

# The Festival of Lights: Hanukkah Logic Challenge

*Learning objective: To understand the significance, history, and traditions of Hanukkah within Judaism, and to apply critical thinking to the concepts of religious observance and dedication.*

Ellie the elephant has been studying the history of Hanukkah. She has prepared a set of 'True or False' statements based on the festival's origins and customs. For every statement, you must decide if it is True or False. If it is False, you must provide a justification explaining the correction using your knowledge of the festival.

*Word bank: Menorah · Maccabees · Dedication · Miracle · Oil · Dreidel · Temple · Jerusalem*

**1. True or False: Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. If false, explain why. (2 marks)**

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**2. True or False: The Hanukkiah (menorah) is lit for seven nights to represent the seven days of creation. If false, explain why. (2 marks)**

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**3. True or False: The miracle of the oil describes how a single day's supply of fuel lasted for eight days. If false, explain why. (2 marks)**

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**4. Explain why the lighting of the candles is considered a central act of 'dedication' during the festival. (2 marks)**

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**5. Compare and contrast the custom of eating fried foods (like latkes) during Hanukkah with the historical events the festival remembers. (3 marks)**

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**6. Justify why many Jewish families place their lit menorah in a window or doorway during Hanukkah. (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a creative, symmetrical design for a modern Hanukkah that incorporates \_\_\_\_\_ symbols of light and peace. Label the nine branches clearly.



*Extension challenge: Imagine you are a historian documenting the events of the Maccabean revolt. Write a short journal entry (100 words) from the perspective of someone witnessing the temple being rededicated. What emotions might they feel, and why is this moment significant for their community?*