The Festival of Lights: Writing About Hanukkah

Learning objective: I can write a clear explanation about the traditions and history of Hanukkah.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to use descriptive adjectives to make their writing more exciting.

Use this scaffold to organise your writing. Start by planning your key facts in the boxes below, then use the sentence starters to build your paragraphs. Remember to use your best handwriting and check your spelling.

Hanukkah is a special Jewish festival that lasts for eight days and is often called the Festival of Lights.

Word bank: because · although · furthermore · additionally · meanwhile · in addition · surprisingly · traditionally

1. Introduction: What is Hanukkah and why is it celebrated? Start with: 'Hanukkah is a special celebration because...' (2 marks)

2. The History: Briefly explain the miracle of the oil. Start with: 'Long ago, a small amount of oil lasted for eight days, which was a miracle because...' (2 marks)

3. The Menorah: Describe the special nine-branched candle holder. Start with: 'During the festival, families light the menorah, which is...' (2 marks)

4. Family Traditions: What special foods or games do families enjoy? Start with: 'Families often eat delicious foods fried in oil, such as...' (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Why is this festival important to people today? Start with: 'Hanukkah is a time for families to...' (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a nine-branched menorah with all the candles lit.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are explaining Hanukkah to a friend who has never heard of it. Can you write two sentences explaining why the number 'eight' is so important to this festival?

I did it! Name: _____ Date: _____

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