

The Festival of Lights: A Hanukkah Reflection

Learning objective: To explain the significance of Hanukkah and describe how it is celebrated by Jewish communities.

Use the writing frame below to construct your report on Hanukkah. Focus on using ambitious vocabulary and clear, logical explanations. Ensure you justify why certain traditions are important to Jewish families.

Hanukkah, often referred to as the Festival of Lights, is a joyous Jewish holiday that celebrates a historical miracle and the triumph of light over darkness.

Word bank: traditionally · commemorate · miraculously · significance · furthermore · consequently · symbolise · devotion · nevertheless · festivities

1. The History: Briefly explain the origins of Hanukkah. Why is the story of the oil considered a miracle, and what does it reveal about the importance of perseverance? (3 marks)

2. The Menorah: Describe the tradition of the Hanukkiah (menorah). Compare and contrast the purpose of lighting the candles each night with other festivals of light you have studied. (3 marks)

3. The Traditions: Justify why specific foods, such as latkes or doughnuts fried in oil, are eaten during this festival. How do these traditions help maintain a connection to the past? (3 marks)

4. The Celebration: Explain the significance of the game played with the dreidel. Why do you think games are an important part of religious celebrations for families? (2 marks)

5. Reflection: What might happen if these traditions were not passed down through generations? Explain the importance of cultural heritage. (3 marks)

6. Personal Connection: If you were to create a new, modern tradition to represent 'light' or 'hope' in your own community, what would it be and why? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an explorer like Finn the dolphin, documenting different light festivals around the world. Write a diary entry comparing Hanukkah to another celebration, such as Diwali or Christmas, focusing on the shared themes of hope and family unity. Use at least three words from the word bank in your response.