



READ YOUR WORLD

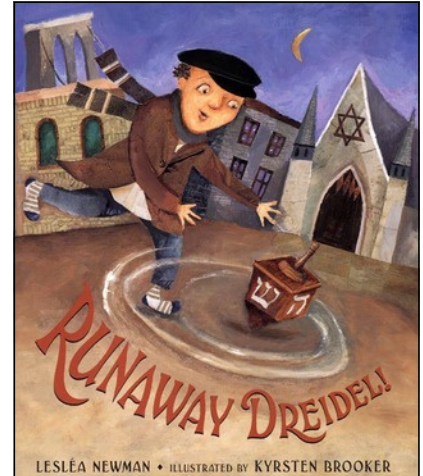
Book Companion



Runaway Dreidel by Lesléa Newman

*“Twas the first night of Chanukah and on the fifth floor,
There was holiday hustling and bustling galore.”*

With chocolate babkas, latkes, and soup on the stove, holiday traditions have begun. A little boy plays with his dreidel, and suddenly it spins out of control and flies right out the door. The whole family runs as fast as they can, chasing the new shiny toy, but the glittering dreidel disappears in the sky. Where did that dreidel go?



Themes

- Chanukah/Hanukkah
- holiday traditions
- family
- community
- cooperation

Cross-Curricular Connections

Geography

- mapping

Literacy

- rhyming text
- holiday vocabulary
- text-to-text connections
- descriptive language
- write a new ending



Related Posts

[Hanukkah: The Jewish Festival of Lights](#)

[Runaway Dreidel! Book Review & Activities](#)

Activities

Vocabulary

- **dreidel** - a four-sided spinning top, played during the Jewish holiday
- **gelt** - Chanukah gift money and/or chocolate coins for playing dreidel
- **menorah** - a candelabra for the nine Chanukah candles
- **babkas** - sweet braided bread with a sweet filling (chocolate)
- **latkes** - potato pancakes
- **challah** - braided bread
- **kosher** - foods that meet the Jewish dietary laws
- **hora** - a type of circle dance

Text-to-Text Connections

Did *Runaway Dreidel* make you think of other stories you know?

Compare it to familiar favorites such as *Twas the Night Before Christmas* and/or *The Gingerbread Man*.

Try This!

Read and compare this story with another cultural tale, *The Runaway Wok: A Chinese New Year Tale* by Ying Chang Compestine.



Runaway Dreidel by Lesléa Newman

Write a New Ending

*"It spun past the planets, it spun past the stars,
At last it stopped spinning a stone's throw from Mars."*



Write a descriptive new ending to explain where the dreidel went.

Try This!

Write it in the same rhyming pattern used in the story.

Map the Story

Starting from its fifth-floor apartment escape, draw a map that shows the dreidel's route. Include a compass rose and map key.

Try This!

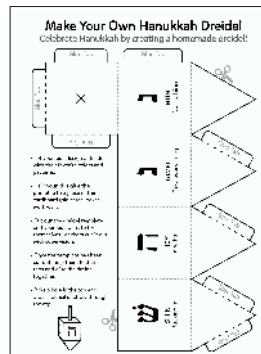
Include step-by-step written directions to accompany your map.

Play Dreidel

Make your own dreidel.

Try This!

Teach the game to others.



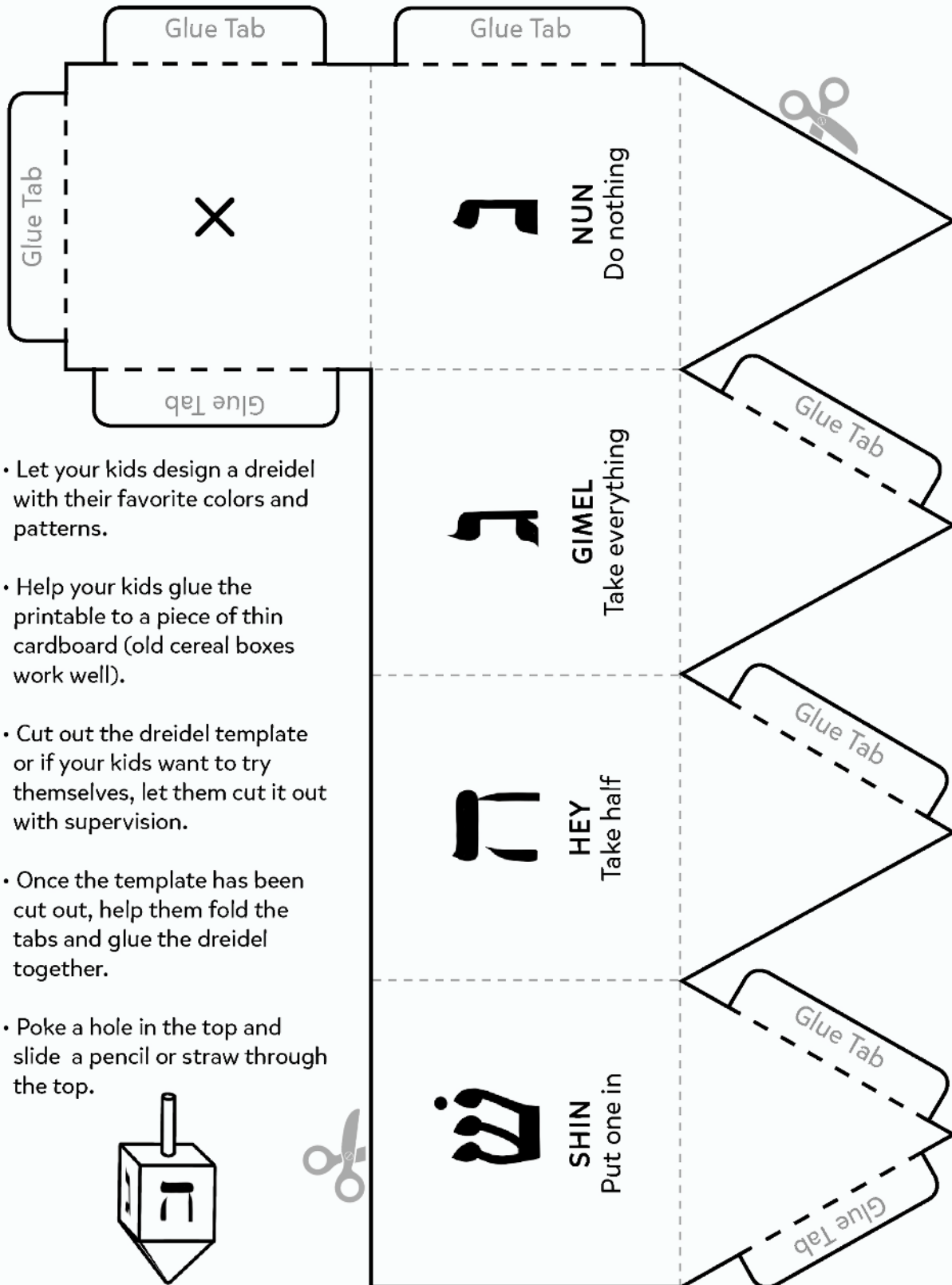
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Explore the geography and culture of Israel with our [Country Profile Page & Country Research Project](#).

Browse more resources on our [Hanukkah](#) Pinterest board.

Make Your Own Hanukkah Dreidel

Celebrate Hanukkah by creating a homemade dreidel!



- Let your kids design a dreidel with their favorite colors and patterns.
- Help your kids glue the printable to a piece of thin cardboard (old cereal boxes work well).
- Cut out the dreidel template or if your kids want to try themselves, let them cut it out with supervision.
- Once the template has been cut out, help them fold the tabs and glue the dreidel together.
- Poke a hole in the top and slide a pencil or straw through the top.

