The Festival of Lights: Discovering Hanukkah

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Ask your child to explain why families eat fried foods during this special time.

Read these facts about Hanukkah to learn about how Jewish families celebrate. For example, look at the Menorah fact to see how many candles are lit each night.

- **Hanukkah is an eight-day festival celebrated by Jewish people around the world.**
- **A special nine-branched candelabra called a Menorah is used, with one extra candle used to light the others.**
- **Families often play a game using a four-sided spinning top known as a dreidel.**
- **It is traditional to eat foods fried in oil, such as crispy potato latkes, to remember the miracle of the oil.**
- **Children may receive small chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil, which are known as gelt.**

Did you know? Did you know? Hanukkah is often called the Festival of Lights because it celebrates the miracle of a tiny jar of oil lasting for eight whole days in the ancient Temple!

Key vocabulary: Menorah · Dreidel · Latkes · Miracle · Gelt