



What is Chanukah?

Tkiya teaches Chanukah, the festival of lights, as a celebration of individuality and identity. The lights of our *Chanukkiah* (Chanukah menorah,) which shine through our windows during the darkest time of the year, are a reminder that it is a blessing that we are free to believe what we want to believe and be our true selves.

You can learn about the story behind Chanukah through the mini-musical on our [website](#).

What's in this Packet?

- [pg 2](#) ["Chanukah Bamba"](#) - Adapted
- ["Chanukah, Chag Yafe"](#) Traditional
- ["Chanukah Dance"](#) Mashup of Woody Guthrie & Indigo Girls
- [pg 3](#) ["Chanukah, Oh Chanukah"](#) Traditional
- ["Chanukah Sleeping Animals"](#) by Carla Friend (Adapted)
- [pg 4](#) ["Dancing Candles"](#) by Carla Friend
- ["Ocho Kandelikas"](#) by Flory Jagoda
- [pg 5](#) ["Sevivon"](#) - Traditional
- ["Spin, Dreidel, Spin"](#) by Eliana Light
- ["Sufganiyot"](#) by Ellen Allard
- [pg 6](#) ["The Silly Dreidel Song"](#) - Adapted
- ["Walking Down the Street"](#) - Adapted
- [pg 7](#) [Songs from Our Chanukah Story:](#)
 - ["We're Not Gonna Take It"](#) - Adapted from Twisted Sister
 - ["Macabee March"](#) by ShirLaLa
 - ["Where is It?"](#) - Adapted from ShirLaLa
- [pg 8](#) [Chanukah Songs Vocabulary](#)

Chanukah Bamba - Adapted from Shira Kline's adaption of a folk melody

Chanukah bamba, chanukah bamba
Chanukah bamba, chanukah bamba

Wave your scarves up high
Wave them way up to the sky
Wave your scarves high
Wave them way up to the sky

Chanukah bamba, chanukah bamba
Chanukah bamba, chanukah bamba

Wave your scarves in a circle
Wave them in a circle, around and around
Wave them in a circle
Wave them in a circle, around and around

Chanukah bamba, chanukah bamba
Chanukah bamba, chanukah bamba

Repeat with other motions

[Listen to the original by ShirLaLa](#)

Chanukah, Chag Yafe - Traditional

Chanukah, Chanukah
Festival of lights
Candles glow in a row
For eight special nights

Chanukah Chaunkah
Watch your dreidel spin
Round and round round and round
Everyone join in

Chanukah, Chanukah (in Hebrew!)
Chag yafeh kol kach
Or chaviv misaviv
Gil l'yeled rach

Chanukah chanukah
Sevivon sov sov
Sov sov sov sov sov sov
Mah na'im vatov

[Listen to this version by Jay Levy](#)

Chanukah Dance - A mashup of Woody Guthrie & Indigo Girls

Jumping up and down, Happy Chanukah
Jump jump jump, my little latke
Jumping up and down, Happy Chanukah
Round and round you go!

Clap your hands, Happy Chanukah...
Stomp your feet, Happy Chanukah...
Spin around, Happy Chanukah....

Eight are the days of Chanukah
Happy, joyous Chanukah
Eight are the days and eight are the nights
Happy, joyous Chanukah

[Listen to "Happy Joyous Hanukkah" by Indigo Girls](#)

[Listen to "Hanukkah Dance" by Woodie Guthrie](#)

Chanukah, Oh Chanukah - Traditional

Chanukah, Oh Chanukah
Come light the Menorah
Let's have a party
We'll all dance the Horah
Gather around the table, we'll give you a treat
Sevimon to play with and latkes to eat

And while we are playing,
the candles are burning low
One for each night they shed a sweet light
To remind us of days long ago
One for each night they shed a sweet light
To remind us of days long ago

Here it is in Yiddish!

Chanike, oy Chanike
A yontif a sheyner,
A lustiker a freylekher
Nisht do nokh azoyner
Ale nakht it dreydlich shpiln mir,
Frishe heyse latkes, esn on a shir.

Geshvinder, tsindt kinder
Di Chanike likhtlech on,
Zingt "Al Hanisim", un dankten far di nisim
Un kumt gikher tansten in kohn
Zingt "Al Hanisim", un dankten far di nism
Un kumt gikher tansten in kohn

[Listen to this version from ShirLaLa](#)

Chanukah Sleeping Animals by Carla Friend (Adapted)

Look at all the bunnies sleeping
Sleeping late on Chanukah today
Soon we will wake them up
So they can sing and dance and play

WAKE UP, BUNNIES!

Hop, hop, hop little bunnies
Hop, hop, hop little bunnies
Hop, hop, hop little bunnies
Hop, hop, hop, hop, hop

Look at all the birdies sleeping
Sleeping late on Chanukah today
Soon we will wake them up
So they can sing and dance and play

WAKE UP, BIRDIES!

Fly, fly, fly little birdies
Fly, fly, fly little birdies
Fly, fly, fly little birdies
Fly, fly, fly, fly, fly

Repeat with all the animals!

Dancing Candles by Carla Friend

Dancing candles, dancing through the night
Dancing candles, oh they shine so bright
Dancing candles, what a pretty sight
A delight for Chanukah tonight

Swaying candles, swaying through the night
Swaying candles, oh they shine so bright
Swaying candles, what a pretty sight
A delight for Chanukah tonight

[Watch the Shabbat version on our website!](#)

Blinking candles . . .
Melting candles . . .

What else do candles do?

Ocho Kandelikas by Flory Jagoda

In Ladino:

Hanukah linda sta aki,
Ocho kandelas para mi
Hanukah linda sta aki,
Ocho kandelas para mi

Chorus:

O...Una kandelika, dos kandelikas,
Tres kandelikas, quatro kandelikas,
Sintyu kandelikas, sej kandelikas,
Siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi

Muchas fiestas vo fazer,
Con alegrias i plazer
Muchas fiestas vo fazer,
Con alegrias i plazer

Chorus

[Listen to this version by Pink Martini](#)

Translation:

Beautiful Chanukkah is here,
Eight candles for me
Beautiful Hanukkah is here,
Eight candles for me

Chorus:

Oh...One little candle, two little candles,
Three little candles, four little candles
Five little candles, six little candles
Seven little candles, eight candles for me

We will make a lot of parties,
With joy and happiness
We will make a lot of parties,
With joy and happiness

Chorus

Sevivon - Traditional

Sevivon, sov, sov, sov
Chanukah hu chag tov
Chanukah hu chag tov
Sevivon, sov, sov, sov

Chag simcha hu la'am
Nes gadol haya sham
Nes gadol haya sham
Chag simcha hu la'am

[Listen to this song by Paul Zim](#)

Spin Dreidel Spin by Eliana Light

Nun gimmel hay shin spin dreidel spin
Nun gimmel hay shin spin dreidel spin
A great miracle happened so
Round and round and round we go
Nun gimmel hay shin spin dreidel spin

Nes gadol haya sham spin dreidel spin
Nes gadol haya sham spin dreidel spin
A great miracle happened so
Round and round and round we go
Nes gadol haya sham spin dreidel spin

[Listen and watch Eliana here!](#)

Sufganiyot by Ellen Allard

Sufganiyot, gonna gonna make some
Sufganiyot so yummy in the middle
Sufganiyot, gonna gonna make some
Suf gani gani yot

What's in the middle? Strawberry!
What's in the middle? Sufganiyot
What's in the middle? Strawberry!
What's in the middle of your sufganiyot?

Continue by adding your favorite fillings!

[Listen and watch Ellen and friends here!](#)

The Silly Dreidel Song - Adapted

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Oh dreidel I shall play

Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Oh dreidel I shall play

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of soap
I put it in the bathtub
It will not melt, I hope

Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of soup
I put it in the bathtub
It will not melt, I hope

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of sand
And when I tried to spin it
It crumbled in my hand

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of bread
And when I tried to spin it
I ate it all instead

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of snow
I put it in the oven
Where did my dreidel go?

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of ants
And when I tried to spin it
They crawled right up my pants

What is YOUR dreidel made out of?

[Check out this version of the classic "Dreidel Song" by Nick Jr.](#)

Walking Down the Street - Adapted

I was walking down the street
On the first night
When I saw a little cow
Who said "let's light the lights"

Moo, moo, moo,
It's time to light the lights
Moo, moo, moo,
It's time to light the lights

Repeat for eight nights with different animals!

[Listen to this Shabbat version by Debbie Brukman](#)

Songs from Our Chanukah Story

We're Not Gonna Take It - Adapted

We're not gonna take it, we're not gonna take it,
We're not gonna take it anymore.

Stand up for each other, stand up for each other,
We're not gonna take it anymore
Marching for our people, marching for our people,
We're not gonna take it anymore.

[Listen to the original by Twisted Sister](#)

Maccabee March by ShirLaLa

1, 2, 3, 4 1, 2, 3, 4 take your drum and march along with me
1, 2, 3, 4 1, 2, 3, 4 everyone can be a Maccabee.

Brave and strong we march along, we march and march before the day is through.
Three cheers for Chanukah Hip hip, hooray! Happy Chanukah to you!

[Listen here to ShirLaLa!](#)

Where is It? - Adapted from ShirLaLa

I wonder where the where the oil is
I wonder where the where the oil is
I wonder where the where the oil is
I wonder where the where the oil is

I wonder where the where the oil is
I wonder where the where the oil is
I wonder where the where the oil is
I wonder where the where the oil is

Is it higher than your nose
It is lower than your toes
Is it here or there or on the ceiling?
Is it down onto the ground,
Is it underneath my coat?
Is it anywhere that you can see it???

[Listen to the original by ShirLaLa](#)

Chanukah Songs Vocabulary

Ashkenazi - Describing Jewish people and culture of central and eastern European descent.

Dreidel - A four-sided spinning top with Hebrew letters on each side used in a game traditionally played on Chanukah, with Ashkenazi origins. The game is also called "dreidel". Want to learn how to play? [Here are some instructions from PJ Library.](#)

Horah - A circle dance, often using the grapevine step.

Ladino - An archaic form of Castilian Spanish mixed with some Hebrew elements (as well as Aramaic, Arabic, Turkish, Greek, French Bulgarian, and Italian), also called Judeo-Spanish.

Latke - A fried potato pancakes with Ashkenazi origins. We eat latkes and other fried foods on Chanukah to commemorate the oil from the Chanukah story.

Maccabees - The name given to Judas, and later his whole family, who was the hero of the Jewish wars of independence 168-164 BCE. The Maccabees are the heroes of the Chanukah story, fighting against King Antiochus for the right to practice Judaism.

Menorah - A Jewish candelabrum. An everyday menorah often has seven branches, but the one we use on Chanukah has nine and you'll often hear it called a *Chanukiah*. The tallest candle is called the *shamash* and you use it to light the rest of the candles. In most traditions, you light the shamash plus one candle on the first night and then add one for each night of Chanukah. In some traditions, you light all of the candles on the first night and then decrease by one on each night.

Sevivon - The Hebrew word for *dreidel* (see above).

Sufganiyot - Donuts, usually with jelly or another filling inside. We eat sufganiyot and other fried foods on Chanukah to commemorate the oil from the Chanukah story.

Yiddish - An Ashkenazi language, used by Jewish people in central and eastern Europe before the Holocaust. It was originally a German dialect with words from Hebrew and several modern languages. It is still spoken today, mostly in ultra-Orthodox, Ashkenazi communities.