

HANUKKAH SYMBOLS PUZZLE

A Cooperative Learning Activity for Primary Grades

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Students form into groups of four and “number/letter-off”. #1 and #4 are partners; #2 and #3 are partners. The teacher distributes a Symbols Puzzle Sheet and instructions for the activity to each set of partners.

“Students #2 and #4: Get scissors, paste, crayons, two sheets of colored paper, one sheet of white paper and a small piece of poster board for your group.”

When all students are back with their groups, the teacher reads the instructions in the next two paragraphs while the students follow on their sheets:

“We’ll soon be celebrating another Jewish holiday. Work with your partner to discover a Jewish symbol that is related to the holiday. On the attached page you will find pieces of the symbol. Each set of partners will work on their own puzzle sheet - cut out the pieces, and paste them together on one of the colored papers to form the symbol. You may color if you wish.”

“Each set of partners will paste their puzzle pieces on one of the colored sheets of paper. Hold the colored sheet of paper vertically in front of you (the shorter sides are at the top and bottom.) #1 and #4 will put one puzzle together, and #2 and #3 will put one puzzle together. Partners may ask the other set of partners for help, if needed. If all group members need help, raise your hands for the group question.”

After pasting the symbol together, the two sets of partners will brainstorm together to answer questions. #1 will write the group’s answers on the white sheet of paper.

List the numbers and then write the answers:

1. What is the name of this symbol?
2. When do we use it?
3. Where do we use it?
4. Why do we use it?
5. Has any one in this group ever used this symbol? If so, who? List the names.

On the small piece of poster board #3 will paste the two pictures of symbols (from both sets of partners) and the group’s answer sheet. The group will brainstorm about a catchy title for #3 to write at the top. All four group members will sign their names.

Variations:

This activity can be used for any symbol or with Hebrew letters. This activity is also effective with just partners, if groups of four are difficult to organize . Modify instructions so that both students share tasks.

