

The story of Hanukkah



1. As the pupils enter

Have the webpage open:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/X0894dgLVknjXmH72SbBmB/the-story-of-hanukkah>

Play your chosen music and light the hanukkah or display the picture:

<http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/assemblies/images/hanukkah.jpg>

2. Introduction

Light the candles of the hanukkah / menorah if you have one.

Look at this [picture of a] very special light...

Can you see how many different candles there are..?

How do the flickering candle lights make you feel..?

Why do you think this light has nine different candles..?

Can anyone say what light this is - or why it is special..?

This light is called a hanukkah (or 'menorah') and it's special because it's an important part of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah [which happens at about this time of year]. We're going to watch a story now - about a Jewish family and about the celebration of Hanukkah. And if you watch carefully you'll find out why the light is special and also why it has so many candles.

[Play the dreidel game before or after the video if you wish to include it.]

3. Play the video

Click on the 'Play video' button to load the video page. The video should play automatically. Display the video full-size using the toolbar buttons. The duration is 3' 46". The final words are: '...tell the story of Hanukkah to his mum and dad.'

4 & 5. Time to talk

After the video you may wish to explain that eight of the candles represent the eight miracle days, while the ninth is the one used to light the others. Then use the story questions to help you draw deeper meanings from what the children have seen and heard. Recap what the children have learnt about Hanukkah from the video - you could ask them to decide which part of the story they think is the most important for Jewish families to remember and why.

6. Time to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song.

Play video



7. Opportunity to reflect

*We've been thinking today about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah...
About the fun things that Jewish families do at Hanukkah...
And about how important remembering the story of 'the miracle of the oil' is to celebrating Hanukkah...
I wonder what things you try to remember together in your family..?
What games you play and what stories you tell..?
And what fun you have..?
Think about those things for a few moments now...*

8. Opportunity for prayer

*Dear God.
We thank you for our families and for all the things we learn from our families at home.
Thank you for the special times we spend together, having fun, playing games or telling stories.
Help us to treasure these precious moments.
Amen.*