

Name _____

Hanukkah

Answer Key

Correction Marks

The history of Hanukkah dates back to the second century BCE when Judea was under the rule of the Seleucid Empire, led by King Antiochus IV. During this time, Antiochus attempted to suppress Judaism and imposed Hellenistic customs on the Jewish population including the desecration of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. a group of Jewish rebels known as the Maccabees, led by Judah Maccabee, rose up against the Seleucid forces in a fierce and determined struggle for religious freedom.

The Maccabees ultimately succeeded in recapturing Jerusalem and the Temple in 164 BCE. After reclaiming the Temple they sought to purify it by lighting the menorah, a seven-branched candelabrum that should burn continuously in the Temple. However, they only found a small amount of pure olive oil, enough to keep the menorah lit for just one day. miraculously, the oil burned for eight days until new oil could be produced, symbolizing God's divine intervention. This miracle is at the heart of the Hanukkah story, and the holiday celebrates the resilience of the Jewish people, the rededication of the Temple, and the miracle of the oil. It is a time to remember the importance of religious freedom and the enduring spirit of faith.

Complete Passage

The history of Hanukkah dates back to the second century BCE when Judea was under the rule of the Seleucid Empire, led by King Antiochus IV. During this time, Antiochus attempted to suppress Judaism and imposed Hellenistic customs on the Jewish population, including the desecration of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. A group of Jewish rebels known as the Maccabees, led by Judah Maccabee, rose up against the Seleucid forces in a fierce and determined struggle for religious freedom.

The Maccabees ultimately succeeded in recapturing Jerusalem and the Temple in 164 BCE. After reclaiming the Temple, they sought to purify it by lighting the menorah, a seven-branched candelabrum that should burn continuously in the Temple. However, they only found a small amount of pure olive oil, enough to keep the menorah lit for just one day. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days until new oil could be produced, symbolizing God's divine intervention. This miracle is at the heart of the Hanukkah story, and the holiday celebrates the resilience of the Jewish people, the rededication of the Temple, and the miracle of the oil. It is a time to remember the importance of religious freedom and the enduring spirit of faith.