

Title: Hanukkah- Festival of Lights

Grade Level: K-5

Objective: Members will learn about the cultural tradition of Hanukkah and make a clay Menorah.



Lesson Plan

Materials: Air dry clay, paint or glaze, pencils/straws/pantbrushes.

Opening Activity: What is Hanukkah? Hanukkah, the "Festival of Lights", starts on the 25th day of the Jewish calendar month of Kislev and lasts for eight days and nights. Hanukkah begins at sundown. It's known as the Festival of Lights because the story of Hanukkah is about light lasting a long time after it's fuel was gone- like a candle that keeps burning even though all the wax is gone! We're going to make a candle holder, also called a Menorah.

Core Activity:

- Shape the clay for the Menorah any way you like, as long as it can hold 9 candles (1 candle for each day of the 8-day holiday and 1 candle to light the others with).
- Flatten out the base so it will stand solidly.
- Press a pencil into the clay where the candle would go, making an opening a bit larger than the candle itself. (Clays shrink when dry).
- Use a pencil, end of paintbrush or straw to add texture to the Menorah.
- Allow the Menorah to dry.
- Paint or glaze to finish.

Reflection: As members help clean up the space, ask them to imagine what it would be like if the only light was candle-light! No tv, no flashlights, nothing but the candle. How important would the candle be?