

Mystery photograph



The Hanukkah Story

More than two thousand years ago a Greek king called Antiochus ruled many lands. He declared to all of the people living in his lands that they must worship the Greek Gods and could not follow their own religions. The Jewish people in Israel were unhappy about this. They wanted to follow their own religion. They believed strongly in one God and followed their holy book, the Torah. King Antiochus became angry with the Jews as they defied him and he ordered his soldiers to storm the holy city of Jerusalem. The soldiers ransacked the Jewish temple where the Jews worshipped, they stole the temple treasures and put out the special oil lamp which burned all day and all night as a symbol of God's presence.

Not far from Jerusalem in the small town of Modi'in, there lived a priest called Mattathias with his five sons. Mattathias and his family refused to believe in the Greek Gods and continued to worship their one God and read their holy book. Many other Jews joined them and formed a group of freedom fighters. They had many fights with the Greek soldiers. When Mattathias died his son, Judah, took over his army to fight for freedom. King Antiochus was very angry, more and more Jews had been joining Judah's freedom army so he decided to send scores of his Greek soldiers to declare war on them and put a stop to the rebellion. When Judah's army saw the huge Greek army approach they began to tremble with fear, they knew they were outnumbered. Judah told his men to fight hard and not to be afraid, they were fighting for God and he would protect them. The men believed in God and though the battle was long and hard and many lives were lost the Jews were victorious and drove the Greeks from their land.

In their triumph Judah led the people to the temple in the centre of Jerusalem where they spent time cleaning it and making it holy once more. When it was ready they found the oil lamp that they knew must be lit to show that God lived in the temple, but there was no oil! They looked all over the temple and eventually Judah found a small bottle of oil, but it was not enough to last until his men could get more. He poured it into the lamp, lit it and prayed to God to keep the lamp burning until more oil was found. The lamp did burn, and remained burning for eight days until Judah's men returned with more oil.

Since that time Jewish people have celebrated the festival of Hanukkah. They light lamps to remember the miracle that happened in the temple long ago. They remember how God showed them he was with them, how they fought the Greek army and drove them from their holy city and won the freedom to worship their one God.

How to make traditional Hanukkah Potato Latkes



Serve with applesauce – delicious!

Fried food is traditionally eaten on Hanukkah in commemoration of the oil that miraculously burned for eight days when the Maccabees purified and rededicated the holy Temple in Jerusalem. Fried Potato Pancakes (called Latkes in Yiddish and Levivot in Hebrew) are the hands-down, mouth-open holiday favourite.

Ingredients:

- 5 potatoes
- 2 onions
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- Between 1/4 to 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- Oil for frying

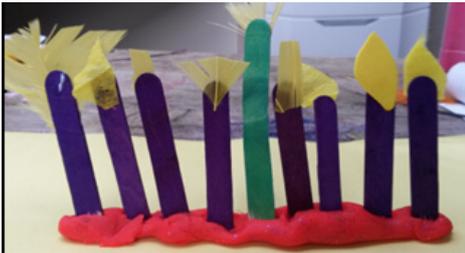
Preparation:

1. Peel potatoes. Place in a bowl of cold water so they won't turn brown.
2. When ready to prepare the latkes, drain the potatoes. Place potatoes and onions in a food processor fitted with a knife blade. Pulse until smooth. Drain mixture well.
3. Pour potato mixture into a large bowl. Add beaten eggs. Add salt and pepper. Add enough flour so that the mixture holds together.
4. Pour 1 inch of oil into a large, deep frying pan. Heat the oil over medium-high heat.
5. Carefully drop 1/4 cup of the potato mixture into the hot oil.
6. Flatten the pancake slightly so the centre will cook.
7. Fry for several minutes on each side until golden brown and cooked through.
8. Drain on paper towels.

How to make a Play dough Menorah

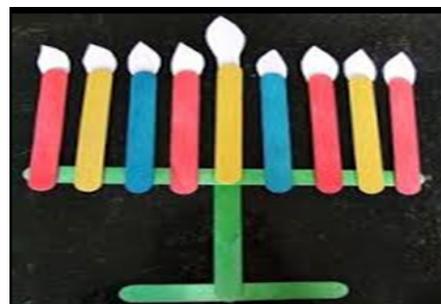


Using play dough, roll out a sausage shape

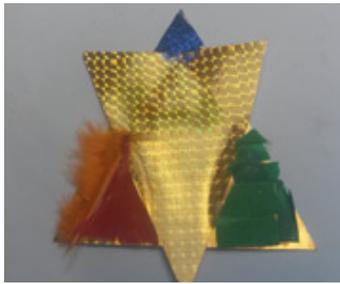
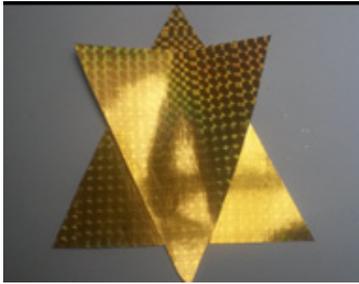


Break 5 lolly sticks in half. Remember to leave one long lolly stick which will be at the centre of the Menorah. Use glue to join feathers, felt or tissue paper to the end of the sticks. Now you have made candles. Arrange them in the play dough so the longest stick is the centre with four shorter sticks on either side.

Can you think of other ways to make a Menorah?



Star of David craft ideas



This patchwork Star of David allows children to create original artwork. Once it's completed try hanging it somewhere in your class. Use pre-made art and stick that onto the star or simply use scraps of paper, fabric, sequins, glitter, ribbon and feathers to create an eye catching design!

- Use coloured card to cut out 2 triangle shapes
- Glue one triangle on top of the other
- Start sticking down your materials
- If you choose to, create a hole with string and hang in your class



This lolly pop Star of David looks fantastic hanging in the classroom. Allow children to experiment joining the lolly sticks using sellotape, glue or blue-tack. Decorate using glitter, tissue paper coloured balls or paint.

- Create 2 triangle shapes
- Join one triangle on top of the other
- Stick on your materials
- Hang with string

Other craft Ideas:

Painting

<http://blog.melissaanddoug.com/2012/12/10/hanukkahcraftfortoddlersandolderkidstoo>

A simple Star of David activity, try to encourage children to make their own variations!

Firework craft ideas

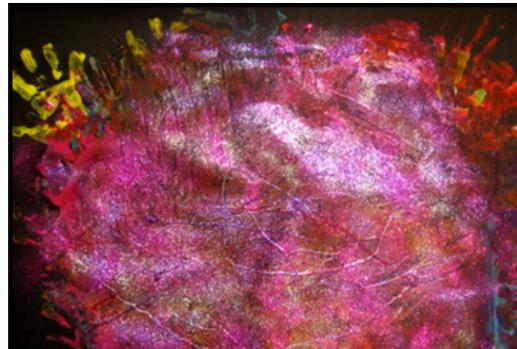
Firework Handprints

You will need:

- A big piece of black card
- Colourful paints
- Glitter

Method:

- Create a large space in your class for chn to paint- the floor would be ideal
- Cover the floor with some protective material and lay out some plates of paint
- Chn can stretch out, splat, bang and swirl to create explosive fireworks
- Add glue and glitter to the painting



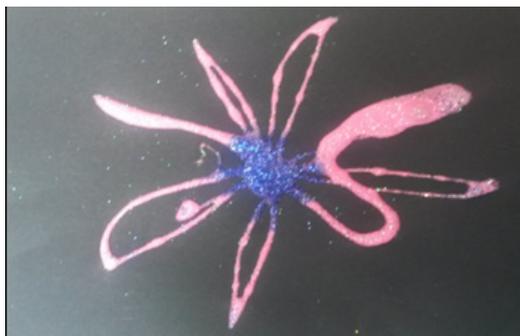
Firework Sparkles

You will need:

- Black paper
- Glue
- Colourful glitter

Method:

- Explore using glue and glitter sprinkles
- Spread glue all over the page
- Create swirling, exploding fireworks



Hanukkah, Diwali and Eid song words

Hanukkah Song

(Sing to the tune of 'The Wheels on the bus')

Hanukkah is here again
here again
here again
Hanukkah is here again
Hip hip hooray

Light the Menorah

1,2,3

1,2,3

1,2,3

Light the Menorah

1,2,3

Hip hip hooray

Lots of fireworks

Bang bang bang

Bang bang bang

Lots of fireworks

Bang bang bang

Hip hip hooray

Potato latkes

Yum yum yum

Yum yum yum

Potato latkes

Yum yum yum

Hip hip hooray

Diwali Song

(Sing to the tune of 'The Wheels on the bus')

Diwali is here again
here again
here again
Diwali is here again
Hip hip hooray

Shining Lanterns
1,2,3
1,2,3
1,2,3

Shining Lanterns
1,2,3
Hip hip hooray

Lots of fireworks
lots of noise
lots of noise
lots of noise
Lots of fireworks
Lots of noise
Hip hip hooray

Lots of sweets for girls and boys
girls and boys
girls and boys
Lots of sweets for girls and boys
Hip hip hooray

Eid Song

(Sing to the tune of 'The Wheels on the bus')

Eid is here again
here again
here again
Eid is here again
Hip hip hooray

Mehndi patterns
1,2,3
1,2,3
1,2,3
Mehndi patterns
1,2,3
Hip hip hooray

Lots of fireworks,
Whiz whiz whiz
Whiz whiz whiz
Lots of fireworks,
Whiz, whiz, whiz
Hip hip hooray

Writing Eid cards
Love from me
Love from me
Love from me
Writing Eid cards
Love from me
Hip hip hooray