

With thanks to:
Nina Kooij, our editor, and
Pelican Publishing Company for first chances.
Family and friends for lots of encouragement,
particularly Barbara Felder.

With love to:
Our parents, Dorothy Shulman and
Grace and Alberto Rodriguez,
for always being there.
Our children, Adam and Jenn, Michael,
Nicole, Bradley, Robert, and Andrew.
“Find your passion in life and be persistent.”
Elijah and Jayden, the grandchildren,
with their magical ability to make us
smile and look at the world with
childlike wonder.—J. C./A. G. R.

In memory of my grandmother
Rebecca Stern Ringel,
for wonderful childhood
memories of my
Jewish heritage.—J. C.



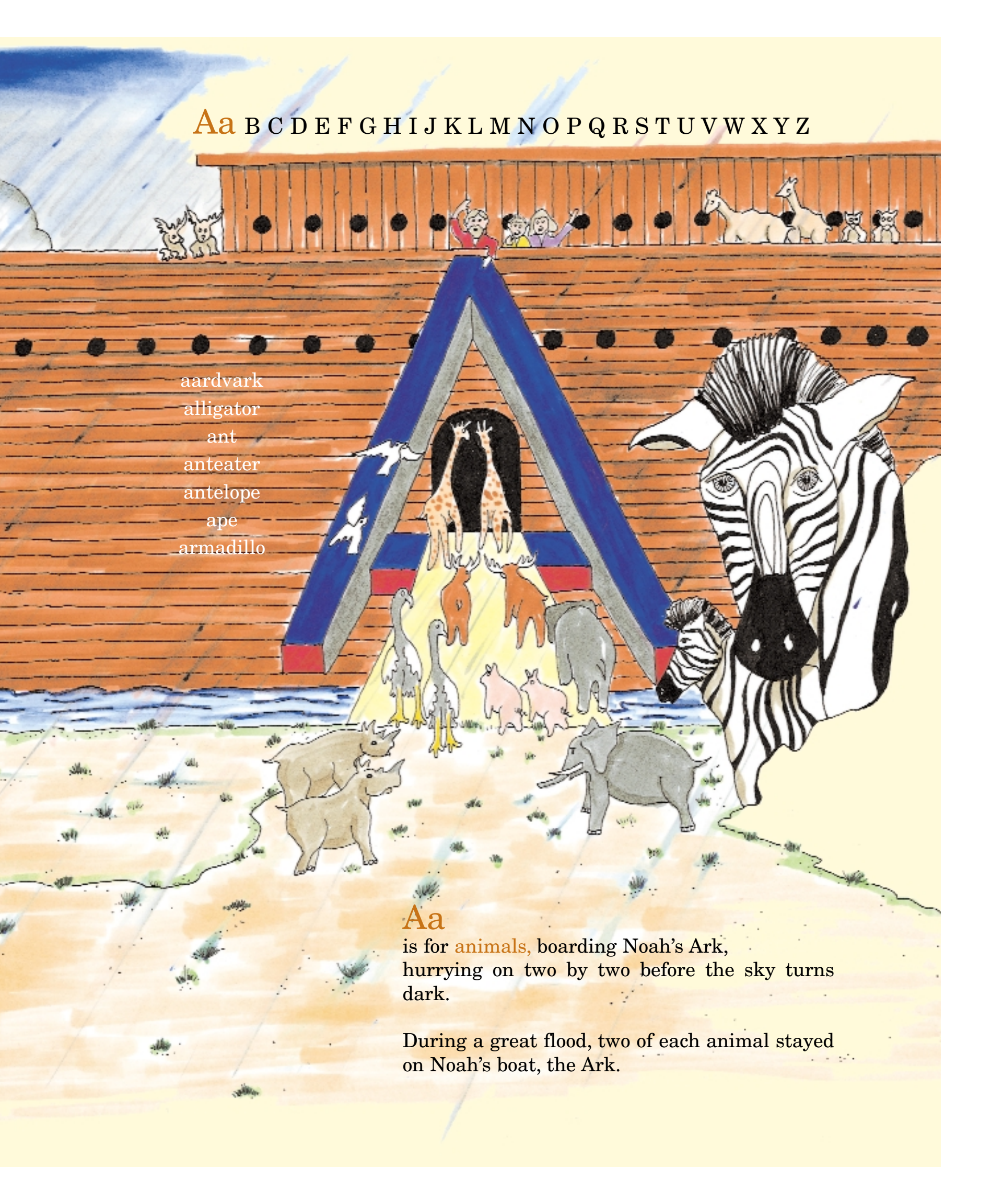
Aa B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

aardvark
alligator
ant
anteater
antelope
ape
armadillo

Aa

is for **animals**, boarding Noah's Ark,
hurrying on two by two before the sky turns
dark.

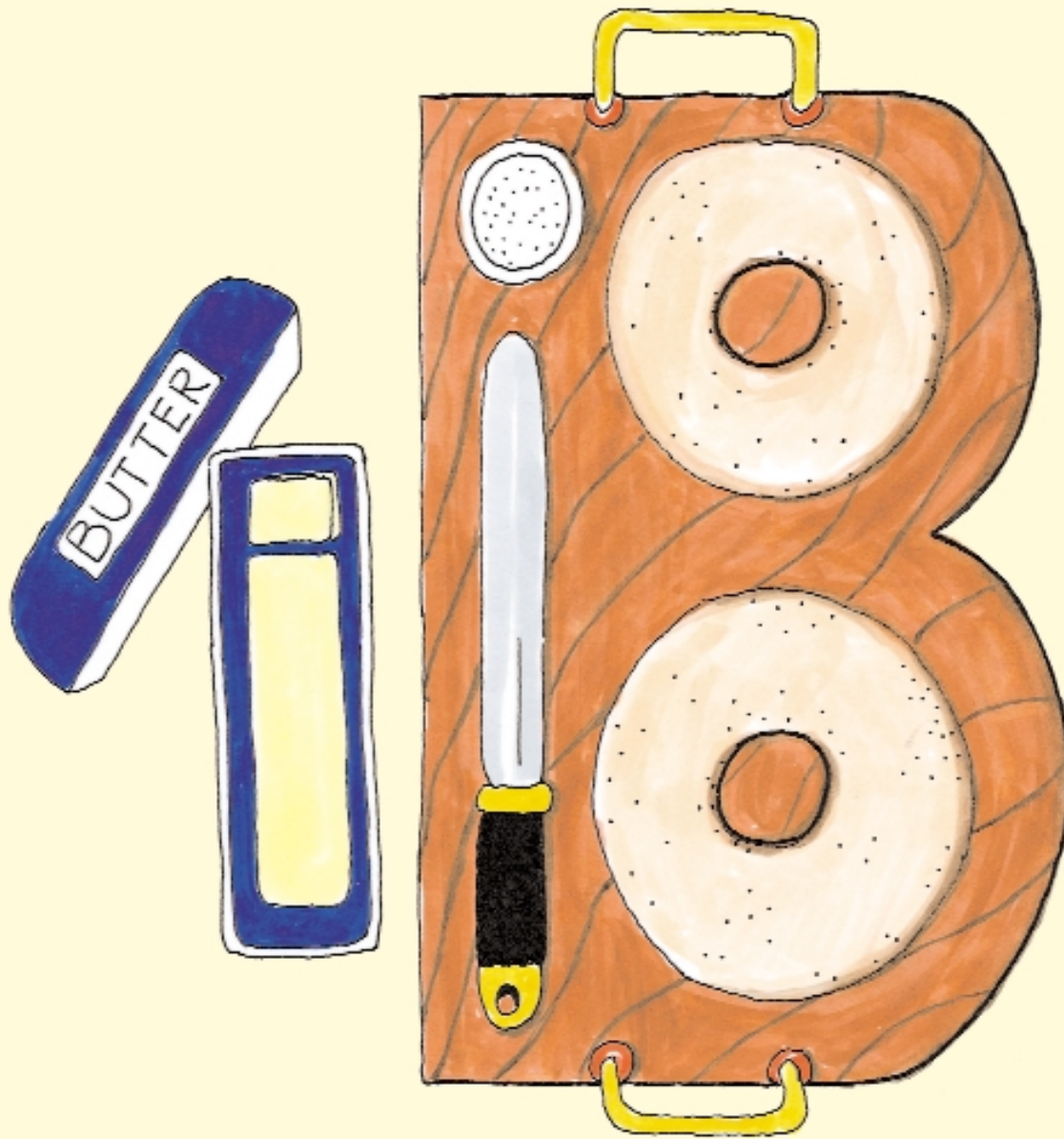
During a great flood, two of each animal stayed
on Noah's boat, the Ark.



A **Bb** C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Bb

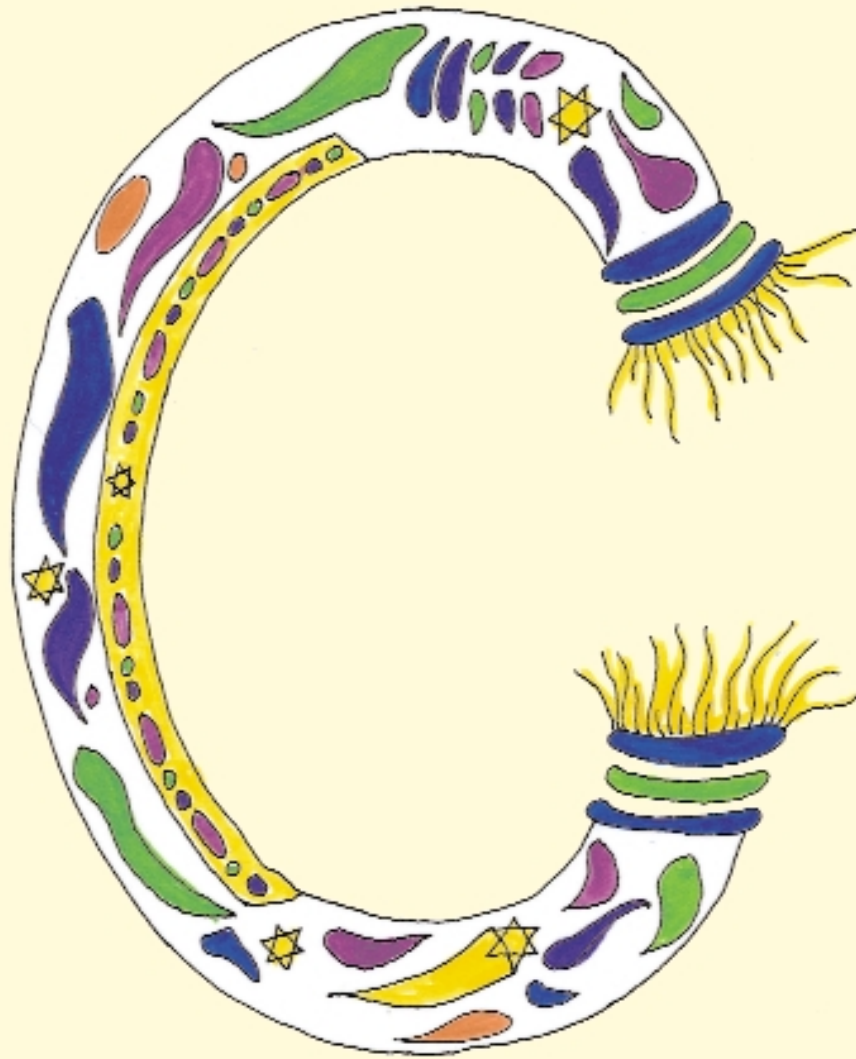
is for **bagels** baked golden brown,
many varieties, all of them round.



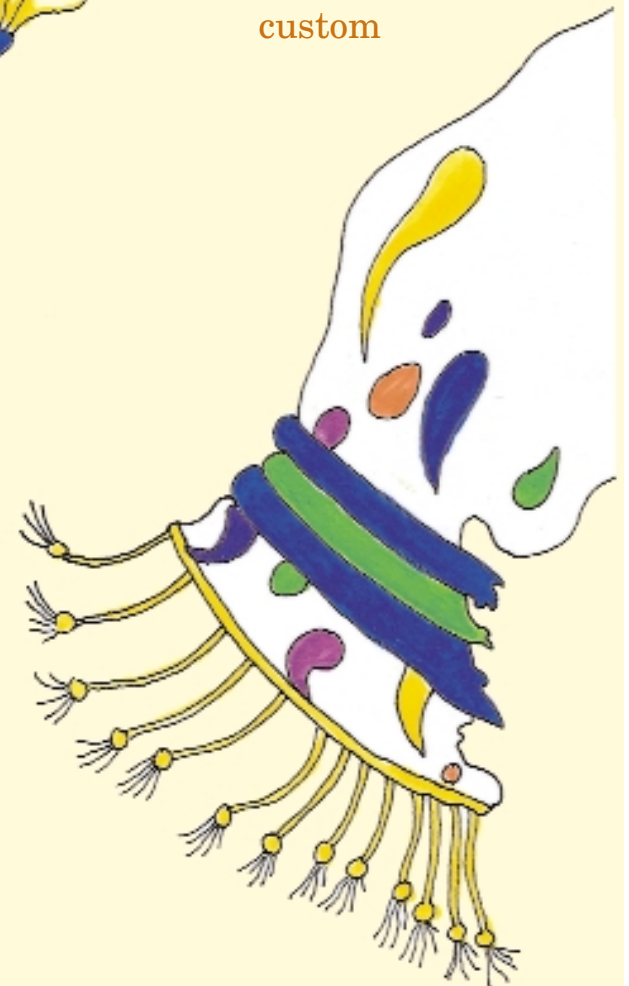
bake
bread
brown
brunch
butter

Bagels are rolls with holes, eaten with butter or
with cream cheese and lox for Sunday brunch.
Lox is smoked salmon, a type of fish.

A B **Cc** D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



clothing
cover
custom



Cc

is for **cloth** placed over the shoulder.
A tallit is a prayer shawl for thirteen and older.

The fringes on the bottom of a tallit are a reminder to do good deeds.

A B C **Dd** E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Dd

is for **dipping** apples, in honey so sweet.
Rosh Hashana is the holiday when people
eat this treat.

delicious
dessert

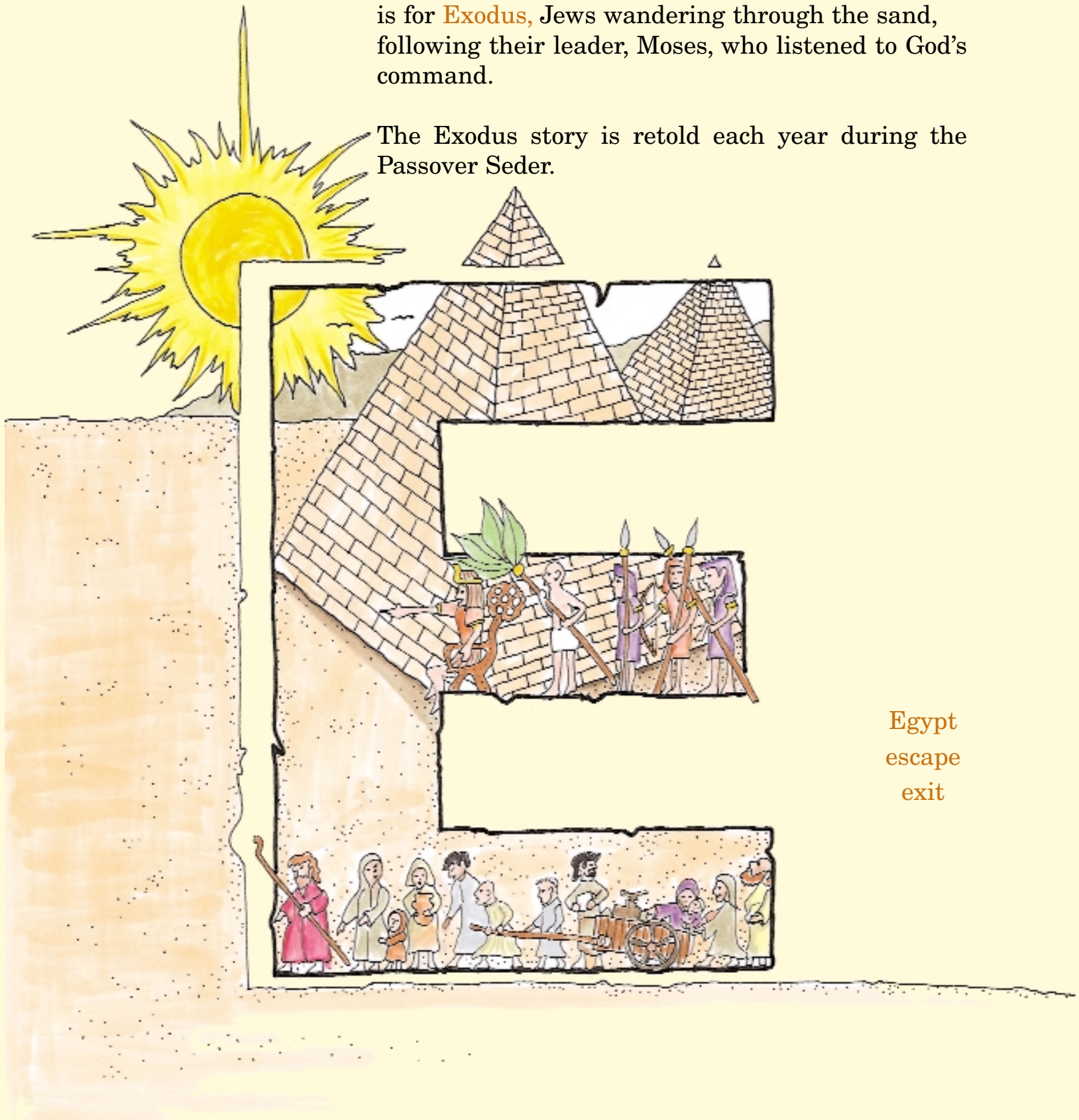


ABCD **Ee** FGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Ee

is for **Exodus**, Jews wandering through the sand, following their leader, Moses, who listened to God's command.

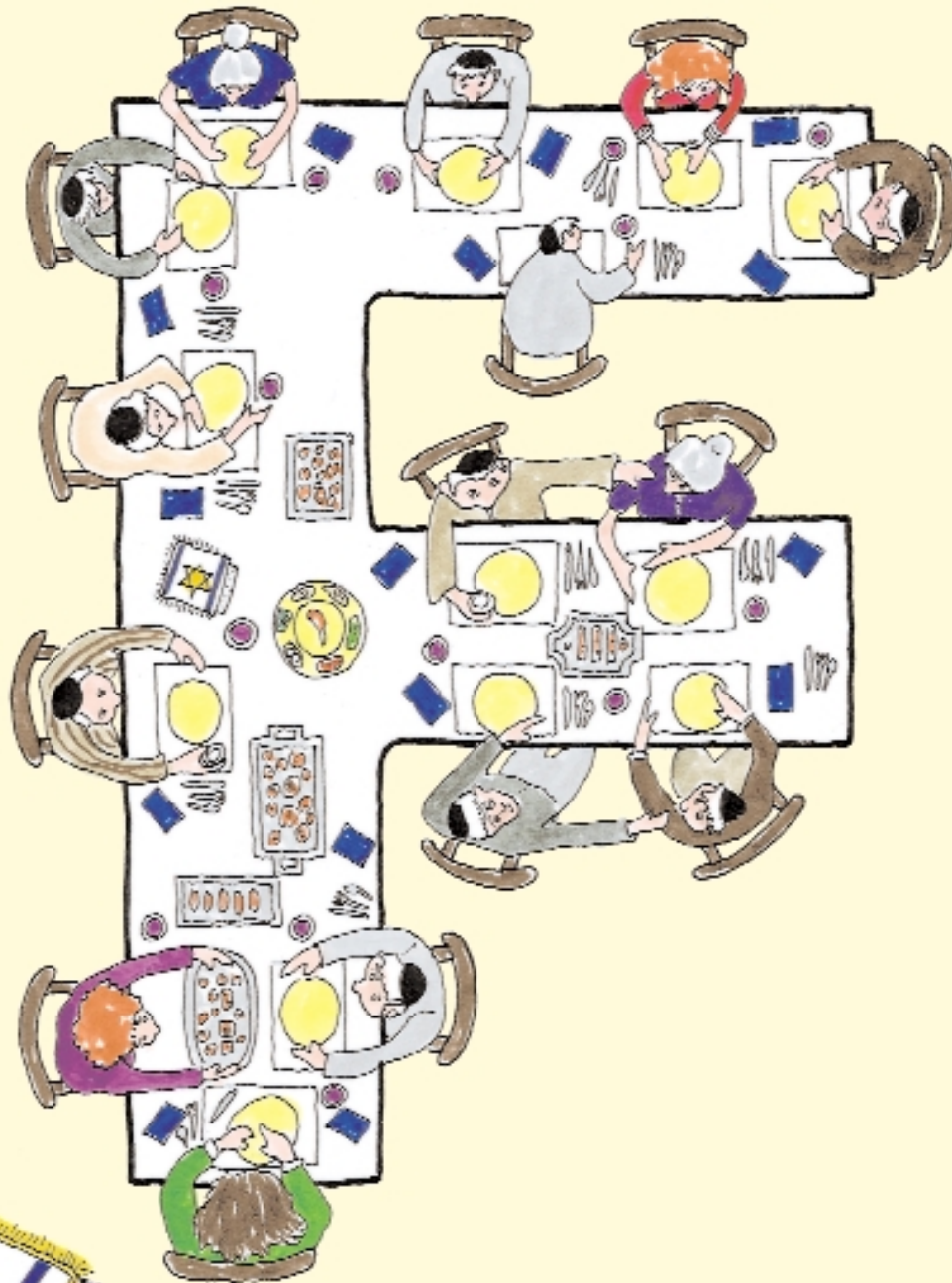
The Exodus story is retold each year during the Passover Seder.



Egypt
escape
exit

A B C D E **Ff** G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

father
festive
find
food
friends



Ff

is for **family**, gathered for a Seder.
The afikomen is a special matzoh, used a bit later.

A festive dinner is part of the Passover Seder.
Children love the custom of hiding and finding the afikomen.

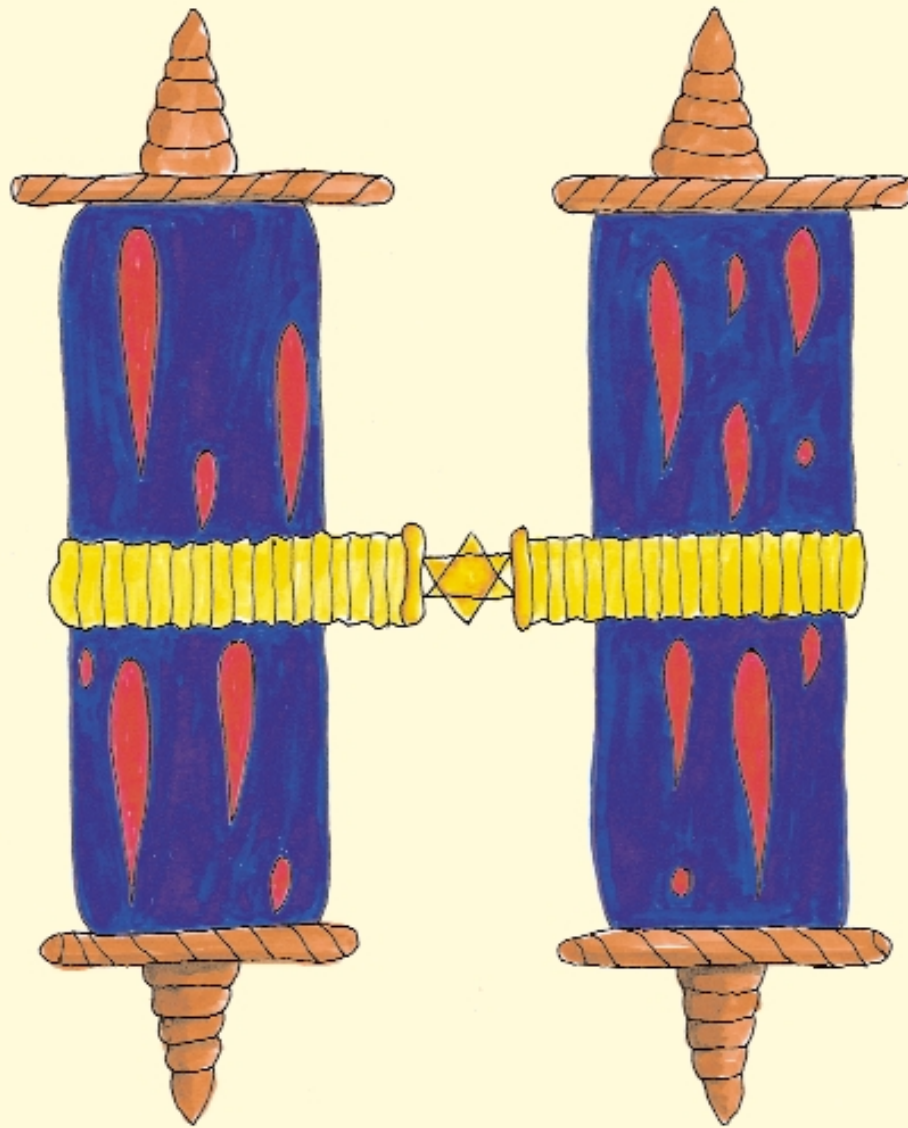
A B C D E F **Gg** H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



glasses
God
grandfather

Gg
is for **Grandpa**; he is wise for sure,
because he reads daily from his prayer book, the
siddur.

A B C D E F G **Hh** I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



handwritten
Hebrew

א ב ב ג ד ה ו
ז ח ט י כ כ ל
מ נ נ ס ע פ פ פ
צ צ ק ר ש ש ת ת

Hh

is for **heritage**; hold it near and dear.
Jewish people learn from the Torah, year after year.

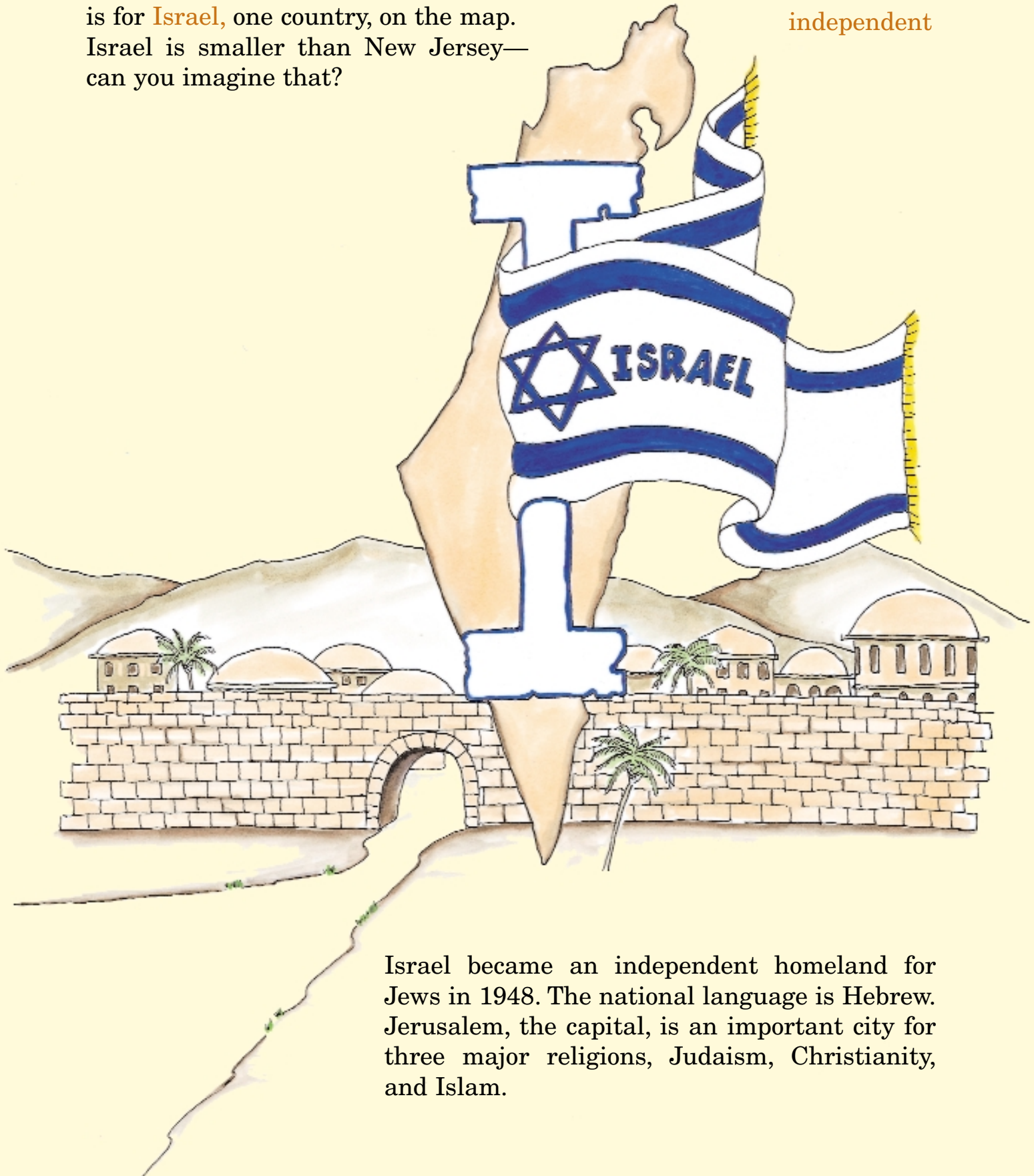
The Torah contains the first five books of the Jewish bible.

A B C D E F G H **Ii** J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Ii

is for **Israel**, one country, on the map.
Israel is smaller than New Jersey—
can you imagine that?

important
independent



Israel became an independent homeland for Jews in 1948. The national language is Hebrew. Jerusalem, the capital, is an important city for three major religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.