Vocabulary

A. Match these words to their definitions.

1. defeat (v)	.....	A. in place of
2. during	.....	B. to gain control or responsibility for something from someone else
3. religion	.....	C. the act of working had and putting in effort towards a goal or task.
4. instead of	.....	D. to win against or overcome an opponent or obstacle
5. take over	.....	E. at some point in time, while something is happening.
6. dedication	.....	G. a set of beliefs, practices, and values related to a higher power or deity

B. Complete the sentences with the words below. There is one EXTRA word.

land / pray / culture / custom / stand for / miracle

1. Ann had a ..... recovery from her illness.
2. It's a ..... in India to greet elders with 'Namaste'.
3. Many people dream of owing a piece of ..... in Keisaria, Israel.
4. The Japanese ..... is different from Indian.
5. I ..... everyone being treated equally, the same.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

“Festival of Lights,” Hanukkah

Hanukkah is a Jewish festival. It usually happens in November or December. The word 'Hanukkah' means 'dedication' in Hebrew. The festival remembers when the Jewish people won a big fight against the Greeks about 2,000 years ago. The Jews lived in Israel at that time but the Greeks took over their land. They wanted the Jews to be like the Greeks and not follow their own religion. But the Jews didn't want this. They didn’t want to follow Greek customs. They wanted to follow their own culture and religion. So, Jews started a fight against the Greeks. In the end, the Jews defeated the Greeks and took control of their land. When the Jews went back to their temple (a special building where they prayed), they saw that it was very dirty because of the fighting. They cleaned it and then they wanted to light a special lamp called the menorah. But there was only enough oil for one day, and it needed eight days to make new oil. But a miracle happened: the oil lasted for eight days instead of one! This is why Hanukkah lasts for eight days. On the first day of Hanukkah, Jewish families light one candle on the menorah. On the second day, they light two candles. Every day they light another candle until there are eight candles. They also give presents to each other, and children play a game with a spinning top called a dreidel. The dreidel has four Hebrew letters on it: nun, gimel, hey, shin. These letters stand for the sentence 'Nes gadol haya sham', which means 'A great miracle happened there'.

People win chocolate coins or nuts if they get a certain letter. Jewish people also eat special food during Hanukkah. They eat food cooked in oil, like potato pancakes called latkes, and doughnuts filled with jam. The oil in the food reminds them of the oil in the menorah. During Hanukkah, Jewish people remember how the Jews got back their temple and their land, and that miracles can happen.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

QUESTIONS:

A. Circle the correct answer.

1. Why did the Greeks take over the land of the Jewish people?

A. To make them follow Greek customs

B. To help them practice their own religion

C. To improve their living conditions

D. To establish peace between the two cultures

2. What do the Hebrew letters on the dreidel stand for?

A. A great miracle happened here.

B. A great miracle happened there.

C. A great miracle happened everywhere.

D. A great miracle happened nowhere.

3. Why do Jewish people eat food cooked in oil during Hanukkah?

A. Because it is a tradition passed down from the Greeks.

B. Because it reminds them of the oil in the menorah.

C. Because it symbolizes victory in the fight against the Greeks.

D. Because it is considered a sacred food during the festival.

B. Which of the sentences are True? Which are False?

1. Circle T (for true) or F (for false).

2. Correct the False sentences.

1. The Jewish people won a big fight against the Romans about 2,000 years ago. T / F

_____

2. The Greeks wanted the Jews to follow their own religion. T / F

_____

3. Hanukkah is a festival that lasts for four days. T / F

_____

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C. Which Title Fits Best? Circle the correct title.

1. How does the dreidel game connect to Jewish traditions during Hanukkah?
2. What is the significance of chocolate coins in Hanukkah?
3. The Miracle of Hanukkah: A Celebration of Dedication and Miracles

D. Answer the following questions:

1. Where did the Jews live at that time?

_____

_____

2. Why did the Jewish people fight against the Greeks?

_____

_____

3. What happened when the Jews went back to their temple after defeating the Greeks?

_____

_____

4. Besides lighting candles, what other traditions are associated with Hanukkah?

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5. Why do Jewish people eat food cooked in oil during Hanukkah?

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LIVEWORKSHEETS