



THE GREAT
SYNAGOGUE
SYDNEY
ק"ק בית ישראל

THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE

CHANUKAH

Activity Pack

2020 - 5781



THE STORY OF CHANUKAH

A long, long time ago in the land of Israel, the most special place for the Jewish people was the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple contained many beautiful objects, including a tall, golden menorah. Unlike menorahs of today, this one had seven (rather than nine) branches. Instead of being lit by candles or light bulbs, this menorah burned oil. Every evening, oil would be poured into the cups that sat on top of the menorah. The Temple would be filled with shimmering light.

At the time of the Hanukkah story, a mean king named Antiochus ruled over the land of Israel. "I don't like these Jewish people," declared Antiochus. "They are so different from me. I don't celebrate Shabbat or read from the Torah, so why should they?" Antiochus made many new, cruel rules. "No more celebrating Shabbat! No more going to the Temple, and no more Torah!" shouted Antiochus. He told his guards to go into the Temple and make a mess. They brought mud, stones, and garbage into the Temple. They broke furniture and knocked things down; they smashed the jars of oil that were used to light the menorah.

Antiochus and his soldiers made the Jews feel sad and angry. A Jewish man named Judah Maccabee said, "We must stop Antiochus! We must think of ways to make him leave the land of Israel." At first, Judah's followers, called the Maccabees, were afraid. "Judah," they said, "Antiochus has so many soldiers. His soldiers carry such big weapons and he uses huge elephants to fight his battles! How can we Jews, who don't have weapons, fight against him?" Judah said, "If we think very hard and plan very carefully, we will be able to defeat him." It took a long time, but at last the Maccabees chased Antiochus and his men out of Israel.

As soon as Antiochus and his soldiers were gone, the Jewish people ran to Jerusalem to clean their Temple. What a mess! The beautiful menorah has gone, and the floor was covered with trash, broken furniture, and pieces from the shattered jars of oil. The Maccabees built a new menorah. At first they worried that they would not be able to light their new menorah, but they searched and searched, until at last they found one tiny jar of oil – enough to light the menorah for just one evening. The Maccabees knew that it would be at least eight days before they could get more oil, but they lit the menorah anyway.



To their surprise, this little jar of oil burned for eight days. The Jewish people could not believe their good fortune. First, their small army had chased away Antiochus' large army, and now the tiny jar of oil had lasted for eight whole days!



THE DREIDEL GAME



NUN
None

DO NOTHING



GIMEL
All

TAKE
EVERYTHING
FROM THE
MIDDLE



HAY
Half

TAKE HALF OF
EVERYTHING IN
THE MIDDLE



SHIN
Put in

PUT SOME IN
THE MIDDLE



WHAT YOU NEED

Materials:

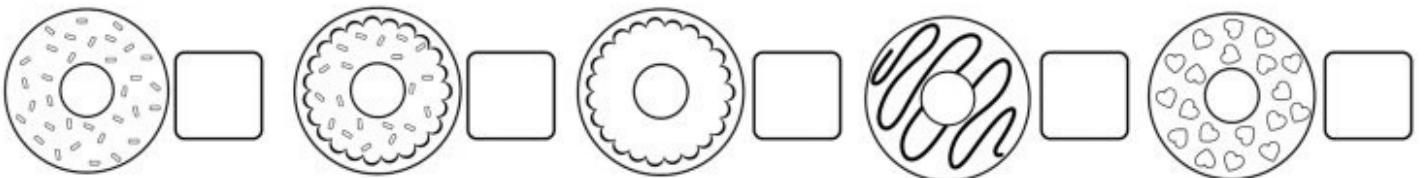
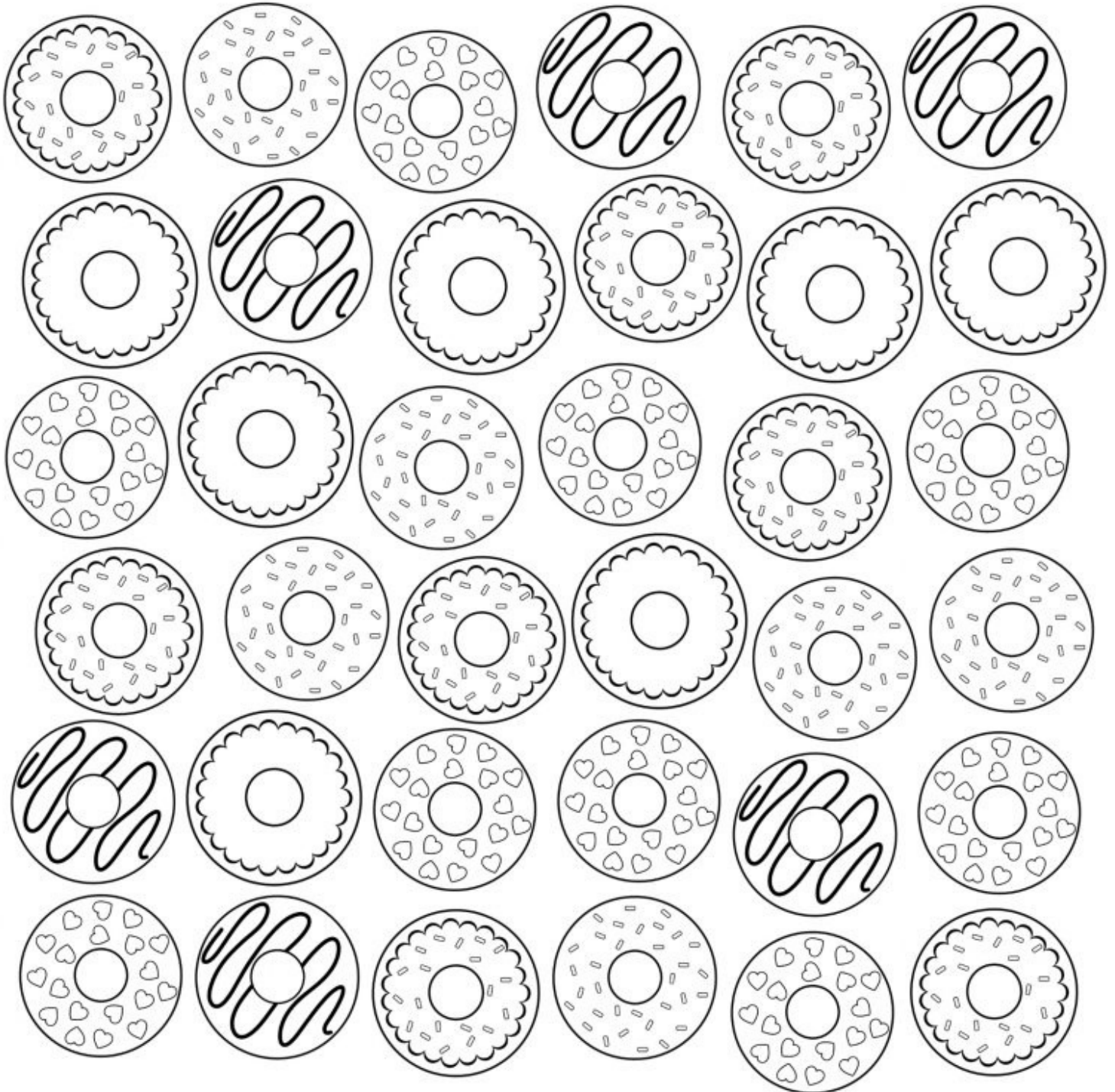
- Gelt (coins, beans, beads or other small objects)
- Dreidel

How to play:

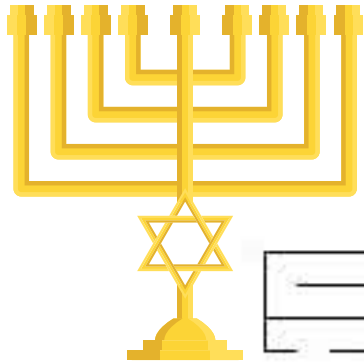
- Divide the gelt up equally between the players
- Each player puts one piece of gelt in the centre or in the "pot"
- Players take turns spinning the dreidel to see what letter it will show
- Players do what the letter on the dreidel indicates (see above) for example, if the player lands on gimel, they take everything from the pot
- If the pot becomes empty, all players add one piece of gelt to the pot before the next person spins
- If a player runs out of gelt, they lose the game
- If a player ends with all the gelt, they win

CHANUKAH DONUT I-SPY

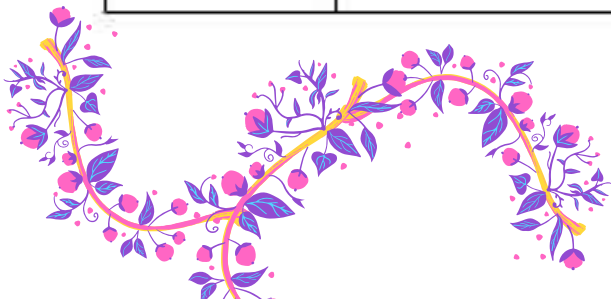
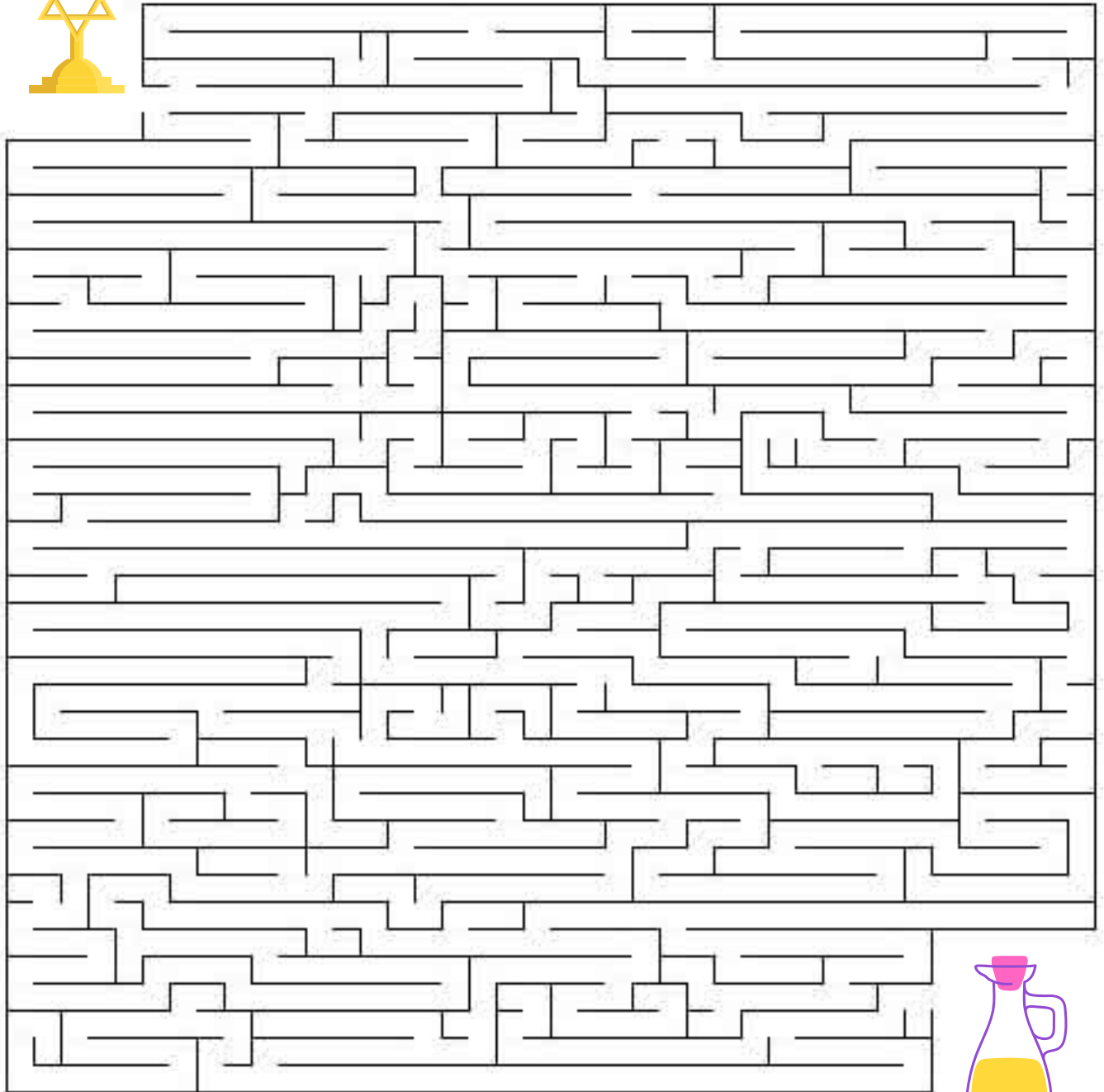
Colour all the matching donuts the same way. How many of each kind can you count?



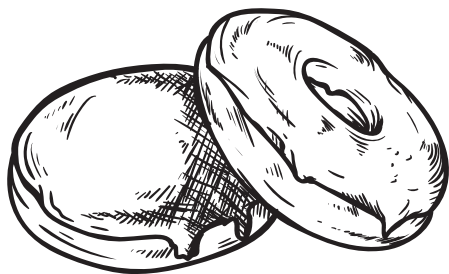
CHANUKAH MAZE GAME



Can you find the way to get the jar of oil to the Menorah for a Chanukah miracle?



CHANUKAH SONG & COLOURING



I HAVE A LITTLE DREIDEL

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then, dreidel I shall play.

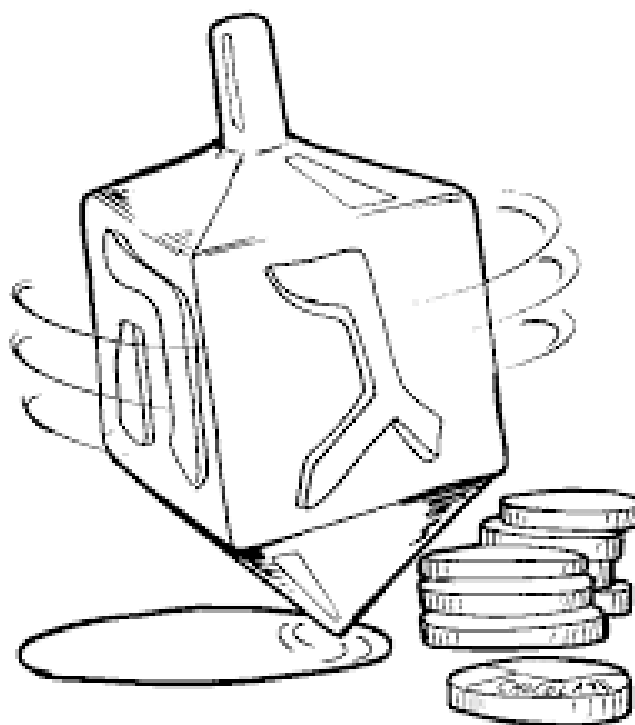
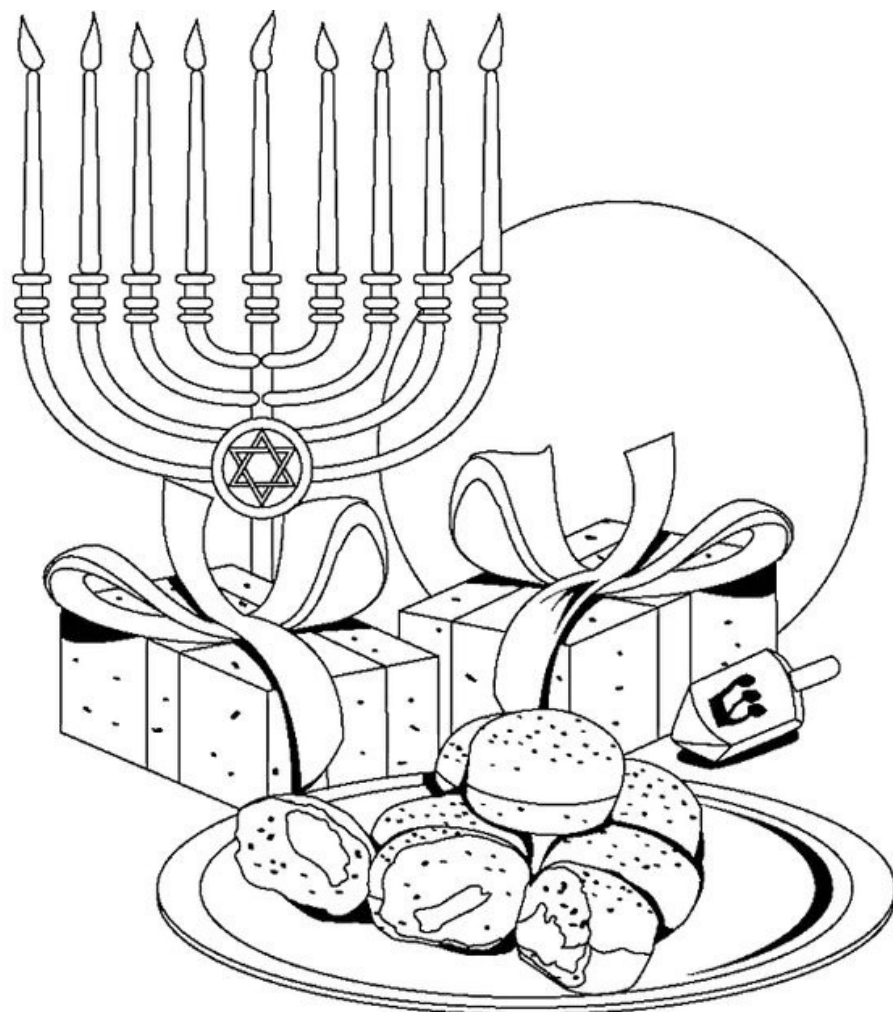
Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then, dreidel I will play.

It has a lovely body
With legs so short and thin
And when it gets all tired
It drops and I will win.

Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then, dreidel I will play.

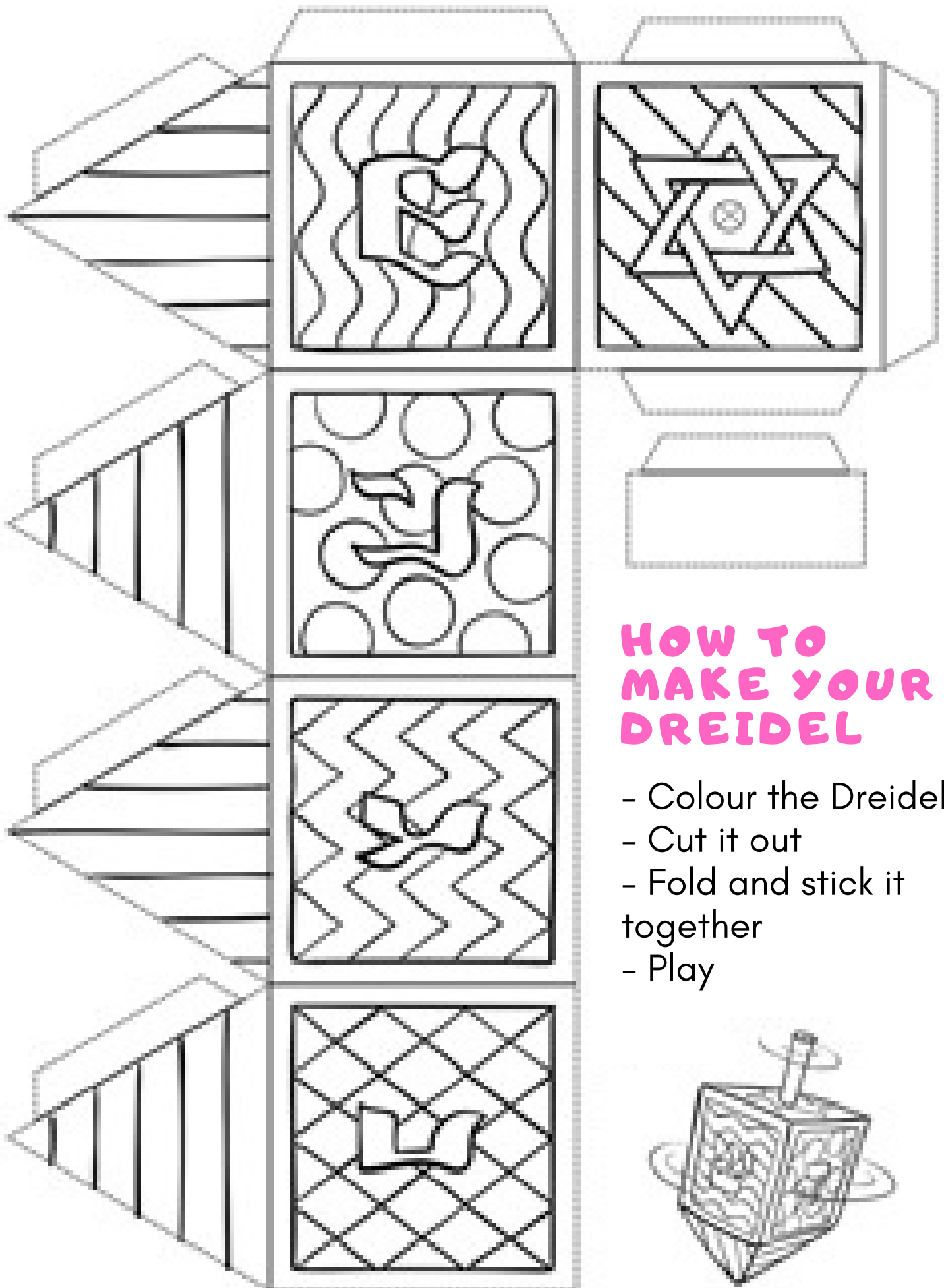
My dreidel is so playful
It loves to dance and spin
A happy game of dreidel
Come play now, let's begin.

Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then, dreidel I will play.



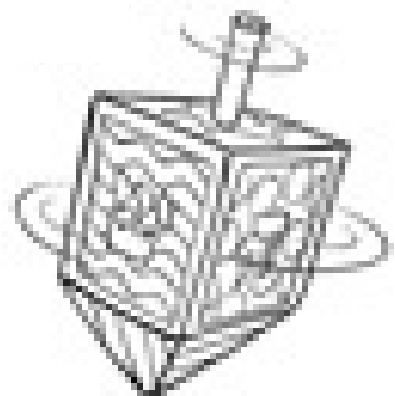
קוביות
Dreidel

MAKE YOUR OWN DREIDEL



HOW TO MAKE YOUR DREIDEL

- Colour the Dreidel
- Cut it out
- Fold and stick it together
- Play



CHANUKAH SAMEACH

