

# Happy Hanukkah

Volume 1 / Edition 2

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**Kesher Konekt.....Jewish activities at your fingertips for Pre-K to 3rd Grade**

## HANUKKAH BLESSINGS



spread the  
**LIGHT**

Facing the menorah, place the first candle on your right and each night add candles to the left. Light the shamash (the single candle that is set apart).

Recite the following blessings:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר (של) חנוכה.

*Baruch atah adonai elohenu melech ha-olam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadleek ner shel hanukkah. Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the world, who makes us holy with mitzvot, and commands us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.*

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

*Baruch atah adonai elohenu melech ha-olam she-asah nisim la-avoteinu ba-yameem ha-em ba-zman ha-zeh. Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the world, who did wondrous things for our people long ago at this time of year.*

On the first night add this blessing:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

*Baruch atah adonai elohenu melech ha-olam shehechyanu v'kiyemanu v'higyanu la-zman ha-zeh. Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the world, who has given us life, sustained us, and brought us to this season of joy.*

Using the shamash, light the candles from left to right. We light the candle for the new night first. Now, sing Hanukkah songs, eat latkes and play dreidel. Enjoy the candlelight! Try not to do any work while they are burning. Take the opportunity to share stories about miracles and heroes from the past. Discuss the ways we can bring about miracles and acts of heroism in our times. On **Friday night**, light the Hanukkah candles **FIRST** and then light the Shabbat candles. On **Saturday night**, say **Havdalah** first, then light the Hanukkah candles.

**With every Hanukkah candle we light, we illumine the most important messages of all: that we must always work to find light in the darkness, and we must always work to keep the light of religious freedom burning for all people, for all time. (ReformJudaism.com)**

### Dreidel Game

Before each turn, everyone puts 1 piece into the pot. Spin the dreidel and if it lands on:

**ש** Shin: Put 1 piece into pot

**ה** Hay: You win half of the pieces in the pot

**נ** Nun: Nothing happens, next player spins

**ג** Gimmel: You win all the pieces in the pot

[www.pleasantestthing.com](http://www.pleasantestthing.com)

### DREIDEL SCATTERGORIES

Spin the dreidel & whichever side it lands on (N,G,H,S), players have two minutes to think up words that fit in a certain category like fruit, vegetables, movie star or animal name) and start with that letter. Longest (or most creative!) list wins.



## Hanukkah Trivia

- \*Why is Hanukkah sometimes called *The Festival of Lights*?
- \*When Jews observe Hanukkah what are they celebrating?
- \*What happened to the menorah and all the oil when enemy soldiers took over the temple?
- \*After the Jews conquered their enemy, how much oil did they find in the Temple?
- \*Explain the miracle of the oil.

Hanukkah Trivia Answers: 1. celebrate rededication of 2nd temple by lighting of the menorah 2. celebrating God's glory, victory over an enemy, continuing freedom of Jews 3. menorah's flame, which had always burned brightly, went out & oil was spilled all over the floor 4. enough to light the menorah for one day 5. although there was enough oil for just one day, the menorah burned brightly for 8 days.

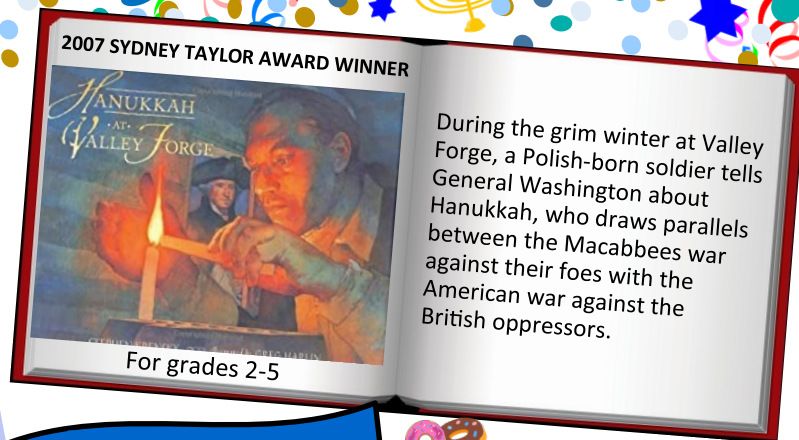
Answers at bottom of page



# Reading Corner



Dressed in her favorite red coat, Ruthie was going to spend Hanukkah with her grandmother. After eating latkes, she carefully packed her basket, kissed her grandmother good-bye and began walking home in the snow. Soon Ruthie was lost in a thicket, and she was not alone. Ruthie found herself face to face with a wolf and she will have to convince the wolf that eating latkes will be tastier than eating her!



During the grim winter at Valley Forge, a Polish-born soldier tells General Washington about Hanukkah, who draws parallels between the Macabbees war against their foes with the American war against the British oppressors.

## RECIPE CORNER

### Chocolate Hanukkah stars (forkandbeans.com)

#### Ingredients:

- ★ 1 c. chocolate, melted
- ★ 60 pretzel sticks
- ★ sprinkles

#### Instructions:

- ★ You will need 6 pretzel sticks per star
- ★ Dip each pretzel stick into the melted chocolate
- ★ Assemble together on a piece of wax paper and coat with sprinkles
- ★ Allow to set until hardened. You can place in the freezer to expedite this process. ENJOY!



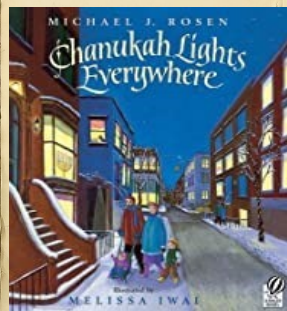
### Edible Menorah



### PBJ and PRETZEL DREIDEL SANDWICHES



### 2012 SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK



Chanukah Lights Everywhere combines with amazing pop-ups to tell the story of Chanukah from its origins in the Temple throughout history and the world. A page for each night, including depictions of a ship and a skyscraper, will delight readers of all ages.



### White Chocolate Marshmallow Dreidel Pops

#### You will need:

- Lollipop sticks (or pretzel sticks)
- Marshmallows
- Hershey kisses
- White chocolate chips or candy melts
- Blue candy color or blue candy melts

#### Instructions:

- Cut lollipop sticks in half & push the stick through flat end of marshmallow, being sure not to poke it all the way through
- Melt white chocolate chips or candy melts



### HOMEMADE HANUKKAH GIFT WRAP

#### You will need:

- ★ Butcher paper or a roll of white craft paper
- ★ Blue and yellow paint
- ★ Potatoes
- ★ Paint brushes
- ★ Jar of water

#### Instructions:

- ★ Create your potato stamps (adults can help with this step)
- ★ Slice potatoes in half & use small, sharp paring knife to carve your shapes
- ★ Now it's time to get the kids involved
- ★ Lay out paper on smooth, solid table or floor surface and set up your paints
- ★ Paint the surface of the stamp, then use the potato stamp to make impressions on the paper
- ★ When the paper is dry, feel free to add flourishes with a pen, like writing "Happy Hanukkah!" or "Chag Sameach!"
- ★ Wrap your presents just like you would with any other wrapping paper.



### Caramel, chocolate kiss & pretzel stick

#### You will need:

- Caramel Cubes
- Chocolate Kisses
- Thin pretzel sticks
- Frosting (or fluff or Nutella or nut butter)
- Toothpick
- Edible-ink pen

#### Instructions:

- Unwrap caramel & flatten into a cube
- With toothpick, poke a hole in the exact middle of the caramel
- Break pretzel stick to about 3/4 inch in length
- Poke pretzel stick midway into hole
- Add Hebrew letters
- Dab frosting onto other end of caramel
- Push kiss onto frosting PLAY & EAT!



- Use melted chocolate to attach flat bottom of Hershey kiss to the flat bottom of marshmallow & let dry
- Using stick as a handle, dip "dreidel" into melted chocolate
- Tap stick gently against side of bowl as excess chocolate drips back in to bowl
- Place sticks into a piece of styrofoam or the bottom of egg carton so sides don't get smashed
- Refrigerate until chocolate has set and is dry
- Tint remaining chocolate blue with candy color or use melted blue candy melts
- Fill decorating bag or plastic sandwich bag with blue chocolate
- Snip tiny hole in the tip of the bag and draw Hebrew letters or designs onto your dreidels



# HANUKKAH DECORATIONS & ACTIVITIES



Hanukkah Art Activity

## Hanukkah Menorah

([minimonetsandmommies.com](http://minimonetsandmommies.com))

This menorah activity is made from reused cardboard tubes, paper and paint, it's totally flame-free.

### Here's What You'll Need:

3 cardboard paper towel tubes 1 piece of poster board  
Clear-drying school glue Tempera paint  
Wax paper Scissors  
Yellow orange tissue paper

### Here's What to Do:

- Cut the three tubes into nine segments (one for each candle, plus an extra for the Shamash)
- Line the cardboard tubes up on the paper to make sure that they fit & each segment will be equal Your child will need to move the helper candle (Shamash) cardboard tube up a few inches higher than the others so that it looks taller
- Pick up the Shamash tube & have your child flatten it a bit (to make it easier to glue onto a flat surface)
- Squeeze a few lines of glue on the flattest part
- Press the tube down onto the poster paper
- Repeat this step for the remaining eight candles
- Now it's time to paint the tubes either by finger painter or using a paint brush
- Let the paint dry
- Tear the tissue paper into pieces that roughly 2x2-inches
- Dab the glue onto the poster board above the cardboard tube & press the paper onto the glue
- Repeat each night



## Hand Menorah Project:

What you need:

- ★ Construction paper, Yellow paint & Glue

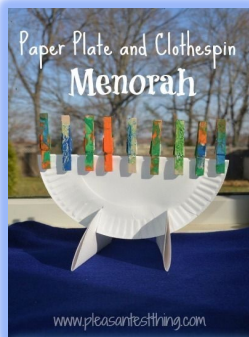
### Instructions for Option 1:

- ★ Trace both hands on the construction paper
- ★ Cut out the hands and place on paper
- ★ Arrange cutout hands so the thumbs overlap and become 1 finger
- ★ Dab your finger or paint brush in yellow paint and place on each of fingers
- ★ After it dries, you can # each finger
- ★ The combined thumbs become the Shamash

### Instructions for Option 2:

- ★ Dip hands in blue paint and press hard on the paper
- ★ After the paint dries, dip paint brush or finger in yellow paint & dab on the top of each finger to represent the candle flame

## PAPER PLATE & CLOTHESPIN MENORAH



### What You Need:

- 3 Paper plates
- 9 Clothespins
- Paints

### Instructions:

- Fold 1 plate in half
- Make 2 slits in rounded plate at the bottom
- Fold 2 plates in half
- Place folded plates in 2 slits
- Paint each of clothespins
- Clip on top of plate

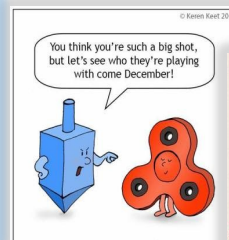
## Paper Dreidel Garland for Hanukkah



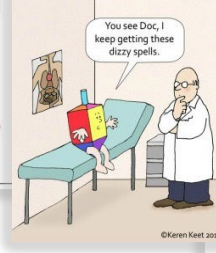
**Here's What You'll Need:** Paper, staples, stapler, ribbon, ruler, hole punch

### Here's What to Do:

- ★ Cut paper into one-inch strips
- ★ Using five strips per ornament, make two that are seven inches, two that are six inches and one that is five inches in length
- ★ Stack strips together and line up the top edges
- ★ Staple about one-inch down, leaving room for a hole-punched ribbon handle
- ★ On the opposite end, line up all the different-length strips so they meet, and the ornament will take shape
- ★ Secure with another staple
- ★ You can download the decorative printable paper at [PagingSupermom.com](http://PagingSupermom.com) or use your own paper strips.



## HOLIDAY HUMOR



## Hanukkah Story Stones

([etsy.com](http://etsy.com))

Celebrate Hanukkah in a unique and fun way! Let your child talk about the traditions of Hanukkah in his/her own words! These Story Stones are a tactile and meaningful way to celebrate the Jewish Holiday.

### What You'll Need:

Smooth rocks; paints; permanent markers

### Here's What to Do:

- ★ Paint pictures of Hanukkah items on top of the rock (i.e. dreidel, menorah, donuts, etc.)
- ★ Use the permanent marker to write the name of each item & any additional decorations.
- ★ Now you're ready to tell your Hanukkah story



## Hanukkah Gelt Hunt

One of the games played by Jewish families during Hanukkah involves something called gelt. Gelt are real coins hidden by parents that the children must find. Have a gelt hunt, but substituting gold-foil chocolate coins for real coins. Hide the coins around a room for the children to find.



[whatdowedoallday.com](http://whatdowedoallday.com)

**ATTENTION LEGO ENTHUSIASTS!**  
Now is the time to get your Legos out and build our own Lego menorah. Celebrate Hanukkah Lego style!