

What do you know about Hanukkah? Read this article to find out what people do at this special time!

## Instructions

Do the preparation exercise first. Then read the article and do the other exercises.

## Preparation

Match the definitions (a-j) with the vocabulary (1-10).

### Vocabulary

1. h Jewish
2. ..... a tradition
3. ..... to light something
4. ..... a candle
5. ..... Hebrew
6. ..... oil
7. ..... a pancake
8. ..... a doughnut
9. ..... to spin
10. .... a charity

### Definition

- a. to make something burn, like a fire
- b. the official language of Israel, which is based on a very old language
- c. a liquid that, when it's very hot, you can cook food in
- d. a thin, flat, round cake made from flour, milk and egg, that is fried on both sides
- e. to make something go round and round very fast
- f. an organisation which you can give money to, so that it can help people, animals or the environment
- g. a small, round cake that is fried, sometimes with a hole in the middle and sometimes with jam inside
- h. ~~about the religion of Judaism or people of this religion~~
- i. something people usually do at a special time, and have done for many years
- j. a small stick with a string in the middle, which makes light when it burns (like a very small fire) so that you can see in the dark

## Hanukkah

Hanukkah is a Jewish festival that is celebrated for eight days. It is also called the Festival of Lights. It starts on a different day every year, usually in December. People celebrate with different traditions, food, games and gifts.

### Traditions

The biggest tradition of Hanukkah is lighting the menorah. This is a special candle holder with nine candles (or lamps). There is one candle for every day of the festival, and the ninth candle is used to light the other ones. On the first day, you light one candle. On the second day, you light two candles, and you continue until the last day, when you light all the candles. People do this in the evening, and then they put the menorah at a door or a window so that you can see it from outside.

### Family and friends

Hanukkah is a festival that people celebrate with family and friends, often in each other's homes. They sing a lot of songs together, for example when they are lighting the candles. Many songs are in Hebrew, but some people also sing in other languages. They eat oily food (food with a lot of oil) and play games together.

### Food

Oil is an important part of Hanukkah, and so people eat all kinds of food that you make with oil. In some places, people make *latke* – fried potato pancakes – that they eat with apple sauce or sour cream. Another popular food is *sufganiyot*, which are doughnuts filled with strawberry jam.

### Games

It's a tradition to play games with your friends and family at Hanukkah. One game is played with a *dreidel*. This is a small toy with four different sides that you spin. When the dreidel stops spinning, you have to give or take some money, depending on which side of the dreidel you can see. But it's not usually real money! The 'money' can be things like chocolate money, nuts, dried fruit or sweets.

### Gifts

Lots of families give presents during the festival, especially to children. These are usually games that the whole family can play together or books and other small gifts. Many children get some real money too, from their parents or other members of their family. Often they decide to give some of the money to charity.

So, for many Jewish people around the world, Hanukkah is a very happy holiday that families and friends celebrate together in different ways. Happy Hanukkah!

## Tasks

### Task 1

Match the words (a–e) with the traditions (1–5).

Word	Tradition
1. <u>c</u> a menorah	a. doughnuts which have strawberry jam inside
2. <u>latke</u>	b. often games, books or some money
3. <u>sufganiyot</u>	c. <del>a special object that you put the Hanukkah candles in</del>
4. <u>a dreidel</u>	d. potato pancakes which you eat with apple sauce or sour cream
5. <u>presents</u>	e. a toy that you can play games with

### Task 2

Circle true or false for these sentences.

1. Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> True	<input type="radio"/> False
2. An important part of Hanukkah is lighting candles.	<input type="radio"/> True	<input type="radio"/> False
3. You light all the candles every day.	<input type="radio"/> True	<input type="radio"/> False
4. Salt is an important ingredient in Hanukkah food.	<input type="radio"/> True	<input type="radio"/> False
5. Hanukkah is a special time for friends and family.	<input type="radio"/> True	<input type="radio"/> False
6. To play a game with a dreidel, you need to throw it.	<input type="radio"/> True	<input type="radio"/> False
7. You must use real money when you play a dreidel game.	<input type="radio"/> True	<input type="radio"/> False
8. If you get some money for Hanukkah, you can give some of it to charity.	<input type="radio"/> True	<input type="radio"/> False

**Write and draw**

Do people celebrate Hanukkah where you live? Is there a special time of year when you light candles? Write about it and draw a picture.

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## Answers

### Preparation task

1. h
2. i
3. a
4. j
5. b
6. c
7. d
8. g
9. e
10. f

### Task 1

1. c
2. d
3. a
4. e
5. b

### Task 2

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. True
6. False
7. False
8. True