

# Why We Celebrate Hanukkah Today

Grade 4

English

Nonfiction

Hanukkah Theme

~140 words

CCSS.ELA.RI.4.8

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**READ — READ THIS PASSAGE CAREFULLY. YOU MAY READ IT TWICE.**

Hanukkah is a special Jewish holiday celebrated for eight days and nights. The author writes about Hanukkah to help readers understand this important tradition. Long ago, the Jewish people fought to keep their temple safe and their religion free. When they won, they found only a little oil to light the holy lamp. Miraculously, that small amount of oil burned for eight whole days. This amazing event is why families today celebrate Hanukkah for eight days. During this holiday, Jewish families light the menorah, a special candlestick with nine candles. Each night, they add one more candle and say special prayers. Children receive gifts and eat delicious foods like potato pancakes and jelly donuts. Families gather together to remember the brave people of the past. The author wants us to learn why Hanukkah matters to Jewish people around the world.

*Tip: Read the passage twice before turning to the questions on the next page.*

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Questions

⇒ **ANSWER** USE THE PASSAGE ON PAGE 1 TO HELP FIND YOUR ANSWERS.

## MAIN IDEA

**1. What is this passage mostly about?**

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## TEXT EVIDENCE

**2. According to the passage, how long did the oil burn in the temple lamp?**

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## VOCABULARY

**3. What does the word 'miraculously' mean in the passage?**

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## INFERENCE

**4. Why do you think families light candles for eight nights during Hanukkah?**

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## CAUSE AND EFFECT

**5. What caused Jewish families to celebrate Hanukkah for eight days?**

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## TEXT EVIDENCE

**6. What are two activities families do during Hanukkah according to the passage?**

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# ✓ ANSWER KEY — Why We Celebrate Hanukkah Today

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TEACHER / PARENT USE ONLY — Suggested answers shown below each question

Hanukkah is a special Jewish holiday celebrated for eight days and nights. The author writes about Hanukkah to help readers understand this important tradition. Long ago, the Jewish people fought to keep their temple safe and their religion free. When they won, they found only a little oil to light the holy lamp. Miraculously, that small amount of oil burned for eight whole days. This amazing event is why families today celebrate Hanukkah for eight days. During this holiday, Jewish families light the menorah, a special candlestick with nine candles. Each night, they add one more candle and say special prayers. Children receive gifts and eat delicious foods like potato pancakes and jelly donuts. Families gather together to remember the brave people of the past. The author wants us to learn why Hanukkah matters to Jewish people around the world.

## MAIN IDEA

### 1. What is this passage mostly about?

The passage is mostly about the history and celebration of Hanukkah and why it is an important holiday for Jewish people.

## TEXT EVIDENCE

### 2. According to the passage, how long did the oil burn in the temple lamp?

The passage states that the oil burned for eight whole days, which the author says was a miraculous event.

## VOCABULARY

### 3. What does the word 'miraculously' mean in the passage?

Miraculously means in a way that seems magical or impossible, like something wonderful that cannot be easily explained.

## INFERENCE

### 4. Why do you think families light candles for eight nights during Hanukkah?

Families light candles for eight nights to remember the eight days the oil burned in the temple, which was a miracle.

## CAUSE AND EFFECT

### 5. What caused Jewish families to celebrate Hanukkah for eight days?

Jewish families celebrate for eight days because the oil that was supposed to last one day miraculously burned for eight days after they won their battle.

## TEXT EVIDENCE

### 6. What are two activities families do during Hanukkah according to the passage?

According to the passage, families light the menorah and say special prayers, and they also eat delicious foods like potato pancakes and jelly donuts.