed about the grain that cows eat. Pharaoh called in all his wise men and asked them what his dream meant. The wise men couldn't understand the dream and they shook their heads and shrugged their shoulders and told Pharaoh they couldn't figure it out.

Poor Pharaoh was getting very worried when his chief butler spoke up. "Oh Pharaoh, I think I know who can help you." The butler said. "When I was in prison both the baker and I had dreams. One of the prisoners named Joseph was able to tell us the meaning of our dreams, and the dreams came true!

**Lesson # 22**

The butler was supposed to help Joseph leave prison, but the butler had forgotten all about poor Joseph. Sometimes we forget to do things for others, don't we? A friend might ask for something or mother or father might ask you to do something for them, but we get busy playing and just forget! Joseph was very sad when the butler forgot him and he was left in prison. We should always try to remember to help others, shouldn't we?

That evening Joseph was sitting in prison when the prison keeper dashed into his room. "Joseph, hurry, the Pharaoh wants to see you!" Joseph could hardly believe his ears, why would the king of Egypt want to see him? The prison keeper brought him water to wash with and clean clothes to wear and soon Joseph was on his way to the palace.

Joseph bowed low before the king. Pharaoh said, "I have had a disturbing dream and no one can tell me what it means. I have heard that you are able to explain dreams, can you help me?"

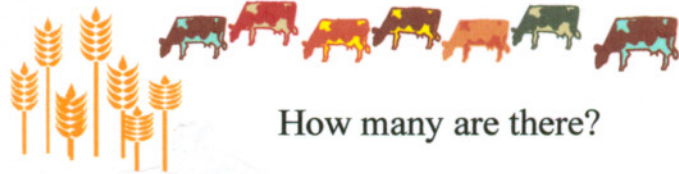


Joseph knew that he couldn't explain the dream to Pharaoh, because only God can explain dreams! But Joseph did know that he could pray for God's help and God would answer his prayers. You know that too, don't you? You can pray to God and he will listen to you and answer your prayers. God is a very wonderful, kind, and loving Father!

Pharaoh told Joseph, "I dreamed I saw seven fat, healthy, good looking cows come up out of the river. Then I saw seven very skinny, sick looking cows come out of the river and they ate up the fat cows!" Pharaoh went on, "Then I dreamed I saw seven golden, tall, healthy stalks of wheat grow, but after that seven very thin, shriveled, ugly stalks of wheat grew and the bad wheat ate up the nice, healthy wheat."

Joseph said a silent prayer for God's help, then he told Pharaoh, "God has told me what these dreams mean. Both the cows and the wheat mean the same thing."

Can you count the cows and wheat?



How many are there?

Joseph said, "The seven fat, healthy, cows and the seven fat, healthy, stalks of grain mean seven years when there will lots of food in the land of Egypt. The grain will grow big and tall and everyone will have more than they need. The cows will have strong, healthy calves and both people and cattle will grow fat and healthy because there is so much food in the land." Pharaoh liked the sounds of this! Then Joseph looked sad and said, "However, after the seven good years, God is telling Pharaoh that there will be seven very bad years when there will not be enough rain, the ground won't grow grain and the cattle will get skinny and unhealthy. People will soon lose their cattle and they won't be able to grow food. This will be called a "famine" and for seven years everyone will be very hungry."

"What can we do? Will all my people starve to death?" Pharaoh asked. All Pharaoh's wise men thought and thought, but no one knew what to do about the famine that was to come.

Do these men look worried? I think Pharaoh's wise men must have looked very worried also, don't you?



Well, Joseph had an idea and he spoke to Pharaoh, "You need to choose a wise man to be in charge of storing up all the extra food in the seven years when there will be such good crops. Then when the seven years of famine come, you can sell the extra food to the people and keep them alive."

Does this sound like a good idea to you? It sounded like a good idea to Pharaoh also. "That's an excellent idea," Pharaoh said, "And who would be as wise as YOU are, Joseph? I choose YOU to be the one to be over the gathering and storing of food."

Joseph was very surprised, he was a quiet, humble young man, but the king of Egypt was giving him the most important job in Egypt. Only Pharaoh would be more important than Joseph. Joseph was given a royal robe and Pharaoh's special ring to sign orders. This was a great honor! Joseph also was given a beautiful chariot and horses to ride through the city and gather up the extra food for the next seven years. God blessed Joseph in every thing he did.

Then Joseph gave orders to build big storehouses to hold all the extra food.



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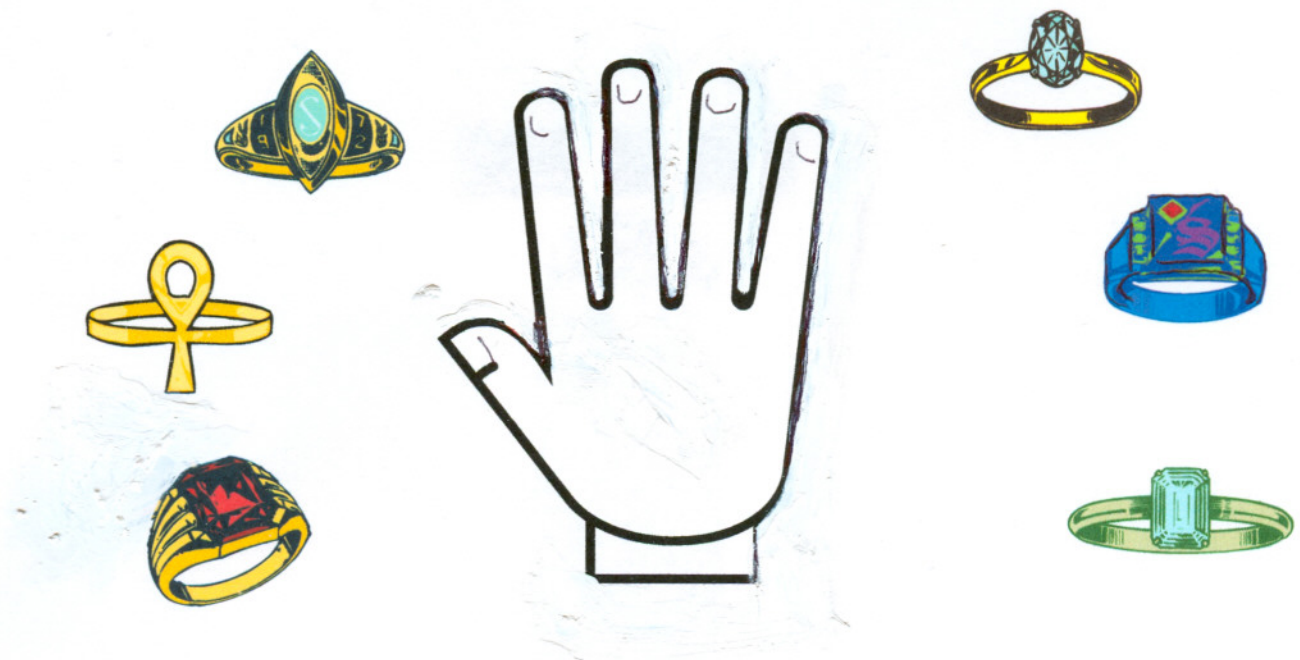
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Question Page

1. What kind of animals did Pharaoh dream about? (Cows, Pigs, or Sheep)
2. What kind of plants did Pharaoh dream about, (Grapes, Grain, Grass)
3. Could Pharaoh's wise men tell him what his dream meant?
4. Where was Joseph when the butler suddenly remembered that Joseph could explain dreams? (In the prison or in the palace?)
5. Who is the only one who can really explain dreams, (Joseph or God)?
6. How many fat cows did Pharaoh dream about?
7. What did the skinny, ugly cows do to the fat cows in his dream?
8. What did Joseph say the seven cows and seven stalks of grain meant?
9. What is a famine? (a time when there is plenty of food or a time when there is no food?)
10. Who did Pharaoh choose to be the wise man who would build storehouses for the extra grain during the seven good years? (His wise men or Joseph)?
11. Pharaoh gave Joseph something to wear on his body (what was it)?
 He gave Joseph something to wear on his hand (what was it)?
 And he gave Joseph something to ride in, (what was it)?

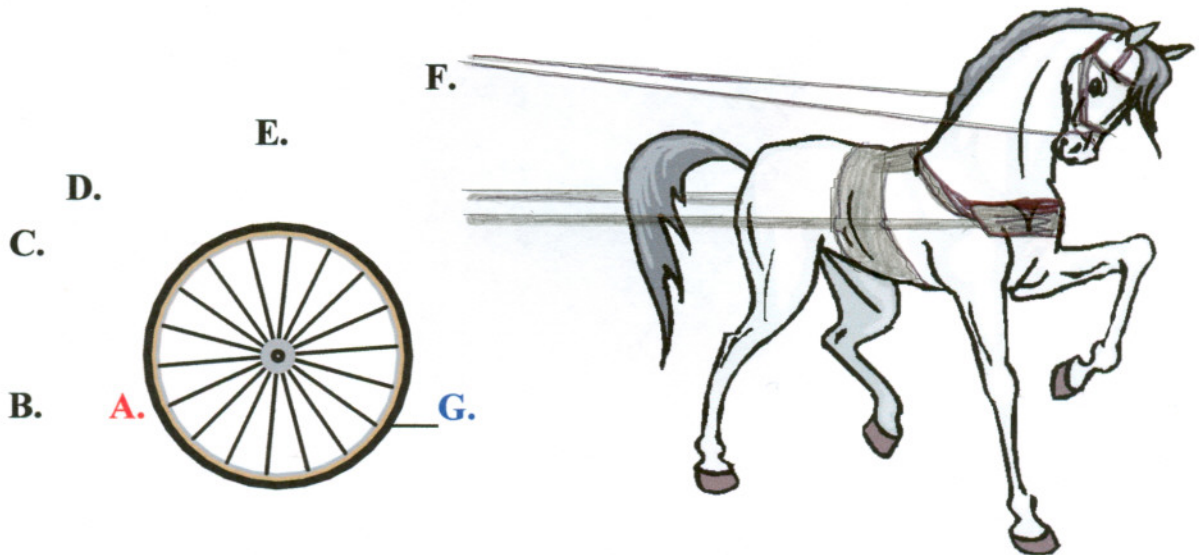
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Pharaoh had lots of jewelry but only one special ring. Which kind of ring do you think he gave Joseph? Draw a ring on Joseph's hand and color the hand and ring a pretty color.

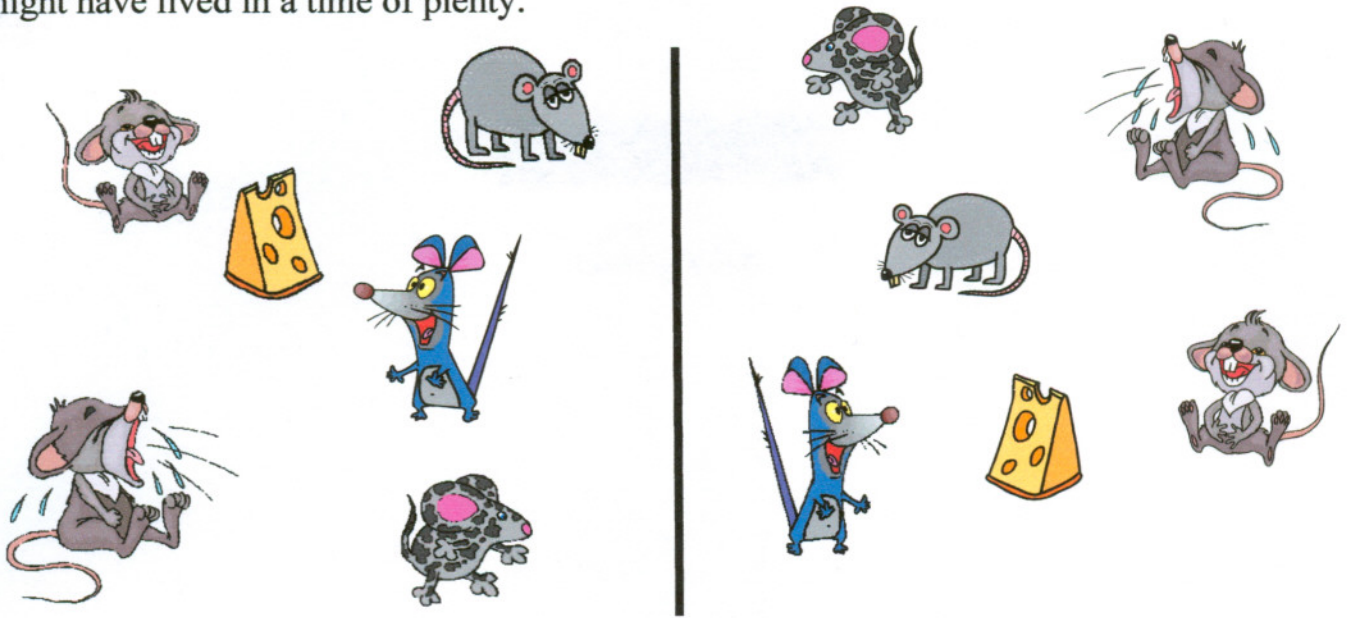


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Connect the A B C dots to make a chariot for Joseph to ride in. Can you draw Joseph in it?
Start at the red **A** and end at the blue **G**



A time of plenty is when there is lots of food to eat - a time of famine is when there is very little food to eat. Match the mice by drawing a line between them. Circle the mice you think might have lived in a time of plenty.



Pharaoh dreamed of 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine didn't he?

The Egyptians had pyramids in their land. This is a pyramid shape . It's fun to draw different kinds of things in a pyramid shape. Below are a mouse and a teepee and a fish that we've drawn in a pyramid shape. What fun thing can you draw in the pyramid shape?

