

Values Curriculum:

Creating Light/Yotzeret Or/Hanukkah

OVERVIEW	This session explores the holiday of Hanukkah, our festival of light. Using the <i>hanukkiyah</i> /menorah as the focal point, students learn about bringing light into the darkness.
OBJECTIVE	To craft a <i>hanukkiyah</i> and Hanukkah candles as a way of creating light in the darkest season of the year. Students will link the physical creation of light to the concept of making the world a brighter place through our actions.
VALUE(S)	<i>Yotzeret Or</i> (Creating Light)
STORY	"Moishe's Miracle" by Laura Krauss Melmed
MATERIALS	Candle materials, a frying pan, a <i>hanukkiyah</i> , Hanukkiyah materials
AT HOME CHALLENGE	Students will take their <i>hanukkiyot</i> /menorahs and candles home and light them for Hanukkah. Families will consider acts of kindness and generosity they could perform together during Hanukkah.

Materials List

Activity One

- One or more hanukiyah/menorah and/or photos of hanukkiyot
- Thin wood boards, 2" x 10" or similar size
- Colorful mosaic tiles, 1cm square
- Cups or small bowls
- Tacky glue (small cups for distributing the glue and q-tips for applying)
- Bolts or small candle bobeches (candle collars for catching wax)
- Sandwich bags

Activity Two

- Hanukkah blessings sheets
- Matches

Gathering Activity

- Wax sheets cut into 3 x 4 inch rectangles (look for beeswax or other candle wax)
- Candle wick cut in 5 inch lengths
- Scissors
- Sample Hanukkah candles

Opening/Closing Circle

- Book: *Moishe's Miracle* by Laura Krauss Melmed
- A frying pan
- Big pad of paper and markers
- Hanukkah blessings sheet
- At Home Challenge Sheet

Gathering Activity: Hanukkah Candle Making (15 Minutes)

Children will balance objects on a homemade scale.

1. Gather children around a table with candle materials laid out.
2. Demonstrate for the children how to make one candle.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkEWPRBYE2g>
3. Have each child choose one piece of wax at a time and roll one candle at a time. Some children will need help to get started or to roll their candle tightly enough. A tighter roll makes a better candle but a looser roll will still burn.
4. Children should continue making candles until they run out of time or materials. There will not be enough time or materials to make a complete set; each child will have a few candles.



Opening Circle (10 Minutes)

Gather everyone into a circle and begin with a melody, a niggun or a greeting song such as Hineh Ma Tov.

Tell about today's theme:

- Today we are learning about Hanukkah.
- What do we already know about Hanukkah?
- Hanukkah: is a festival of lights, tells a story about a miracle of lights, tells a story Jews saving the Jewish temple, is celebrated by lighting the *hanukkiyah*/menorah, eating foods cooked in oil like latkes and doughnuts, and playing dreidel.

Introduce today's Hebrew word — Hanukkah:

- Everyone, bring your hands up in a U shape over your head to be in the shape of a hanukkiyah/menorah. Twinkle your fingers like they are candles and say, "Ha-nu-kah, Ha-nu-kah, Ha-nu-kah."
- The word Hanukkah means dedication. Hanukkah is about our dedication to bringing light to the darkness and to making the world a better, brighter place.

Story (20 Minutes)

Introduce the Story — Moishe's Miracle

- Set a frying pan in the center of the circle. Ask the children about their experiences with latkes.
- Have you ever eaten a latke? Have you ever made a latke?
- The story we're going to read is about a person named Moishe and his wife, Baila. Moishe was a very kind and generous person. Baila had a harder time being kind and generous. She worried about not having enough for her own family. This is a story about how Moishe's kindness brought a miracle and how Baila learned from it. It is also a story about latkes.

Read the Story. Ask some good Questions.

- **Check for Understanding**

- ◊ What were some of the kind things that Moishe did?
- ◊ How did her bad experience with the frying pan change Baila?
- ◊ How did the frying pan help the village even after it stopped working?

- **Get Curious**

- ◊ What are kids wondering about the story?
- ◊ Encourage kids to wonder about WHY something happened in the story, WHAT might happen next, or HOW someone did something.

- ◇ Record these questions on the big pad of paper.
- ◇ These questions don't have to have answers – though kids are welcome to try and answer each other's questions.
- ◇ Have kids respond to each other's questions with "good question!" and a thumbs up

- **Give one more Question to Ponder**

- ◇ I'm wondering: Could Baila have become a kinder person without having had that difficult experience with the frying pan?

10 Minute Break

Activity One: Making Hanukkiyot (30 Minutes)

Children will make *hanukkiyot*/menorahs that they can use to celebrate Hanukkah.

Introduce the Activity:

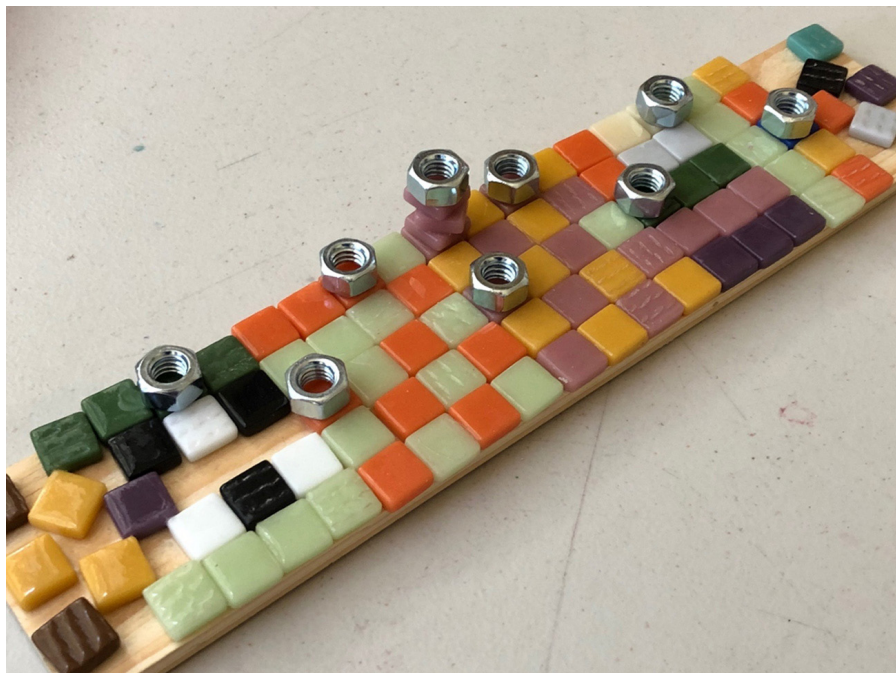
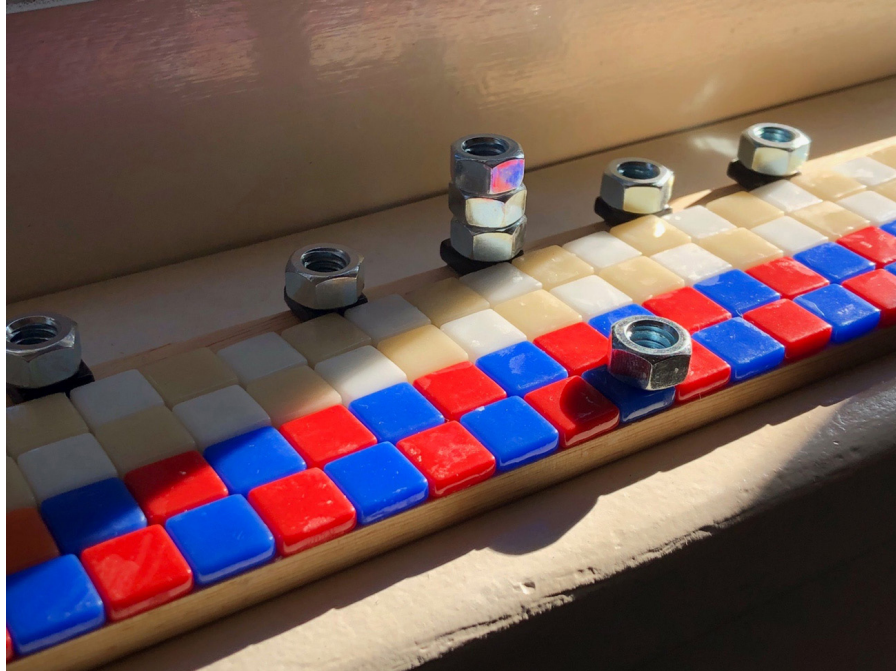
In our story, Moishe made the world brighter thorough his acts of kindness and generosity. At Hanukkah, which comes at the darkest time of the year, we make the world brighter, by our actions and by lighting Hanukkah candles. We have already made a few candles to light. Now we are going to make our very own hanukkiyot.

Show the children the hanukkiyah that you brought and/or photos that you have. Look at it together and see what you notice about it. What makes it a hanukkiyah? Make sure everyone sees the following:

- **There are 9 spaces for candles.**
- **One is separate — usually higher, sometimes off to the side — for the shamash.**
- **Usually the candles are in a line but they don't have to be.**

1. Show the children a completed tile hanukiyah sample or demonstrate how they can glue the tiles.
2. Give each child a piece of wood and make sure they have access to a cup of glue, either their own or one to share.
3. Have each child take a cup or small bowl full of tiles.
4. Each child will glue their tiles on in any pattern that they wish. They may fill in all of the space or leave blank patches. They may make a pattern or do their tiles at random.
5. Once a child's tiles are glued, they are ready for bolts or bobechees for holding the candles. Before you give them the candle holders, ask them where their shamash will be and make sure they have a special space that is higher or set apart.

6. Each child will glue on their bolts or bobeches in any pattern they wish. Make sure each bolt or bobeche rests on tile and not wood.
7. When you have 5 minutes left and/or most students seem done with their work, do a group gallery walk so that everyone can see each other's creations.
8. If anyone doesn't finish, give them the material in a sandwich bag to take home so they finish at home.
9. Leave the hanukkiyot on the table to dry.



Activity Two: Hanukkah Blessings (10 Minutes)

Children will practice lighting the Hanukkah candles together.

- Ask the children: Who has lit Hanukkah candles before? How does it work?
- Using the hanukkiyah you brought and a few of the candles you all made, have a volunteer or two help you put the candles into the hanukkiyah.
- Traditionally we place the candles right to left, adding one new candle each night, and light them left to right.
- If you have a volunteer who wants to help you light the shamash and can do it safely have them help you. As you light it, or as soon as it has been lit, sing the first blessing.
- Have another volunteer or two help you light the additional candles with the shamash while you sing the next blessing.

While you watch the candles, talk about when you do the third blessing (first night only). And whether we blow the candles out or not (not). And what we can do while the candles are burning at home (play and visit, we are not supposed to work while the candles burn).

Closing Circle (10 Minutes)

Gather everyone into a circle.

We've made everything we need to bring light to the darkness by lighting Hanukkah candles. We've also learned from Moishe that we can bring light to the darkness through kindness and generosity. What is one kind or generous thing you could do to make the world brighter this year at Hanukkah?

Have each child share an idea of something they could do. If they have trouble coming up with ideas either remind them of things Moishe did in the story or think together about other kind and generous things we can do. Have each child pick one thing from the list that they think they personally could do.

Review the Hebrew Words of the Day:

- Have the children practice the Hebrew words with their bodies: bring your hands up in a U shape over your head to be in the shape of a hanukkiyah/menorah. Twinkle your fingers like they are candles and say, "Ha-nu-kah, Ha-nu-kah, Ha-nu-kah."
- Have the children say what Hanukkah means: dedication. Dedication to bringing light to the darkness, to making the world a better, brighter place.

Pass out the At Home Challenge Sheet

Sing a goodbye song like *Shalom Chaverim* or *Oseh Shalom*.

At Home Challenge: Creating Light

Today, in celebration of Hanukkah, we learned how we can be *Yotzrei Or*, creators of light. We made everything we need to actually make light in the darkness by lighting Hanukkah candles. We also learned how doing acts of kindness and generosity make the world a better brighter place.

Here are things you can do as a family to practice being *Yotzrei Or* at your house this Hanukkah.

1. Light your new hanukkiyah/menorah during each night of Hanukkah using the candles your child made today (and others).
2. Talk about what kind or generous acts you could do as a part of your family's celebration of Hanukkah. Some ideas are:
 - ◇ Pick one night of Hanukkah to make a donation. Talk together about where you want to give and why. If the donation is something concrete, go together as a family to buy it and to give it.
 - ◇ Make cookies or another holiday treat and share them with a friend, a neighbor, a teacher.
 - ◇ Consider volunteering together at a community organization. Can you help at the food bank? Deliver meals to people who are homebound?
 - ◇ Invite friends over the celebrate Hanukkah with you and share your home and hospitality.
 - ◇ Think of someone you haven't seen in a while or who has been ill and pay them a visit, make them a card, or give them a call together as a family.

Hanukkah Blessings

1. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu
b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

2. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim
la'avoteinu (v'imoteinu) bayamim hahaeim baz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

3. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁחַיֵּינוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְמַן הַזֶּה

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu
v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.