JUST FOR KIDS - DECEMBER 2026

DECEMBER HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS

DECEMBER 4TH – DECEMBER 12TH ~ HANUKKAH

Hanukkah begins on the evening of Friday, December 4, 2026 and continues through sunset Saturday, December 12, 2026.

HANUKKAH BLESSING FOR LIGHTING THE CANDLES

See and hear the blessings in Hebrew and English, and hear them sung as well.
https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/november-2020/how-to-light-the-hanukkah-candles

HOW TO LIGHT THE MENORAH

In which direction do you place the candles? In which direction do you light them? What prayers are said? Print out this sheet for everything you need to know about lighting the menorah.
https://pjlibrary.org/getmedia/daa6c77e-6e14-400f-8188-8fd35bbe716d/Lighting-the-Menorah-printable

A SESAME STREET HANUKKAH (ages 4-6) two videos

Elmo learns the story of Hanukah while watching this animated cartoon with Veronica Monica! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VfChLAADS8

The Chanukah menorah is missing! Grover gets everyone together to help find the missing menorah before Chanukah begins. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NV-ddVH-iiM

THE HOLIDAY OF HANUKKAH (ages 7-10) video

Hanukkah is a Jewish celebration, but anyone can find meaning in the holiday. Check out the origins of the tradition, and how it is observed today in this quick video.
https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/33662bec-c99a-47b3-88ec-78d6518e573c/hanukkah-all-about-the-holidays/?student=true

FACTS AND MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT HANUKKAH (ages 7-13) video

Hanukkah is coming up...think you know everything about it? Here's a little quiz and some ridiculousness from Mayim Bialik to help you know Hanukkah. Check it out!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYeg7QbGR7E

AN ASTRONAUT'S CHANUKAH ADVENTURE (ages 7-10) video

How do you play dreidel in space? Buckle up for a Chanukah celebration in... Space Shuttle Discovery! Astronaut Jeff Hoffman hosts the celebration courtesy of NASA.
https://www.chabad.org/442618

MIRACLE LIGHTS (ages 7-10) video

Join Benny and his Zaidy for the thrilling adventure of the Chanukah story! Go back to a time of danger, drama and triumph! Laugh, thrill and cheer as the adventure of Chanukah unfolds in this animated production.
https://youtu.be/35ndFZViNcM

HANUKKAH STORIES

ANTLERS WITH CANDLES by Chris Barash *(ages 4-6)* *Read Aloud*
With sweet rhymes and colorful illustrations, this book follows a toddler as she discovers a menorah, dreidel, latkas, and other signs of Hanukah. Then her dad tells her about the family celebration they will have. Does this sound like how you celebrate Hannukah?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHCneLiNu7A

THE CHANUKKAH GUEST by Eric A. Kimmel *(ages 5-7)* *Read Aloud
Bubba Brayna, is a grandmother so old she's almost blind and deaf, but she still makes the best potato latkes in the village. On the first night of Chanukkah, she makes a special batch for the rabbi, but when she lets in her guest, she's in for a surprise! It's a hungry bear! Find out what funny things happen when she mistakes the bear for the rabbi.
https://vimeo.com/18329999
You can borrow this book from our synagogue library

THE TREES OF THE DANCING GOATS by Patricia Polacco (ages 7-10) *Read Aloud*
This is a wonderful story about interfaith friendship and being a good neighbor. Trisha's family celebrates the festival of lights while their neighbors celebrate Christmas. But when many of their neighbors get sick with scarlet fever, Trish and her family find a way to cheer them up. The title contains a clue!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUUT6uc11eY

HERSHEL AND THE HANUKKAH GOBLINS by Eric Kimmel *(ages 7-10)* Read Aloud
Hershel of Ostropol enters a village that cannot celebrate Hanukkah because the goblins won't allow it. Hershel decides to help the people by taking on the evil and nasty goblins and to allow everyone to celebrate Hanukkah again. The townsfolk don't think Hershel can do it.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHmoM2CDnBA

HANUKKAH COOKIES WITH SPRINKLES by David A. Adler *(ages 7-10)* *Read Aloud*
Sara sees an old man pick up a bruised apple from the discarded pile next to the local market. She wonders if he's hungry, as she eats her own breakfast. She wonders if he's lonely, as she shares Shabbat dinner with Mom and Grandma. As Hanukkah approaches, a season of light and hope, Sara discovers that tzedakah can be as bright and colorful as a Hanukkah cookie with sprinkles.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4M22iuANJgo

HANUKKAH ACTIVITIES

HOW TO MAKE FUN HANUKKAH SPONGE STAMPS (ages 4-10)
With just kitchen sponges, popsicle sticks, and some paint and a hot glue gun you can make stamps of dreidels, Star of Davids, and more. Your parent can help make the stamps and you can use them to make holiday cards or to decorate your table.
https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/november-2020/hanukkah-stamped-sponge-cards

HOW TO PLAY DREIDEL (ages 7+)
Here's an easy to read instruction sheet that tells you all you need to know to play Dreidel. Print it out and let the fun begin!
http://pjlibrary.org/PJLibrary/media/PJ-Library/blog/2020/How-to-Play-Dreidel-printable.pdf

HANUKAH MAD LIBS ((ages 8+)
Here are two story frames for you to print out. Take turns thinking of words that match the requested part of speech and fill them in the blanks. Then read your completed story and get ready to laugh at the silly results!

My Hanukkah Traditions: http://pjlibrary.org/getmedia/10a82698-56af-4c4c-876f-4603781ec9ed/Madlibs-Printable-Hanukkah-Traditions-11-19

Isaac and Chef's Hanukkah Party: http://pjlibrary.org/getmedia/61e902fc-0a0f-4923-861c-26d7857ce21a/MadLib-Printable_Issac-and-Chef-11-19

https://jeopardylabs.com/play/channukah-jepardy

MORE HANUKAH JEOPARDY CATEGORIES:

https://jeopardylabs.com/play/channukah-at-crossroads
https://jeopardylabs.com/play/channukah-13
https://jeopardylabs.com/play/channuka-jeopardy-3
https://jeopardylabs.com/play/channukah-2020
https://jeopardylabs.com/play/hebrew-school-channukah-jeopardy

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7JiDBi_v4c

(ages 8 and up: video)
How can a latke recipe be so much fun? It's easy if you're watching the Maccabeats! Snap your fingers, tap your feet and sing along with them as they make latkes and celebrate Hanukkah.
https://youtu.be/fg51la8Yayc

MORE HANUKKAH SONGS (*that the adults in your life will enjoy too!*)

BOHEMIAN CHANUKAH **(ages 8 to adult)** **music video**
If you're a fan of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" then you will love this clever parody. In fact, it's a fun song, even if you don't know the original.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9P30ckBf1wk

A HAMILTON CHANUKAH **(with introduction from President Barack Obama)**
(ages 8 to adult) **music video**
Don't throw away your shot to celebrate the miracles and the story of the (eight) nights! If you're a "Hamilton" fan, you'll enjoy hearing the Chanukah story through this song by the talented Jewish a cappella group, Six13
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWcd-K8_X34

CHANUKAH OH CHANUKAH! **(ages 7 to adult)** **music video**
In this video with words posted, you can learn a well-known Chanukah song in both English and its original Yiddish! Join song leader Isaac Zones in this singalong...so raise your voice, party down and happy Hanukkah to you!
https://youtu.be/fcXj8Qt76mQ

HANUKKAH SONG MASHUP - DANCE SPECTACULAR! **(ages 8 to adult)** **dance video**
What a wonderfully fun celebration of this special season—incredible performance in the streets of Chicago. Great orchestra, singing and dancing. A joyful and musical performance.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqEQy6l1kzc

IN ADDITION TO HANUKAH, THERE ARE OTHER HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS THAT OCCUR IN DECEMBER. WATCH THESE VIDEOS TO LEARN ABOUT A FEW OF THEM.

DECEMBER 26TH - JANUARY 1ST KWANZAA

SESAME STREET: KWANZAA **(ages *5-7*)** **video**
Watch this video to see how one family celebrates Kwanzaa.
https://youtu.be/0kV-6qVp98Q

LEARN ABOUT KWANZAA **(ages *8-10*)** **video**
Kwanzaa is a time to celebrate African American heritage. Learn the ways people observe this festival and trace back its roots to ancient African customs.
https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/f4984514-f9c9-4b4b-81bb-e04a39d45899/kwanzaa-all-about-the-holidays/?student=true

WHAT IS KWANZAA? **(ages *8-adult*)** **video**
If you have ever asked "What is Kwanzaa?" or "How is Kwanzaa celebrated?" then this is the video for you! In this video about Kwanzaa for kids we explore the celebrations and traditions of Kwanzaa. Learn about the 7 symbols and 7 principles of Kwanzaa
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUldFiOMX5k

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21ST THE FIRST DAY OF WINTER

WINTER STORIES

WHY I LOVE WINTER **by Daniel Howarth *(ages 4-6)*** **Nonfiction Read Aloud**
What do you like about winter? Playing in the snow? Drinking hot chocolate? See how the animals in this book are enjoying winter. Then try making a list of why you love winter and draw pictures for them!
https://youtu.be/0IV6lknwzzk

ANIMALS IN WINTER **by Henrietta Bancroft *(ages 4-8)*** **Nonfiction Read Aloud**
What do animals do in winter? How do they keep warm? This book, with its beautiful pictures, will show you the different ways animals get through the winter.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLDbjt_FiTM

THE SHORTEST DAY **by Wendy Pfeffer (ages 8 and up)** **Nonfiction Read Aloud**
It's called the Winter Solstice and it is the shortest day of the year. (It still has 24 hours, but has fewer hours of sunlight than any other day!) Do you know why? Learn about the science, of the solstice and learn how people have celebrated the solstice throughout history.
https://youtu.be/q3sG01-PuXo

THE STORY OF SNOW **by Mark Cassino *(ages 10 and up)*** **Nonfiction Read Aloud** .
Where does snow come from? How is snow made? Have you ever wondered how snow is formed in the atmosphere? After reading this scientific book for kids you will know so much more about the beauty of snow and how it is formed.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnu6T2LQtwg

WINTER ACTIVITIES

MAKE A SNOW GLOBE **(ages *6-8)* *with parent's help***
See how to turn a glass jar and some glitter into a magical snow globe! Once finished, the snow globes make great decorations and work well as gifts for friends, family and teachers
https://learning-center.homesciencetools.com/article/diy-snow-globe-and-liquid-density

MAKE A PHOTO SNOW GLOBE **(ages *10-adult)***
Turn your fun photos of family and friends into a cool snow globe (note: you can use ½ light corn syrup and ½ water instead of baby oil
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ob40dRhF-i4&list=RDCMUCFuPSIZ-o3FeI7IG62LLmSg&start_radio=1&rv=ob40dRhF-i4&t=13

HOW TO MAKE SNOW **(ages 4-6)** ***with parent's help***
How would you like to build a snowperson inside your warm and cozy home? With j just a few steps and some ingredients that you probably already have in your house, you can make your own play snow that will provide hours of fun - and no wet, soggy mittens necessary!
https://savvysassymoms.com/diy-play-snow/

Check this out:

CHILDREN'S BOOKS THAT CORRELATE WITH THIS MONTH'S TOPICS AVAILABLE TO BORROW FROM OUR SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY

CHANUKAH

1. Latke, The Lucky Dog, Ellen Fischer **(FICTION)**
2. These Lights Are Holy, A Home Celebration of Chanuka, Elyse Frishman, editor **(NONFICTION)**
3. Jeremy's Dreidel, Ellie Gellman **(FICTION)**
4. The Chanukkah Guest, Eric A. Kimmel (***2 copies)*** **(FICTION)**
5. The Eight Knights of Hanukah, Leslie Kimmelman (**FICTION)**
6. How I Saved Hanukah, Amy Goldman Koss **(FICTION)**
7. Little Red Ruthie (A Hannukah Tale*),* Gloria Koster **(FICTION)**
8. The Story of the Menorah, Chavi Lemberger ***(2 copies)*** **(NONFICTION)**
9. Sammy Spider's First Hannukah, Sylvia Rouss **(FICTION)**
10. Draydel, Draydel, Draydel, Sol Scharfstein **(NONFICTION)**
11. The Parakeet Named Dreidel, Isaac Bashevis Singer (***2 copies)*** **(FICTION)**
12. Hanukah, A Counting Book in English, Hebrew, and Yiddish, Emily Sper **(NONFICTION)**
13. A Hannukah with Mazel. Joel Edward Stein **(FICTION)**