

Hanukkah Fact-File

Learning objective: To understand the key beliefs, stories, and traditions associated with the Jewish festival of Hanukkah.

Use your knowledge of Hanukkah to complete this fact-file. Fill in each section carefully, explaining the meaning behind the traditions and the story of the miracle of the oil.

Word bank: Menorah · Maccabees · Dreidel · Miracle · Temple · Festival of Lights · Tradition

1. What is Hanukkah and why is it known as the 'Festival of Lights'? (2 marks)

2. Who were the Maccabees and what were they fighting for in the story of Hanukkah? (3 marks)

3. Explain the 'Miracle of the Oil'. What happened in the Temple? (3 marks)

4. How is a Menorah used during the eight days of the festival? (2 marks)

5. Describe some of the traditional foods eaten during Hanukkah and why they are fried in oil. (2 marks)

6. What is a Dreidel and how is it used during celebrations? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are explaining Hanukkah to a friend who has never heard of it. Write a short paragraph explaining which part of the celebration you think is the most important and why.