

USING THE RULES AND SPINNER BELOW OR A DREIDEL PLAY THE TRADITIONAL HANNUKAH DREIDEL GAME.

During the Greek rule over the Jewish people they made it illegal for Jews to study their own religion. As men would meet in secret to discuss their scriptures they would post guards at the front of their meeting venue. When the guards let the men inside know that Greek guards were coming they would hide their books and start playing a special game of chance known today as the dreidel game. To play this game you need a 4 sided spinning top with each side bearing a hebrew letter– nun (נ), gimmel (ג), hei (ה), and shin(ש).



Today, these letters stand for the words "nes gadol hayah sham" which means "a great miracle happened there". Use a dreidel or the spinner below and up to twenty counters per player to play the dreidel game. In some families Hannukah gelt or chocolate coins are used instead of counters to represent the gambling of old.



RULES

- Each player receives an equal number of counters.

- For play to begin each player puts in one counter to be able to play and takes it in turn to spin the dreidel or spinner. Each letter denotes what happens:

If NUN (נ) is spun, nothing happens.

If GIMMEL (ג) is spun, the player gets to take the entire central pile.

If HEI (ה) is spun, the player takes half of the coins in the centre pile. If it is an odd number they take the greater of the two numbers (ie. If there are thirteen coins, seven are taken.)

If SHIN (ש) is spun, the player must give an additional coin or counter to the centre pile.

