

# Discovering the Maccabees Class

## Activity Without Electronic Devices

### Preparation

1. Print copies of the resources from the NLI website:
  1. [Illustration of Maccabee Graves, 1720](#)
  2. [Hasmonean Cave, Ben Shemen Forest](#)
  3. [Simon the Maccabee](#)
  4. [The Kindling of the Menorah](#)
  5. [Photograph of a Maccabi Sporting Event, Berlin 1937](#)
  6. [What is Chanukah? Keter Shoe Advertisement, 1934](#)
2. Print copies of the explanations written below:
  1. This is a drawing of the Maccabean graves. The unknown artist drew the illustration in 1720 from his imagination according to the traditional description of the tomb. The tomb itself has never been found.
  2. This is a photograph of a cave in the cave complex known as the Tomb of the Maccabees in the Ben Shemen forest. Although it is a popular place to visit, it is not believed that the Maccabees were actually buried here.
  3. This is an advertisement from the period of the British Mandate promoting the Eshed-Gat-Rimon Canneries and their products. The advertisement claims that Simon the Maccabee conquered Jaffa and made it part of the Jewish State and minted coins which bore the image of citrus fruit.
  4. This is a New Year's card featuring a Chanukah illustration depicting the High Priest lighting the menorah. Many of the other priests in the illustration are carrying spears and shields, signifying that they have just returned from the battlefield. The caption reads: "The Festival of the Hasmoneans."
  5. This photograph was taken during a Maccabi sporting event which took place in Nazi Germany in 1937. The Maccabi sports clubs were founded by Zionist leader Max Nordau, who wanted to revive the idea, demonstrated by the Maccabees, that Jews can be strong and

confident warriors.

6. This is a 1934 Chanukah advertisement for the Keter shoe company. The advertisement claims that the Hasmoneans (Maccabees) were Keter shoe wearers and stresses the importance of buying products produced in the Land of Israel.

### Instructions

The Maccabees (Hasmoneans), the heroes of Chanukah, have inspired Jews throughout the ages. Their motivation, self-confidence, and military power helped them to gain independence from the Greek oppressors and made them role models for the early Zionists and the founders of the State of Israel.

### Matching Activity

Match the six pairs of images with their explanation.

When completed, answer the following questions:

- What do the Maccabees mean to you?
- Which of their traits do you admire?
- Which traits would you like to have? Why?