

Hanukkah Fact-File with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To identify and explain the significance of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah.

Ellie the Elephant has been reading about the history and traditions of Hanukkah. Use this fact-file to record what you have learned about this special celebration. Research each section to complete the details.

Word bank: Menorah · Dreidel · Oil · Festival of Lights · Maccabees · Tradition · Synagogue

1. The History of Hanukkah: Explain the story behind the festival. Who were the Maccabees and what event are they remembering? (3 marks)

2. The Menorah: Describe the importance of the Menorah. How many candles are lit and how does the timing of the lighting work? (3 marks)

3. Food and Celebration: Why is oil significant during Hanukkah? Name a traditional food associated with the festival. (2 marks)

4. The Dreidel Game: Explain how the game of dreidel is played. What do the symbols on the spinning top represent? (2 marks)

5. Reflection: Why do you think Hanukkah is often called the 'Festival of Lights'? What does this represent to the Jewish community? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Design your own Hanukkah card. Include a drawing of a Menorah and write a short poem or greeting in the style of Leo the Lion, focusing on the themes of hope and light.