

Hanukkah



Differentiated Passages & Activities

L/M
800-900

Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights

Name: _____ Date: _____

J/K
600-700

Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights

Name: _____ Date: _____

H/I
400-500

Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights

Name: _____ Date: _____

What is Hanukkah? It is a Jewish holiday. It is called the "festival of lights." It is based on Jewish history.

Hanukkah means "dedication" in Hebrew. Hebrew is the language of Jewish people. On their calendar, Hanukkah is in the month of Kislev. That means it is in November or December. Hanukkah lasts eight days and nights.



Abraham started the Jewish religion. The holy book is the Torah. In the Torah, God promised the Jewish people a Holy Land. They built a temple in Jerusalem. But the Jews were driven out of the land. They fought with others over the land. In 332 BCE, Greeks ruled the land. They tried changing the Jewish religion. They took over the temple. The Maccabees were a Jewish family. They fought back. His small army won. They regained the temple. They lit the oil. The Jews celebrated a miracle.



Celebrating Hanukkah

Name: _____ Date: _____

Compare and contrast how you celebrate a holiday to how the Hanukkah. What is the history behind the holiday you celebrate? How are the similar or different to the Jewish Hanukkah?



Name: _____

Winter Holidays

Think about how people from different religions, cultures, and countries celebrate holidays in various ways. Reflect on why it is important to learn about other people's traditions and customs that are different from our own. Write about it below.



ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS



Common Core Kingdom, LLC is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	190L-530L
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	925L-1185L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."



Hanukkah

1st – 5th grade

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*This product contains two guided reading passages, each differentiated across three Lexile® certified reading levels. The passages fall across the 1st – 5th Grade Common Core Text Complexity Band (the range for 1st – 5th grade is 190L – 1010L).

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2. Differentiated Passage – The Festival of Lights
 - Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights (510L)
 - Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights (690L)
 - Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights (890L)
 - Comprehension Questions
3. Differentiated Passage – Asher's Dreidel
 - Asher's Dreidel (380L)
 - Asher's Dreidel (580L)
 - Asher's Dreidel (840L)
 - Comprehension Questions
4. Hanukkah Symbols Foldable
5. Hanukkah Writing Prompts
6. Hanukkah Writing Prompt Toppers



What Is Included?

Name: Julia Borchers Date: 12/1

Prereading

Look at this photograph. What do you notice in this photograph? Write your response in blue. After you have completed the readings, go back and add to your response in green, based on what you read.



I notice a family celebrating Hanukkah. Everyone is looking at a lit menorah. One of the girls has a plate of donuts. The little boy and the older man are wearing a round hat on their heads.

Prereading Activity

6 Passages
(2 Passages
Differentiated
on Three
Levels)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights

Ever Hanukkah: celebrator substitute Jewish his its own. He "dedicated of the J spelled. To say the bo

Each ye Hanukkah. Th isn't a Christ important e symbols an Hanu for "dedic the Jewis is spelled sound Li the bo

What is Hanukkah? It is a Jewish holiday. It is called the "festival of lights." It is based on Jewish history. Hanukkah means "dedication" in Hebrew. Hebrew is the language of Jewish people. On their calendar, Hanukkah is the month of Kislev. That means it is in November or December. Hanukkah lasts eight days and nights.



Abraham started the Jewish religion. The holy book is the Torah. In the Torah, God promised the Jewish people a Holy Land. They built a temple. But the Jews were driven away. They fought with others over the land.

Around 200 BCE, Greeks ruled the Holy Land. They tried changing Jewish beliefs. They took over the Temple. Judah the Maccabees was a faithful Jew. He fought back. His army beat the Greeks.

The Jews were about to...

Name: Julia Borchers Date: 12/1

Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights

Menorah



Food



Gifts



Dreidel & Gelt



HANUKKAH Symbols

Foldable

Name: _____ Date: _____

HANUKKAH: THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Ever Hanukkah: celebrator substitute Jewish his its own. He "dedicated of the J spelled. To say the bo

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Abraham started the Jewish religion. The holy book is the Torah. In the Torah, God promised the Jewish people a Holy Land. They built a temple. But the Jews were driven away. They fought with others over the land.

Around 200 BCE, Greeks ruled the Holy Land. They tried changing Jewish beliefs. They took over the Temple. Judah the Maccabees was a faithful Jew. He fought back. His army beat the Greeks. The Jews wanted to dedicate it to God again. The menorah needed special oil. The Jews rededicated the Temple.

Hanukkah

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is not a caption next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. What do Jewish people celebrate on Hanukkah?

a. A miracle of oil burning for eight days
b. A promise that God would give them land
c. The belief that they can make the world better
d. The birth of Judah the Maccabee

2. Which Hebrew word means "candleholder"?

a. Hanukkah
b. dreidel
c. Torah
d. menorah

3. Which detail best completes the timeline?

Other groups fought with the Jews over the Holy Land → The Greeks ruled the land → ? → The Jews rededicated the Temple

a. The Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah.
b. The oil burned for eight days.
c. Judah the Maccabee defeated the Greeks.
d. The Greeks burned down the Temple.

4. Which of these best describes the structure of Paragraph 6?

a. cause and effect
b. problem and solution
c. compare and contrast
d. chronological order

5. Think of a holiday you celebrate. How is it similar to Hanukkah? How is it different? Use details from the text to support your answer.

My family celebrates Kwanzaa. On both holidays, we celebrate together. They light candles, sing songs, and eat special foods. Hanukkah is different because it is a Jewish holiday, while Kwanzaa is African American.

Text-Dependent Questions

Writing Craftivity

Name: _____ Date: _____

Celebrating Hanukkah

Compare and contrast how you celebrate a holiday to how the Jewish celebrate Hanukkah. What is the history behind the holiday you celebrate? What traditions do you have? How are the similar or different to the Jewish Hanukkah traditions.

Think about how people from different religions, cultures, and countries celebrate holidays in various ways. Reflect on why it is important to learn about and celebrate people's traditions and customs that are different from our own. Write about it below.

Winter Holidays

Name: _____ Date: _____

Prereading

Look at this photograph. What do you notice in this photograph? Write your response in blue. After you have completed the readings, go back and add to your response in green, based on what you read.



Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights

What is Hanukkah? It is a Jewish holiday. It is called the “festival of lights.” It is based on Jewish history.

Hanukkah means “dedication” in Hebrew. Hebrew is the language of Jewish people. On their calendar, Hanukkah is in the month of Kislev. That means it is in November or December. Hanukkah lasts eight days and nights.



Judah the Maccabee with his army.

Abraham started the Jewish religion. The holy book is the Torah. In the Torah, God promised the Jewish people a Holy Land. They built a Temple. But the Jews were driven away. They fought with others over this land.

Around 200 BCE, Greeks ruled the Holy Land. They tried changing Jewish beliefs. They took over the Temple. Judah the Maccabee was a faithful Jew. He fought back. His small army beat the Greeks. The Jews took back the Temple.

The Jews were glad to have their Temple. They wanted to dedicate it to God again. They had to light a special lamp. It was called a menorah. The menorah needed special oil. The Jews found only one small pot of oil. It was enough to only burn for one day. But the Jews needed enough oil to burn for eight days. Incredibly, the oil burned for all eight days. It was a miracle.

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Jews wanted to remember this miracle. They began to celebrate the holiday of Hanukkah. It continues to this day.

The menorah is the heart of Hanukkah. It has nine arms to hold candles. The center candle is used to light the other eight. Those candles stand for the eight days that the oil burned. On the first night of Hanukkah, Jews light one candle. On the second night, they light another. And so on. Each night, they say blessings. Afterward, they sing songs.



Jelly donuts and potato latkes.

Jews celebrate Hanukkah in other ways too. They say prayers. They give gifts. They eat foods fried in oil. Potato latkes (pancakes) and jelly donuts are common. Children play with a *dreidel*. That is a spinning top with four sides. Children win small prizes. They use coins, nuts, or *gelt*. Gelt is chocolate wrapped to look like coins.

Hanukkah honors the past. It also has lessons for today. Jews believe God will save them from their enemies. We learn to stand up for what is right, like Judah the Maccabee. We can make the world a better place, like a candle burning in the dark.



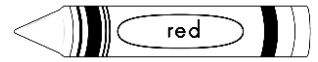
A dreidel and gelt.

Hanukkah

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is not a crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. What do Jewish people celebrate on Hanukkah?

- a. A miracle of oil burning for eight days
- b. A promise that God would give them land
- c. The belief that they can make the world better
- d. The birth of Judah the Maccabee



2. Which Hebrew word means "candleholder"?

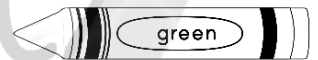
- a. Hanukkah
- b. dreidel
- c. Torah
- d. menorah



3. Which detail best completes the timeline?



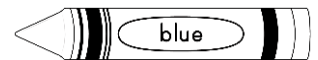
- a. The Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah.
- b. The oil burned for eight days.
- c. Judah the Maccabee defeated the Greeks.
- d. The Greeks burned down the Temple.



4. Which of these best describes the structure of Paragraph 6?

- a. cause and effect
- b. problem and solution
- c. compare and contrast
- d. chronological order

5. Think of a holiday you celebrate. How is it similar to Hanukkah? How is it different? Use details from the text to support your answer.



Asher's Dreidel

Asher marked another box on his calendar. He counted: one, two, three, four, five, six, seven... The celebration of Hanukkah was almost over, and tonight would be very special. His family had spent a lot of time together over the past week and that had made him very happy.

Some of his friends at school also celebrated Hanukkah. Some didn't, but they all liked learning about what his gift had been the night before. He always shared proudly. He had received a small gift each night during the past seven days, including chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil. Gelt was one of his favorite parts of the holiday. He and his sister had waited anxiously each night to light the menorah with their parents.

They sang songs and enjoyed the beautiful lights. Hanukkah was a special time for his family and the people in his Jewish community. He enjoyed seeing them during the Festival of Lights.

They ate potato pancakes called latkes and delicious donuts filled with jam. He and his sister played their favorite game using a spinning top known as a dreidel. The dreidel has a letter on each side. Each one means something different, and he loved to play it so much, that he didn't even mind losing to her sometimes. They had sat in the same exact spot in their living room every single year for as long as he could remember. Spinning that special top had become the best part of the holiday, and his mom was sure to capture a picture of the two of them playing each year.

She placed them in a special photo album and the two siblings loved to look back at the memories of their game.

His sister pointed to the next page, still empty, and grinned, "This year, we'll have to write down that I won almost every single game."

Laughing, he nodded. "You're right, but next year, I'll make a comeback."

As the last night of Hanukkah came to an end, he found himself already looking forward to next year.



Foldable Activity Instructions

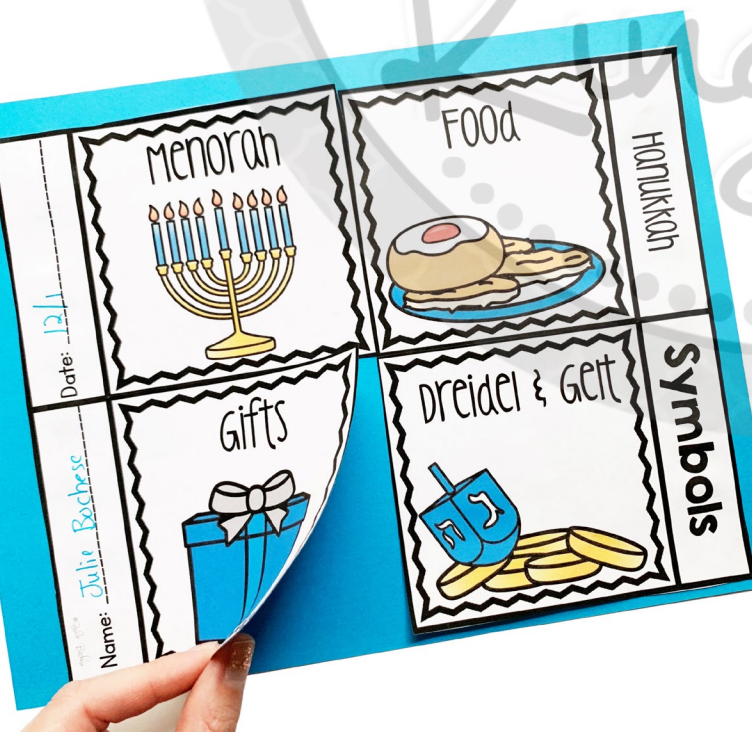
1. Cut out the page as shown. The page should be cut along the border and down the middle vertically. The horizontal line should be cut only until the edge.
2. Paste the edge of the two flaps on a piece of paper or in student journals.
3. Students write the meaning of each symbol underneath the flaps.

1.



2.

3.



Hanukkah

Symbols

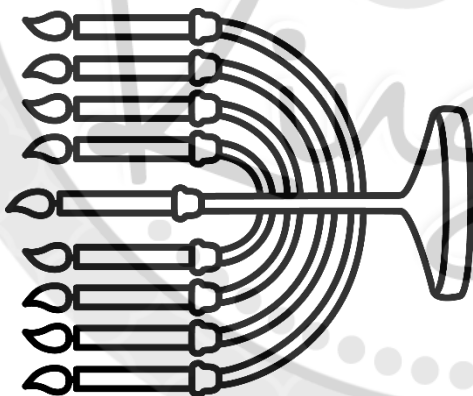
Food



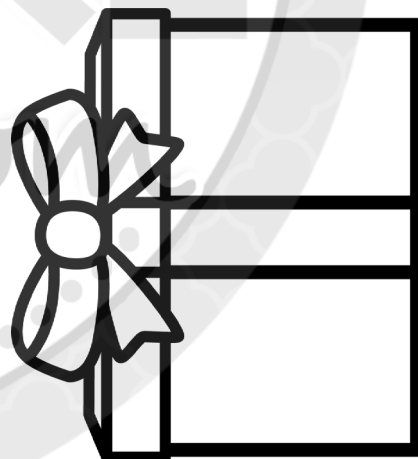
Meidel & Gelt



Menorah



Gifts



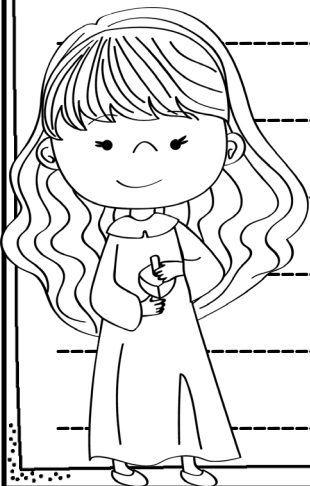
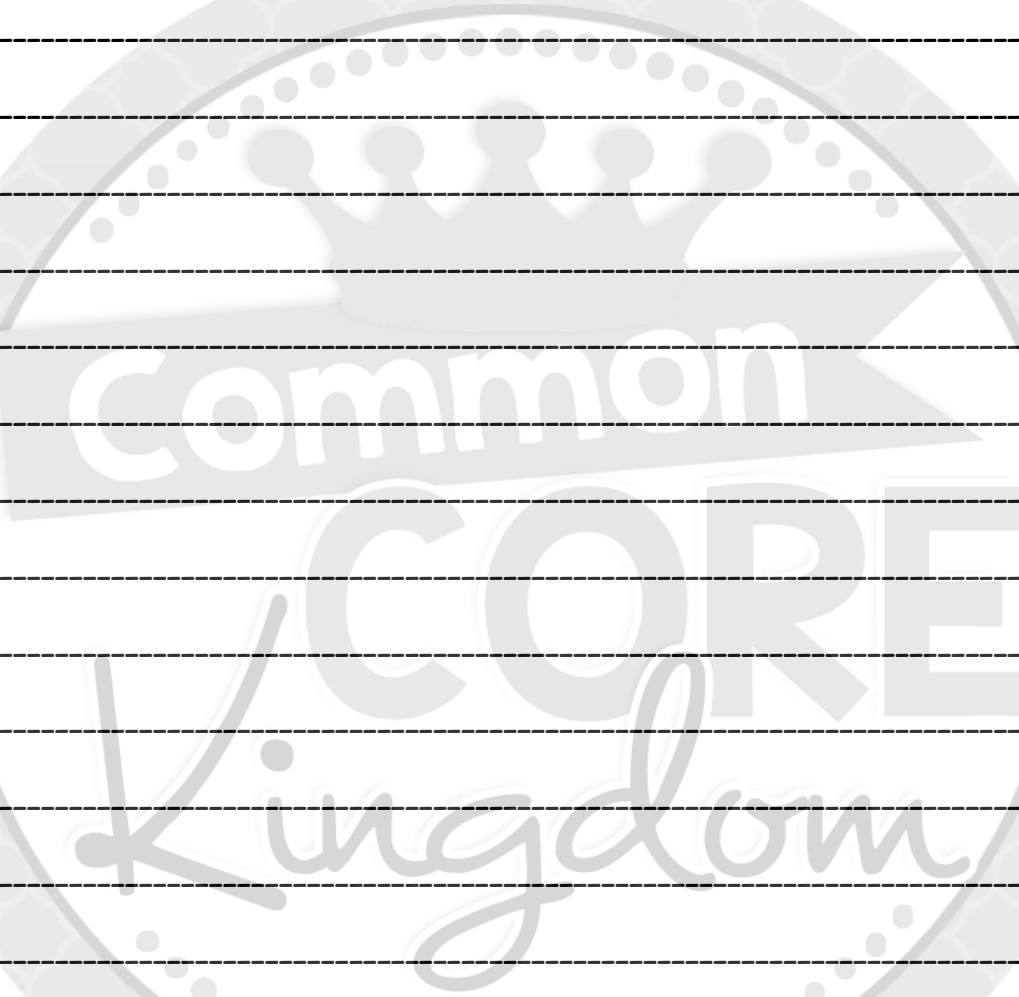
Date: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Celebrating Hanukkah

Compare and contrast how you celebrate a holiday to how the Jewish celebrate Hanukkah. What is the history behind the holiday you celebrate? What traditions do you have? How are they similar or different to the Jewish Hanukkah traditions?



Writing Craft Instructions

1. Have students complete one of the writing prompts.
2. Print out the toppers. Have students color their topper.
3. Tape or glue the topper to the prompt sheet.





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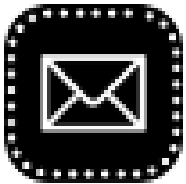
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