The Festival of Lights: A Hanukkah Challenge

Learning objective: I can explain the meaning and traditions of Hanukkah.

About 30 minutes. Grown-up tip: Discuss with your child how festivals of light are celebrated in different cultures to help them build empathy.

Read each question carefully. Write your answers clearly in the spaces provided. For longer questions, remember to give reasons for your ideas.

Hanukkah is a Jewish festival that lasts for eight days and nights. It celebrates a story from long ago when the Jewish people reclaimed their Temple in Jerusalem. When they went to light the holy lamp, they only had enough pure oil for one day. However, a miracle happened, and the oil lasted for eight whole days. Today, families light a special candle holder called a Menorah, adding one more candle each night to remember this event.

Word bank: Menorah · Oil · Miracle · Latkes · Dreidel · Temple

1. How many nights does the festival of Hanukkah last? (1 mark)

2. What is the name of the special candle holder used during Hanukkah? (1 mark)

3. Why do Jewish families light candles for eight days? Use the word 'miracle' in your answer. (3 marks)

4. Name two ways that families celebrate or remember the story of Hanukkah at home. (2 marks)

5. Explain why light is such an important symbol for this festival. Give at least two reasons. (4 marks)

6. Imagine you are explaining Hanukkah to a friend who has never heard of it. Write a short paragraph (4-5 sentences) describing the story and why it is a time of joy for families. Include what happens to the candles each night. (5 marks)

7. Max the monkey says: 'If I light 2 candles on the first night and 1 more each night, how many candles will I have lit in total by the end of the 8th night?' Show your working. (4 marks)

8. Why might a family choose to share food like latkes with friends during the festival? Give a reason. (5 marks)

Draw: A warm, glowing Menorah sitting on a table next to a spinning dreidel, with soft light reflecting on a nearby window.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research the 'Shamash' candle. Why is it different from the other eight candles on the Menorah?

I did it! Name: _____ Date: _____

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