

## Quiz – read the information and fill out the questions!



*Israel is on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea.*

Hanukkah is a festival celebrated by Jewish people - followers of the religion of Judaism.

At certain times in history, the regions of Israel have been part of other countries. The leaders of these countries have sometimes made it hard for Jewish people to worship.

One of the holiest places for Jewish people is Jerusalem. Hanukkah celebrates a miracle that happened in Jerusalem in ancient times.



*Antiochus's soldiers took over the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.*

Over 2000 years ago, Jerusalem was in an area called Judea. Kings of surrounding countries were always trying to control Judea as they wanted to make their own kingdoms bigger and more powerful. One king from Syria, Antiochus IV, attacked Jerusalem. He tried to force people to practise a different religion and decided that their temple would now worship the god Zeus.



*Mattathias and his five sons led a rebel Jewish army known as the Maccabees.*

The Jewish people were very angry and upset. They started their own army, called the Maccabees. The army, led by Mattathias the priest and his five sons, succeeded in driving out King Antiochus and his Syrian army.

They carried on battling, extending their lands, and created a new, Jewish 'Land of Israel'. The festival of Hanukkah celebrates the Maccabees' achievements, especially that of restoring the temple in Jerusalem to the Jewish faith.

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*The temple menorah is a lamp with seven burners.*

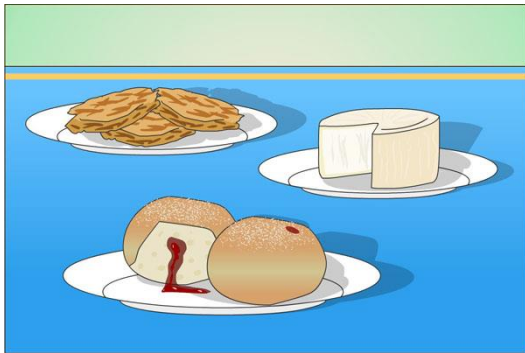
To make the temple in Jerusalem Jewish again, pure olive oil was needed to keep the menorah alight. The temple menorah is a holy lamp which has seven burners. It needed to stay lit all night, every night. But the oil containers had been spoilt. Only one remained. But, even though there was only enough oil left for one night, the lamps burned on... for eight nights! Hanukkah lasts eight days to remember this.



*During Hanukkah, candles are lit each night.*

Hanukkah is a time for giving thanks. Each Jewish home has its own menorah, called a Hanukkiyah. Each night, for eight nights, an extra candle is added and all are lit. The middle candle (the ninth one) is used to light the other candles. As the candles are lit, special blessings are said.

On the last night, families eat a meal together, exchange gifts and play games.



*Certain dishes are popular at Hanukkah, particularly fried foods.*

During Hanukkah people eat potato pancakes, fried in oil, called latkes. Jam-filled doughnuts are also common as treats. Fried food is very popular at Hanukkah because it reminds people of the miracle of the oil in the Jerusalem temple.

Cheese dishes are eaten to remember another, older, story about a heroine called Judith. She fed cheese and wine to the general of an opposing army – and then killed him when he fell asleep.

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Use these questions as a multiple choice or delete the choices for sentence answers.

1	Who celebrates Hanukkah?	Jewish people.  People who live in Jerusalem.  Leaders of countries.
2	What did King Antiochus IV do?	He started Hanukkah.  He built a temple.  He attacked Jerusalem.
3	Who was Mattathias?	A woman from Israel.  The leader of the Jewish army.  A friend of the Syrians.
4	How long does Hanukkah go on for?	One night.  Eight nights.  Seven nights.
5	Why does a Hanukkiyah have nine candles?	To keep it burning brightly.  There is one for every night of Hanukkah and an extra for lighting the others.  In case some candles go out.
6	What sort of food is eaten during Hanukkah?	Pancakes.  Oily fish.  Mashed potatoes.