

Yavneh Primary School



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Primary School

Chanukah Pack For Parents



This pack contains:



Background Information about the Festival of Chanukah



Chanukah Songs and instructions for the Dreidel Game!



A list of Websites to help you support your child!

Facts about Chanukah



Why do we celebrate Chanukah?

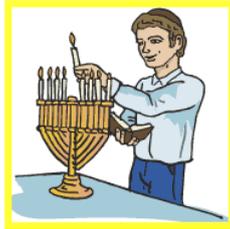
- The Hebrew word Chanukah means "**dedication.**" In the 2nd century BCE, during the time of the Second Holy Temple (Beit Hamikdash), the Syrian-Greek regime of Antiochus sought to pull Jews away from Judaism, with the hope of assimilating them into Greek culture.
- Antiochus outlawed Jewish observance -including circumcision, Shabbat and Torah study - under penalty of death.
- When the Greeks ("Yevanim") challenged the Jews to sacrifice a pig to a Greek god, a few courageous Jews took to the hills of Judea in open revolt against this threat to Jewish life.
- Led by Matityahu, and later his son Yehudah the Maccabee, this small band of pious Jews led guerrilla warfare against the Syrian-Greek army.
- Antiochus sent thousands of well-armed troops to crush the rebellion, but after three years the Maccabees beat incredible odds and miraculously succeeded in driving the foreigners from their land. The victory was on the scale of Israel defeating the combined super-powers of today.
- Jewish fighters entered Jerusalem and found the Holy Temple in a terrible state. The Maccabees cleansed the Temple and **re-dedicated** it on the 25th of Kislev.



- When it was time to re-light the Menorah (which was always lit every day in the Beit Hamikdash), they searched the entire Temple but found only one jar of pure oil bearing the seal of the High Priest. This jar contained only enough oil to last for one day. The group of believers lit the Menorah anyway and were rewarded with a miracle: that small jar of oil burned for eight days until a new supply of oil could be brought.
- From then on, Jews have observed a holiday for eight days, in honour of this historic victory and the miracle of the oil.

- To publicise the Chanukah miracles, Jews add the special Hallel praises to the Shacharit service and light a chanukiah during the eight nights of Chanukah.

How do we light the Chanukiah?



- On the first night, place one candle at the far right, as you face the chanukiah. Another candle - set apart - is placed for the Shamash (taller helper candle) which is used to light the others. It is not counted as one of the candles.
- First light the Shamash, then recite the blessings, and then use the Shamash to light the Chanukah candle. On the second night, place two candles in the two far-right positions - and use the Shamash to light the newest one first. The third night, place three candles in the three far-right positions - and use the Shamash to light them in order, from left to right.
- Follow this same procedure each night of Chanukah until all the lights are kindled and glowing brightly!
- On each night, after reciting the blessings, lighting the first Chanukah candle and whilst lighting the remaining candles, we sing Hanerot Halalu and Maoz Tzur.
- Many people prefer to use olive oil rather than candles as this resembles more closely the original miracle of the oil in the Temple.

What Chanukah customs do we have?

- After lighting the Chanukiah, families enjoy sitting in the glow and singing traditional Chanukah songs. A number of other customs have developed, including:
 - eating "oily" foods like fried potato latkes (pancakes) and *sufganiyot* (jam doughnuts), in commemoration of the miracle of the oil.
 - giving Chanukah gelt (coins) to children spinning the dreidel, a four-sided top with a Hebrew letter on each side (*sevivon* in Hebrew).

Chanukah

Songs



Chanukah, chag yafe kol kach:

Chanukah, chanukah, chag yafe kol kach
Or chaviv, mi'saviv, gil l'yeled rach
Chanukah, chanukah, sevivon, sov, sov, sov,
Sov sov sov, sov sov sov, sov sov sov sov sov.



We know a man:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFB6pV_UdAg

We know a man his name is Yehudah Maccabee
And he found some oil
So now we light the Chanukiah
Every night, we light a candle more
We gather round the table singing
MAOZ TZUR

We know a man his name is Yehudah Maccabee
And he was so brave
So now we light the Chanukiah
Dreidels spin and we have gifts galore
We gather round the table singing
MAOZ TZUR

Chanukah is here, let's have some fun
The shamash lights the candles one by one
Chanukah is here, we just can't wait



The shamash lights the candles - up to eight
1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8

We know a man his name is Yehudah Maccabee
And he found some oil
So now we light the Chanukiah
Every night, we light a candle more
We gather round the table singing
MAOZ TZUR



Macabee song:

1,2,3,4 [x2]
Take your drum and march along with me,
1,2,3,4,
1, 2, 3, everyone can be a Macabee
Brave and strong we'll march along,
There's lots to do before the day is done,
Chanukah time is here again,
Happy holiday to everyone.



Kad katan:

Kad katan, Kad katan,
Shemona yamim
Sham'no natan



One little, two little, three little candles:

One little, two little, three little candles
Four little, five little, six little candles
Seven little, eight little Chanukah candles
Don't forget the Shamash, **OY!**



Maoz tzur:

Maoz tzur yeshua'ti
Lecha na'eh l'sha-bay'ach



Ti'kon beit t'fi'lati
Ve'sham todah n'zabay'ach.

Le'ate ta'chin mat-bay'ach
Mitzar ham'na'bay'ach
Az eg'mor b'shir miz'mor
Chanukat ha'miz'bay'ach
Az eg'mor b'shir miz'mor
Chanukat ha'miz'bay'ach

Ner Li:

Ner li, Ner li, Ner li dakik
Ba'Chanukah neri adlik
Ba'Chanukah neri ya'ir
Ba'Chanukah shirim a'shir
La,la,la,la,la,la,la,la



Sevion:

Sevion, sov, sov, sov, Chanukah, hu chag tov
Chanukah, hu chag tov, Sevion, sov, sov, sov
Sov na sov, kol hazman, Nes Gadol haya sham
Sov na sov, kol hazman, Nes Gadol haya **sham!**



Maccabeats Chanukah song:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSJC4SR4Muh>

U

Instructions for playing the Dreidel Game!



A dreidel (*sevivon*) has four sides: (Nun), (Gimel), (Hay), (Shin), and is usually played with coins, counters, smarties or raisins. These letters also stand for the words **Nes Gadol Haya Sham** meaning “a great miracle happened there.”

How to play:

- Each player receives 8 counters.
- Each player puts 2 counters into the middle (“the kitty”).
- Spin the dreidel
 - o (Nun) = Nothing
 - o (Gimel) = take the kitty (G for Greedy)
 - o (Hay) = take Half the kitty (if it is an odd number, round it down)
 - o (Shin) = give one to the kitty (SH for Shame!)

- Keep playing until one player in the group is left with nothing **AND** the next player to get a GIMEL then takes the whole kitty. Game over!
- **Until** one player is left with nothing, then every time a GIMEL is scored, the player takes all and a new round starts with each player putting two counters into the kitty.
- After each game, note down the scores of each player.
- Play as many games as you wish and add up the scores.

Websites



Would you like to find out more about Chanukah?

Useful Websites with information about Chanukah as well as videos, arts and crafts ideas and songs:

www.akhlah.com

<http://www.akhlah.com/holidays/chanukah>

www.shalomsesame.org

<http://www.shalomsesame.org/parents-and-educators/chanukah>

www.chabad.org

<http://www.chabad.org/holidays/chanukah>

www.jewishinteractive.net

<http://jewishinteractive.net/site/families/>

www.torahtots.com

<http://www.torahtots.com/holidays/chanuka/chanstr.htm>

Suggested Apps for Chanukah



Chai on Chanukah

1. Chai on Chanukah

iPhone/iTouch

R7.99

This app includes a spinning dreidel game, a menorah that you can light, animated story of Chanuka, English and Transliteration blessings for the lighting on the Menorah.



חג החנוכה

2. חג החנוכה

iPad

Free

An app in Hebrew that contains all the Chanukah songs and blessings.



Menorapp HD

3. Menorapp HD

iPad

Free

A portable, fun, and Jewish guilt-free menorah that you can leave burning even after all the oil runs out!