

## Museum At Home Chanukah Countdown

Chanukah celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its desecration in 164 BCE. The eight-night festival is a beloved and joyous holiday—with nightly lighting of the chanukiah, playing with dreidel (spinning tops), eating foods fried in oil such as latkes (potato pancakes) or sufganiyot (jam donuts), and giving of gelt (money) or chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil. Chanukah is also known as the Festival of Lights and usually takes place in December, when the days are shortest in the northern hemisphere. View objects in our collection that relate to Chanukah [here](#).



## Museum At Home Chanukah Countdown

### You will need:

- A piece of coloured cardboard sized A3 or larger;
- Coloured paints, pencils, crayons, or textas;
- Scissors;
- Glue and sticky tape;
- Chanukah gelt (real or chocolate).
- Optional: glitter, buttons, stickers or other decorations.

### To create:

1. Print out these pages.
2. Read about the Chanukah collection items numbered one to seven.
3. Think about something that makes you think of Chanukah—a favourite food, game, gift or object—and draw it in the space provided next to number eight.
4. Colour in numbers one, two, three, four, five, six, seven and eight, the Chanukah collection items, and your heading—Chanukah Countdown. Make them as colourful and festive as you can.
5. Cut out your heading and ‘pockets’ that feature each number and a collection item or your own illustration.
6. Using glue, stick your heading to the top of your large piece of coloured cardboard.
7. Using glue or sticky tape, stick your pockets to the body of your large piece of coloured cardboard—in rows of three, three then two. Remember to leave the top bit open so you can put something into each pocket.
8. Decorate the area around your heading and pockets with glitter, buttons, stickers or other decorations you might have at home.
9. Once your glue is dry and the pockets are secure, you can pop a piece of Chanukah gelt in each one.
10. Display your Chanukah Countdown in your living or bedroom and remember to take out a piece of Chanukah gelt on each night of the Festival.

# Chanukah Countdown

1



This chanukiah was possibly created in Israel as a reproduction of an African menorah, originals of which are very rare. What birds might you include in an Australian chanukiah?

2



The side and back panels of this chanukiah have been made to resemble the wooden lattice sheets similar to those used in bus shelters in regional Australia. Is there any everyday object in your city you could shape into a chanukiah?

3



This Chanukiah plate is part of a set of four made in England to represent the Jewish high holy days. What special Chanukah foods might you like to see on this plate?

4



←

The ceramicist Helen Gries wrote this poem to explain her contemporary Chanukiah: 'A timeless journey / Through retreating salt seas / Now dazzling white lakes / Old dry mountains / Soft worn stones / Make ochres tools and shelter / Deliberate dots / The blazing stars / In velvet curtain / Dark indigo sky / Myths and echoes / Link ageless wanderers / At desert oasis / Under the persistent palm / Also a survivor.' Thinking about your Chanukah experiences, could you write a poem to recite on the first night?

5



↑

Dreidels kept Jews occupied as they hid from Seleucid persecution in caves during the first and second century BCE. These six dreidels are made of different materials—lead, plastic and wood—and were produced in both Israel and Australia. Do you have any materials at home from which you could fashion a dreidel?

6



←

This chanukiah was created from scraps of metal and wood by Georg Chodziesner while he was incarcerated at an internment camp in Hay, New South Wales during World War Two. Have a look around at home for found objects you might be able to use to create your own chanukiah.

7



↑

This chanukiah made of gumnuts is a rite of passage for many Australian Jewish children. What other typical Australian objects found in nature might you use to create a chanukiah?

8

←

Think about something that makes you think of Chanukah—a favourite food, game, gift or object—and draw it in the space provided next to number eight.