A Hanukkah escape room at home

The Secret of the Oil Jug



Ages 8–11

5 stations ✦ codes, logic & word search ✦ a sweet treasure at the end

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OPERATION OIL JUG

Guide for Grown-ups

Read before you start – this page is not for kids 😉

What you need

A printer, scissors, glue or tape, 5 envelopes (or folded sheets), a pencil, and a box for the treasure. Put a small jug or bottle inside (the "oil jug") – and if you like, doughnuts, chocolate coins or a little surprise. Also a mirror, and a split pin or pencil for the cipher wheel.

Set-up – about 15 minutes

1. Print all the pages. Cut out the agent IDs, labels and hint cards.
2. Put each station in its own envelope and stick the matching label on it.
3. Hide the envelopes following the table. Hand over station 1 together with the opening letter.
4. Stick "The Treasure Lock" on the box and hide it under the table.

Hiding plan & answers

Station	Mission	Where to hide it	Answer
1	The secret message (cipher wheel)	By hand – with the opening letter	**4**
2	Dreidel math	In the fridge	**3**
3	Who lit when?	Under a pillow	**6**
4	Mirror jigsaw	Inside a shoe	**7**
5	Treasure word search	Next to the menorah	**Under the table**

TREASURE CODE

The kids tell you the code – and you "unlock" the box

4 - 3 - 6 - 7

Tips

- Stuck? Give a hint card first, and only then more help. The fun is in discovering!
- You can change the hiding places – just update the table.
- At the end, snap a photo of your "Hanukkah heroes" with their certificates and share it with us 💕

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A Letter from Judah Maccabee

✦ A secret letter – read it out loud ✦

Hello, Hanukkah heroes!

This is Judah the Maccabee. We have a big problem: **the last jug of oil has vanished!** Without the oil we cannot light the menorah – and Hanukkah is about to begin.

I have hidden secret envelopes all around your home. Each envelope holds a mission. Every mission you solve gives you a **secret number** – and tells you where the next envelope is waiting.

Once you have all the numbers, you can open the box where the oil jug is hidden (and maybe a sweet surprise, too...).

I am counting on you! Work together, help each other, and never give up.

M

Good luck,

Judah Maccabee



DOOR SIGN • HANG IT BEFORE YOU START

TOP SECRET

Maccabee Headquarters

Now in progress:

Operation Oil Jug



Secret agents only 🕵️

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Mission Invitations

Cut out and hand one to every player – or snap a photo and send it to family and friends 💌

PERSONAL INVITATION • TOP SECRET

You have been recruited for Operation Oil Jug!



To: _____

When: _____

Where: _____

Bring a clever head and a brave heart ✦ Judah Maccabee

PERSONAL INVITATION • TOP SECRET

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Secret Agent IDs

Cut out – every player fills in their own ID before the mission starts 🕵️

Maccabee Agent ID — No. 001

Draw yourself

Name

Secret agent name

My superpower

Fingerprint

Rank
☐ Rookie ☐ Detective ☐ Commander

Mission: The Secret of the Oil Jug



Maccabee Agent ID — No. 002

Draw yourself

Name

Secret agent name

My superpower

Fingerprint

Rank
☐ Rookie ☐ Detective ☐ Commander

Mission: The Secret of the Oil Jug



Maccabee Agent ID — No. 003

Draw yourself

Name

Secret agent name

My superpower

Fingerprint

Rank
☐ Rookie ☐ Detective ☐ Commander

Mission: The Secret of the Oil Jug



Maccabee Agent ID — No. 004

Draw yourself

Name

Secret agent name

My superpower

Fingerprint

Rank
☐ Rookie ☐ Detective ☐ Commander

Mission: The Secret of the Oil Jug



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Envelope Labels



Cut out and stick one label on each envelope – and the last one on the treasure box

1

Operation Oil Jug

Station 1

Open only with the whole team

TOP SECRET

2

Operation Oil Jug

Station 2

Open only with the whole team

TOP SECRET

3

Operation Oil Jug

Station 3

Open only with the whole team

TOP SECRET

4

Operation Oil Jug

Station 4

Open only with the whole team

TOP SECRET

5

Operation Oil Jug

Station 5

Open only with the whole team

TOP SECRET

★

Operation Oil Jug

Treasure Box

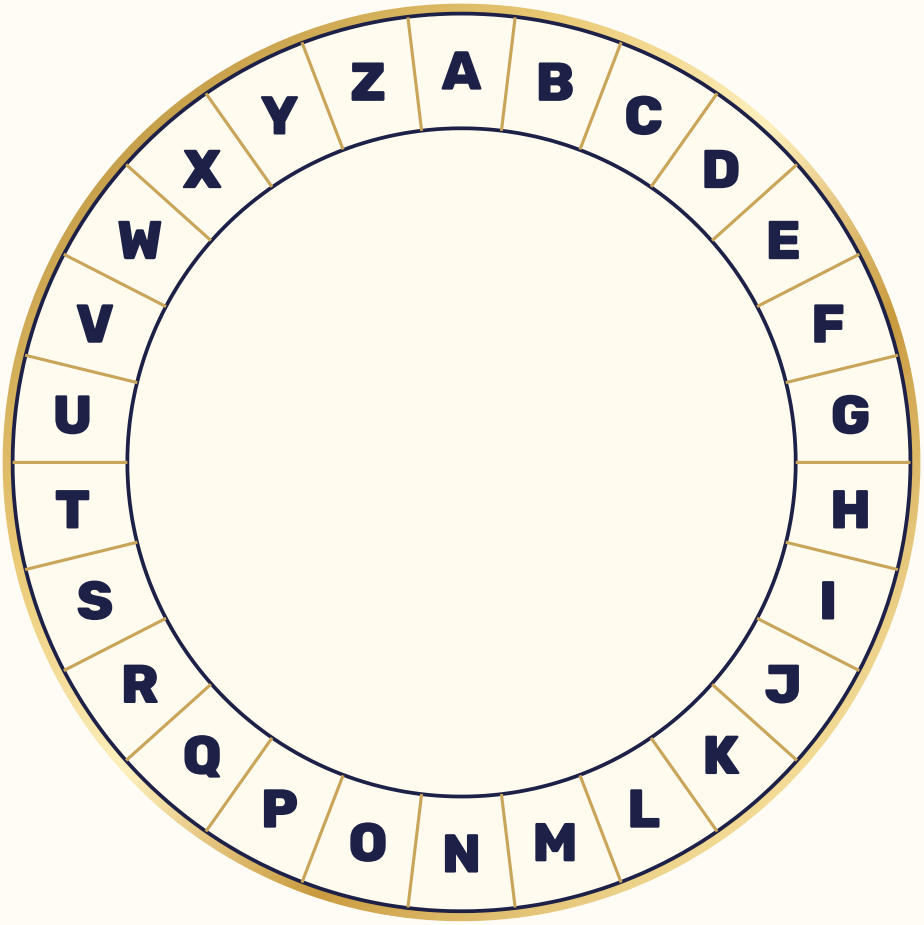
Opens only with the secret code

TOP SECRET

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The Cipher Wheel

Hand it over together with station 1



✂ inner circle



✂ inner circle

1. Cut out both circles along the gold line
2. Lay the small one on the big one and pin the centre with a split pin or pencil
3. Turn it to match the key – your cipher is ready!

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The Secret Message

STATION 1

Crack Judah Maccabee's code

Judah Maccabee sent a message in secret code! Use the **cipher wheel** to crack it.

CIPHER KEY

Turn the wheel so that the letter **A** sits right next to the number **4**

Now find each number on the inner circle and write the letter next to it in the box.

23	11	8		17	24	16	5	8	21		
12	22			9	18	24	21				

✦ The message reveals the secret number ✦

YOUR CODE

The secret number for this station



THE NEXT ENVELOPE IS WAITING

In the fridge – where the milk lives

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Dreidel Math

STATION 2

The dreidel's letters are worth numbers!

In Hebrew, every letter is also a number – this is called **gematria**. A dreidel has four Hebrew letters, and here are their values:



Nun

50 = נ



Gimel

3 = ג



Hey

5 = ה



Shin

300 = ש

1. Shin ש + Nun נ = _____
2. Answer 1 – 50 = _____
3. Answer 2 ÷ 100 = _____
4. Check: is that the value of Gimel ג? **Yes** **No**

YOUR CODE

The secret number for this station

_____



THE NEXT ENVELOPE IS WAITING

Under someone's pillow

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Who Lit When?

STATION 3

A logic puzzle

Three kids each lit the menorah on a different night. Find out who lit on which night! Mark ✓ and × in the grid.

CLUES

- Noa lit the menorah before everyone else.
- Ethan did not light on night 6.
- Maya lit after Ethan.

	Night 2	Night 4	Night 6
Noa			
Ethan			
Maya			

Which night did Maya light? That night's number is the secret number!

YOUR CODE

The secret number for this station



THE NEXT ENVELOPE IS WAITING

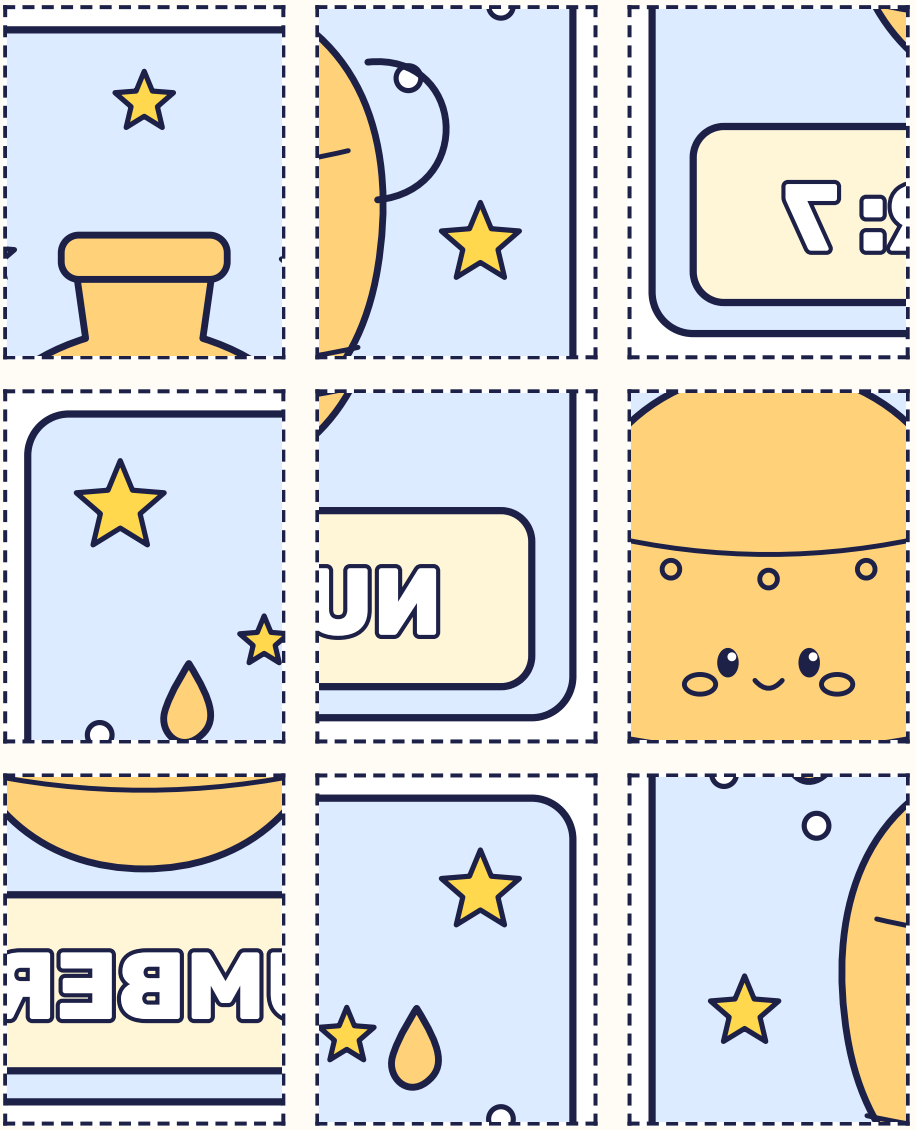
Inside a shoe

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Mirror Jigsaw

STATION 4

Cut along the lines and put it together



Done? Something looks backwards... maybe a mirror can help? 🪞

YOUR CODE

The secret number for this station



THE NEXT ENVELOPE IS WAITING

Next to the menorah

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Treasure Word Search

STATION 5

Words go across and down

Find and circle all the words. Then read the **letters that are left over** in order (row by row, left to right) – they reveal where the treasure is hiding!

U	N	M	D	O	D	E
R	L	E	T	I	R	H
C	A	N	D	L	E	S
E	T	O	G	I	I	T
A	K	R	E	G	D	J
B	E	A	L	H	E	U
L	E	H	T	T	L	G

DREIDEL CANDLES MENORAH LATKE LIGHT GELT OIL JUG

YOUR CODE
The treasure is:

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Hint Cards

Cut out each card and fold it in half. Grown-ups keep the cards and hand one over only when needed!

Hint for station 1

fold here • open only if you are stuck

Make sure the letter A sits exactly next to the number 4.
The message starts with "THE…"

Hint for station 2

fold here • open only if you are stuck

Shin = 300 and Nun = 50. Start with 300 + 50.

Hint for station 3

fold here • open only if you are stuck

Noa was first – so she lit on night 2.

Hint for station 4

fold here • open only if you are stuck

The picture is a mirror image – hold it up to a mirror.

Hint for station 5

fold here • open only if you are stuck

The leftover letters start with "UNDER…"

Hint for the treasure code

fold here • open only if you are stuck

Treasure code: write the secret numbers in the exact order of the stations – station 1 first.

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The Treasure Lock

Cut out the lock and stick it on the treasure box. Write the secret numbers in station order – then tell the code to a grown-up!

✦ The Maccabees' Treasure Box ✦



The Treasure Lock

Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4

Do not open without the right code!

✂ Cut along the dotted line

OPERATION OIL JUG • MISSION COMPLETE

Certificate of Courage

Proudly awarded to

for solving every puzzle, finding the jug of oil

and saving Hanukkah!



Judah Maccabee

Signature

Hanukkah Heroes ✦ 2026 ✦

Date