

EDUCATOR SUBMITTED LESSON PLAN

HANUKKAH

SUBJECT AND GRADE LEVEL

Hanukkah; 6th Grade

AUTHOR(S)

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ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

The everlasting quest for Jewish sovereignty in *Eretz Yisrael* affected how Jews celebrated their holidays; it has shaped the way Hanukkah has been celebrated over time, religiously, culturally, and politically.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S)

- Why do we celebrate Hanukkah today? Is the reason different than the reasons it was celebrated in other periods in Jewish History?
- How do historical, rabbinic, and modern texts reflect changing values related to war, revolt, and taking action?

OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

- Read original texts and identify main concepts related to the meaning of Hanukkah in each of them.
- Compare and contrast between the texts and understand reasons for the changes in the meaning of Hanukkah over time.
- Show their understanding through creative activity.

ASSESSMENT:

- Create a tableau that illustrates a Hanukkah celebration in each of the relevant eras.
- Complete an exit ticket which answers the question: How (and why) did the celebration of Hanukkah change over time?

MATERIALS, SUPPLIES AND RESOURCES

- Texts with some background and guiding questions (i.e. when was the text written? By whom? What is the focus? Why do we celebrate Hanukkah according to the text?)
- Excerpts from the *Sefer Maccabim* - Emphasis on the victory in the war and rededicating the Temple
- Excerpts from the Talmud -Tractate Shabbat-Emphasis on finding the jug of oil and lighting the Menorah - the oil Miracle
- Israeli Hanukkah songs: *Kad Katan* (emphasis on the oil miracle); *Yemei HaHanukkah* (emphasis on the Maccabim's Miracle - oil, victory?); *Anu Nosim Lapadim* (emphasis on being active and not relying on an oil miracle - *kad shemen lo matzanu*)

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ACTIVITIES AND PROCEDURES

Part 1: Introduction - 5 minutes

- When students enter the class, play Hanukkah songs.
- Give each student a blank paper and markers.
- Ask the students: "Why do we celebrate Hanukkah?" Draw a picture that represents your answer.
- Collect the papers. While groups work on their text study, hang papers on the board/wall.

Part 2: Text study - 15 minutes

- Divide students into 5 groups
- Distribute text packets. Give each group one text to focus on.
- Let students work, go around and provide help as needed.

Part 3: Sharing and discussing - 10 minutes

- Have each group present text to others.
- Discuss reasons for the changes in the meaning of Hanukkah over time.

Part 4: Implementation and Assessment-20 minutes

- Each student pulls a card from a hat so the class is re-divided into 3 new groups:
 - The "first" Hanukkah (based on *Sefer Maccabim*)
 - Hanukkah in the Rabbinic period (Based on Talmud)
 - Hanukkah today (based on Israeli Hanukkah songs)
- Using the props/costumes each group creates a tableau that illustrates a Hanukkah celebration their relevant era.
- In chronological order, present and discuss tableaus.
- Refer to the pictures the students drew in the beginning and remind them the initial question ("Why do we celebrate Hanukkah?") Has their answer changed?
- Exit card: How (and why) did the celebration of Hanukkah change over time?