

topic: **HOLIDAYS | Hanukkah**

*Fill in each blank space with the correct response. If both responses are acceptable, choose the one that sounds **more natural**:*

Hanukkah (sometimes spelled Chanukah) is an important Jewish holiday. Many see it as a celebration of Jewish national (1)\_\_\_\_\_ (survive/survival) and freedom of religion.

The holiday commemorates the Maccabees' revolt and (2)\_\_\_\_\_ (win/victory) over the Greeks and rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem after it had been (3)\_\_\_\_\_ (discouraged/desecrated) by the king of Syria.

Hanukkah, also known as the "Festival of Lights", begins on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev, and (4)\_\_\_\_\_ (grows/lasts) for 8 days.

The most important religious (5)\_\_\_\_\_ (observance/absolution) is lighting candles on a "menorah" (which holds nine candles).

This lighting of the candles (one per day for eight days) is done to commemorate the "eight-day miracle" - After the Temple was rededicated there was only enough oil for the candles to (6)\_\_\_\_\_ (burn/light) for one day, but miraculously, they (7)\_\_\_\_\_ (burned/lit) for eight days.

There are special blessings/prayers which one should (8)\_\_\_\_\_ (receive/recite) while lighting the candles.

Traditional games (like the spinning-top "dreidel") and songs (dealing with Hanukkah-related themes) are also important parts of the (9)\_\_\_\_\_ (celebrity/celebration).

(10)\_\_\_\_\_ (Exchanging/Changing) gifts is another popular Hanukkah tradition.

There are also some foods associated with Hanukkah - These (11)\_\_\_\_\_ (vary/diversify) according to tradition. Some well-known ones are potato pancakes ("latkes") and home-made donuts.

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**ANSWERS:**

1) survival 2)victory 3)desecrated 4)lasts 5)observance 6)burn 7)burned  
8)recite 9)celebration 10)Exchanging 11)vary