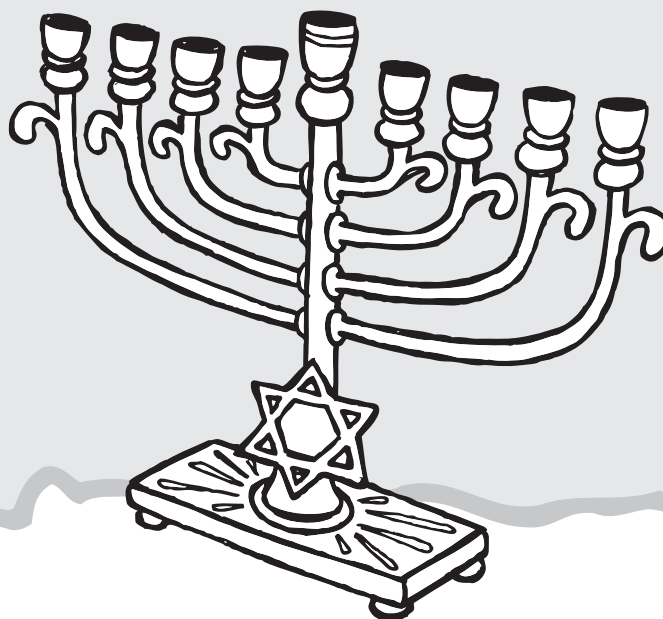


Hanukkah

Sometime Between Late November and December

Happy Hanukkah! This day is celebrated by Jews all over the world. Hanukkah is also called the Festival of Lights. Jewish people believe that, a long time ago, an oil lamp was kept lit in a temple for eight nights with only very little oil. They think of this as a miracle. During Hanukkah, Jews light the menorah, spin the dreidel, and eat fried food.



Summary of Activities

Reading: Literature

How Do You Spell . . . ?—a poem with a phonological-awareness activity

Reading: Informational Text

The Dreidel—nonfiction passage with comprehension questions

Writing

Giving to Others—activity in which students write about how they might help others

Bonus

Making a Menorah—activity in which students make menorahs out of their handprints

Vocabulary: culture, dreidel, Hebrew, Jewish, Judaism, miracle



Name _____

Date _____

How Do You Spell . . . ?

Directions: Read the poem. Then complete the activity.

Some people start off with an H

And others with a C.

It can end with H or A.

It's as muddled as can be!

H, A, two Ns, and then a U

A K another A,

It's easy to remember,

If you practice every day.

Or C H A N U K A H

It starts with another letter,

Begin with H or with a C,

Who's to say which one is better?

And don't forget the one

That has the double Ks,

When you're playing with your dreidel,

On these very special days.

There are many different ways to spell

This Festival of Lights.

Just stick with one of these,

And you'll always know you're right!

Activity:

1. Look at the last word or letter in each line. Draw a circle around the ones that rhyme. Draw a box around the ones that don't.
2. Use the clues in the poem to write on the back of the page the three ways to spell the Festival of Lights.



Name _____

Date _____

The Dreidel

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

On Hanukkah, you can play a game with a dreidel. A dreidel is a toy. It is traditionally made of wood. A dreidel is a top that spins. Look at the dreidel in the picture. Can you see the little stem on the top? You use that to spin the dreidel.

The dreidel has four sides. Each side has a letter on it. The letters are from the Hebrew alphabet.

- The letter נ says *Nun*.
- The letter ג says *Gimel*.
- The letter ה says *Hei*.
- The letter ש says *Shin*.



Here's how to play:

- Each player puts 10 pieces in the pot.
A piece can be one raisin or one jellybean.
- Each player takes a turn to spin the dreidel.
- If נ is facing up, the player does nothing.
- If ג is facing up, the player gets everything in the pot.
- If ה is facing up, the player gets half of the pieces.
- If ש is facing up, the player adds three pieces to the pot.
- If you run out of pieces, you are out of the game.
- The person with the most pieces wins!

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1. What letter is showing in the picture above?
a. Gimel b. Shin c. Nun
 2. How do you win a game of dreidel?
a. run out of pieces b. have the most pieces c. get ה five times
 3. How many sides does a dreidel have?
a. 3 b. 2 c. 4



Name _____

Date _____

Giving to Others

On Hanukkah, many children are encouraged to give to others who need help. Think about how you might be able to help someone else. Write down three ways below. Make sure to end your sentences with periods.

1. I could help others by _____

2. I could help others by _____

3. I could help others by _____



Name _____

Date _____

Making a Menorah

The menorah is a big part of Hanukkah. A menorah is a candleholder. It has a place for nine candles. One candle is lit each evening for eight nights. Here is a fun way to make a menorah of your own.

You will need these items:

- large piece of white construction paper
- crayons
- pencil
- scissors

Here are the steps to making a menorah:

1. Place your left pointer finger down in the middle of the white paper.
2. Trace your pointer finger with a pencil.
3. Place your left hand down on the paper next to the pointer finger that you just traced.
4. Trace your left hand with a pencil. Do not include your thumb.
5. Place your right hand down on the paper next to the pointer finger you traced earlier.
6. Trace your right hand with a pencil. Do not include your thumb.
7. Color the fingertips of your traced hands yellow for the candle flame.
8. Color the rest of your menorah.
9. Cut out your menorah.

