Learning About Hanukkah with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: I can explain the meaning of Hanukkah and describe how families celebrate this festival.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Discuss how different cultures use light to celebrate hope and history during the darker winter months.

Today, Ellie the Elephant is exploring the history and traditions of Hanukkah. Use this fact-file to record what you discover. Read each section carefully and write your answers in your own words. For example, if asked about food, you could write: 'People eat latkes, which are fried potato pancakes.'

Word bank: Menorah · Oil · Miracle · Festival of Lights · Dreidel · Hebrew · Gelt

1. The Story of the Oil: Briefly explain why Hanukkah is called the 'Festival of Lights' and what the miracle of the oil was. (3 marks)

2. The Menorah: How many candles are lit on the Menorah, and why is this special? (2 marks)

3. Traditional Food: Many Hanukkah foods are fried in oil. Why do families choose to eat these specific foods during the festival? (2 marks)

4. Fun and Games: Describe how to play with a dreidel and what the letters on the side mean. (3 marks)

5. Comparing Celebrations: Think about a festival you celebrate at home. How is it similar to or different from Hanukkah? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a bright and colourful Menorah with all the candles lit, and add a spinning dreidel next to it.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are visiting a family celebrating Hanukkah. Write three sentences in your book describing the smells, sounds, and sights you notice.



I did it! Name: _____ Date: _____

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