

A Festival of Lights with Ellie

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

Read the story about Ellie the elephant below. Answer the questions using the text to help you. Write in full sentences.

Ellie the elephant loves learning about different traditions. This week, she is reading about Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. It is a special time that lasts for eight days. Ellie learned that a long time ago, there was only a tiny jar of oil left in the temple. It was only enough to light the lamps for one day. However, a miracle happened! The oil lasted for eight whole days. To remember this, Jewish families light a special candle holder called a menorah. Every night, they add one more candle until all eight are glowing brightly. Families also eat delicious foods cooked in oil, like potato pancakes called latkes, to remind them of the story. Ellie thinks it is a beautiful way to share light and hope with friends and family during the winter months. She loves how the candles make the home feel warm and happy.

Word bank: Hanukkah · menorah · miracle · oil · festival · celebrate

1. How many days does the festival of Hanukkah last? (1 mark)

2. What is the name of the special candle holder used during Hanukkah? (1 mark)

3. Why do families eat food cooked in oil during this festival? (2 marks)

4. Why might a family choose to light the candles together each night? (2 marks)

5. Do you think festivals like Hanukkah are important? Why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a menorah with eight lit candles. You could add some tasty latkes on a plate next to it!



Extension challenge: Research one other festival that uses light as part of its celebration. Write down one thing that is the same and one thing that is different from Hanukkah.