

AFTER READING THE PASSAGE BELOW ANSWER
THE THREE SIMPLE QUESTIONS WHICH FOLLOW IT.



Hannukah or Chanukah is a Jewish festival which lasts for eight days and usually occurs around the same time as Christmas. It is known as the festival of lights and is celebrated with the eating of fried foods, nightly reciting of prayers and lighting of a special nine candle candelabra known as a hanukiah. On the first night the lead candle known as the Shamash, and one other candle is lit. On the second night the Shamash plus two candles are lit until by the eighth night all candles are lit.

Hannukah is celebrated because during the second century B.C.E. the Greeks who ruled Israel tried to force the Jewish people to follow Greek culture and beliefs rather than their own God and banned them from visiting their temple which they destroyed. It is then told that a small army of Jews led by Judah the Maccabee, were able to defeat the much stronger Greek army and drove the Greeks from their land and reclaimed their Holy Temple.



When they returned to the Temple they wanted to light the Temple's menorah but found only enough oil to last for one night. Miraculously, they lit the menorah and the one-day supply of oil lasted for eight days until new oil could be sourced. Hannukah is celebrated every year in memory of this miracle.

Since this miracle involves oil Jewish families eat oily foods such as deep fried potato pancakes known as latkes with apple sauce and doughnuts. They also play a traditional game known as the dreidel game and sing songs about candles, miracles, and deidels.



WHAT IS HANUKKAH?

WHY IS IT CELEBRATED?

WHY DO PEOPLE COOK OILY THINGS FOR HANUKKAH?
