

**Note to Educators:**

This Curriculum Guide serves as a resource that will help you prepare for the upcoming Holiday of Chanukah. We've included a brief summary of the key concepts of the holiday, as well as Question & Answer sheets that can be used to play a trivia game in your classroom or youth group setting. Also provided is information relevant to the game, **HolidayQuest: Chanukah Lights**, the educational escape room game that will provide a fun and interactive activity for your group to use as part of your Chanukah celebration.

Once you've completed your study unit, you're ready to start your [HolidayQuest: Chanukah Lights](#) adventure! You can check out a [DEMO here](#). If you've purchased the curriculum guide + game "package deal", the game link provided allows one computer to connect to the full game. It can be played through one time, giving you an opportunity to play the game all the way through before you play it in your classroom/youth group so you're fully prepared to run the event.

Tips for using the game in classroom or youth group settings:

You'll need to purchase a Game Link for your event, with the correct number of teams for your group. We recommend you split your group into teams of 2-4 players on a team, keeping in mind that each team will need an internet-enabled device (iPad/computer/Android tablet) to connect to the game. The game is designed with a [Competition Play](#) option, which connects all the teams to one "game event" with team rankings displayed on the game's leaderboard, making it simple for teachers and youth leaders to run a fun program!

This game is available in 3 levels: Junior, Standard, and Pro levels. Junior games are designed to be played by children ages 8-13 (approximately) in about 30-45 minutes. Standard games are for ages 14+, and usually can be completed in 55-75 minutes. Pro games are for experienced puzzlers (people who regularly visit escape rooms) ages 15 - adult, and are usually completed in 90-120 minutes (estimated times are for teams - solo players will likely take longer). Most schools and youth groups who've used our games choose Junior and Standard levels.

If you're playing with a very small group (up to 5 players), you may want to play a collaborative game instead of a setting up a competition. Choose [Solo Play for small groups in one location](#) or [Group Play for small groups spread over multiple locations](#).

Please remember that broadcasting the game over any service (Zoom, Google Meet, etc) is FORBIDDEN. Any computer accessing the game must have a paid connection to the game. If you need to run a hybrid event, we have options that allow for that, and would be happy to set up a game that fits your needs. Please contact us at studio@bagelsandlocks.com to discuss your needs, and we'll be happy to help!

Thanks for choosing [Bagels & Locks Studios](#)!

Chanukah Curriculum Guide

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Background

The holiday of Chanukah begins on the 25th day of the month of Kislev and continues for a total of eight days, through the 3rd day of Tevet. The holiday actually begins in the evening, as the traditional Jewish “day” begins in the evening. This holiday celebrates the military victory of the Jews against the Greeks in the 2nd century BCE, and the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, all led by the Maccabees. Today, however, Chanukah may be known best for the miracle of the small amount of lighting oil in the temple that was only enough for one night, but miraculously burned for eight nights.

Below, you’ll find eight themes that are associated with the holiday of Chanukah. Each topic is the subject of a clue in *HolidayQuest: Chanukah Lights*.

Maccabees

The Maccabees were a group of Jewish rebel warriors and the founders of the Hasmonean dynasty, whose leaders ruled Judea from 167 BCE to 37 BCE. In 168 BCE, the Seleucid Greek occupiers of Judea looted the second Temple, massacred Jews, and outlawed Judaism, which led to the Hasmonean revolt under the leadership of Judah. The Maccabees were victorious against the Seleucid army and they regained control of the Land and the Temple, which they purified and re-established as the center for Jewish worship.

Although the origin of the name “Macabbee” (מכבי) is unclear, one explanation is that it is an acronym for the verse from the Torah that was used as their battle-cry:

“מִי־כַמּוֹכָה בָּאֵלִים יְיָ”

“Mi chamocha ba’elim Hashem”

“Who is like You, Hashem, among the celestials”

Throughout the eight days of Chanukah, there are special additions to the daily prayers: There is a daily reading from the Torah (a section from the book of Bamidbar each day), “Hallel” is recited in the morning prayers after the Amidah, and the well known words of “Al Hanisim” (“For all the miracles”) are added to the Amidah and to Birkat Hamazon (Grace After Meals). The “Al Hanisim” supplementary prayer highlights the great military victory of the Maccabees:

“מסרת גיבורים ביד חלשים, ורבים ביד מעטים...”

“You delivered the strong into the hands of the weak, the many into the hands of the few...”