

Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To understand the significance and symbolic objects associated with the Jewish festival of Hanukkah.

Use your knowledge of Hanukkah to complete the drawing and labelling activity below. Use the word bank to help you label the key items that represent the story of the miracle of the oil.

Draw: Create a scene showing a warm, festive Hanukkah celebration. In the centre, draw a nine-branched menorah (hanukkiah) placed near a window. Draw a plate of golden latkes on a table next to a small bag of gelt (chocolate coins) and a four-sided dreidel. Use a warm colour palette (golds, oranges, and yellows) to represent the light. Include Nova the owl in the corner, observing the scene with curiosity.



Label words: Menorah · Shamash · Dreidel · Latkes · Gelt

Steps:

1. Explain why food fried in oil, such as latkes, is traditionally eaten during Hanukkah.
2. Label your drawing to show which candle on the menorah is the 'Shamash'. What is the special role of this candle?
3. Compare and contrast the importance of light in Hanukkah with another festival you have studied.
4. Justify why the number eight is significant throughout the celebration of Hanukkah.

5. Describe the markings found on a traditional dreidel and explain what they represent in the Hanukkah story.
6. What might happen if the oil in the Temple had only lasted for one day? Explain your reasoning.