The Festival of Lights: Writing About Hanukkah

Learning objective: I can write an informative explanation about the traditions and history of Hanukkah.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to read their finished paragraphs aloud to check for flow and grammar.

Use this scaffold to plan and write your report. When writing, try to use relative clauses to add extra detail. For example: 'The menorah, which holds nine candles, is the central symbol of the festival.'

Hanukkah, often known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish celebration observed by millions of people across the globe.

Word bank: traditionally · furthermore · consequently · symbolising · commemorates · miraculously · in addition to · nevertheless

1. Introduction: Briefly define what Hanukkah is and when it takes place. Start with: 'Hanukkah is a significant festival that...' (2 marks)

2. Historical Context: Explain the story behind the festival, specifically mentioning the rededication of the Temple. Start with: 'The origins of this celebration date back to...' (3 marks)

3. The Menorah: Describe the tradition of lighting the candles. Start with: 'A central tradition involves the lighting of the menorah, which...' (3 marks)

4. Customs and Food: Describe how families celebrate, including traditional foods like latkes. Start with: 'During the eight days, families participate in...' (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise why Hanukkah remains important today. Start with: 'In conclusion, Hanukkah is more than just a festival because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a short poem or a descriptive paragraph about the 'light' theme of the festival, focusing on the contrast between the winter darkness and the glowing candles.



I did it! Name: _____ Date: _____

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