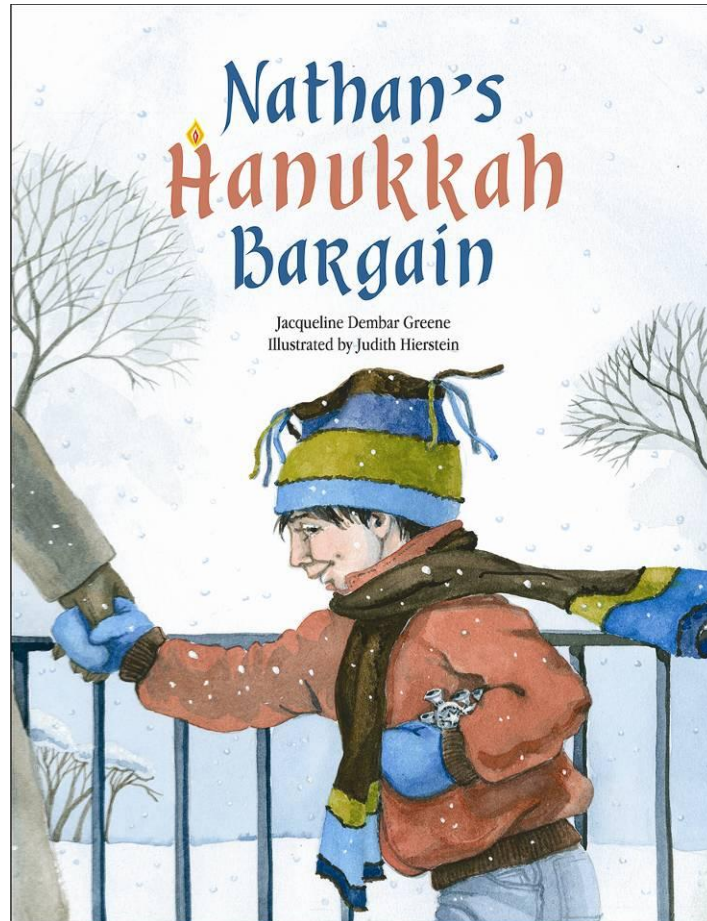


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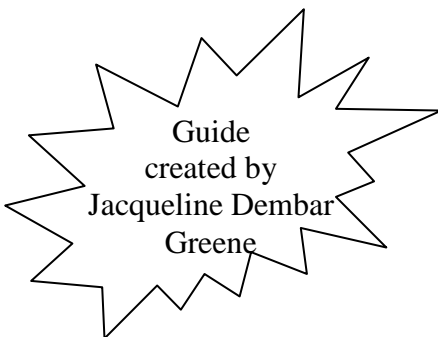
Activity Guide for



Nathan's Hanukkah Bargain
By Jacqueline Dembar Greene, Illustrated by Judith Hierstein

Activities for:

Social Studies Math
Art Games
Reading



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EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
NATHAN'S HANUKKAH BARGAIN
Jacqueline Dembar Greene

Social Studies

New York City

1. Nathan and his grandfather live in New York City. Can you find it on a map?
2. Why is a city a good place for Nathan to go shopping?

Israel

1. The first Hanukkah was celebrated when the Jewish people re-dedicated their temple in Jerusalem. Jerusalem is now the capital of Israel.
2. Find Israel on a map. Is it a large country or a small one?
3. Look at the Coat of Arms of the country of Israel. It shows a menorah surrounded by an olive branch. An olive branch stands for “peace.” What might the menorah represent? (Hint: It could mean religious freedom, or the continued existence of the Jewish people.)



Winter celebrations

1. Other religious or cultural celebrations take place around the same time as Hanukkah, which usually falls in December. What celebrations do you know about?
 - a. One is the winter solstice. This usually falls on Dec. 21 or 22, and marks the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. Each day after the winter solstice, daylight lasts a little longer. Many ancient cultures celebrated the solstice and welcomed the coming of longer daylight hours.
 - b. Christmas falls during the month of December. Candles and lights are a major part of the decorations.
 - c. African-Americans celebrate the cultural festival of Kwanzaa during December. They light candles in a 7-branched holder.
 - d. Can you think of any others?

More about menorahs

Do you know why Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah? When the Jews purified their temple after defeating the Hellenistic Syrians, they wanted to relight the eternal flame that was kept burning all the time. They searched the damaged temple, and finally found one small container of purified oil for the eternal lamp. There was only enough oil to last for one day, but they poured it into the lamp and lit it. Amazingly, the lamp burned for 8 full days. It was enough time to make more pure oil for the lamp. Many Jews believe it was a miracle that the lamp burned with the small amount of oil for eight days.

Judah the Maccabee, who had led the Jews in their struggle, decided that the people should light eight lights in a special holder every year at the same time. Ancient Jewish temples already had menorahs, decorative candleholders with 7 branches. Now a new nine-branched candleholder was designed. It had one holder in the middle that was used to light eight other lights. One light was lit on the first night of Hanukkah, and an additional one was added each night after that until all the flames in the menorah burned brightly.

Menorahs can be made from simple materials that people have in their homes. Many menorahs are made out of clay. Some have small pots to fill with oil, and others use brightly colored candles. Artists fashion menorahs from stone, clay, silver, or gold. Many are beautiful works of art. Menorahs are usually passed down from one generation to the next. Many families today have more than one menorah in their home.

Whether a menorah burns candles or oil, the flame should last for at least one-half hour. Today, many families turn off the electric lights in their homes so they can enjoy the warm glow coming from the menorah.

Hanukkah Foods

1. To remember how the pure oil in the Jerusalem temple burned for eight nights, it became a tradition to eat foods that were fried in oil during Hanukkah. Perhaps the most popular food is a potato pancake, called a *latke*. Grated potatoes are mixed with eggs, flour, and salt, and are fried until they are crisp and brown. Another popular Hanukkah treat is a type of doughnut, called *sufganiyot* in Israel.
2. Many people also eat dairy foods, especially those made with cheese, during the Hanukkah week. Cheese **blintzes**, which are a thin pancake filled with a cheese mixture, are browned in melted butter, which is similar to frying.
3. **Applesauce** is a popular treat to eat with latkes and blintzes. You can make applesauce very easily. Here's how:



You will need:

8 apples 3 tbs. water 1 tsp. cinnamon Sugar (optional)

With an adult's help, peel, core, and then cut 8 apples into small pieces. Place them in a saucepan with about 3 tablespoons of water and 1 teaspoon of cinnamon. A few tablespoons of sugar can be added, if you wish. Cook and stir the apples over medium heat until the mixture is soft. It can be eaten warm or chilled. Yum!

Bargaining

Now that you know how Nathan's grandfather taught him to bargain, think about places where you might make a good bargain. Some places where prices are not set are outdoor markets, yard sales, flea markets, antique stores and used furniture shops. In some countries, you can bargain in small stores, as well.

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Art

Make a menorah

You will need:

- 9 metal bottle caps*
- An empty spaghetti box*
- Aluminum foil*
- Glue and Tape*
- Candles or oil and wicks*
- Optional: Holiday stickers, such as stars.*

Cover the box with shiny aluminum foil, and seal the ends with clear tape. Decorative stickers can be used to decorate the covered box, if you wish.

Glue the bottle caps on one flat side of the box, making sure that one cap is in the center, and four caps are evenly spaced on each side.

The caps can be filled with oil and a wick for lighting it, or candles can be placed in the cap holders. If your candles will not stand up, you can glue them down or have an adult help you light a candle and drip some wax into the bottle caps. Stick the candles in the melted wax. When it dries, your candles will be stuck! Remember, you will want to use your middle candle to light the others, so make sure you can remove it from its cap. Don't leave your menorah burning unattended, and make sure you have permission before lighting it.

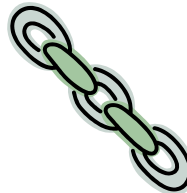


Paper chain

Blue and white are the colors of the Israeli flag. At Hanukkah, the same colors are used in simple decorations.

To make a paper chain, you will need:

- Blue and White construction paper*
- Scissors*
- Glue, clear tape, or a stapler*



Using the short side, cut each piece of construction paper into 2-inch wide strips. Make a loop with one strip of paper, and fasten the end with tape, glue, or a metal staple. Alternate colors, and loop each new strip through the previous one, fastening each one.

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Games

Play a game of dreidel



You will need:

A plastic or wooden dreidel

*Five milk bottle caps, nuts, or wrapped candies for each player. (Note: a popular Hanukkah treat is chocolates wrapped in shiny gold foil to represent coins. These make great “tokens” for the holiday game. The golden coins, also called **gelt**, represent the tradition of giving money to teachers and to people in need during the holiday season.)*

A **dreidel** is a four-sided spinning top that children made from clay or blocks of wood. A Hanukkah dreidel has Hebrew letters written on each side. The letters are **nun**, **gimel**, **hay**, and **shin**. In English, the letters represent the words, “A Great Miracle Happened There.”

When you play the dreidel game, each letter also tells the player what to do. Here’s how it works. Each player starts with five tokens (bottle caps, nuts or candies). Each player puts one token in the center of the floor or table. Then the first player spins the dreidel, and when it lands, the letter facing up tells the player what to do.

If the dreidel lands on **nun** (נ), the player does nothing except pass the dreidel along to the next player.

If it lands on **gimel** (ג), that player wins all the tokens in the center and takes them. Each player must then place one additional token in the center to continue the game.

If the dreidel lands on **hay** (ה), the player wins half of the tokens in the “pot.”

If it lands on **shin** (ש), that player must put one of his tokens into the center.

The game may be played as long as each player has tokens to contribute to the “pot.” After the game is over, be sure to have extra treats for everyone!

Make a Play

Children can act out a scene where they need to bargain with each other.

Some suggested scenarios might be buying a used bike with money that the buyer had earned or buying a toy at a yard sale with saved up allowance. In each case, have the children decide how much money the “buyer” has, and how much the “seller” is asking. The goal of the play is to have both the buyer and seller agree on a suitable and affordable price.

Math

1. The youngest children can be given a supply of milk bottle caps. Have each cap represent one quarter. Show how many quarters make one dollar. Have children stack piles of caps until each pile represents one dollar. How many stacks of quarters did Nathan have when he went to purchase a menorah?

2. Figure out how many candles are needed to light the menorah each night for eight nights. (Hint: Don't forget to count the head candle, called the *shamash* in Hebrew.)
Solution: Add $2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9$.
3. Talk about how much menorahs cost in the store Nathan visited. How much more money would Nathan need to buy them?
4. How much money did the shopkeeper ask for the old menorah in the window?
How much did Nathan have? What is the difference between the two?
5. How much money did Nathan offer the shopkeeper at first? What was the difference between what was asked and what Nathan offered?

Learn About the Past

Ask a grandparent or an older relative or neighbor what shopping was like when they were your age. What kinds of stores did they have in their neighborhood? How was shopping different than today?

Ask a grandparent or an older relative or neighbor how they earned money when they were your age. How much did they earn for each job? What did they like to buy with their spending money? How much did these items cost? What could you buy with the same amount of money today?

Suggested Reading

Related books:

The Trees of the Dancing Goats, Patricia Polacco

Hanukkah: Eight Lights Around the World, Susan Sussman (4-8)

Festival of Lights: The Story of Hanukkah, Maida Silverman (4-8, simple story of Hanukkah and the origins of the menorah)

The Hanukkah Mice, Ronne Randall (4-8, holographs and story of Hanukkah and the menorah)

Eight Wild Nights, a Family Hanukkah Tale, Brian P. Cleary (rhyming tale)

Toby Belfer Never Had a Christmas Tree, Gloria Pushker

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