The Festival of Lights: Discovering Hanukkah

Learning objective: I can explain the significance of Hanukkah and identify key traditions used by Jewish families.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Ask your child to explain why light is an important symbol during dark winter months.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of Hanukkah to answer. For example, if asked why a menorah is used, you might write: 'It is used to hold the candles that are lit to remember the miracle of the oil.'

Hanukkah is a Jewish festival that lasts for eight days and eight nights. It is often called the Festival of Lights. Families celebrate by lighting a special nine-branched candle holder called a hanukkiah. They also enjoy eating foods fried in oil, such as latkes (potato pancakes), and playing games with a spinning top called a draydel. The festival celebrates a historical miracle where a small amount of oil lasted for eight full days.

Word bank: Menorah · Hanukkiah · Miracle · Draydel · Oil · Latkes

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

2. What is the name of the special nine-branched candle holder used during the festival? (1 mark)

3. Why do Jewish families eat foods fried in oil during Hanukkah? Give a reason based on the story of the festival. (2 marks)

4. Max has 8 candles to place in his hanukkiah, but he needs 1 more for the 'helper' candle. How many candles does he need in total? 8 + 1 = ? (1 mark)



5. If you were celebrating Hanukkah, which tradition would you find most interesting and why? Use evidence from the text to support your opinion. (3 marks)

Draw: A warm, festive scene showing a family home during winter. On a table, there is a hanukkiah with candles, a draydel, and a plate of food. Outside the window, it is dark, showing the 'Festival of Lights' theme.

Extension challenge: Design your own draydel! Write the four Hebrew letters traditionally found on the sides and explain what they stand for in the story of Hanukkah.

I did it! **Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

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