Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To understand the origins, traditions, and significance of Hanukkah within the Jewish faith.

Read the front of each flashcard to test your knowledge about Hanukkah. Flip the card mentally (or check the text after the 'Answer:' symbol) to see if you are correct. Use these to help Nova the owl learn about this important celebration!

What is the primary reason Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah?

To commemorate the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the miracle of the oil.

What is a 'Hanukkiah'?

A special nine-branched candelabra used specifically during the festival of Hanukkah.

How many days does Hanukkah last?

Eight days.

What is the 'miracle' of the oil?

A small amount of oil, enough for only one day, miraculously burned for eight full days in the Temple lamp.

What is a 'dreidel'?

A four-sided spinning top used in a traditional game played during Hanukkah.

What are 'latkes'?

Potato pancakes fried in oil, eaten to remember the miracle of the oil.

What is 'Gelt' in the context of Hanukkah?

Chocolate coins wrapped in gold or silver foil, often given as gifts to children.

Who were the Maccabees?

A group of Jewish warriors who led a revolt to reclaim the Temple.

What do the four Hebrew letters on a dreidel stand for?

They form the acronym for 'Nes Gadol Haya Sham', which means 'A great miracle happened there'.

Why are fried foods, like doughnuts (sufganiyot), popular during Hanukkah?

They are cooked in oil to symbolise the miracle of the oil lasting for eight days.

True or False: Hanukkah is always celebrated on the same date on the Gregorian calendar every year?

False. It follows the Hebrew lunar calendar and changes dates on the Gregorian calendar each year.

What is the role of the 'Shamash' candle on the Hanukkiah?

It is the 'helper' candle used to light all the other candles on the candelabra.