

Hanukkah

Paragraph 1

Hanukkah is one of the most important celebrations in the Jewish calendar. It means the Festival of Lights. It is an eight-day holiday that takes place each year in November or December. The festival is to celebrate a miracle that happened in the Second Temple in Jerusalem. A Syrian king took the temple from the Jews. In 164BC, a small group of people called the Maccabees revolted against the king and took back their temple. Their leader Judah Maccabee decided to cleanse the altar by burning olive oil in a special candle holder called a Menorah. They only had enough to burn for one day, yet miraculously, it burned for eight days and nights. Jewish elders declared an eight-day holiday to commemorate this miracle.

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. one of the most important celebrations | a. miracle that happened |
| 2. an eight-day holiday that takes | b. eight days and nights |
| 3. The festival is to celebrate a | c. place each year |
| 4. A Syrian king took the temple from | d. burning olive oil |
| 5. cleanse the altar by | e. in the Jewish calendar |
| 6. it burned for | f. the Jews. |

Paragraph 2

Today the festival is observed by lighting the lights of the family Menorah. One light is lit on each night of the holiday until there are eight lights on the final night. Families also say prayers throughout the festival, especially after meals. In Israel, schools close for a week to celebrate Hanukkah. Families exchange gifts and eat festive food. Potato pancakes and fruit-filled doughnuts are the most traditional food, but there is also a custom of frying or baking food in olive oil. Hanukkah is also a time for singing and playing games. There are more songs for Hanukkah than for any other Jewish celebration. The most traditional game is played using a four-sided spinning top, called a *dreidel*, and coins or tokens.

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. One light is | a. prayers throughout the festival |
| 2. Families also say | b. spinning top |
| 3. schools close | c. eat festive food |
| 4. Families exchange gifts and | d. lit on each night |
| 5. there is also a custom | e. for a week |
| 6. a four-sided | f. of frying or baking food |

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Hanukkah is one of the _____ important celebrations in the Jewish calendar. It means the Festival of Lights. It is an eight-day holiday that takes _____ each year in November or December. The festival is to celebrate a _____ that happened in the Second Temple in Jerusalem. A Syrian king _____ the temple from the Jews. In 164BC, a small group of people called the Maccabees revolted against the king and took _____ their temple. Their leader Judah Maccabee decided to cleanse the altar by burning olive oil in a special candle holder _____ a Menorah. They only had enough to burn for one day, yet miraculously, it _____ for eight days and nights. Jewish elders declared an eight-day holiday to commemorate this _____.

back
miracle
miracle
most
burned
took
called
place

Today the festival is _____ by lighting the lights of the family Menorah. One light is _____ on each night of the holiday until there are eight lights on the _____ night. Families also say prayers throughout the festival, especially after meals. In Israel, schools close for a week to _____ Hanukkah. Families exchange gifts and eat festive food. Potato pancakes and fruit-_____ doughnuts are the most traditional food, but there is also a custom of frying or baking _____ in olive oil. Hanukkah is also a time for singing and playing games. There are more _____ for Hanukkah than for any other Jewish celebration. The most traditional game is played using a four-sided spinning top, _____ a *dreidel*, and coins or tokens.

filled
songs
final
celebrate
observed
called
food
lit

Choose the most suitable word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

Hanukkah is one of the *most / mostly* important celebrations in the Jewish calendar. It means the Festival of Lights. It is an eight-day holiday that *took / takes* place each year in November or December. The festival is to *celebration / celebrate* a miracle that happened in the Second Temple in Jerusalem. A Syrian king *mistook / took* the temple from the Jews. In 164BC, a small *group / groups* of people called the Maccabees revolted against the king and took back their temple. Their leader Judah Maccabee decided to cleanse the altar *by / for* burning olive oil in a special candle holder called a Menorah. They only had enough to burn for one day, *yet / still* miraculously, it burned for eight days and nights. Jewish elders declared an eight-day holiday to commemorate this *miraculous / miracle*.

Today the festival is *observation / observed* by lighting the lights of the family Menorah. One light is *light / lit* on each night of the holiday until there are eight lights on the *finally / final* night. Families also say prayers throughout the festival, especially after meals. In Israel, schools close for a week *for / to* celebrate Hanukkah. Families exchange gifts and eat festive food. Potato pancakes and fruit-filled doughnuts are the most traditional food, but there is also a *customs / custom* of frying or baking food in olive oil. Hanukkah is also a time for singing and *played / playing* games. There are more songs for Hanukkah than for any *another / other* Jewish celebration. The most traditional game is played using a four-sided spinning top, *called / calling* a *dreidel*, and coins or tokens.

Multiple Choice

Hanukkah is one of the most (1) _____ celebrations in the Jewish calendar. It means the Festival of Lights. It is an eight-day holiday that takes (2) _____ each year in November or December. The festival is to celebrate a miracle that (3) _____ in the Second Temple in Jerusalem. A Syrian king took the temple from the Jews. In 164BC, a small group of people called the Maccabees revolted (4) _____ the king and took back their temple. Their leader Judah Maccabee decided to cleanse the altar by burning olive oil in a special candle (5) _____ called a Menorah. They only had enough to burn for one day, yet miraculously, it burned for eight days and nights. Jewish elders declared an eight-day holiday to commemorate (6) _____ miracle.

Today the festival is (7) _____ by lighting the lights of the family Menorah. One light is lit on each night of the holiday (8) _____ there are eight lights on the final night. Families also say prayers throughout the festival, especially after meals. In Israel, schools close for a week (9) _____ celebrate Hanukkah. Families exchange gifts and eat festive food. Potato pancakes and fruit-(10) _____ doughnuts are the most traditional food, but there is also a custom of frying or baking food in olive oil. Hanukkah is also a time for singing and playing games. There are more songs for Hanukkah (11) _____ for any other Jewish celebration. The most traditional game is played using a four-sided spinning top, (12) _____ a dreidel, and coins or tokens.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) importance | (b) important | (c) importantly | (d) imports |
| 2. | (a) place | (b) placed | (c) placing | (d) places |
| 3. | (a) happened | (b) happening | (c) happens | (d) happen |
| 4. | (a) for | (b) versus | (c) back | (d) against |
| 5. | (a) holds | (b) hold | (c) holding | (d) holder |
| 6. | (a) than | (b) this | (c) these | (d) that |
| 7. | (a) observation | (b) observes | (c) observed | (d) observe |
| 8. | (a) until | (b) yet | (c) still | (d) after |
| 9. | (a) at | (b) to | (c) for | (d) so |
| 10. | (a) filled | (b) fills | (c) fill | (d) fill up |
| 11. | (a) that | (b) this | (c) then | (d) than |
| 12. | (a) calling | (b) call | (c) called | (d) calls |

Spell the **jumbled** words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

- one of the most important crlsieoabten _____
- The festival is to celebrate a raceilm that happened _____
- lsneeac the altar _____
- unibngr olive oil in a special candle holder _____
- miyrlucusaol, it burned for eight days and nights _____
- Jewish elders declared an eight-day holiday to crtammoemeeo this _____

Paragraph 2

7. the festival is vredbsoe by lighting the lights
8. say prayers ttrhuouogh the festival
9. Families excgaenh gifts
10. eat visteef food
11. a oscmut of frying or baking food in olive oil
12. The most otarliandti game is played

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () traditional game is played using a four-sided spinning top, called a dreidel, and coins or tokens.
- () declared an eight-day holiday to commemorate this miracle.
- () to cleanse the altar by burning olive oil in a special candle holder called a Menorah. They only had enough to burn
- () playing games. There are more songs for Hanukkah than for any other Jewish celebration. The most
- () of people called the Maccabees revolted against the king and took back their temple. Their leader Judah Maccabee decided
- () happened in the Second Temple in Jerusalem. A Syrian king took the temple from the Jews. In 164BC, a small group
- () Today the festival is observed by lighting the lights of the family Menorah. One light is lit on each
- () after meals. In Israel, schools close for a week to celebrate Hanukkah. Families exchange gifts and eat
- (1 Hanukkah is one of the most important celebrations in the Jewish calendar. It means the
-) Festival of Lights. It is an
- () night of the holiday until there are eight lights on the final night. Families also say prayers throughout the festival, especially
- () of frying or baking food in olive oil. Hanukkah is also a time for singing and
- () for one day, yet miraculously, it burned for eight days and nights. Jewish elders
- () eight-day holiday that takes place each year in November or December. The festival is to celebrate a miracle that
- () festive food. Potato pancakes and fruit-filled doughnuts are the most traditional food, but there is also a custom

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1.	one is Hanukkah celebrations important most the of
2.	miracle is that to happened celebrate The a festival
3.	altar burning oil the by olive cleanse
4.	eight , days it and burned nights for miraculously
5.	commemorate - this day miracle holiday an to eight
6.	lights the Menorah the of family lighting
7.	also prayers the Families say throughout festival
8.	exchange and festive Families gifts eat food
9.	of baking olive custom or in a frying food oil
10.	top a four spinning called a sided , dreidel -

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____