



Chanukah

Lesson Plan

Middle/High School



"This is the season when people of all faiths and cultures are pushing back against the planetary darkness.
We string bulbs, ignite bonfires, and light candles. And we sing."
—Anita Diamant

Recommended for Middle/High School

Inclusive Party Planning

Big Ideas

- Chanukah is a time when people gather to celebrate the Festival of Lights.
- Latkes, *sufganiyot*, dreidels, and lighting *Chanukiot* are all traditions we observe on *Chanukah*.
- Everyone should feel welcome and included in our Chanukah festivities.

Objectives

- Students will be able to identify the different traditions people partake in for Chanukah and understand why they are significant.
- Students will learn how to adapt activities to ensure that ALL individuals can partake in the Festival of Lights.

Materials

- dreidels
- Matan visual party planner (Handout 1)
- cooking ingredients (if possible)
- a way to watch a video about *Chanukah*
- articles about *Chanukah* traditions
 - [Dreidel article](#)
 - [Food article](#)
 - [Chanukiah lighting article](#)



Accessibility Considerations

- Allow flexible seating (provide students options for seating ex. 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)
- Visual for sorting crayons can be used if needed
- Provide step by step visual for candle making
- Consider sending visuals ahead of time for those that might benefit from seeing the lesson ahead of time
- Give clear directions and check that students understand the direction given
- Allow processing time before calling on a student to answer

Activities

Chanukah is a holiday where we often gather as a community to celebrate the Festival of Lights - “*Chag Ha’orim*”
Open with a discussion question: “Have you ever gone to a party and not felt like you belonged?”

Let’s learn about the Chanukah traditions that we partake in at parties and how we can ensure that all people feel included in our holiday celebration. Watch [this video](#) to learn about the following Chanukah traditions:

- Chanukah foods: *latkes* and *sufganiyot*
- lighting the *Chanukiah*
- playing dreidel

Now that we have gone over the different traditions of Chanukah, let’s work together as a class to plan a Chanukah party that is inclusive and ensures that everyone feels like they belong.

Divide students into three groups. Each group will be tasked with planning an activity for one of the three traditions of Chanukah.

Students will be prompted to use the visual tool (included) to prompt them to ask questions to ensure that the activity is inclusive.

Assessment:

- Students will complete a party planner document while brainstorming, which will be used to throw a Chanukah party for a part of their community (i.e. a younger grade, the entire synagogue, families, etc.)