

Hanukkah



Religious Education KS1
Judaism



Hanukkah



The Jewish festival of **Hanukkah** lasts eight days. It celebrates the cleansing of the Temple after a victorious battle. There was only one day's worth of ritual oil left, but this lasted a full eight days. These events happened over 2,000 years ago, but are celebrated today in the festival of Hanukkah.

Share the story on the following pages with the children. You can also download the accompanying PowerPoint to display the story to the class.



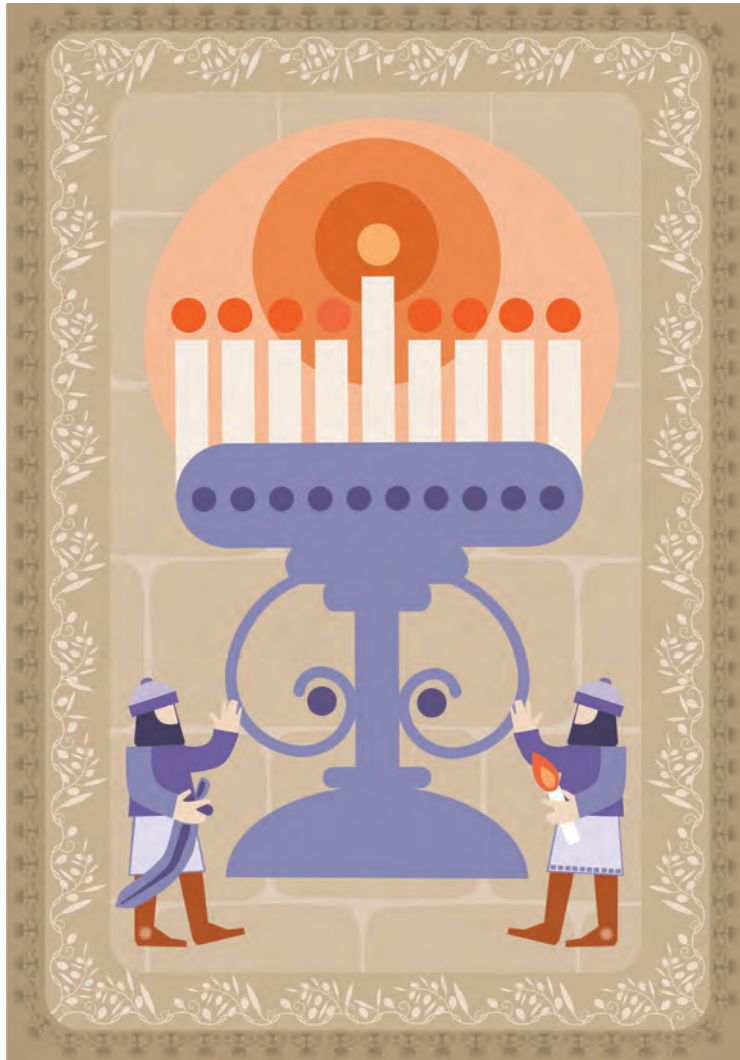


In 168 B.C.E. the Temple in Jerusalem was taken over by Syrian-Greek soldiers, and used to worship the Greek god, Zeus.

This upset the Jewish people, but many were afraid to fight in case they lost.

Later, the Syrian-Greek emperor Antiochus insisted all Jews worship Zeus and not Yahweh.





A revolt was then led by the Maccabees.

Jewish troops eventually won the battle.

They wanted to cleanse the Temple by burning ritual oil in the Temple's menorah for eight days.

But to their dismay, they discovered that there was only one day's worth of oil left in the Temple.



They lit the menorah anyway and to their surprise the small amount of oil lasted the full eight days.

They thought this was a miracle.

Ever since, this is remembered during the festival of Hanukkah.



Families celebrate Hanukkah by lighting one candle each evening during the eight day festival.





People also eat special foods, such as doughnuts and potato latkes. Potato latkes are made from grated potatoes and onion, and then fried.





Families play a special game called **Dreidel**.





It is a time for celebration and fun.

But Jewish people also remember the serious story, associated with the worship of God.





Questions

Which part of the story did you like most?

What do you think of the Jewish people refusing to worship Zeus?

Try making potato latkes with the children, you can use the iChild recipe.

<https://www.ichild.co.uk/activities/view/5q2uvwcAriFkJD2VTHSeTA/Potato-Onion-Latke-Recipe>

You'll also find lots more Hanukkah resources, such as colouring in sheets, greeting cards and crafts in iChild's Hanukkah section.

<https://www.ichild.co.uk/tags/browse/T74YqjSEuq2SigUYgwiOW/Hanukkah>

Happy Hanukkah!

