



Chanukah

# Lesson Plan

*3rd-5th Grade*



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"Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness." –Anne Frank

*Recommended for Grades 3rd-5th*

## Chanukah Candle Making

### Big Ideas

- The holiday of Chanukah is the Festival of Lights.
- Everyone can be a light in their own way.
- Everyone has an important role to play, and everyone can be useful!

### Objectives

- Students will be able to identify a *Chanukiah* and make their own candles.
- Students will understand that everyone is different, and be able to identify something that makes them special.

### Materials

- used crayons
- microwave or oven
- [mini cupcake tin](#) (for candle mold)
- [tea candle wicks](#)
- plastic ziploc bags (to contain pieces when smashing crayons into smaller bits)
- printed Matan Handouts 1 and 2



## Accessibility Considerations

- Allow flexible seating (provide students options for seating, i.e. on the floor, in a chair, in a bean bag chair, standing, etc.).
- Provide preferential seating (consider student strengths and group dynamics when arranging seating).
- Provide visual (included) for sorting crayons, if needed.
- Provide step by step visual instructions (included) for making candles.
- Consider sending visuals ahead of time for those that might benefit from previewing the lesson.
- Give clear directions and check that students understand the direction given.
- Allow processing/wait time before calling on a student to answer.

## Activities

Chanukah is the Festival of Lights, **חג האורים** (*chag ha'urim*). Explain to students that “chag” means “holiday” or “festival”, and “*ha'urim*” means “of lights”. Go through the Chanukah story with the students and highlight how the Maccabees were a very small army but still managed to beat Antiochus.

On Chanukah we light the candles on the *chanukiah* to help us remember the miracle of the little bit of oil lasting 8 whole days and the small army of the Maccabees defeating the bigger army!

Let's make our own Chanukah candles to use for our *Chanukiah*!

1. In groups or individually, provide bowls of crayons that have been used throughout the year. Tell students to find pieces of the crayons that are no longer “useful” and have them sort those into a separate bowl.
2. Observe the crayons students deemed “not useful”. Discuss: Why aren't they useful? Ask students to brainstorm what makes a crayon useful.
3. Share with students that now we are going to use the crayons to make candles. Those crayons aren't only useful, they are perfect for the job of becoming Chanukah candles!
4. Have students make their own Chanukah candles using the attached visual.

## Assessment:

- Exit ticket: Have students share 2 things that they learned from the lesson. This can be written or oral