

Max's Festival of Lights Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the historical and symbolic significance of Hanukkah within the Jewish faith.

Join Max the monkey as he explores the history of Hanukkah! Read the facts carefully and answer the questions below to test your knowledge.

Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. According to tradition, when the Jewish people reclaimed the Temple from the Seleucid Empire, they found only enough pure oil to light the sacred lamp for one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight full days. Today, Jewish families celebrate by lighting a nine-branched candelabrum called a Hanukkiah (or Menorah) for eight nights, eating foods fried in oil like latkes, and playing games with a spinning top called a dreidel.

Word bank: Menorah · Maccabees · Miracle · Dreidel · Gelt · Oil · Temple · Eight

1. 1. How many nights does the festival of Hanukkah last? A) 5 B) 7 C) 8* D) 10 (1 mark)
2. 2. True or False: The festival celebrates the rededication of a synagogue in London. (1 mark)
3. 3. What is the name of the special nine-branched lamp used during Hanukkah? (1 word) (1 mark)
4. 4. What substance miraculously lasted for eight days? A) Wax B) Oil* C) Water D) Honey (1 mark)
5. 5. What is the traditional four-sided spinning top toy called? (1 word) (1 mark)
6. 6. Which group of people reclaimed the Temple? A) The Maccabees* B) The Romans C) The Egyptians D) The Persians (1 mark)
7. 7. True or False: Jewish families often eat foods fried in oil to remember the miracle. (1 mark)
8. 8. What is the name of the chocolate coins often given as gifts? (1 word) (1 mark)

9. 9. Why is the Hanukkah lit for eight nights instead of one? (Answer in one sentence) (1 mark)

10. 10. In the story of the Temple, why was the oil so important? A) It was expensive B) It was needed for the sacred lamp* C) It was used for cooking D) It was a trade item (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a beautiful Hanukkah with all eight candles lit, surrounded by patterns that represent light and joy.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1. Explain why the concept of a 'miracle' is central to the celebration of Hanukkah. 2. Compare and contrast the significance of light in Hanukkah with other festivals you have studied. 3. Justify why it is important for communities to keep their history and traditions alive through annual celebrations. 4. What might happen to the meaning of the festival if the story of the oil was forgotten? 5. Max wants to buy 8 gold-foil chocolate coins for his friends, each costing 25p. Calculate the total cost in pounds (£). 6. If you were designing a modern-day symbol for Hanukkah, what would it look like and why?