

HANUKKAH

"This is an interesting candle stand," Bathazar pointed to a menorah. "Have either of you seen one before?" Both Jasper and Roland shook their heads.

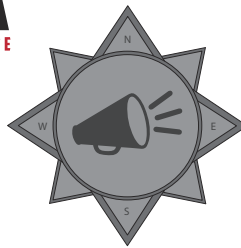
"It's a special candle for our Jewish friends." Bathazar explained.

"It is used when they celebrate Hanukkah."

"What's Hanukkah?" "Is it like Christmas?" Jasper and Roland began asking a ton of questions.

"Give me a minute and I'll explain."

FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



EARN THIS NUGGET

Trailblazers & Rockhoppers: Make a paper dreidel and teach your family how to play the game. Cragman, you can too and help the younger children learn to play

Cragmen & Rockhoppers: Research how to make potato latkes, and make a batch for your family to eat with dinner.

Hanukkah, which is sometimes spelled Chanukah, is to remember the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. It is also called Festival of the Lights or Feast of Dedication.

This celebration last for eight days beginning on the 25th of Kislev, a month on the Jewish calendar. This date is usually around the beginning of December. In 2017, Hanukkah begins on December 12 and continues through December 20.

Here's why the candle stand, which is called a menorah, is so special. When the Jewish people rededicated the Second Temple after it had been taken back from the Syrian Greeks in the 160s BC, there was only a one-day supply of purified oil for the ceremony lights. But a miracle is said to have occurred and the oil lasted for eight days.

Each day of Hanukkah a candle is lit to represent the eight days of oil. First one candle, the next day two candles, then three candles, and so on until all eight are lit on the last day.



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The center candle is called the shammash or servant candle. It is used to light the other candles.

The menorah is lit at sundown each day. Before the candles are lit a special blessing is repeated. Songs are sung after the lighting of the candles. The menorah is then put in a window so people going by can see it and remember the rededication.

Other traditions include playing dreidel, eating fried foods, and gifts.

The dreidel

The dreidel is a four-sided top. On each side is a Hebrew letter that represents the phrase Nes Gadol Hayah Sham, "A great miracle happened there." The game is played by children and adults.

Food

The custom of eating foods fried in oil also represents the oil used for the menorah in the Second Temple. In the United States and Europe, potato pancakes or latkes are served with sour cream or apple sauce. Jelly donuts are a favorite in Israel. Hungarian Jews eat cheese latkes.



Gift giving

Gift giving was added to the holiday much later perhaps as a way to help Jewish children not to be jealous of their Christians friends who get presents for Christmas. Most often Hanukkah gelt, gifts of money, are given to children. The gelt is not to just reward good behavior, but also to help Jewish children learn to give to charity.

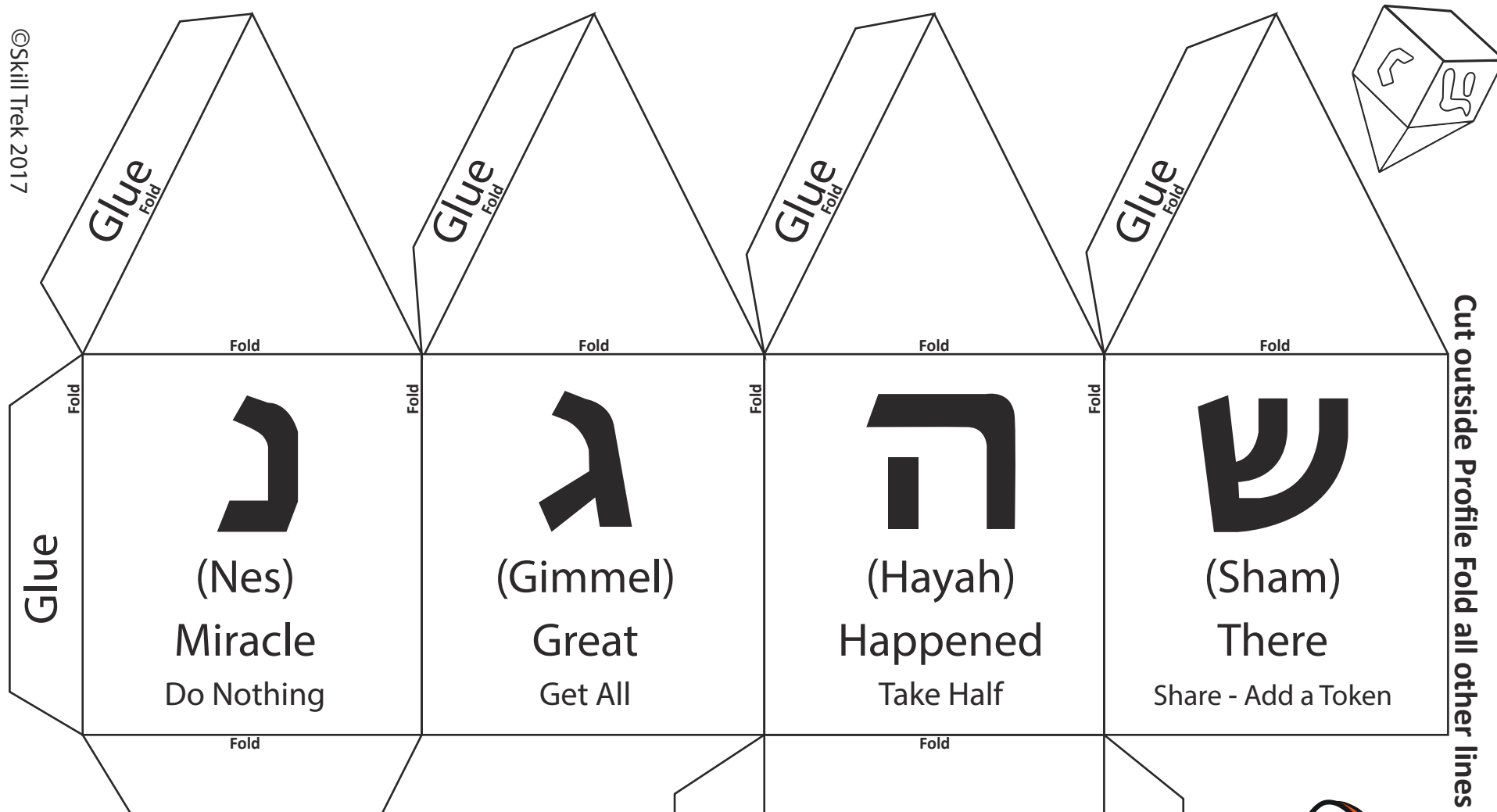
In the 1920s, chocolate gelt, wrapped in silver or gold paper, were made to give during Hanukkah. Often the chocolate gelt are used to play dreidel.

"Now you know why this is a special candle holder," Balthazar finished.

"Can we celebrate Hanukkah" Roland asked.

"That's something for your parents to decide. Now you have information to tell them about the holiday."





How to play

- Gather friends and family, the more, the better.
- Distribute tokens equally amongst all players.
- Each player puts one token into "The Pot"
- The first player spins the "Dreidel"
- Follow the instruction on the side that faces up.
- Pass the "Dreidel" to the next player.
- The winner is the person that wins all the tokens

Cut out, Color, and glue.
Use card stock if available