

WHAT'S INSIDE?



SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. What is Hanukkah?

Hanukkah (also spelled Chanukah) is a Jewish celebration.

2. How many days is the holiday?

3. What does this holiday remind you of?

4. Explain the conflict that led to the holiday.

5. What is a menorah?

6. What are some traditional Hanukkah foods?

7. In addition to food, what are other traditions?

ANSWERS

Name: _____

Instructions: Answer the following questions on this paper.

- Why does the article include photos?
 - To help the reader understand the various Hanukkah symbols
 - To take up space
 - To make it faster to read
- Which is a traditional Hanukkah food?
 - Potato pancakes, blintzes and jam filled doughnuts
 - Maple syrup, pancakes, and waffles
 - Steak and mashed potatoes
 - Sugar doughnuts, chocolate chip pancakes and crepes

ANSWER KEYS

REGULAR ARTICLE

MODIFIED ARTICLE

HANUKKAH

What is Hanukkah?

Hanukkah (also spelled Chanukah) is a Jewish celebration that lasts a total of eight days.

Hanukkah starts on the 25th of Kislev (a Jewish calendar) and is known as "Chanukah" in Hebrew. It usually occurs in November or December.



The menorah is used during Hanukkah.

Hanukkah reminds Jewish people to focus on their faith and culture. Gift exchanges, traditional food and games, as well as lighting the menorah are all part of this holiday celebration. It is known as the Festival of Lights.

The menorah is proudly displayed where others can see it, and blessed each night after another candle is added. The menorah is very important as during the first Hanukkah there was only enough oil for the menorah light to last one night, but it continued for the entire 8 days.

Popular Hanukkah foods are potato pancakes (latkes), blintzes (crepes), and jam filled donuts (sufganiyot). Many of the foods are fried in oil to celebrate the miracle of the oil lasting for eight days.

Hanukkah also includes attending temple, saying special prayers, exchanging money and gifts such as chocolate coins (gelt) wrapped in foil, and playing with dreidels. Dreidels are a four-sided top that on each side spells out the Hebrew phrase "a great miracle happened here" (in Israel) or "a great miracle happened there" (in other parts of the world).

HANUKKAH

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History of Hanukkah

Hanukkah originates in 164 B.C.E., when the Maccabees (Jewish fighters) regained control over their land from Syrian Greeks. The Syrian Greeks had conquered Israel years prior and banned all forms of the Jewish religion and culture.

Hanukkah Traditions

An important symbol during Hanukkah is the nine branched menorah (lamp). On each of the eight nights, a candle is added to the menorah after sundown. The ninth candle is used to light the other candles. The menorah is proudly displayed where others can see it and blessed each night after another candle is added. The menorah is very important as during the first Hanukkah there was only enough oil for the menorah light to last one night, but it continued for the entire 8 days.

Popular Hanukkah foods are potato pancakes, blintzes, and jam filled doughnuts. Many of the foods are fried in oil to celebrate the miracle of the oil lasting for eight days.

Hanukkah also includes attending temple, saying special prayers, exchanging money and gifts such as chocolate coins (gelt) wrapped in foil and playing with dreidels (four-sided spinning top).

Word Bank

conquered - to take control of a person, place or thing

banned - something that is not allowed

REGULAR & MODIFIED ARTICLES

WHAT'S INSIDE?



LESSON PLAN



Hanukkah

Lesson Overview:

Students will work on their non-fiction reading skills while reading this article.

Materials Needed:

Photocopy a class set of the following or use the provided Google Slides version for 1:1 technology schools:

- K-W-L Chart
- **LESSON PLAN** audio file
- **LESSON PLAN** version
- **LESSON PLAN** using Google

Video

- Video #1: [History of the Holidays: Hanukkah](#)

ARTICLE QUESTIONS

Name: _____

Instructions: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of lined paper.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is Hanukkah?
2. How many days is this celebration?
3. What does this holiday remind you of?
4. Explain the conflict that led to the holiday.
5. What is the significance of the menorah?
6. What is the significance of the gelt?
7. In addition to the menorah and gelt, what are other traditions of Hanukkah?

THINKING QUESTION

Assessment	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Above Expectations
	✓-	✓	✓+

Many holidays involve celebrating and being thankful for light. Why do you think light is an important thing to celebrate?

POST-READING ACTIVITIES

TEACHER FEEDBACK

“A great way to learn about Hanukkah. My school does not have a very diverse demographic so I love resources that allow my students to learn about other religions and cultures.” – Cara M.

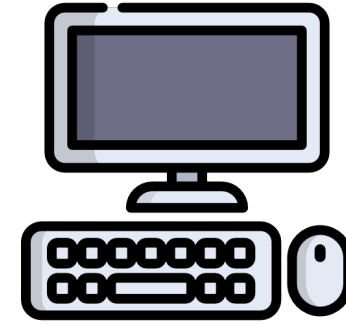
“Great reading activity to celebrate the diversity of holiday traditions.” – Julie W.

LESSON FORMATS



PDF

✓ Individual & Whole Unit



DIGITAL

✓ Google Slides

RESOURCE CAN BE USED IN-PERSON OR ONLINE