



Read the text and mark the statements

True (1), False (2), Not Stated (3).

Happy Hanukkah

On Thursday, Jewish families residing in the US are in for a double holiday -Thanksgiving and the first full day of Hanukkah, which begins today (on November 27th, 1913) at sundown. It is also known as the Festival of Lights. The last time these two special celebrations coincided was in 1888. Thanksgiving, which by law is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, is a little late this year, while the 25th day of Kislev (the evening the holiday officially begins), which is determined by the lunar calendar, is the earliest it can be.

Hanukkah is almost like an extended eight-day version of Thanksgiving in terms of the delicious food that families eat. Kids are especially thrilled because believe it or not, one of the rituals of this fun festival is receiving gifts every single day, for eight days!

The folklore behind this important Jewish holiday dates back 2,200 years, when a Greek king tried to introduce his culture and make the people accept it though most of them were Jewish. The residents fought for three years before taking back the temple on Jerusalem's Mount Moriah. Inside, they discovered a small amount of oil, which they were sure, would keep the temple light burning for one day. To their surprise, the oil lasted for eight days, which is why Hanukkah is celebrated for that length of time. Thanks to the legend, the most important ritual of the holiday is the lighting of the Menorah, a holder with nine candles. Eight candles are lit one at a time, to mark each day of the festival. The ninth, known as the Shamash (servant), is used to light the others. Over the years, Menorahs have become increasingly elegant and unique. While in the past some of them were carved out of chocolate, this year they have taken on a thanksgiving theme, like traditional candleholders including turkeys and even the Mayflower! As with most fun festivals, food is a big part of Hanukkah. While most years it includes favorites like Sufganiyot, a jelly donut cooked in oil, this year there may have to be some compromises - the menu includes mashed potatoes, bread shaped like a turkey, donuts filled with jelly and cranberries. No matter what is on the dinner table, it is to be delicious!

1. The holiday Hanukkah symbolizes stars.
2. Thanksgiving holiday is celebrated on the fixed date.
3. The date of Hanukkah is not based on the usual calendar.
4. The presents children get during Hanukkah are usually sweets and toys.
5. The legend about the magic oil on Mount Moriah explains the origin of Hanukkah.
6. The legend tells us how many candles must be lighted and what candleholders must be used.
7. Menorah is the most important candle.
8. People use Menorahs of different shapes.