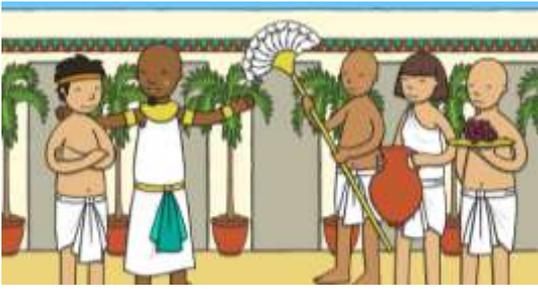


Joseph and his multi-coloured coat Part 2 (Genesis 37 - 50)



Of course Joseph was not really dead. He was taken to Egypt where he worked as a slave.

Joseph worked hard as a slave in Egypt; but then someone said that he had done a really bad thing. It wasn't true, but he was still put

into jail. While he was in prison, he helped two of the other prisoners by telling them what their dreams meant. One of these two men was a servant of Pharaoh, who was the king of Egypt. When he was released from prison he went back to the palace to carry on working for Pharaoh.



It so happened that Pharaoh himself began to have strange dreams. In one of his dreams, seven thin cows came out of a river and gobbled up seven fat cows! Pharaoh thought this was a most peculiar dream and he wanted to know what it meant. He sent for the wisest men in the

kingdom, but none of them was able to explain the meaning of his dream. Then his servant, the one who had been in prison with Joseph, remembered how good Joseph was at explaining dreams and told Pharaoh about him.

Joseph was sent for. He explained what Pharaoh's dreams meant. For the next seven years there would be good harvests and lots of food for everyone to eat; but during the following seven years nothing would grow and there would be poor harvests. If nothing was done, there would be a terrible famine



in Egypt and many people would starve. Joseph suggested that they should save some of their food during the next seven years. That way, there would be enough food to last during the seven years of poor harvests and no one would go hungry. When Pharaoh heard this, he was so pleased with Joseph that he made him governor, in charge of everything in Egypt.

Joseph made sure that enough food was stored up whilst the harvests were good. Then, when the famine came and people in Egypt couldn't grow enough food, they were able to go to Joseph and buy what they needed. So everyone in Egypt had enough to eat.



But it wasn't like that in Israel, where Jacob and Joseph's brothers were still living. In Israel there was a terrible famine, and people were starving. Jacob heard that there was plenty of corn in Egypt, so he told Reuben and his other sons to go to Egypt to buy corn.

The eleven brothers had no idea that the governor of Egypt was none other than Joseph. They didn't even recognise their brother when they met him. Instead, they bowed down before Joseph and begged him to sell them some food.

The brothers might not have recognised Joseph, but he certainly recognised them. Now Joseph had a chance to take his revenge and to get his own back for the way that they had treated him all those years before. But Joseph still loved his brothers, and instead of being angry with them he forgave them for being so unkind to him.

You can imagine how surprised and delighted the brothers were when Joseph told them who he was. Joseph sent them home with sacks of food and with instructions to bring his father Jacob and their families back to Egypt. Jacob could hardly believe the news. How wonderful that his son Joseph was still alive! So Jacob and all the members of his family travelled to Egypt and there they settled. They had all that they needed and they all lived there happily for many, many years.



Task

1. Draw a picture of some people in your family.
2. Write why they are special.