

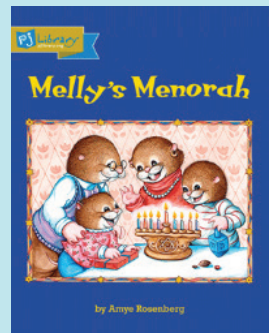
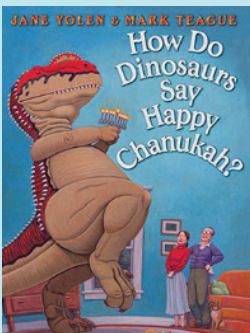
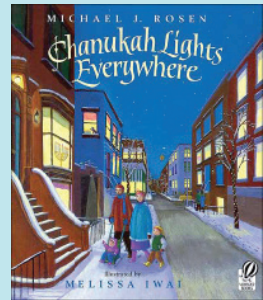
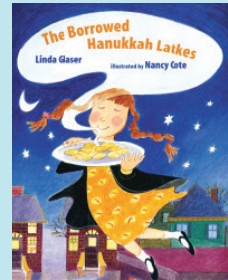
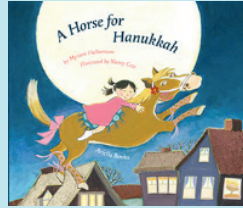
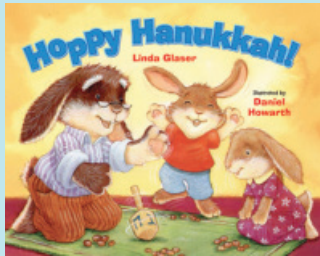


HAPPY HANUKKAH



HANUKKAH BOOKS

Pj Library®



HANUKKAH 101

Hanukkah, or the Festival of Rededication, celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its defilement by the Syrian Greeks in 164 BCE. Although it is a late addition to the Jewish liturgical calendar, the eight-day festival of Hanukkah has become a beloved and joyous holiday. It is also known as the Festival of Lights and takes place in December, at the time of year when the days are shortest in the northern hemisphere.



HISTORICAL ORIGINS

Beginning in 167 BCE, the Jews of Judea rose up in revolt against the oppression of King Antiochus IV Epiphanes of the Seleucid Empire. The military leader of the first phase of the revolt was Judah the Maccabee, the eldest son of the priest Mattityahu (Mattathias). In the autumn of 164, Judah and his followers were able to capture the Temple in Jerusalem, which had been turned into a pagan shrine. They cleansed it and rededicated it to Israel's God. This event was observed in an eight-day celebration, which was patterned on Sukkot, the autumn festival of huts. Much later rabbinic tradition ascribes the length of the festival to a miraculous small amount of oil that burned for eight days.





CELEBRATING AT HOME

Much of the activity of Hanukkah takes place at home. Central to the holiday is the lighting

of the *hanukkiah*, an eight-branched candelabrum to which one candle is added on each day of the holiday until it is ablaze with light on the eighth day. (The *Hanukkiah* is also referred to—erroneously—as a Hanukkah menorah, but a true menorah has a total of only seven branches). In commemoration of the legendary cruse of oil, it is traditional to eat foods fried in oil. The most familiar Hanukkah foods are the European (Ashkenazi) potato pancakes, or *latkes*, and the Israeli favorite, jelly donuts, or *sufganiyot*. The tradition developed in Europe to give small amounts of money as well as nuts and raisins to

children at this time. Under the influence of Christmas, which takes place around the same time of year, Hanukkah has evolved into the central gift-giving holiday in the Jewish calendar in the Western world.





CELEBRATING IN THE COMMUNITY

Since Hanukkah is not biblically ordained, the liturgy for the holiday is not well developed. It is actually a quite minor festival. However, it has become one of the most beloved of Jewish holidays. In an act of defiance against those in the past and in the present who would root out Jewish practice, the observance of Hanukkah has assumed a visible community aspect. Jews will often gather for communal celebrations and public candle lighting. At such celebrations, Hanukkah songs are sung and traditional games such as dreidel are played.

THEOLOGY AND THEMES

Like *Pesach* (Passover), Hanukkah is a holiday that celebrates the liberation from oppression. It also provides a strong argument in favor of freedom of worship and religion. In spite of the human action that is commemorated, never far from the surface is the theology that the liberation was possible only thanks to the miraculous support of the Divine.

Courtesy of MyJewishLearning.com



HANUKKAH BLESSINGS

Candles are added to the *hanukkiyah* (menorah) from right to left but are kindled from left to right. The newest candle is lit first. (On the Shabbat of Hanukkah, kindle the Hanukkah lights first and then the Shabbat candles.)

Light the *shamash* (the helper candle) first, using it to kindle the rest of the Hanukkah lights. As you do, say or sing:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

Blessed are You, Adonai our G-d, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with *mitzvot*, commanding us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שָׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבֹּתֵינוּ
נוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּצִמְּנוּ הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim la'avoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim hahem baz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

FOR FIRST NIGHT ONLY:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֶחֱיָנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַצִּמְּנוּ הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our G-d, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.



HANUKKAH BINGO

To play this game, print 5 Hanukkah Bingo sheets. Each player gets a different Bingo board. Use one of the Hanukkah Bingo sheets to cut every square out separately. Place these cut squares in a hat or box. When the caller pulls an image of the box or hat and it is on a player's board, the player colors that image. When one player gets five colored squares in a row or diagonally that person wins!



HANUKKAH GAMES

8 HANUKKAH NIGHTS



Throughout Hannukah, enrich your family's celebration by enjoying activities together as a group. Consider establishing a theme each night. A special effort each night will go a long toward deepening the family ritual.

In addition to the ideas below, don't forget to read! Read a Hanukkah tale or two by candlelight. PJ Library offers a long list of Hanukkah-related children's books from which to choose. With so many choices, you could a different book every night!

Here are some nightly themes to consider:

1. **DECORATION NIGHT**

Decorate your home with homemade crafts.

2. **MEMORY BOOK NIGHT**

Begin a "scrapbook" to document your family Hanukkah experiences.

3. **SONG NIGHT**

Circle round the Hanukkah lights and sing the holiday classics.

4. **LATKE NIGHT**

Even young children can pat-pat-pat latkes into patties.

5. **COOKIE NIGHT**

Put a Hanukkah twist on the classic sugar cookie.

6. **DREIDEL NIGHT**

Make a night out of spinning the top. Be creative and make your own origami dreidels.



7. **TZEDAKAH GELT NIGHT**

Empty the tzedakah boxes in your home, collect some cash from all family members, or give your children money. Talk about the causes your family cares about, and decide whether you want to donate the money all to one place or to several. Perhaps do this while eating chocolate gelt?!

8. **MITZVAH NIGHT**

Join with another family to visit a local senior facility or read a story to elderly neighbors. Consider having your children go through toy closets to pull out donations for the local family homeless shelter. Perhaps you could Skype with grandparents in order to light the candles together.

HANUKKAH SONGS

HANUKKAH, OH HANUKKAH

Oh Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah,
come light the *menorah*
Let's have a party, we'll all dance the hora
Gather round the table, we'll all have a treat
Sevimon to play with, and *latkes* to eat.
And while we are playing
The candles are burning bright
One for each night, they shed a sweet light
To remind us of days long ago.
One for each night, they shed a sweet light
To remind us of days long ago.

MA'OZ TZUR

Ma'oz tzur yeshua-ti
Lecha na-eh li-sha-beyach
Tikon bait te-fee-lati
Vi-sham todah ni-za-beyach.
Le-ay ta-chin mat-beyach
Mee-tzur ham-na-beyach
Az eg-more vi-sheer meez-mor
Chanuka ha-meez-beyach
Az eg-more vi-sheer meez-mor
Chanuka ha-meez-beyach.

SEVIVON, SOV, SOV, SOV, SOV

Sevimon, sov, sov, sov
Hanukkah, hu chag tov
Hanukkah, hu chag tov Sevimon, sov, sov, sov!
Chag simcha hu la-am
Nes gadol haya sham
Nes gadol haya sham
Chag simcha hu la-am.

I HAVE A LITTLE DREIDEL

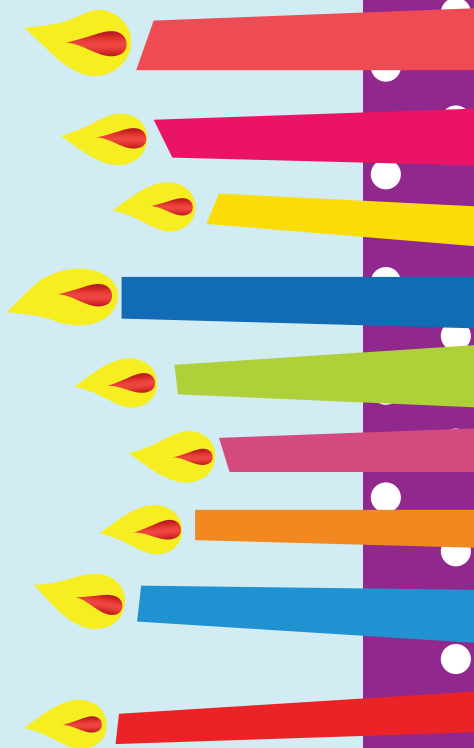
I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then dreidel I shall play!
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then dreidel I shall play!
It has a lovely body
With legs so short and thin
And when my dreidel's tired
It drops and then I win!

(Chorus)

My dreidel's always playful
It loves to dance and spin
A happy game of dreidel
Come play now, let's begin!
(Chorus)

HANUKKAH, HANUKKAH

Hanukkah, Hanukkah
Chag yafeh kol kach
Ohr chaviv, mi-saviv
Gil li-yeled rach.
Hanukkah, Hanukkah
Sevimon, sov, sov
Sov, sov, sov! Sov, sov, sov!
Ma nayim vi-tov.





PJ Library is a gift from the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, made possible by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Blank Family Foundation.



Greater Miami Jewish Federation

Stanley C. Myers Building
4200 Biscayne Boulevard Miami, FL 33137
305.576.4000 | **JewishMiami.org**

The Mission of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation is to mobilize human and financial resources to care for those in need, strengthen Jewish life and advance the unity, values and shared purpose of the Jewish people in Miami, in Israel and around the world.