

## Hanukkah

Around 300 BCE, the Syrians ruled over Israel. They prohibited Jews from studying the Torah, celebrating the Shabbat, and using their Holy Temple. The Jews rose up against this oppression and after a lengthy struggle could practice their religious customs again. They repaired the damage the Syrians had caused to the Holy Temple and then wanted to light the Temple candelabra. They found a small jar of special oil, just enough for the candelabra to burn for one day. But a miracle occurred. The candelabra continued burning for eight days – exactly how long the celebration had lasted when the Temple was first dedicated.

### How is Hanukkah celebrated nowadays?

Today, we still celebrate Hanukkah for eight days. Every evening of the festival, an extra candle is lit on a nine-armed candelabra: on the first evening one candle, the second evening two candles, and so on, until eight candles are burning on the last night. But then why does the candelabra have nine arms? Eight candles (or burners for oil) are meant for the eight days of the festival and the ninth candle – the servant – is used to light these. During this holiday, a special game is played with a spinning top (*dreidel*) and you also give each other presents. Happy Hanukkah!



### My notes:



Teach your class the [Hanukkah song!](#)  
And when the Hollanders are celebrating Hanukkah, you can show the films from the living room and the kitchen.