The Festival of Lights: A Hanukkah Challenge

Learning objective: I can explain the significance and traditions of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Ask your child to share one thing they found most interesting about how families celebrate Hanukkah today.

Read the information passage carefully before answering the questions. For multiple-choice questions, select the correct option. For short-answer questions, provide a clear, concise response.

Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, lasts for eight days and nights. It commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. According to tradition, when the Maccabees reclaimed the Temple, they found only enough sacred oil to light the Menorah for one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight full days. Today, families celebrate by lighting a candle on the nine-branched Menorah each night, eating foods fried in oil like latkes (potato pancakes) and doughnuts, and playing games with a spinning top called a dreidel. It is a time for reflection, gratitude, and joy.

Word bank: Menorah · Maccabees · Miracle · Dreidel · Latkes

1. 1. How many nights does the celebration of Hanukkah last? A) 7 B) 8* C) 9 D) 10 (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Hanukkah commemorates the building of the first Temple. (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the name of the nine-branched candelabra used during Hanukkah? A) Dreidel B) Maccabee C) Menorah* D) Latke (1 mark)

4. 4. What is the name of the potato pancakes traditionally eaten during this festival? (1 mark)

5. 5. Why are foods fried in oil eaten during Hanukkah? (Give a reason using the text). (2 marks)

6. 6. Which group of people reclaimed the Temple? A) The Romans B) The Maccabees* C) The Greeks D) The Egyptians (1 mark)

7. 7. What is the name of the spinning top game played during the festival? A) Menorah B) Latke C) Dreidel* D) Oil-top (1 mark)

8. 8. How many candles are on a full Menorah? A) 7 B) 8 C) 9* D) 10 (1 mark)

9. 9. Explain the 'miracle' mentioned in the passage. Use your own words. (2 marks)

10. 10. Which city is mentioned in the history of Hanukkah? A) London B) Jerusalem* C) Cardiff D) Manchester (1 mark)

Draw: A warm, glowing nine-branched Menorah sitting on a wooden table next to a plate of crispy latkes and a small wooden dreidel, set against a soft, festive background.

Extension challenge: Research why the Menorah used at Hanukkah has nine branches, even though the miracle lasted for eight days. Explain the purpose of the 'helper' candle (the Shamash).

I did it! Name: _____ Date: _____

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