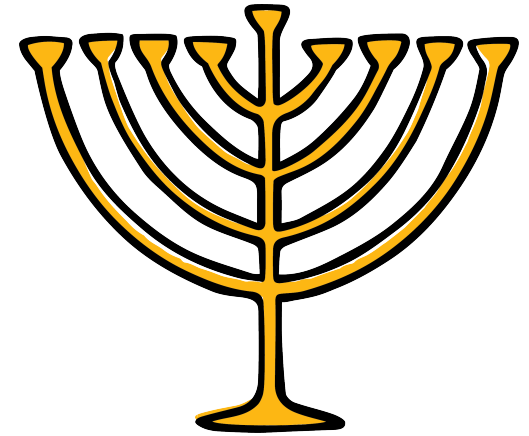


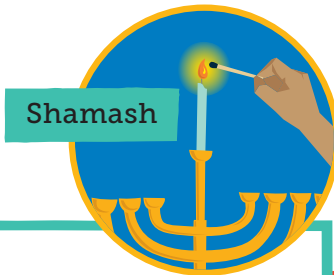
All Things Hanukkah



Happy Hanukkah

Lighting the Hanukkah menorah

Light the *Shamash*, the helper candle, first. Then say two blessings – one for lighting the candles, and one for miracles.



Baruch ata Adonai,
Eloheinu melech ha'olam,
asher kideshanu bemitzvotav
vetzivanu lehadlik ner shel
Hanukkah



Dear God, Creator of our world,
thank You for giving us rules that
make our lives special and for
teaching us to light these
Hanukkah candles.

ברוך אתה יי א-להינו מלך העולם אשר
קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה

Amen

Use the Shamash to light the other candles, starting with the newest candle, on the left.

Baruch ata Adonai,
Eloheinu melech ha'olam,
sheh'asa nisim lavoteinu
bayamim haheim bazman
hazeh



Dear God, Creator of our
world, thank you for performing
miracles for our ancestors,
long ago and now.

ברוך אתה יי א-להינו מלך העולם שעשה
נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה

Amen



The candles are placed in the menorah from **right to left**, with one more candle added each night.

If it's the first night of Hanukkah, add a third blessing for celebrating.

Baruch ata Adonai,
Eloheinu melech ha'olam,
shehecheyanu
vekiyemanu
vehigi'anu
lazman hazeh.



Dear God, Creator of our world,
thank you for keeping us
alive so we can celebrate this
important moment.

ברוך אתה יי א-להינו מלך העולם
שהחיינו וקימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה

Amen

Hanukkah Story for Kids 5 and Under

A long, long time ago in the land of Israel, the most special place for the Jewish people was the Temple (synagogue) in Jerusalem. The Temple contained many beautiful objects, including a tall, golden menorah. Unlike menorahs of today, this one had seven (rather than nine) branches. Instead of being lit by candles or light bulbs, this menorah burned oil. Every evening, oil would be poured into the cups that sat on top of the menorah. The Temple would be filled with shimmering light.

At the time of the Hanukkah story, a mean king named Antiochus ruled over the land of Israel. "I don't like these Jewish people," declared Antiochus. "They are so different from me. I don't celebrate Shabbat or read from the Torah, so why should they?" Antiochus made many new, cruel rules. "No more celebrating Shabbat! No more going to the Temple, and no more Torah!" shouted Antiochus. He told his guards to go into the Temple and make a mess. They brought mud, stones, and garbage into the Temple. They broke furniture and knocked things down; they smashed the jars of oil that were used to light the menorah.

Antiochus and his soldiers made the Jews feel sad and angry. A Jewish man named Judah Maccabee said, "We must stop Antiochus! We must think of ways to make him leave the land of Israel." At first, Judah's followers, called the Maccabees, were afraid. "Judah," they said, "Antiochus has so many soldiers. His soldiers carry such big weapons and he uses huge elephants to fight his battles! How can we Jews, who don't have weapons, fight against him?" Judah said, "If we think very hard and plan very carefully, we will be able to defeat him." It took a long time, but at last the Maccabees chased Antiochus and his men out of Israel.

As soon as Antiochus and his soldiers were gone, the Jewish people ran to Jerusalem to clean their Temple. What a mess! The beautiful menorah was gone, and the floor was covered with trash, broken furniture, and pieces from the shattered jars of oil. The Maccabees built a new menorah. At first they worried that they would not be able to light their new menorah, but they searched and searched, until at last they found one tiny jar of oil – enough to light the menorah for just one evening. The Maccabees knew that it would be at least eight days before they could get more oil, but they lit the menorah anyway. To their surprise, this little jar of oil burned for eight days. The Jewish people could not believe their good fortune. First, their small army had chased away Antiochus' large army, and now the tiny jar of oil had lasted for eight whole days!

Hanukkah Story for Kids 6 and Up

The story of Hanukkah happened a long, long time ago in the land of Israel. At that time, the Holy Temple in Jerusalem was the most special place for the Jewish people.

The Temple contained many beautiful objects, including a tall, golden menorah. Unlike menorahs of today, this one had seven (rather than nine) branches and was lit not by candles or light bulbs, but by oil. Every evening, oil would be poured into the cups that sat on top of the menorah. The Temple would glow with shimmering light.

At the time of the Hanukkah story, a cruel king named Antiochus ruled over the land of Israel. "I don't like the Jewish people," declared Antiochus. "They are so different from me. I don't celebrate Shabbat or read from the Torah, so why should they?" Antiochus ordered the Jewish people to stop being Jewish and to pray to Greek gods. "No more going to the Temple, no more celebrating Shabbat, and no more Torah!" shouted Antiochus. He sent his guards to ransack the Temple. They brought mud and garbage into the Temple. They broke furniture, tore curtains, and smashed the jars of oil that were used to light the menorah.

This made the Jews very angry. One Jew named Judah Maccabee cried out, "We must stop Antiochus! We must think of ways to make him leave the land of Israel." At first, Judah's followers, called the Maccabees, were afraid. "Judah," they said, "Antiochus has so many soldiers and they carry such big weapons. He even uses elephants to fight his battles. How can we Jews, who don't have weapons, fight against him?" Judah replied, "If we think very hard and plan very carefully, we will be able to defeat him." It took a long time, but at last the Maccabees chased Antiochus and his men out of Israel.

As soon as Antiochus and his soldiers were gone, the Jewish people hurried to Jerusalem to clean their Temple. What a mess! The beautiful menorah was gone, and the floor was covered with trash, broken furniture, and jagged pieces from the shattered jars of oil. The Maccabees built a new menorah. At first they worried that they would not be able to light their new menorah, but they searched and searched, until at last they found one tiny jar of oil -- enough to light the menorah for just one evening. The Maccabees knew that it would be at least eight days until they could prepare more oil, but they lit the menorah anyway. To their surprise, this little jar of oil burned for eight days. The Jewish people could not believe their good fortune. First, their small army had chased away Antiochus' large army, and now the tiny jar of oil had lasted for eight whole days!


The Jewish people prayed and thanked God for these miracles. Every year during Hanukkah, Jews light menorahs for eight days to remember the miracles that happened long ago.


How to Play Dreidel


To set up, distribute the tokens evenly among the players.

Arrange yourselves in a circle. Have each player put one of their tokens into the center – the “pot.”

Now take turns spinning the dreidel. When it lands, the letter facing up will tell the player what to do:

 **Nun: Nothing.** Don't take from or add to the pot.

 **Gimel: All.** Take all of the tokens from the pot.

 **Hay: Half out.** Take half of the tokens from the pot.

 **Shin: One in.** Add one token to the pot.



Anytime the pot is emptied, each player puts one token back in before the next person spins. As players run out of tokens, they're out – and the last person remaining is the winner!

Supplies:

Dreidel

At least 10 tokens per player
(tokens can be any small
item – dried beans, chocolate
coins, pennies, etc.)



STAINED-GLASS COOKIES

Watch light pass through these cookies before you take a bite!

INGREDIENTS:

- ½ cup softened butter
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 large egg
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup crushed hard candy

*Tip: Are you short on time?
Use premade dough and
skip down to step 3.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Using a mixer, cream together butter and sugar until fluffy. Add egg and vanilla extract. In a separate bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, and salt.
- 2 Gradually add dry ingredients to the butter, and cream the mixture. Wrap tightly with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least an hour.
- 3 Preheat oven to 350 degrees. On a lightly-floured surface, roll out batter about ¼ inch thick.
- 4 Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes. Cut a small circle in the middle of each shape with a butter knife or smaller cookie cutter.
- 5 Place shapes on a parchment-lined baking sheet and bake for 5 minutes.
- 6 Remove the baking sheet, and carefully spoon ½ teaspoon of crushed hard candy into the center of each cookie.
- 7 Bake for 4-5 more minutes, or until the candy has melted completely.
- 8 Cool, first for 15 minutes on baking sheet, then move to cooling rack.

FIRST NIGHT. The only ritual component of Hanukkah is lighting the menorah and saying the blessings. (Visit pjlibrary.org/hanukkah to see and hear blessings.) Everything else is optional – fried food, tales of Jewish heroism, gifts and gelt. Ritually speaking, it's all about the light, and for each of eight nights, bringing a little more of it into the world.

UPCYCLED CRAYON CANDLES

This bright idea turns something old into something new and wonderful.

MATERIALS:

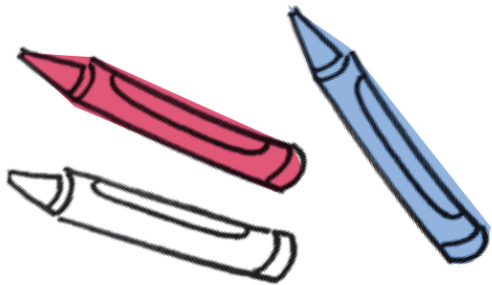
Old crayons

Plastic bag

Muffin tin

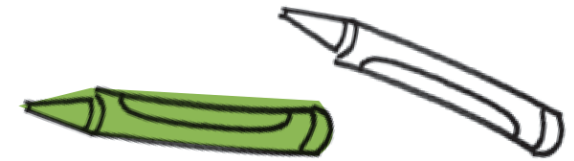
Tealight candle wicks

(available at your local craft store)



INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Preheat oven to 150 degrees.
- 2 Remove wrappers from crayons. Soaking crayons in water makes this easier.
- 3 Fill plastic bag with crayon pieces and start smashing!
- 4 Coat muffin tin with cooking spray. Fill each cup about $\frac{3}{4}$ full with smashed crayon pieces.
- 5 Bake crayon mixture for 8-20 minutes until the wax is melted. Melting times vary depending on the brand of crayons.



- 6 Remove from oven and let wax cool. After a few minutes, push a wick into the center of your candle (it should still be liquid but firm).
Tip: If you don't insert a wick, you'll have giant "crazy crayons" that you can use to color or decorate cards.
- 7 Let candles set until hard. Freeze for 10 minutes, then turn upside down to remove.

SECOND NIGHT. Here's a tip: You light the candles beginning on the left (Always LIGHT from LEFT to RIGHT). And remember – the real miracle of Hanukkah, says Rabbi David Hartman, was not that the oil lasted eight nights. It was that, given there was so little oil, we tried to light at all. That's the Jewish answer to a world that feels dark. Go ahead and light.

OVEN-FRIED ZUCCHINI STICKS

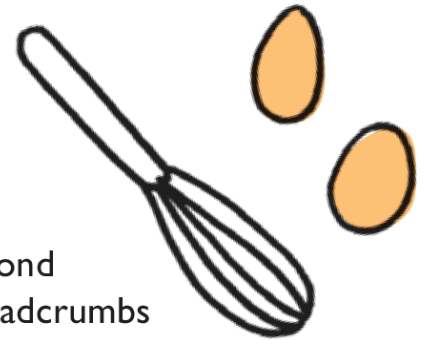
Dip them, and they'll look like candles!

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 zucchini,
cut in half lengthwise
- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 1 cup French fried onions,
crushed
- 2 eggs

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
- 2 Cut each zucchini in half.
Cut each half lengthwise into sticks.
- 3 Combine flour, salt, and pepper in one bowl. In a second bowl, whisk eggs. In a third bowl, combine panko breadcrumbs and crispy onions.
- 4 Bread the zucchini by dipping each spear in flour, then egg, and finally breadcrumb mixture.
- 5 Spray a baking sheet with nonstick spray. Lay each spear flat on the sheet. Spray a light layer of cooking spray over the top.
- 6 Bake for 18-20 minutes or until golden brown.
- 7 Serve with ketchup, dressing, or dip. Make a “flame” by dipping!



THIRD NIGHT. Traditionally, for the whole period the candles are burning (about a half hour), you're not supposed to work. No doing dishes. No picking up toys. Take that half hour, and enjoy the glow. Watch how each candle burns at its own pace. Sing a song together. Eat a zucchini stick. Play a game. Read a PJ Library book. Life is good while the candles drip.

HIDDEN VEGGIE LATKES

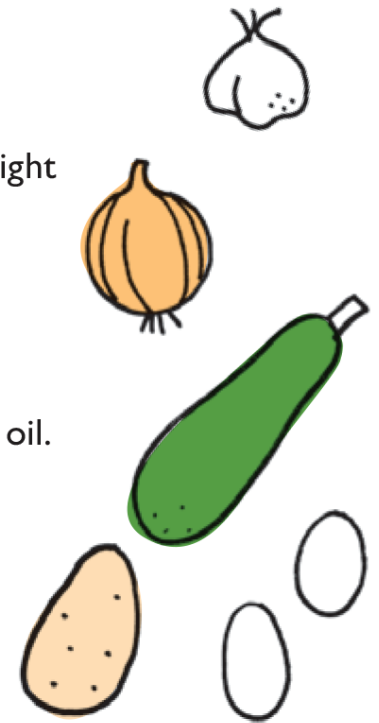
A traditional potato pancake stuffed with healthy veggies.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 large russet potato, peeled
- 1 large zucchini, peeled
- ½ head of cauliflower
- ½ yellow onion
- 1 clove of garlic, finely minced
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- Vegetable oil for frying

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Grate together potato, zucchini, cauliflower, and onion. Use a food processor to make this step faster.
- 2 Wrap the vegetable mixture in a cheesecloth or a lightweight kitchen towel and squeeze out as much liquid as possible.
- 3 In a large bowl, combine vegetables with garlic, flour, baking powder, eggs, salt, and pepper.
- 4 In a frying pan heat ½ inch of oil on medium-high. Carefully drop a heaping tablespoon of latke mixture into oil.
- 5 Fry for roughly 2 minutes, then flip and fry the other side.
- 6 Transfer each latke to a paper towel-lined platter.
- 7 Serve while warm.



FIFTH NIGHT. In the first century B.C.E. Rabbi Shammai proposed: Light eight candles the first night, and one fewer each night – a countdown of the remaining time. Rabbi Hillel countered: Light one candle the first night, and add one each night – a ramp-up, because “holiness should increase, not decrease.” Hillel won, but more important is the way multiple voices were heard and honored – an idea true to the spirit of Hanukkah.

SHARE-THE-LIGHT GOODIE BAGS

Spread some light to a friend in need with this get-well gift.

MATERIALS:

A plain canvas bag or large white paper bag

Piece of cardboard or some scrap paper

Art supplies: markers, ink pads, paint, stickers

Paper or card stock

Small toys, games, and goodies

Books

A small flashlight

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Decorate a bag. Place cardboard or scrap paper inside to keep the art from leaking. Have fun decorating with fabric paint, stamps, markers, and other supplies.
- 2 As your bag dries, make a get-well card on paper or card stock.
- 3 Fill bag with books, games, toys, stickers, crayons, and other fun items. Put get-well card on top.
- 4 Deliver the bag to a friend who is feeling sick or make a bunch for children in a local hospital – just be sure to double-check with the hospital staff about what items they need and can accept.



SIXTH NIGHT. Go stand outside. See the moon? Nope. In this season of short days and long nights, the sixth night of Hanukkah always coincides with a new moon, barely visible on the darkest night of Hanukkah. But Hanukkah teaches that with darkness comes the possibility of light, that “if you believe breaking is possible, believe fixing is possible” (Rabbi Nachman of Breslov). Or as Arlo Guthrie once mused: “You can’t have a light without a dark to stick it in.”

SUFGANIYOT DONUT HOLES

These semi-homemade treats are a snap to make.

INGREDIENTS:

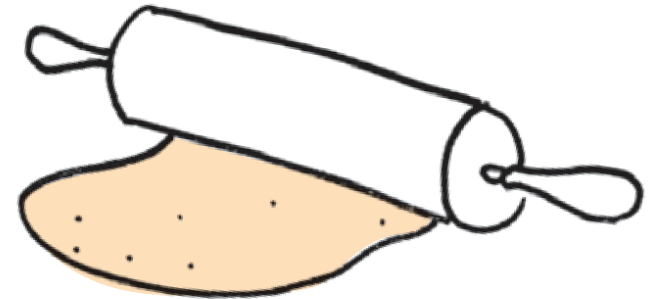
- Vegetable oil
- 1 package of prepared pizza dough
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon

Optional topping ideas:

- Powdered sugar
- Cocoa
- Jelly
- Melted chocolate chips

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Roll out pizza dough ½ to 1 inch thick. Cut rounds of dough using a 1 inch cookie cutter.
- 2 In a large sauté pan (or electric skillet), heat 1 inch of oil on medium-high.
- 3 Carefully place each dough round in the oil and cook about 1 minute per side.
- 4 Remove from oil and place on paper towel-lined plate.
- 5 Now for toppings! Combine sugar and cinnamon in a bowl, and while the rounds are still warm, roll them in the mixture to coat. You can try other sweet toppings, too.
- 6 Serve immediately.



SEVENTH NIGHT. Hanukkah loves its miracles – a small cruse of oil lasting way beyond its burn date, the Jewish people and values still going strong. On Hanukkah you can broadcast these miracles, placing the Hanukkah menorah near a window to share the light with everyone. We at PJ Library celebrate with you the biggest miracle of all – your children. Happy Hanukkah!

Make Your Own Menorah Ideas for Kids



MENORAHSAURUS

Upcycle an old dinosaur toy or grab a figurine from the dollar store to make this unique gift for the aspiring paleontologist in your house. With a little paint, some time with a power drill, and a few birthday candle holders, you're good to go. We know a LOT of grownups who would like this for their home too. And if you're not ready to make your own, you can get a ready-made T-Rex menorah from ModernTribe.



MINT TIN MENORAH

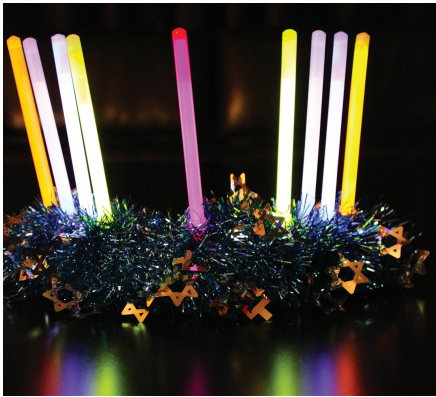
If you're traveling for the holidays you may not have room to pack a traditional menorah. This activity, also from Bible Belt Balabusta, features a fun how-to for building a mini-menorah that fits right into a coat pocket. This kind of craft is very appealing to older kids and provides a travel-sized conversation piece for kids to chat about Hanukkah and introduce the holiday to friends from other backgrounds.



CLOTHESPIN MENORAH

If you're handy with a sewing machine, consider this fun clothespin menorah with felt flames from Scrumdilly-do. Each night children can top one of the clothespins with a felt flame. If you're short on time and can't sew the felt flame covers, stickers or construction paper flames with tape will work just as well.

Make Your Own Menorah Ideas for Kids



GLOWSTICK MENORAH

Glowsticks are plentiful at most dollar stores. This activity requires basically no crafting skills and will be a hit with older kids as well. We still don't know why they love glowsticks so much.



SEWING SPOOL MENORAH

If your kids like to paint, this is an activity for you. You can grab spools from your local craft store, or, if you sew at home, you can reuse and recycle what you've got on hand.



TEA LIGHT TOT MENORAH

Toddlers can drop a tealight into one of the jars to "light" their own candles during Hanukkah.



How to Make a Clay Craft-Stick Menorah

Directions

Cover your work surface with a plastic tablecloth.

Shape the clay however you like. Use water to smooth out cracks and help bind pieces of clay together.

Use a craft stick to create holes for the “candles.”

Put the shamash on a slightly higher piece of the menorah.

Paint the craft sticks to look like colorful candles with yellow flames at the top.

When your menorah has dried, you can paint it, too.

Add another “candle” to your menorah on each night of the holiday. Don’t forget the shamash!

Happy Hanukkah!

Supplies

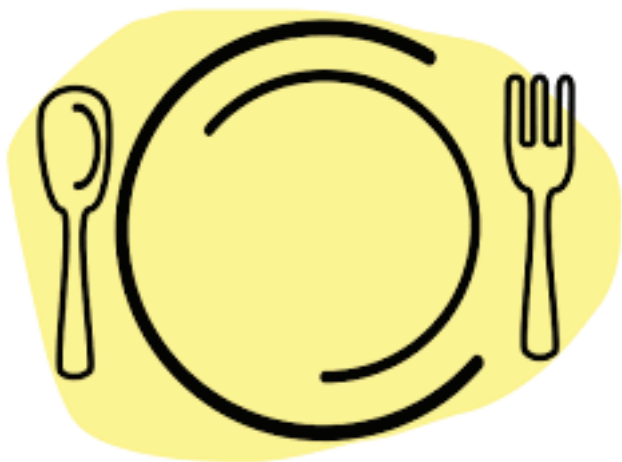
Air-dry clay (available at art-supply stores)

Small bowl of water

9 craft sticks (one for each night of Hanukkah, plus the shamash)



More Fun Recipes for Hanukkah



Family Friendly Music for Hanukkah





הנחמה שמח!

