

Please enjoy this
Hanukkah Activity Packet
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&



JEWISH
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CENTER

OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



The Story of Hanukkah

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!

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.



To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/hanukkah

How to Play Dreidel

Supplies:

Dreidel

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



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.

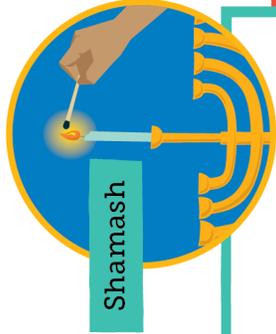


Anytime the pot is emptied, each player puts one token back in before the next person spins. As players run out of tokens, they're out – and the last person remaining is the winner!

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.



Shamash

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.

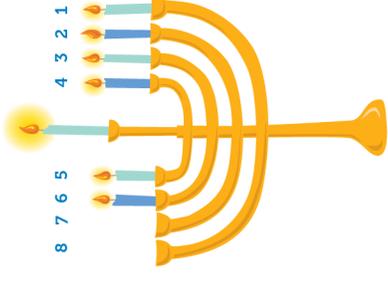


Baruch ata Adonai,
Eloheinu melech ha'olam,
sheh'asa nisim lavoteinu
bayamim haheim bazman
hazeh

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.

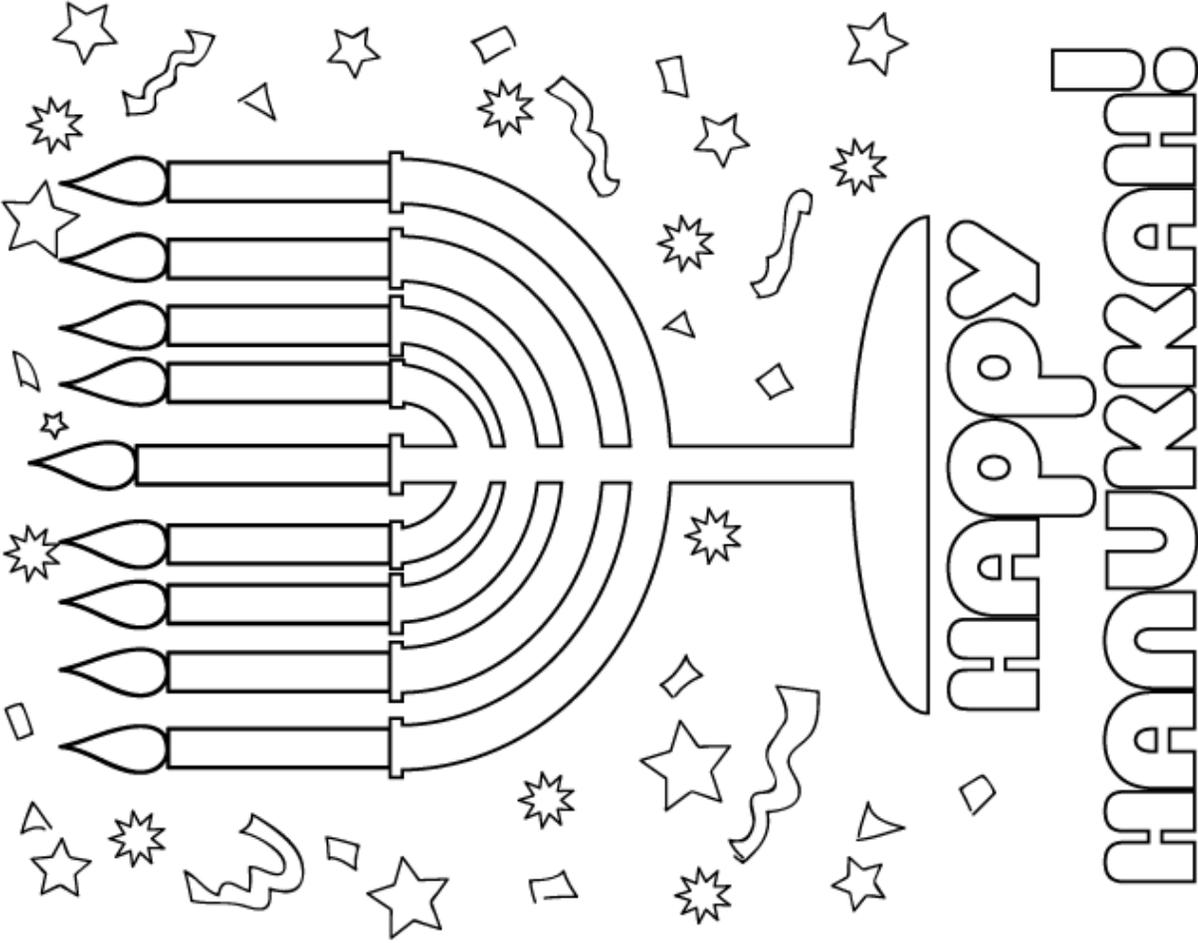
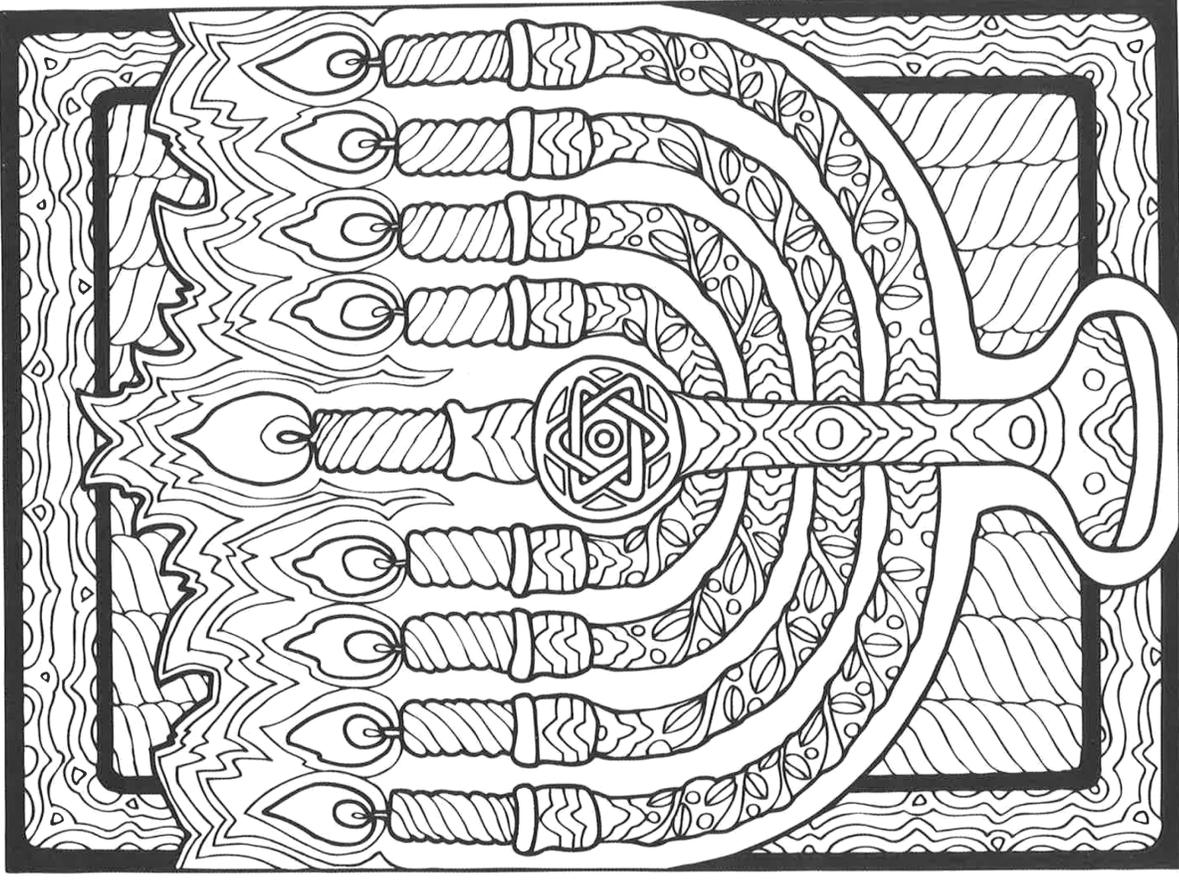


Dear God, Creator of our world,
thank you for keeping us
alive so we can celebrate this
important moment.

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

Amen

HAPPY HANUKKAH!



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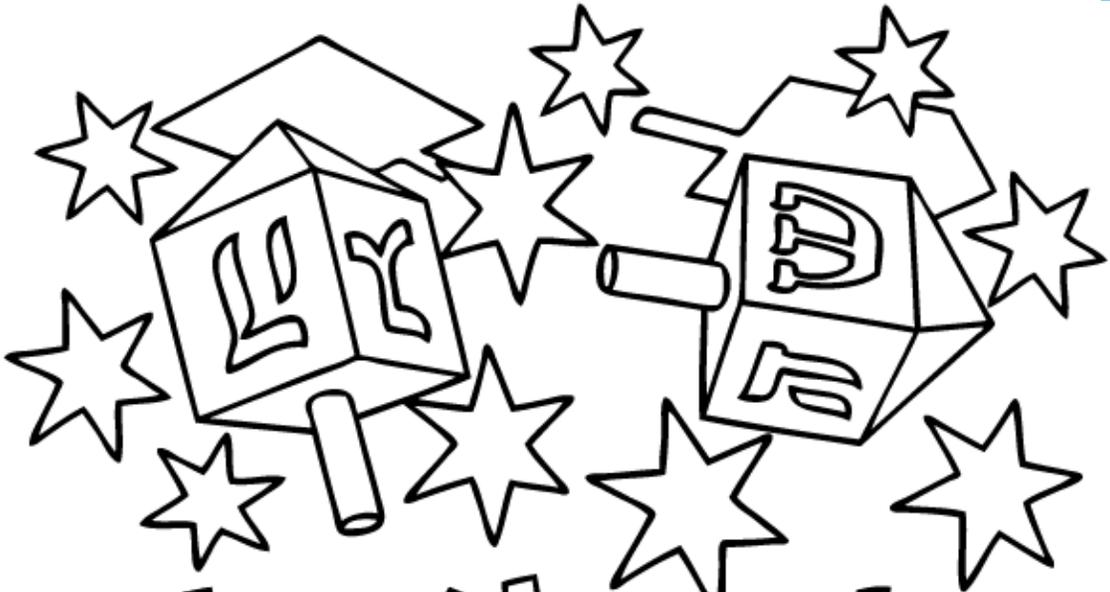
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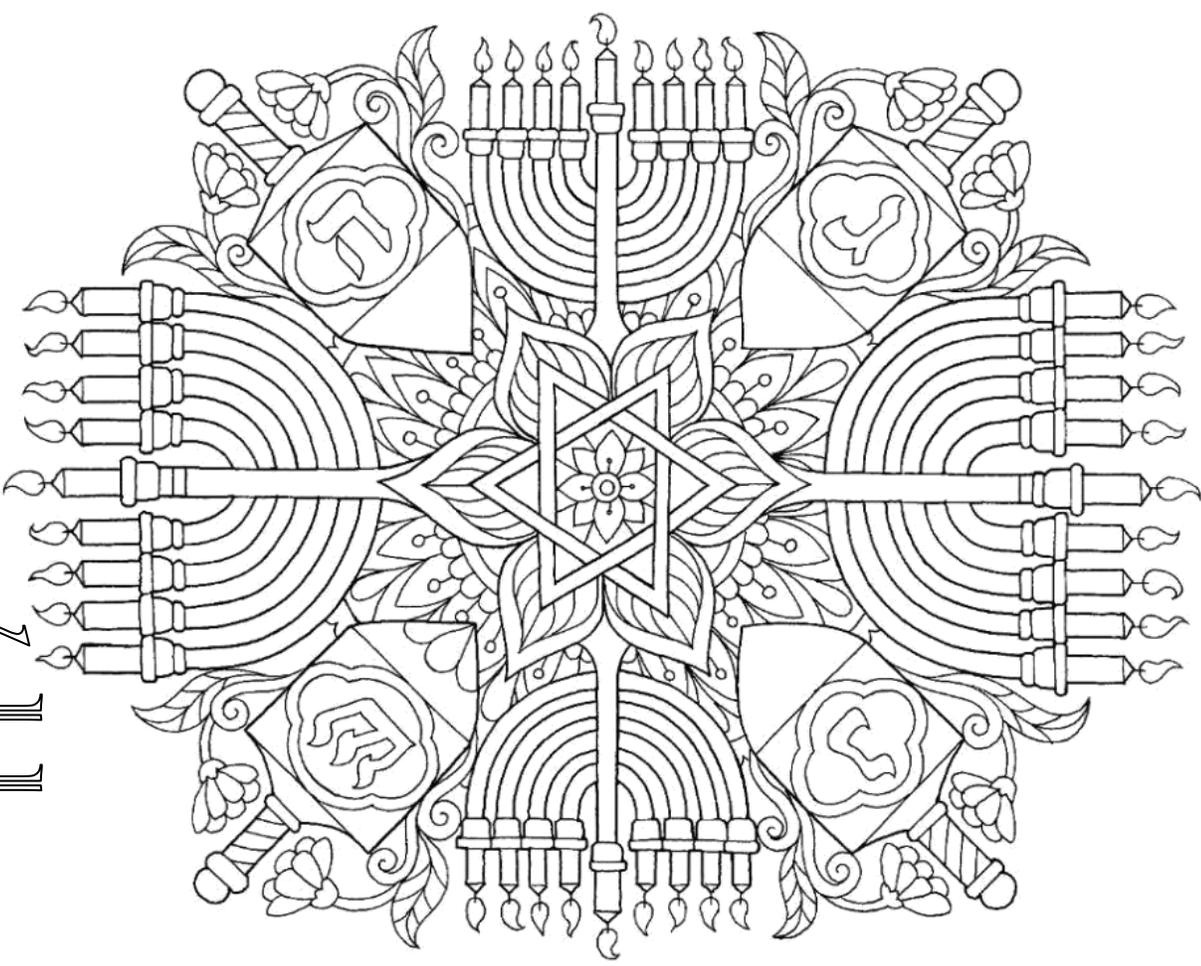
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HAPPY

HANUKKAH



Happy Hanukkah!



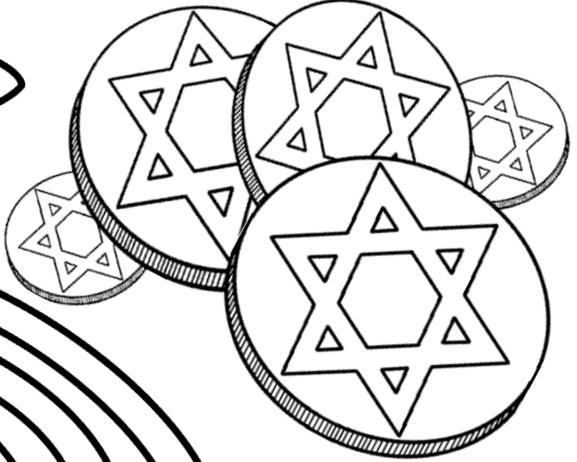
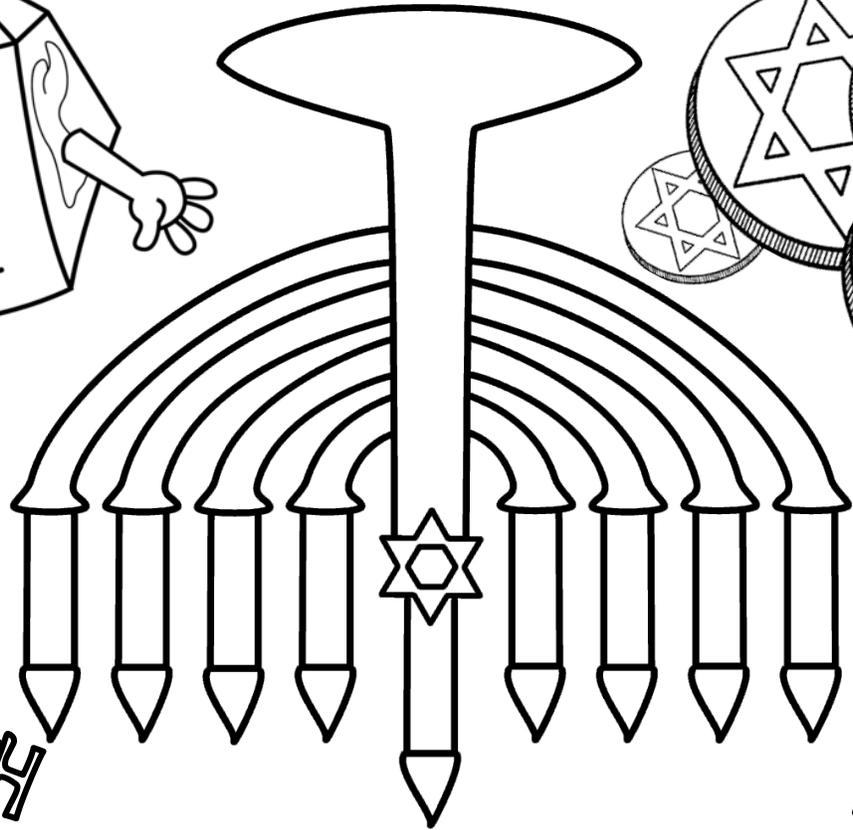
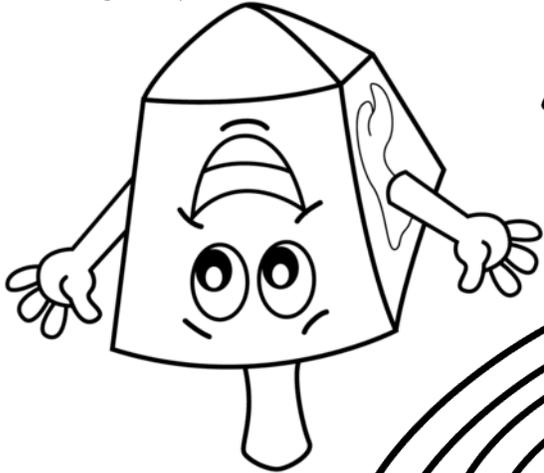
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