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Information Card - E

The Dreidel

A traditional game played during Hanukkah is dreidel. It is adapted from an old German gambling game and although the Jewish religion forbade gambling, games of chance were permitted during Hanukkah.

A dreidel is a top marked with four Hebrew letters:

Nun - נ

Gimmel - ג

Hay - ה

Shin - ש

The letters N G H S are an acronym for the words “*nes gadol hayeh sham.*”

This means “A great miracle happened here,” and refers to the oil that lasted for eight days in the Temple.

Dreidels can be made from any material such as wood, or a metal like brass.

You can make your own dreidel and play the game with a group of friends.

Suggestions on how to make a dreidel are included in the activity cards.

Activity Card - 3



Write a poem to describe your feelings about Christmas.

You can do this using any poetic format: rhyming couplets, a ballad, an acrostic poem or a haiku or tanka.

Print your poem neatly and decorate it by drawing a suitable border round the poem.

Activity Card - 4



What do you think is the true meaning of Christmas?

Write a story, with a modern setting, to show the true meaning of Christmas.

Proof read your story carefully. You could ask a friend to help you with the editing.

You may illustrate the story if you wish.

Work Sheet 1

1. Read Information Card 1 - **What Is Kwanzaa?**

2. Use the card to help you fill in the blanks in these sentences.

Kwanzaa begins on _____ and ends on _____ .

Kwanzaa is like the _____ festivals that take place in _____
in December.

It was created by _____ who wanted
African Americans to learn about the _____ that had existed in
Africa before people had been _____ and taken to the Americas.

He created the *Ngusi Saba* or _____ which
he thought would help to teach these values. These values include _____
_____, _____ and
_____ .

_____ is an important number to the festival. There are seven days in
the festival, seven _____ and _____ symbols.

_____ is the language chosen to name the principles.

_____ does not replace Christmas or other holiday
celebrations. It is a time to tell _____, _____ songs and
think about important people and _____ of the past.

Kwanza was created in the _____ of
America, but may be celebrated wherever people of _____
descent live.