

Unit 1.7 Who is Jewish and how do they live (part 1)?

Enquiry Questions

- How and why do Jewish people celebrate Shabbat?
- Why do Jewish people have Shabbat each week?
- What happens on a Friday night?
- What does the story of Chanukah makes us think about?
- How do Jewish people celebrate Chanukah?

What will I know by the end of the unit?

Shabbat is a holy day each week where many Jewish people rest and really think about God. Shabbat happens every weekend, beginning on Friday evening, and ending Saturday evening. On Friday, families work hard to prepare food, clean their houses and lay their dining tables ready for Shabbat.

When Shabbat begins on Friday evening, everyone puts on their best clothes and gathers for a special meal. Other family members or friends may join the family for this special occasion.

There are lots of traditions that take place at a Shabbat meal. Shabbat candles are lit on the dinner table. Wine (or grape juice) is shared in a Kiddush cup. Challah bread is eaten. Blessings are recited.



Families will visit a synagogue during Shabbat. No work can be done, including homework! Families enjoy talking together. Songs are sung. Havdalah is the end of Shabbat. A special plaited candle is lit and prayers are read. Special spices are smelt and finally the candle is put out in the wine.

Chanukah is the Jewish festival of light and celebrates one of the greatest miracles in Jewish history. The festival lasts for 8 days. The word Hanukkah means rededication



A hanukkiah is lit by Jewish people. One candle is lit for each day of the festival. The helper candle, the shamash, is used to light the other eight candles.

Dreidel is played and latkes are eaten.

Key Vocabulary

Judaism, Jew, belief, tradition, custom, celebrate, Shabbat, God, Torah, special, candle, Kiddush cup, Challah bread, prayers, blessings, synagogue, Chanukah, festival, rededication, hanukkiah, shamash, dreidel, latke