

Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To understand the significance and symbolic elements of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah.

Use the drawing prompt below to create a detailed scene of a Hanukkah celebration. Label your drawing using the provided word bank to demonstrate your understanding of the festival's traditions.

Draw: Draw a cosy interior scene featuring a family table during Hanukkah. In the centre, draw a Menorah with the candles lit. Ensure the 'Shamash' candle is clearly distinguishable from the others. Around the table, include a plate of latkes, a small bowl of chocolate gelt, and a child playing with a dreidel. Use a warm, festive colour palette to represent the glow of the candles. Add labels from the word bank to point to each item you have drawn.



Label words: Menorah · Shamash · Dreidel · Gelt · Latkes · Miracle of the Oil

Steps:

1. Explain why the Menorah has nine branches even though the festival lasts for eight days. Justify your answer using the concept of the 'Shamash'.
2. Compare and contrast the symbolism of light in Hanukkah with another celebration you have studied. What are the similarities and differences?
3. Label your drawing to show where the Shamash candle is placed on the Menorah.

4. What might happen if a family forgot to light the Shamash candle first? Explain the practical impact on the ritual.
5. Justify why foods fried in oil, such as latkes, are central to the Hanukkah feast.
6. Describe the cultural importance of the dreidel game. Why do you think games are often used to teach children about historical events?