The Festival of Lights: Understanding Hanukkah

Join Nova the Owl on a journey to discover the glowing traditions of Hanukkah!

- **Hanukkah is an eight-day festival celebrated by Jewish people all around the world to remember a historical miracle.**
- **The central tradition involves lighting the Hanukkiah, a special nine-branched candelabra, adding one new candle each night.**
- **The story tells of the Maccabees, who found only enough pure oil to light the temple lamp for one day, yet it miraculously burned for eight.**
- **Families often play games with a four-sided spinning top called a dreidel, which features Hebrew letters on each side.**
- **It is customary to eat foods fried in oil, such as latkes (potato pancakes) and doughnuts, to represent the miracle of the oil.**
- **Children often receive 'gelt', which are small gifts or gold-foil wrapped chocolate coins, during the celebration.**

Did you know? Did you know? The word 'Hanukkah' actually means 'dedication' in Hebrew! It commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem over 2,000 years ago.

Key vocabulary: Menorah · Hanukkiah · Dreidel · Maccabees · Gelt · Miracle