

Max's Festival of Lights Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the significance, traditions, and historical origins of Hanukkah.

Max the monkey has been busy gathering facts about Hanukkah, but he has mixed them up! Read the statements below. Decide if each one is True or False. If you choose False, you must provide the correct information to justify your answer, just like a true mathematician proving their working out.

Word bank: Menorah · Hanukkah · Miracle · Oil · Dreidel · Eight · Maccabees

1. True or False: Hanukkah is a festival that lasts for exactly three days. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

2. True or False: The Menorah is lit to remember the miracle of the oil that burned for longer than expected. Explain why this event is significant to the Jewish faith. (2 marks)

3. True or False: A dreidel is a traditional four-sided spinning top used during Hanukkah celebrations. Describe the game played with it. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast: How is the celebration of Hanukkah similar to or different from other festivals that use light as a symbol of hope? (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Why might a family choose to place their Menorah in a window during the eight days of Hanukkah? (2 marks)

**6. What might happen if the Maccabees had not found enough oil to light the temple?
Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)**

Draw: Draw a detailed, labelled diagram of a Menorah (Hanukkiah). Ensure you show the correct number of branches and explain the function of the 'shamash' or helper candle in your labels.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are designing a modern celebration of light. Write a short, poetic reflection on why light is such a powerful symbol in history and culture. Use rich, descriptive vocabulary to explain how light brings communities together.