Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the origins, symbols, and traditions of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah.

Ellie the Elephant is learning all about the history of Hanukkah. Read the clues below and use the word bank to fill in the blanks. Once you have finished, use the historical facts to explain why the festival lasts for eight days.

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

1. The festival of Hanukkah celebrates the victory of the _____, a small group of Jewish fighters, who reclaimed the Holy _____ in Jerusalem. (2 marks)

2. When they went to light the lamps, they only found enough pure _____ to last for one day, but it miraculously burned for _____ days. (2 marks)

3. Today, families light a nine-branched candelabrum called a _____ to remember this _____. (2 marks)

4. Children often play a game using a spinning top called a _____ and may receive small chocolate coins known as _____. (2 marks)

5. Explain in your own words why the festival of Hanukkah is often called the 'Festival of Lights'. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a beautiful Hanukkah Menorah with all nine candles lit. Make sure to include patterns on the base of the Menorah to show how Zara the Zebra might decorate it!

Extension challenge: Research what 'latkes' are and why foods fried in oil are traditionally eaten during Hanukkah. Write two sentences explaining the connection to the story.