

HANUKKAH



Celebrating the
Festival of Lights!

Name:



What is Hanukkah?



Hanukkah is a winter holiday that celebrates two things. The first is how two thousand years ago the Jewish people won a long three year battle over King Antiochus, who wouldn't let them practice their own religion. The king had been forcing the Jewish people to worship idols he chose in their own temples.

The holiday also celebrates the miracle of the lights, which honors the story of the eternal lamp. As the story goes, once the Jewish people had battled against Antiochus and won, they came back to their temple and found the flames of their eternal lamp had gone out. They only had enough oil for the lamp to burn for one day, but through a miracle it burned for eight days and nights until they had enough time to prepare more oil.

People who celebrate Hanukkah light eight candles in a menorah, a special candle holder, to celebrate the victory over Antiochus and the miracle of the eight nights of light from the eternal lamp.



Traditions of Hanukkah

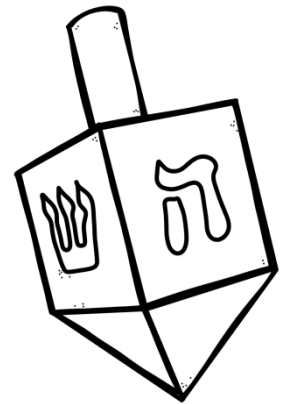
The Menorah



A holder for the eight candles of Hanukkah - one lit for each night to celebrate the miracle of the light. The menorah also holds a "helper" candle which is used to light each of the others. On the last day, a total of nine candles will be lit.

Dreidel

A dreidel is a toy spinning top that has Hebrew letters on each side. The letters stand for the Hebrew words "A Great Miracle Happened Here". Children spin the dreidel to win candy or pennies.



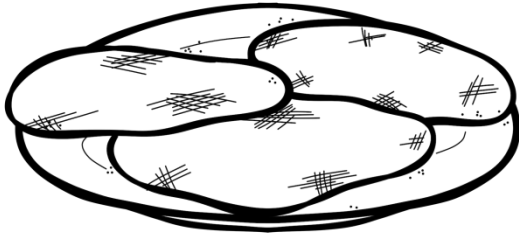
Chai

Each Hebrew letter is assigned a number. The word chai means "good luck" or "life". It has a value of 18, so it is believed any multiple of 18 is a lucky number.

Hora

The hora is a special dance some Jewish people perform to celebrate during Hanukkah.

Traditions of Hanukkah



Latkes

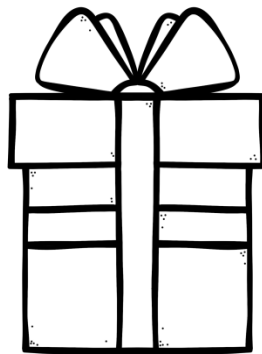
Latkes are a traditional food eaten during the celebration of Hanukkah. They are crispy potato pancakes fried in oil. Other foods fried in oil, like jelly doughnuts, are also eaten because oil is such an important part of remembering the miracle of the lights.

Tzedakah

The word tzedakah is a Hebrew word that means justice, fairness or righteousness. Tzedakah is the practice of giving in some way to others in need.

Gelt

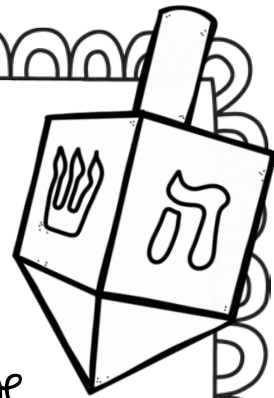
Gelt are real or chocolate coins that children receive during the celebration of Hanukkah.



Gifts

During Hanukkah Jewish children receive gifts from their parents.

Dreidel! Dreidel! Dreidel!



A traditional game that is played during Hanukkah is the dreidel game. A dreidel is a kind of top that you spin. Use your tablet to learn a little more about the symbols on the four sides of a dreidel and what those symbols mean.

- Search for pictures of the different symbols on a dreidel. Draw them in the labeled boxes below.
- In each box, also tell what the symbols mean in the game.
- Rules for one way to play the dreidel game are on the next page.

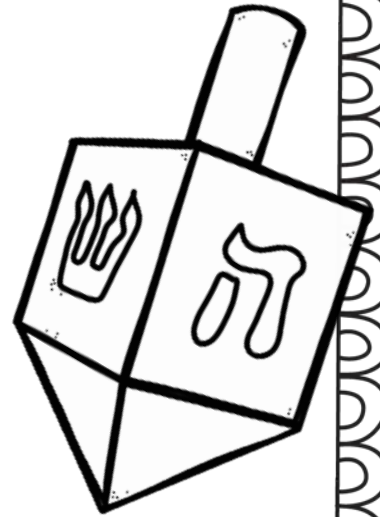
Nun	Gimmel
Hey	Shin/Pe



Let's Play the Dreidel Game!

Game Pieces:

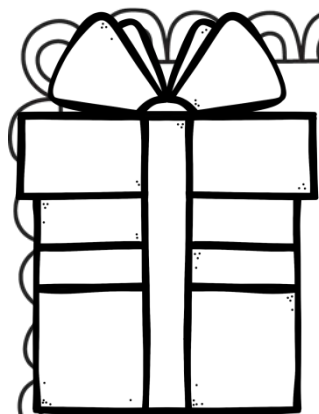
- A Dreidel
- 10 - 15 game pieces per player (You can use whatever you wish, but pennies, chocolate chips, small candies, crackers or pretzel sticks work well.)
- Bowl or cup for the center "pot".



Directions:

- You can play with as many people as you wish.
- Play begins with each player putting one game piece into the pot.
- Decide who will go first, second, etc.
- When it is your turn, spin the dreidel one time.
- Use the information you learned about the symbols on the four sides of the dreidel to determine what you do after you spin - nothing, take some game pieces, or add game pieces to the pot.
- If you lose all your game pieces you are out, unless another player will loan you some.
- The winner is the player who wins all of the game pieces.





The Giving and Receiving of Gifts

During Hanukkah lots of children receive gifts from their parents. Many families also perform tzedakah to teach their children that it is also important to give to others in need. Some traditional Jewish homes have a tzedakah box for collecting coins to use for this purpose.

If you saved your coins, who or what organization would you give to? Explain on the lines below.

A large rectangular area with a dashed border, containing several horizontal lines for writing an answer.

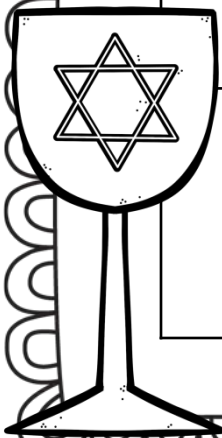


Hanukkah Words to Know

There are lots of words and phrases from the Hebrew language that are commonly associated with Hanukkah. Can you find the meanings of these?



Hanukkah Word	What it means...
Hanukkiyah	
Nes Gadol Hayah Sham	
Sevivon	
Shamash (also Shammash)	
Sufganiyot	



NOTE: This page is NOT for the student booklets. This goes with the Dreidel pages and is meant as a key for teachers to use. These are the names of the symbols on a dreidel and what each means in the playing of the game.

*Nun means "*nisht*" or "nothing." The player does nothing.

*Gimmel means "*gantz*" or "everything." The player gets everything in the pot.

*Hey means "*halb*" or "half." The player gets half of the pot. (If there is an odd number of pieces in the pot, the player takes half of the total plus one).

*Shin (outside of Israel) means "*shtetl*" or "put in." *Peh* (in Israel) also means "put in." The player adds a game piece to the pot.

Nun	Gimmel	Hey	Shin
נ	ג	ה	ש