

The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To understand the key beliefs and traditions associated with Hanukkah.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Use full sentences in your answers.

Pip the caterpillar loved learning about different festivals. Today, Pip is reading about Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. Hanukkah lasts for eight days and celebrates a miracle that happened a long time ago in Jerusalem. When the Jewish people reclaimed their Holy Temple, they found only a tiny bit of pure oil left in the lamp. This was only enough to last for one day, but miraculously, the oil burned for eight whole days until new oil could be made.

To remember this, families light a special candle holder called a menorah. Each night, they add one more candle until all eight are glowing. Families also enjoy eating delicious foods fried in oil, such as potato pancakes called latkes. Some people give gifts or play a game with a spinning top called a dreidel. For Pip, the most wonderful part is how the lights bring warmth and hope to people during the darkest time of winter.

Word bank: Menorah · Tradition · Miracle · Dedication · Festival

1. What is the name of the special candle holder used during Hanukkah? (1 mark)

2. According to the text, what are latkes made of? (1 mark)

3. Why do people light the candles for eight nights instead of just one? (2 marks)

4. How can you tell that Hanukkah is a happy and celebratory occasion? (2 marks)

5. In your opinion, why is it important for people to have traditions and festivals to remember the past? Explain your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a menorah with candles glowing brightly, and add some festive treats like latkes on a plate nearby.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are explaining Hanukkah to a friend. Write a short paragraph describing the connection between the story of the oil and the food eaten during the festival.