

Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To understand the origins, traditions, and significance of Hanukkah within the Jewish faith.

Read the front of each flashcard to test your knowledge about Hanukkah. Turn the card over (or check the Answer section below) to see if you are correct. Max the monkey says: 'Think of these like a math puzzle—every piece of information fits together to tell the whole story!'

What is the Hanukkiyah?

A special nine-branched candelabrum used specifically during the festival of Hanukkah.

How many candles are lit on the Hanukkiyah by the end of the festival?

Eight candles, plus the Shamash (the helper candle) used to light the others.

Who were the Maccabees?

A small group of Jewish fighters who reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

What is the 'miracle' of the oil?

A single day's supply of sacred oil miraculously burned for eight full days in the Temple lamp.

What is a dreidel?

A four-sided spinning top used in a traditional game during Hanukkah.

What are latkes?

Traditional potato pancakes fried in oil to commemorate the miracle of the oil.

What is 'Gelt' in the context of Hanukkah?

Chocolate coins wrapped in gold or silver foil, often given as gifts to children.

Why is Hanukkah often called the 'Festival of Lights'?

Because of the central importance of lighting candles to remember the miracle and spread the message of hope.

Explain why the Shamash candle is kept separate from the other eight candles.

It is the 'helper' candle used to light the others, showing that we should use our own light to help others shine.

Compare and contrast the Hanukkiyah with a standard Menorah.

A standard Menorah has seven branches and is an ancient symbol of Judaism, whereas the Hanukkiyah has nine branches specifically for Hanukkah.

Justify why families fry foods like latkes or doughnuts in oil during this celebration.

It serves as a sensory reminder of the miracle of the oil that lasted for eight days in the Temple.

What might happen if the Maccabees had not reclaimed the Temple?

The Jewish traditions and the preservation of the Holy Temple might have been lost to history during that period of conflict.