

בס"ד



Curriculum for the teaching of חנוכה

This is the second draft of a programme of work for the teaching of Chanukah.

This draft is intended as a guide to what will be expected of pupils leaving at the end of Year 6, in terms of knowledge, understanding and ability to demonstrate these.

Later drafts will, ה"ל, be divided into graded units for the different year groups.

Part of the object of developing this document is to provide an aid for the writing of medium term plans which indicate objectives in terms of knowledge, understanding and 'ability to...'. Examples of these three aspects of pupil learning are presented here and can be incorporated in such plans along with other examples individual teachers may wish to add.

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Broad categories to be studied:

חנוכה, the Concept: we commemorate the rededication of the בית המקדש by the חשמונאים after the war with the יונים. What is the significance of this event?

History

1. - Describe and explain the 'classical world' at the time of the Maccabees:
compare, contrast and draw conclusions {
- The Greeks, their culture, beliefs, values;
- The Jews, their belief in one G-d, the תורה and מצוות, their lifestyle and behaviour;
2. - The story of חנוכה: where it happened / when / why / who was involved;
- The עבָרים \ חשמונאים and the יוֹנִים (Syrian-Greeks);
- אנטיוכוס, מתתיהו and his five sons;
- מודיעין / the aim of the war / the size of both armies / the duration of the war / the בית המקדש, ירושלים, and the rededication of the בית המקדש.
3. - חַנָּה and her seven sons. - מעשה חַנָּה ושבעת בניה
4. - יהודית and Holofernes. - מעשה יהודית ואלפורני מלך יון

Additional guidance

- a. It is difficult for children to appreciate timescale. To help the children understand חנוכה's historical context the teacher should refer to other events: יציאת מצרים, מתן תורה, רבי יהודה הנשיא, רבי עקיבא, חרבן בית שני, [חנוכה], בית שני, פורים, חרבן בית ראשון, ראשון משנה, ראשון רבי יהודה הנשיא, רבי עקיבא, חרבן בית שני, [חנוכה], בית שני, פורים, חרבן בית ראשון, ראשון גמרא / תלמוד. Leave Chanukah out and see whether the pupils can place it correctly in this long chain. Ask them whether they think Chanukah comes before or after Purim. Can we explain Chanuka's place on the timeline logically?
- b. Discuss questions such as, "Where is that powerful Greek nation now? What has become of its culture and lifestyle? Where are the Jews? ...and their religion, culture? What do we learn from this? Can we compare the secular culture around us to that of Ancient Greece? If so, how should we respond to it in our own lives? What can we learn from the חשמונאים / מכבים? Why did they merit Hashem's help?
- c. Use maps to illustrate the geography of the Greek empire and ארץ ישראל.

הלכה

הלכות הדלקת הנרות - The laws of kindling the lights

- ~ עיקר מצוות נר חנוכה - The 'basic' מצוה, one candle per house per night
- ~ מנהג המהדרין - The 'super' way of doing the מצוה, each person lights one light each night
- ~ מנהג המהדרין מן המהדרין - the 'super duper' way:
 - Ashkenazim: one, two, three lights, etc. until eight, per person in the house
 - Sephardim: one, two, three lights, etc. until eight, per household
- ~ Where to place the חנוכיה
- ~ oil & wicks / candles

- ~ the time of lighting
- ~ the ברכות
- ~ benefiting from the נרות
- ~ who is obligated to light?
- ~ lighting on ערב שבת
- ~ מוצאי שבת: the order of lighting the נרות and making הבדלה
- ~ Women are normally exempt from "מצוות עשה שהזמן גרמא" but are חייבות in נר חנוכה and מגילת אסתר.

מנהג

- The מנהג for women to abstain from work while the נרות are burning.
- Eating foods made with oil.
- Eating foods made with cheese.
- Playing סביבון / dreidel
- Giving Chanukah Gelt

תפלות

הלל - why is it that we recite הלל on חנוכה, yet we do not on פורים?

בימי מתתיהו & על הנסים

The ברכות said on lighting the חנוכה

הנרות הללו

מעוז צור

קריאת התורה

On שבת חנוכה we take out two ספרי תורה: what do we read in each?

ספר א' - פרשת השבוע

ספר ב' - מפטיר

In the following table teaching points are presented in terms of **knowledge** and **understanding**.

Knowledge		Understanding	
The name of the חג.	חנוכה	Why is the חג called חנוכה?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. חנו כ"ה - They rested from their enemies on the 25th (of כסלו). 2. We recall the rededication of the בית המקדש following its desecration. 3. The building of the משכן was completed on the 25th of כסלו. 4. Note the connection of חנוכה to חינוך/לחנך
Explain 'dedication' & compare this dedication (which was <u>during</u> the time of the Second Beit Hamikdash with each dedication at the beginning of the משכן, the first and second מקדש (בתי מקדש)).			
Where do we find חנוכה mentioned?	<p>א) תלמוד בבלי שבת כ"א עמוד ב</p> <p>ב) ספר המכבים</p>		
Date of חנוכה	כ"ה כסלו		
Length of חנוכה	8 days	Why is חנוכה celebrated for eight days?	<p>Simple answer: the oil lasted for eight days instead of just one.</p> <p>Pupils should also understand קושיית הבית יוסף (the question of the Bet Yosef - "If there was enough oil for one day then why do we not just celebrate for seven days?") and some of the תירוצים (answers).</p>
		But why did it need to last for eight days?	This was the time it took to press new olives and produce more oil.

Knowledge		Understanding	
Is חנוכה a תורה decreed by the תורה or by the Rabbis?	The Rabbis.	Why? (i.e. why is it not from the תורה?)	Elicit answers from the pupils.
Are we allowed to work during Chanukah or is it like Yom Tov?	We may work.		
On what other מועד are we allowed to perform מלאכה?	פורים		
When is work not performed on חנוכה?	Work is not performed by women while the candles are lit (at least, for the first half hour).	Why are women, in particular, to observe this practice?	See below, page 10: "אף הן היו באותו הנס"
Number and names of מתת-הו	5: שמעון ~ יהודה (המכבי) אלעזר ~ יוחנן ~ יונתן		
What was the name of their village?	מודיעין		
Which Syrian-Greek king set up an idol in the בית המקדש?	אנטיוכוס		
When did this happen?	15th Kislev, 168 BCE and pigs were offered on the מזבח on the 25th of the same month.		
What does BCE mean?	Before the Common Era		
When did מתתיהו die?	166 BCE		
In which year was the בית המקדש rededicated?	3597 / 165 BCE		
מצוה and מנהג	- Explain the difference between the two in general. - List the main examples of each on חנוכה.		

Knowledge		Understanding	
What ברכות do we say on lighting the מנורה?	להדליק נר של חנוכה... שעשה נסים... שהחינו... (on the first night)		
What do we say / sing after we have recited the ברכות?	הנרות הללו מעוז צור	What is the meaning of these תפלות and what is their significance?	Note the halachic nature of הנרות הללו and the broad historical character of מעוז צור. Stimulate discussion regarding each one.
For how long should the נרות חנוכה burn ?	At least half an hour after nightfall	What is the purpose of lighting the חנוכה?	פרסומי ניסא - publicizing the נסים of חנוכה.
Which נר do we light first?	The new one for each night.		
For how long should they burn on Friday evening?	1 1/2 hours	Why?	They have to last for the hour before it is dark plus a half hour into dark.
Which candles do we light first on Friday evening?	The חנוכה candles are lit first, then the שבת candles.	Why?	Lighting the שבת candles first would bring שבת in and then it would be forbidden to light the מנורה.
Which do we do first on שבת or the הבדלה, מוצאי שבת נרות חנוכה?	Both practices are valid מנהגים.		
Which special תפלה is added in the שמונה עשרה and ברכת המזון ?	על הנסים... בימי מתתיהו	What is על הנסים about?	Give general explanation of the תפלה; focus on, מְסֻרָתָּהּ גְבוּרִים בְּיַד חֲלָשִׁים, וְרַבִּים בְּיַד מְעֻטִּים, וְטַמְאִים בְּיַד טְהוֹרִים, וְרָשָׁעִים בְּיַד צַדִּיקִים, וְזָדִים בְּיַד עוֹסְקֵי תוֹרָתְךָ...
Do we say whole or half הלל on חנוכה ?	הלל Full	Why is it that we recite הלל on חנוכה, yet we do not on פורים?	This would be a good research task for older students.

Knowledge		Understanding	
Is there a תפלת מוסף on חנוכה ?	No	Why not?	מוסף represents the additional קרבן brought on שבת, ראש חדש, and ימים טובים - not on חנוכה.
When is ברכת המזון said in its longest form?	When ר"ח טבת falls on שבת	Why?	We will need to say רצה for שבת, יעלה ויבא for ראש חדש and על הנסים for חנוכה.
On which ר"ח do we say the whole of הלל ?	ר"ח טבת		
What was the family name of מתתיהו?	חשמונאים		
How many branches were there on the מנורה in the בית המקדש ?	7		
What is the name of the נר which is additional to the חנוכה lights?	The שָׁמֶשׁ	What is the purpose of the שָׁמֶשׁ?	Its main purpose is not for lighting the other נרות (although many Ashkenazim do use it for this) but rather to use for its light because we may not use the other candles for their light.
How many ברכות are recited on the first night?	3		

Knowledge		Understanding	
What were the opinions of בית שמאי and בית הלל regarding the lighting of the חנוכה? Which opinion do we follow?	<p>בית הלל: Light one נר on the first night and add one each night.</p> <p>בית שמאי: Light eight on the first night, seven on the second, and so on.</p> <p>(גמרא שבת כ"א עמוד ב)</p>	Why did בית הלל and בית שמאי hold these views regarding the manner of lighting the נרות?	<p>1. בית שמאי compare with the decreasing number of bullock קרבנות, whereas בית הלל say "מעלין" בקדושה ולא מורידין</p> <p>2. בית שמאי: The 'miracle potential' of the oil decreased as the week went on;</p> <p>בית הלל: We saw a greater miracle as the week went on.</p>
The decrees of the Syrian-Greeks against the Jewish People.	<p>שבת ראש חדש ברית מילה (לימוד התורה)</p>	Why did אנטיוכוס make decrees against these מצוות?	Elicit the children's own answers.
		Compare and contrast פורים and חנוכה.	Spiritual destruction versus physical destruction. which is worse? Discuss.
How many branches did the מנורה in the בית המקדש have?	7		
What do the first letters of the verses of מעוז צור spell?	The name of its author, מרדכי (not the מרדכי from the פורים story!).		
What is the קריאת התורה for the eight days of חנוכה?	<p>The ceremony of the dedication of the מזבח after the משכן was completed.</p> <p>On the eighth day we include the daily lighting of the מנורה in the כהן גדול by the משכן.</p>		
What is the name we give to the last day of חנוכה?	<p>זאת חנוכה because we read זאת חֲנֻכַּת הַמְּזִבֵּחַ (במדבר ז' פ"ד)</p>		

Knowledge		Understanding	
What types of food is it customary to eat on חנכה?	Oily foods, cheese	Why?	Oily foods to remind us of the נס השמן - the miracle of the oil - and cheese in order to remember מעשה יהודית.
What is Chanukah Gelt?	There is a custom to give money to children on Chanukah; we call this money "Chanuka Gelt".		
What was יהודה known as?	(יהודה ה)מכבי	Why?	There are a few possible answers: 1. מקבת means hammer and יהודה and his men hammered the enemy; 2. His motto was מי כמוך באלים ה' 3. It might be from the initial letters of מתתיהו כהן בן יוחנן
What did Antiochus add to his name?	(Antiochus) 'Epiphanes'		
What did this mean?	'Antiochus the glorious.'		
What did the people call him?	'Antiochus Epimanes.'		
What did this mean? (in Greek)	'Antiochus the madman.'		
What do we have a custom to play with on חנכה?	סביבון / dreidel	Why?	People in ancient times would come together in the jails where they had been imprisoned for learning תורה and they would play such games as סביבון/dreidel whilst secretly learning תורה together.
What letters are on the two types of סביבון?	נ ג ה פ ש ג ה ש	Why does one have a ש and the other a פ?	פ = פה = here ש = שם = there

Knowledge		Understanding	
<p>What differences are there in our observance of חנוכה and פורים?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - הלל is sung on חנוכה but not on פורים; - We have a סעודה on פורים but not on חנוכה; - A מגלה is read on פורים but not on חנוכה; - There is always one שבת, and sometimes two, during חנוכה, but פורים can never fall on שבת. 	<p>How do we understand the different spiritual meanings of חנוכה and פורים?</p>	<p>המון wanted our physical destruction. Had we betrayed our faith הקמן would not have been very interested. So, when we were saved, the Rabbis made the celebration through משתה ושמחה - to indicate the saving of our physical lives. The evil decrees of אנטיוכוס were aimed at our spiritual destruction, as we say in על הנסים:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">להשכיחם תורתך ולהעבירם מחוקי רצונך</p> <p>The Syrian-Greek enemy would have been satisfied with the Jews giving up their faith. Therefore, when ה' brought about our victory the Rabbis did not designate these days for feasting and rejoicing but as days of praise and thanksgiving - שבח והודאה.</p>
<p>What is the basic מצוה of lighting the חנוכה?</p>	<p>One single candle in each home.</p>		
<p>What is the מהדרין way?</p>	<p>Each family member lights one candle every night.</p>		

Knowledge		Understanding	
What is the way of those who follow the מהדרין מן המהדרין?	One light on the first night and adding one each night, as is our practice. Ashkenazim: each member of the household does this; Sephardim: one set of lights is lit for all members of the household.		
What מנהג do women have when the נרות are alight?	There is a מנהג for women not to do מלאכה (work) while the candles are burning.	Why?	"אף הן היו באותו הנס" 1. This is because women especially benefited from the defeat of the enemy, in being released from the evil decree that women had to spend the first night after they were married with the Greek governor. 2. The salvation of the Jewish People was largely through the actions of a woman - Yehudit - the widowed daughter of Yochanan, Kohen Gadol. (שבת כ"ב ב')
What is best to use for lighting?	- Olive oil - Other oils can be used - Candles can be used - beeswax candles give the brightest light; - When using oil a cotton or linen wick is preferable.	Why olive oil?	1. It is drawn well into the wick; 2. Its light is pure and clear in colour; 3. The ניס in the בית המקדש occurred with olive oil.

Knowledge		Understanding	
How should the חנוכיה be designed?	All lights should be in a straight line and at the same height, but the שמש should be higher than or further away from the others so that its light should not be confused with theirs.	Why may we not use the חנוכה lights for any purpose?	1) It should be clear that these lights are only for the purpose of the מצוה - which is to publicise the miracle. 2) Since these lights remind us of the miracle that happened with the מנורה in the בית המקדש the Rabbis decreed that we should not make use of these lights - just as we were not allowed to make use of the מנורה in the בית המקדש.
How should the חנוכיה not be designed?	The נרות should not be set in a curved or uneven (e.g. front, back, front, back) pattern or at different heights.		
What sort of חנוכיה should you buy/use?	One should use as beautiful a חנוכיה as possible.		
Who is obligated to light the חנוכיה?	Men over the age of בר מצוה. Women can light, too, but may be included in their husbands' lighting.		
What is the proper time for lighting?	The פוסקים disagree on the exact time. The תלמוד says: מצוה משתשקע החמה "Its time is from when the sun sets." Some say this refers to the beginning of sunset, others say it refers to the end of sunset, at צאת הכוכבים.		

Knowledge		Understanding	
Is there a מנהג to light a מנורה in shul?	Yes, before מעריב.		
For how long should the נרות burn?	עד שתכלה רגל מן השוק - until the time when people are no longer walking about in the street.		
Where should we place the חנוכיה?	Close to the doorpost, on the opposite side of the doorway to where the מזוזה is fixed. This is mainly for when the מנורה is outside, but if it is inside then it is more important to make sure it is in the window.	Why do we need to make sure the חנוכיה is on show for the world to see it?	The purpose of lighting the חנוכיה is to publicize the לפרסם הנס:נס
What is the correct order of placing and lighting the נרות?	They are placed in the מנורה from right to left but lit from left to right. That is, the candle which was added for that night is lit first.		
What do we add into שמונה and ברכת המזון חנוכה on עשרה?	על הנסים		

Pupils should be able to:

- correctly answer questions on any of the knowledge / understanding sections;
- tell the background history to חנוכה in their own words;
- tell the story of חנה ושבעת בניה in their own words;
- tell the story of יהודית ואלכסנדרוס in their own words;
- explain the conceptual differences between חנוכה and פורים;
- explain the different opinions of בית הלל and בית שמאי regarding the lighting of the מנורה; [explain the flow of the discussion in the Gemara, ב שבת כ"א עמוד ב]

- explain the three levels of מצות הדלקת הנרות
- demonstrate the placing and lighting of the candles in the correct order;
- explain the difference between the מנורה in the בית המקדש and the חנוכיה and explain the relationship between the two in terms of the miracle of the oil;
- explain the reasons for the main מנהגים of חנוכה;
- recite the ends of the three ברכות recited on the first night of חנוכה;
- explain the general meaning of הנרות הללו and demonstrate understanding: that חנוכה celebrates the military victory as well as the miracle of the oil, and that the military victory was also a ניס - i.e. achieved with the aid of ה', and that we may not make use of the נרות של מצוה, but only of the שמש;
- outline the content of על הנסים and translate a key section (to be selected);
- explain the content and message of מעוז צור;
- translate and explain some דינים from the קיצור שלחן ערוך.

Practical Activities

Practical activities such as practising reading and singing the ברכות, הנרות הללו, מעוז צור and על הנסים, singing Chanukah songs and lighting the מנורה every day are very important.

It is worthwhile getting the children to make their own חנוכיה כשרה. Through this exercise children will demonstrate their understanding of the הלכות relating to the Chanukah menorah.

Chanuka Vocabulary

Here is a selection of words relating to Chanukah with which children should become increasingly familiar as they move through the school. This is not an exhaustive list and teachers can add to it as they wish.

על הנסים	הלל	לביבות	מי ימלל	שעשה נסים
אנטיוכוס	הנרות הללו	מכבי	מודיעין	סופגניות
חנוכה	חשמונאים	מכבים	נס גדול היה פה \ שם	שמן זית
דמי חנוכה	יהודה המכבי	מעוז צור	סביבון	יונים \ מתיונים
חנוכיה	כסלו	מתתיהו	שמש	מהדרין מן ה מהדרין
יהודית	יוחנן כהן גדול	בית שמאי	בית הלל	פרסומי ניסא

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