

The Festival of Lights: Understanding Hanukkah

Learning objective: To explain the significance of Hanukkah and describe the traditions observed by Jewish families.

Use this scaffold to construct a detailed account of Hanukkah. Ensure you use technical vocabulary to explain the historical and religious importance of the festival.

Hanukkah, often referred to as the Festival of Lights, is a significant Jewish celebration that lasts for eight days and nights.

Word bank: commemorate · miraculous · menorah · dedication · traditions · furthermore · consequently · symbolise · significance · nevertheless

1. Historical Context: Explain why Hanukkah is celebrated. Start by describing the events that occurred in the Temple in Jerusalem... (3 marks)

2. The Menorah: Describe the ritual of lighting the menorah. Why is the number eight important in this tradition? (3 marks)

3. Traditions and Customs: Compare and contrast how families might celebrate Hanukkah compared to other religious festivals you have studied. What activities or foods are typically involved? (3 marks)

4. Reflective Thinking: Justify why the theme of 'light overcoming darkness' is considered a powerful message for people of all faiths. (3 marks)

5. Hypothetical Scenario: What might happen if the oil had not lasted for eight days? How would this change the meaning of the festival today? (4 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise the main lesson people take away from the story of Hanukkah and why it remains relevant in the modern world. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are interviewing Ellie the Elephant about her research into ancient traditions. Write three complex, open-ended questions you would ask her to deepen your understanding of why religious festivals are vital to maintaining cultural heritage.