

Hanukkah: Eight Nights of Light

A2 | Teens / Adults | Reading + Vocabulary + Discussion | 30-40 minutes

BEFORE YOU READ

Talk with a partner. What do families do on special evenings?

1. Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- | | | |
|------------|-------|---|
| 1. Jewish | _____ | A. the number after seven |
| 2. candle | _____ | B. connected with Jewish people or religion |
| 3. menorah | _____ | C. music that people sing |
| 4. eight | _____ | D. a stick of wax with a small flame |
| 5. oil | _____ | E. a thick liquid used in cooking or lamps |
| 6. song | _____ | F. a special candleholder for Hanukkah |

2. Read the article. The bold words are the vocabulary from Activity 1.

1. Hanukkah is a **Jewish** holiday. It lasts for **eight** nights. It remembers an old story about a temple in Jerusalem.
2. In the story, there was only a little **oil** for a lamp. But the oil gave light for eight days. This is why light is important at Hanukkah.
3. Families light **candles** on a **menorah**. They light one more candle each night. Families may put the menorah in a window.
4. People may eat food, play games and sing a **song**. Hanukkah is a time for family and for remembering an important story.

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UNDERSTAND, DISCUSS AND WRITE

3. Comprehension. Answer in complete sentences. Use the article to help you.

1. What kind of holiday is Hanukkah?

2. How many nights does it last?

3. What did the oil do in the story?

4. What do families light?

5. What may people do at Hanukkah?

4. Discuss. Talk in small groups. Give reasons and examples.

- What do you do with family in the evening?
- Do you like candles?
- What stories are important in your family?
- What games do you play at a holiday?

5. Homework: Write a short paragraph.

Write 5-6 sentences about a special evening with family or friends.

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ANSWER KEY AND TEACHING NOTE

Vocabulary matching

1. Jewish - B
2. candle - D
3. menorah - F
4. eight - A
5. oil - E
6. song - C

Comprehension answers

1. What kind of holiday is Hanukkah?

It is a Jewish holiday.

2. How many nights does it last?

It lasts for eight nights.

3. What did the oil do in the story?

It gave light for eight days.

4. What do families light?

They light candles on a menorah.

5. What may people do at Hanukkah?

They may eat food, play games and sing songs.

Teaching note

Compare matching answers before reading. Accept other article-supported comprehension answers; discussion and homework answers vary. Discuss customs respectfully, distinguishing religious, cultural and personal traditions.