Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights

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

Read each flashcard to learn about the history and customs of Hanukkah. You can use these to quiz a partner or test your own knowledge.

What is the primary reason Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah?	**Who were the Maccabees?**
To commemorate the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the miracle of the oil.	A group of Jewish warriors who fought for religious freedom and reclaimed the Holy Temple.
What is a Menorah (or Chanukiah) used for during Hanukkah?	**Explain the miracle of the oil.**
It is a nine-branched candelabra used to light one candle each night for eight nights, plus a helper candle called the Shamash.	There was only enough sacred oil to light the Temple lamp for one day, but it miraculously burned for eight full days.
What is a 'dreidel'?	**What are 'latkes'?**
A four-sided spinning top used to play a traditional game during the festival.	Traditional potato pancakes fried in oil to remind people of the miracle of the oil.
What is 'Gelt'?	**How many nights does Hanukkah last?**
Chocolate coins wrapped in gold or silver foil, often given to children as gifts during Hanukkah.	Eight nights.
What is the 'Shamash' candle?	**Why is oil so important to the celebration of Hanukkah?**
The 'helper' candle used to light all the other candles on the Menorah.	Because it links back to the miracle where the small amount of oil lasted for eight days.
Max the monkey is buying 3 bags of chocolate gelt for £1.50 each. How much does he spend in total?	**What is the Hebrew word for the celebration of Hanukkah?**
£4.50.	It means 'dedication'.