

HANUKKAH- A HISTORY

A HISTORY OF HANUKKAH

Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish holiday also known as the Festival of Lights. It celebrates the rededication of an important religious building, the Second Temple which is located in Jerusalem. The original event happened over 2,000 years ago, but Jewish people continue to celebrate this important moment still today. This event occurred after a small group of Jewish soldiers, called the Maccabees, successfully rebelled against the Greek-Syrian army.

One of the most famous stories associated with Hanukkah is the miracle of the oil. When the Maccabees reclaimed the Temple, they found only enough oil to light the menorah, a special candle holder for only one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days! This miracle is why Hanukkah lasts eight nights and is symbolized by lighting the menorah.

HOW IS HANUKKAH CELEBRATED?

Each night of Hanukkah, one additional candle is lit on the menorah using a special helper candle called the Shamash. Menorahs can be made from various materials, ranging from expensive metals to creative versions crafted by children. Some families use candles, while others light menorahs with olive oil, honoring the original story. Another Hanukkah tradition is playing with a toy called a dreidel. The letters on the spinning top toy stand for "A great miracle happened there," a nod to the miraculous oil.

While Hanukkah is a joyous holiday, it is not the most important Jewish holiday; it is considered minor compared to others like Yom Kippur or Passover. However, its timing near Christmas has influenced some modern traditions, such as giving gifts on all eight nights. Historically, children were given gelt—small amounts of money—but today, gifts often range from toys to larger presents. Traditional foods like potato pancakes, called latkes, and jelly doughnuts, known as sufganiyot, are fried in oil to commemorate the miracle.

Celebrated at sunset, Hanukkah is a time for family, reflection, and fun. From spinning dreidels to enjoying festive foods, this holiday brings light and joy to the dark winter nights. With its rich history and vibrant traditions, Hanukkah reminds us of the power of faith, perseverance, and the miracles that shine through in challenging times.



**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE
WITH THIS FUN QUIZ!**





Trivia Game Video Link

Use the below links to access the video for this activity.
Click the title, image or link to get to the video!

HANUKKAH TRIVIA VIDEO



This link will take you to
the YouTube Video of
Hanukkah Trivia
questions:
[https://youtu.be/Y1dhrE
mVTsE?
sub_confirmation=1](https://youtu.be/Y1dhrEmVTsE?sub_confirmation=1)





Hanukkah Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Trivia Video



Name/Team Name: _____

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |

How did you do? Are you a
Hanukkah Trivia ROCKSTAR?!?!



Trivia
Video



Hanukkah Trivia

Are you a Hanukkah Trivia Rockstar?
Take this Trivia quiz and see!

- 1 In English, Hanukkah is known by two names -- Festival of Lights and Feast of Dedication.
a) yes b) no
- 2 A game of chance is played at Hanukkah with a toy called a:
a) Dreidel b) Spinner c) Top d) Latke
- 3 What do the letters on this toy stand for?
a) Joy to the World b) A Great Miracle Happened There
c) The Festival of Lights d) Hanukkah is a Family Time
- 4 What time of day does Hanukkah start?
a) Midnight b) Noon c) Sunrise d) Sunset
- 5 True or False? The candle used to light the other candles in the menorah is called the "shamash."
a) True b) False



- 6 How long do the menorah candles have to burn each night?

- 7 How many days does Hanukkah last?
a) 7 b) 1 c) 8 d) 5
- 8 True or False: Hanukkah is the most important day of the Jewish year.
a) True b) False
- 9 What President was the first to light a Menorah in the White House.
a) President Truman b) President Lincoln
c) President Obama d) President Harrison
- 10 True or False: Hanukkah is the Jewish Christmas.
a) True b) False





11 Yes or No? Eight Chanukah candles are lit every night of the holiday.

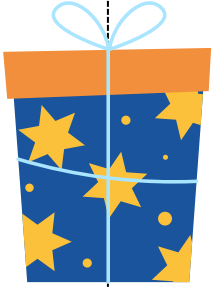
- a) Yes b) No

12 During Hanukkah It is traditional to give children small amounts of money called:

- a) Gelt b) Pennies c) Euros d) Shalom

13 On how many nights of Hanukkah must gifts be given?

- a) 0 b) 1 c) 5 d) 8



14 Menorahs are always made of:

- a) brass b) anything c) silver d) wood



15 Most people light Hanukkah candles, but some use oil. What kind of oil is traditional?

- a) olive b) corn c) canola d) Crisco

16 The most common food to eat on Hanukkah in the United States is...

- a) Lefse b) Potato Pancakes c) Meatballs d) Jelly Donuts

17 Where is the world's largest menorah?

- a) Israel b) Germany c) USA d) Canada

18 True or False: The dates for Hanukkah change and can be different from year to year.

- a) True b) False



19 The Jewish soldiers in the Hanukkah story are the:

- a) Israelites b) The Blue Army c) Maccabees d) Haggadahs

20 True or False: In 1993, an astronaut aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour brought a menorah and dreidel so he could celebrate Hanukkah during his mission.

- a) True b) False



Hanukkah Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

Trivia Video



Name/Team Name: _____

1. Yes or No
2. A B C D
3. A B C D
4. A B C D
5. True or False
6. _____
7. A B C D
8. True or False
9. A B C D
10. True or False
11. Yes or No
12. A B C D
13. A B C D
14. A B C D
15. A B C D
16. A B C D
17. A B C D
18. True or False
19. A B C D
20. True or False

Score:
____/20



Hanukkah Trivia Answer Key

Directions:
If you'd like to check
student answers without
the video, here is the
answer key.

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Yes | 11. No |
| 2. A) Dreidel | 12. A) Gelt |
| 3. B) A great miracle happened here | 13. A) 0 (zero) |
| 4. D) Sunset | 14. B) Anything |
| 5. True | 15. A) Olive |
| 6. At least a half hour | 16. B) Potato Pancakes |
| 7. C) 8 | 17. C) USA |
| 8. False | 18. True |
| 9. A) President Truman | 19. C) Maccabees |
| 10. False | 20. True |

Thanks for playing!
Check out more Brain Breaks
on YouTube!

Trivia Video

