



Hanukkah Activity

Dreidel Game

The dreidel is an ancient, four-sided top with one Hebrew letter on each side. The letters nun, gimel, hay, and shin form an acronym that means "A great miracle happened there." Play this spinning-top game with your family and friends this Hanukkah.

Fun Fact: In Israel, a letter of the dreidel is changed, and the letters form an acronym that means "A great miracle happened here."

How to play:

This game should be played in groups of four.

Each player gets an equal amount of gelt. (In Yiddish, gelt means money or gold. You can use pennies, candy or nuts, or the special chocolate coins given out at Hanukkah).

Put five pieces of gelt in the pot. Then, each player takes a turn spinning the dreidel.

NUN

נ

GIMEL

ג

HEY

ה

SHIN

ש

If it lands on Nun,
the player receives nothing.

If it lands on Hey,
the player takes half of what's in the pot.

If it lands on Gimel,
the player takes all of the pot.

If it lands on Shin,
the player puts one piece of gelt into the pot.

HANUKKAH

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of Cincinnati

Hanukkah

What is it?

Hanukkah, which means “dedication” in Hebrew, celebrates the re-dedication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem in 165 B.C.E after the military victory of the Jewish Maccabees over the Greco-Syrians who had made it illegal for Jews to worship.

Our ancient rabbis tell us that when the Maccabees regained control of the Temple, they found only enough oil to light the menorah for one day. The oil miraculously lasted for 8 days, and so Hanukkah is celebrated for 8 days.

How do I say it?

HAH-noo-kuh

How is it celebrated?

On each night, an additional candle on the Hanukkah menorah is lit. Many families exchange gifts, and enjoy foods that are fried in oil, such as latkes and sufganiyot.

What is the holiday greeting?

Happy Hanukkah or
Hag Sameah: joyous festival
(HAHG sah-MEHY-ah)

Holiday Dictionary:

Dreidel:

A spinning top with Hebrew letters that stand for “A Great Miracle Happened There.”

Gelt:

Chocolate coins often given as gifts.

Hanukkah Menorah or Hanukkiyah:

A nine-branched candelabra.

Latkes:

Potato pancakes.

Sufganiyot:

Jelly donuts.



Stained Glass Cookies

- ½ cup softened butter
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 large egg
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup crushed hard candy

Tip: Short on time? Use premade dough and skip down to step 3.

Using a mixer, cream together butter and sugar until fluffy. Add egg and vanilla extract. In a separate bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, and salt.

Gradually add dry ingredients to the butter, and cream the mixture. Wrap tightly with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least an hour.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. On a lightly-floured surface, roll out batter about ¼ inch thick.

Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes. Cut a small circle in the middle of each shape with a butter knife or smaller cookie cutter.

Place shapes on a parchment-lined baking sheet and bake for 5 minutes.

Remove the baking sheet, and carefully spoon ½ teaspoon of crushed hard candy into the center of each cookie.

Bake for 4-5 more minutes, or until the candy has melted completely.

Cool, first for 15 minutes on baking sheet, then move to cooling rack.