

Hanukkah



1. As the pupils enter

Have the webpage open:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-hanukkah/zj3h2v4>

Play your chosen music and display the picture of a hanukkah:

<http://teach.files.bbci.co.uk/schoolradio/assemblies/images/hanukkiah.jpg>

2. Your introduction to the video

[Light the candles of the hanukkiah / menorah if you have one. Then:]

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 hanukkiah (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

Play the video. Duration: 2' 48". Final words: 'Happy Hanukkah!'

4 & 5. Time to talk

Use the video questions to help you to draw deeper meanings from what the children have seen: 1. What was the name of the Jewish tribe fighting to regain the temple? 2. How much oil remained in the temple? 3. How long did the oil actually last? 4. What special food were the family preparing? 5. What do the markings on the dreidel mean? 6. What do the eight candles of the hanukkah symbolise?

You could ask pupils to decide which part of the story they think was the most important for Jewish families to remember and why. What other festivals do pupils know of that involve candles / light? What makes the light special - why is it so powerful / effective?

6. Time to sing

An opportunity for you 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.