

Hanukkah

The Festival of Lights is a Jewish festival also known as Hanukkah or Chanukah. Jewish people celebrate by spending time with their family, eating delicious food and playing games. But why do they celebrate this festival?

King Antiochus

Around 2500 years ago, the people of Jerusalem loved to worship in their beautiful temples. King Antiochus was a cruel ruler who wanted everyone to worship Greek Gods, like he did. He ordered the temples to be destroyed and ordered the Jewish people to bow down to him. This is something that is forbidden in the Ten Commandments.

The Maccabees

Judah Maccabee and his brothers formed their own army to try to defeat the King. They were outnumbered but won the battle. The Maccabees went to the temple to repair the damage. They found some oil to burn in their Menorah (a special candle holder). Unfortunately, they only had enough oil for one night. The Maccabees were amazed because the oil lasted for eight days. It was a miracle! They believed that God had watched over them and taken care of them.



Menorah (or candelabrum)

A Menorah is a special candlestick that holds several candles or lamps. Traditionally, Jewish people recite readings whilst the Menorah is lit. They then display it on their table whilst they eat or on a windowsill for people to see.

Celebrations

Hanukkah is a special time for Jewish people, where they get together with their families, play games and sing songs. Hanukkah is also celebrated with delicious food. Pancakes, doughnuts and latkes (like a potato fritter) are all enjoyed with family and friends. Many of the foods eaten are cooked in oil, to symbolise the sacred oil that the Maccabees had in the temple.

Hanukkah Questions

1. Give another name for Hanukkah.

2. How many years ago was King Antiochus fighting people?

3. What is mentioned that is forbidden in the Ten Commandments?

4. What does the word 'outnumbered' mean?

5. How had God watched over the Maccabees in the temple?

6. Give another name for a Menorah.

7. What do Jewish people do when the Menorah is lit?

8. Name two foods that are eaten during Hanukkah.

9. Where is the lit Menorah put in a Jewish household?

10. How would you describe the Maccabees?

Hanukkah Answers

1. Give another name for Hanukkah.
Hanukkah is also known as the Festival of Lights or Chanukah.
2. How many years ago was King Antiochus fighting people?
King Antiochus was fighting people around 2500 years ago.
3. What is mentioned that is forbidden in the Ten Commandments?
It was forbidden for people to bow down to someone.
4. What does the word 'outnumbered' mean?
'Outnumbered' means more people than you. In this case, the King's army was larger than the Maccabees.
5. How had God watched over the Maccabees in the temple?
The Maccabees believed that God watched over them by making the oil last for eight days instead of one.
6. Give another name for a Menorah.
A Menorah is also known as a candelabrum
7. What do Jewish people do when the Menorah is lit?
Jewish people recite readings when the Menorah is lit.
8. Name two foods that are eaten during Hanukkah.
Pancakes, doughnuts and latkes (like a potato fritter) are all enjoyed with family and friends.
9. Where is the lit Menorah put in a Jewish household?
The lit Menorah is put on the table whilst they are eating or on the windowsill.
10. How would you describe the Maccabees?
**Varied answers. May include:
Brave for fighting for what they believed was right.**

Hanukkah

Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights.

King Antiochus

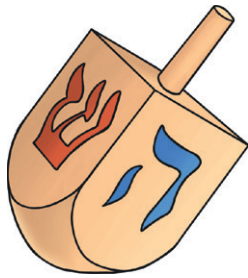
Many years ago, King Antiochus wanted everyone to believe in the Greek Gods and not their own. He and his army burnt temples and banned people from following their own religion.

The Maccabees

When the beautiful temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, Judah Maccabee and his brothers decided to form their own army. They battled with the King and won.

The Menorah

When the Maccabee brothers went to the temple, it needed to be repaired. They found enough oil for one day and so they lit the special candleholder called a Menorah. The Maccabees were amazed when the oil burned for eight days. It was a Hanukkah miracle!



Dreidel

A dreidel is a toy that children play with during Hanukkah celebrations. It is a wooden spinning top that has letters around the outside. The Hebrew letters stand for 'A great miracle happened there.'

Celebrations

The Jewish festival of Hanukkah is celebrated over eight days. People bring gifts and play games. Families get together to have a special meal where the food has been cooked in oil, to remember the oil that the Maccabees had in the temple.

Hanukkah Questions

1. Who did King Antiochus want people to worship?

2. What did the King ban the people from doing?

3. What was the Hanukkah miracle?

4. Name two things that Jewish people do at Hanukkah.

5. What is a dreidel?

6. What do the letters around the edge of the dreidel mean?

7. Why do Jewish people cook food in oil during Hanukkah?

8. How do you think the Maccabees felt after defeating the King?

Hanukkah Answers

1. Who did King Antiochus want people to worship?

King Antiochus wanted people to worship Greek Gods and not their own.

2. What did the King ban the people from doing?

The King banned people from following their own religion.

3. What was the Hanukkah miracle?

The Hanukkah miracle was that the oil lasted for eight days instead of one.

4. Name two things that Jewish people do at Hanukkah.

Two from the following: meet family, play games, exchange gifts, eat a meal together which was cooked in oil.

5. What is a dreidel?

A dreidel is a wooden spinning top that is played with during Hanukkah.

6. What do the letters around the edge of the dreidel mean?

The letters around the edge stand for 'A great miracle happened there,' in Hebrew.

7. Why do Jewish people cook food in oil during Hanukkah?

They cook their food in oil, to remember the oil that the Maccabees had in the temple.

8. How do you think the Maccabees felt after defeating the King?

Varied answers. May include:

They were relieved that the fight was over.

They were happy that they had defeated the King.

Hannukah

Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights.
Here is the story of the Maccabees.

A long time ago, King Antiochus was unkind. He wanted everyone to worship the Gods he worshipped.



King Antiochus set fire to temples and made people bow down to him.



Judah Maccabee and his brothers decided to fight the King and his army, and they won.



They needed to rebuild their temple. They found enough oil to last for one night.



The oil lasted for eight days. It was a miracle! Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah for eight days each year, to remember the Maccabees and the miracle in the temple.

Happy Hanukkah!



Hanukkah Questions

1. Finish this sentence. Hanukkah is the Jewish...

2. What was the name of the King who was unkind to the Jewish people?

3. Which two things did the King do that upset people?

4. Who decided to fight the King?

5. How long did the oil last for?

6. How do you think the Maccabees felt in the temple after eight days?

Hanukkah Answers

1. Finish this sentence. Hanukkah is the Jewish...

Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights.

2. What was the name of the King who was unkind to the Jewish people?

King Antiochus was unkind to the Jewish people.

3. Which two things did the King do that upset people?

The King burnt the churches and made people bow down to him.

4. Who decided to fight the King?

Judah Maccabee and his brothers (the Maccabees) decided to fight the King.

5. How long did the oil last for?

The oil lasted for eight days in the temple.

6. How do you think the Maccabees felt in the temple after eight days?

Varied answers. May include:

The Maccabees felt:

relieved that the oil lasted that long.

amazed that a miracle had happened.

angry that they needed to rebuild the temple.

tired because they had been working hard to rebuild the temple.