



accordion
holiday song, composing, culture

Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel

All around the world people sing this holiday song AND parody it with their own verses. Sing the song, play the game and enjoy!

folksong, Israel

Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel



Folk Song
Israel
arr: ljc

Key G, first note D(low), a cappella count-in: 1&2&3&4&1&2&3&4I have ...
mp3 intro: singing begins on the last 8th note of the 4th bar

(think) ti - ti ti - ti ti - ti ti - ti ti - ti ta * I have a lit-tle dreidel, I
(play) (high) D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D * It has a love-ly bod-y, with
B B B B G G G G (low) D D D D D * My dreidel's al-ways play-ful, it

made it out of clay, and when it's dry and read-y my dreidel I will play. O
legs so short and thin, and when my dreidel's ti-red it drops & then I win! O
loves to dance & spin a hap-py game of dreidel, come play now, let's be - gin! O

dreidel dreidel dreidel I made it out of clay, Dreidel dreidel dreidel ,my dreidel I will play.

Dreidel Dreidel Parody

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of gum
But when I tried to spin it
It stuck right to my thumb
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of gum
Dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
It stuck right to my thumb

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of dirt
But when I tried to spin it
I got a dirty shirt
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of dirt
Dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I got a dirty shirt

I have a little dreidel
I made it from a chip
But when I tried to spin it
It jumped into the dip
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it from a chip
Dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
It jumped into the dip

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of cheese
But when I try to spin it
It says, "Eat me please."
O dreidel, dreidel, deidel
I made it out of cheese
Dreidel, Dreidel, dreidel
It says, "Eat me please."

Chanukah (or Hanukah, as Hebrew uses a different alphabet than English) is the Jewish Festival of Lights. It remembers a time(2 BCE) when there was fighting in Israel. The invaders took over the city of Jerusalem. Judah Maccabee and his four brothers raised an army and forced the invaders out of Jerusalem. The Maccabees wanted to rekindle the sacred light in the temple. Even though there was only enough oil to burn for 1 days, the light burned for the 8 days it took to prepare and consecrate more oil (a miracle). So for the 8 days of Chanukah, candles are lighted, songs sung , special food eaten, and games played. Gifts of money are given to the poor and to children in a family.

During the time of the Maccabees, families fled the city to live in the nearby hills caves. Children would do their part by playing outside, seemingly innocent but actually on the lookout for enemies. A favourite game to put in time was played with a dreidel. Every player puts a token(at that time a pebble) into the pot. Taking turns, each player spins the dreidel and follows the instructions on the side that lands up. The game is played until there are no tokens (the "gelt") left in the pot. The winner is the one who has taken the most gelt.

The "Dreidel Song" is known around the world where Jewish families live.

New Song: Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel

1 "We are getting close to a month with many holidays. What holidays are coming soon?" (Show a dreidel or a picture of a dreidel.)
"This is a dreidel. People who are Jewish use it to play a game during a holiday called "Chanukah." (Ask if children know anything else about this holiday or give a brief introduction to the holiday.)

2 "Here's a song that goes with the dreidel game. See if you can count how many times I sing the word "dreidel." (Note: the count-in is quite different for this song and you may want to practice a bit before class begins. Sing one verse and chorus of the Dreidel song.)

3 "How many dreidels did you hear?" (9) If students are unable to come up with the correct number, take the opportunity to sing the song again while everyone counts on their fingers.

4 "I'm going to use one hand to show the melody going up and down. Listen to the song and follow with one of your hands." (Count-in. As you sing/play the verse and chorus use one hand in front - --not to attempt the solfa, but simply to follow the pitch up and down.)

5 "Excellent. Now I will sing one line of the song, you be my echo. Watch my hand for when to start." (Follow through singing/echoing the entire song. If you want to teach from a recording, check out the "Echo Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel" recording. There are spaces built in for student echoing as the song is learned.)

Then repeat, singing 2 lines together, children echoing both lines. Finally sing the entire verse and chorus using the count-in.

6 Place the words to all the verses (the originals) on the pocket chart. Explore the words with students. Sing the whole song once through.



נ

nun/nisht
nothing

ש

shin/shtel
put in

ה

hay/half
take half

ג

gimel/gantz
take all

Dreidel Count-In

The count-in is done to the rhythm of "ti-ti" instead of the usual "ta" and since the song is quite fast, the count-in is done over two measures/bars. It may be done simply by playing the high D, or add the B, G and low D for more texture.

When I came back to visit one class a week after teaching this song, a few students had taught themselves how to play the introduction. Their pride in this accomplishment was delightful. We also used the introduction as an interlude between verses --to give time for breathing, to bring us back onto key, and to enjoy the sounds.

Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel



Folk Song
Israel
arr: ljc

Key G, first note D(low), a cappella count-in: 1&2&3&4&1&2&3&4 I have ...
mp3 intro: singing begins on the last 8th note of the 4th bar

(think) ti - ti ti - ti ti - ti ti - ti ti - ti ta * I have a lit-tle dreidel, I
(play) (high) D D D D D D D D D D D D D * It has a love-ly bod-y, with
B B B B G G G G (low) D D D D D * My dreidel's al-ways play-ful, it
made it out of clay, and when it's dry and read-y my dreidel I will play. O
legs so short and thin, and when my dreidel's ti-red it drops & then I win! O
loves to dance & spin a hap-py game of dreidel, come play now, let's be - gin! O
dreidel dreidel dreidel I made it out of clay, Dreidel dreidel dreidel ,my dreidel I will play.

Composing with Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel

As seems to happen with holiday favourites from many traditions, through the years parodies of the dreidel song are popular.

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of gum
And when I tried to spin it
It stuck right to my thumb

1 "If you explore on the internet, you might find some new words to the dreidel song ---like these." (Sing the "gum" verse. Enjoy the student reaction.)

2 "What could happen if the dreidel was made out of ____?"
Explore the possibilities for several strange dreidels. Then:

3 Print the word "clay" on white board. "How many claps is the word clay?" Continue filling in the chart as shown below with the words from Ms. Reiser's class. Explain that when writing new verses for a song, it's important that they fit into the rhythm as it was originally written. One way to compare rhythms is by comparing the number of claps. With students count the claps for the 2nd and 4th lines (7 and 6 claps respectively).

chalk?
glue?
chips?
wax?

1 clap	7 claps	6 claps
clay	and when it's dry and ready	my dreidel I shall play
gum	and when I tried to spin it	it stuck right to my thumb
cheese	and when I tried to spin it	it stuck right to my knees
	(from Ms. Reiser's Grade 2 Class 2009-10)	

4 Now ask for something new to make the dreidel from. ---be sure to avoid a teacher's rhyming bane of "muck" or "guck." Sing the new verses.

Just for Fun If you have a dreidel (or two), try playing the game.

Background Information

Holidays with Light

(Just a few of the many.)

Diwali



Diwali is a marking of the changing seasons into a new year. Everywhere in India, 1000s of small clay oil lamps (about the size of your palm) are made so that people can decorate their homes and neighbourhoods with light. Homes and buildings now use electric strings of lights. These are hung vertically to span the building. People clean their homes and buy new clothes to wear on Diwali.

Ramadan & Eid



Ramadan is a month long time of meditation, fasting and good deeds. The end of Ramadan is marked by the day of Eid --it's timing is set by the coming of the new crescent moon. The light of the crescent moon tells people that the fasting days are over, time to feast. As Muslims use a special calendar to set the days for their festivals, Ramadan occurs at varying times in our seasons.

Wesak



Wesak is the celebration of the Buddha's birth. The date of celebration varies, but most Buddhist's celebrate this on the first full moon of May, in India named "Wesak". This is a time to remember Buddha's path to enlightenment and consider one's own life journey. Water is poured over statues of Buddha to symbolize the washing away of all that is extraneous and purifying oneself. Candles or lanterns may be lit as a sign of enlightenment. The 8-fold path of righteousness is remembered (understanding, thought, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, contemplation). Food is brought to the temple as an offering and to share with those who need.

Hanukah



Hanukah remembers a time when Israel was an occupied country. After many years, they fought off the people who invaded and retook the capital city of Jerusalem. In the temple was a special lamp that was always kept lit as a sign of God's presence. The people only had enough oil to keep it burning for one day. The nearest place to get more of the oil need was a week's journey. The people decided to light the lamp. It burned for 8 days and nights until the new oil arrived. So each night of Hanukah, an additional candle is lit on the Menorah to celebrate the miracle of light. Some Menorahs have nine candles --the ninth is used to light each of the others.

Christmas



An Advent wreath has four candles around the outside (one for each of the four weeks leading up to Christmas), and one candle in the middle for Christmas Eve. Since this festival originated in a part of the world where the solstice is close to Christmas, the darkening world outside is broken by the growing light on the wreath. The Christmas story tells of shepherds and magi(sages) following the sign of a bright star to where Jesus (hoped to be the saviour prophesied) was born.

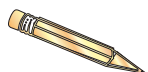
New Year



Chinese New Year has become a festival enjoyed by people all around the world. Ruled by the lunar calendar, the festival often comes in the middle of a dark January. Customs include fireworks and paper lanterns purchased specially for the evening and lit by candles. Every culture celebrates a new year at some time in the seasonal cycle.

Music & Movement/Dance Student Choice

New Repertoire



Light Up The Holidays
Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel

Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel

Key G
starts on low soh

folk song/Israel
arr: ljc

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when its dry and ready
Then dreidel I shall play
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Then dreidel I shall play

It has a lovely body
With legs so short and thin
And when my dreidel's tired
It drops and then I win!
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Then dreidel I shall play

My dreidel's always playful
It loves to dance and spin
A happy game of dreidel
Come play now, let's begin!
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Then dreidel I shall play

ש shin/shtetl
put in

נ nun/nisht
nothing

ה hay/half
take half

ג gimel/gantz
take all



dreidel Yiddish
"to turn"

J'ai un petit dreidel
Je l'ai fait en argile,
Et quand il sera sec et pret
Au dreidel je jouerai
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Je l'ai fait en argile
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Au deidel je jouerai

Il a un joli corp
Jambes si courtes et minces
Quant il est fatigued
Il tombe et je gagne
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Je l'ai fait en argile
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Au deidel je jouerai

Toujours il est enjoue
Danser et tourner
Au joyeux jeu du dreidel
Nous pourons commencer
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Je l'ai fait en argile
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Au deidel je jouerai

Chanukah is the Jewish Festival of Lights. It remembers a time(2 BCE) when there was fighting in Israel. People who lived in Jerusalem had to flee the city and live in the nearby hills. Children who were on sentry duty would play the dreidel game. Eventually Judah Maccabee and his four brothers won back the area of the Temple in Jerusalem.

Inside the Temple was a sacred light that had gone out. The people wanted to rekindle the light. Even though there was only enough oil to burn for 1 days, the light burned for the 8 days it took to prepare and consecrate more oil. So for the 8 days of Chanukah, candles are lighted, songs sung, special food eaten, and games played. Gifts of money are given to the poor and to children in a family.

*Jewish children and adults
enjoy making up verses
to this very well known
Chanukah song.*

I have a little dreidel, I made it out of lox
It tastes good on a bagel but it smells worse than my socks

I have a little dreidel, I made it from a shoe
It smells a little funny, but then what can you do?

Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel

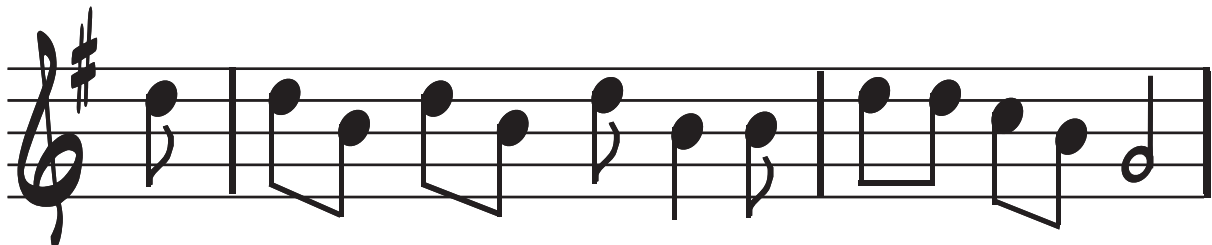
Key D, first note D(do)



I have a lit-tle drei-del, I made it out of clay



and when it's dry and read-y my drei-del I will play



O drei-del drei-del drei-del I made it out of clay



Drei-del drei-del drei-del my drei-del I will play

נ

nun/nisht
nothing

ש

shin/shtetl
put in

ה

hay/half
take half

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gimel/gantz
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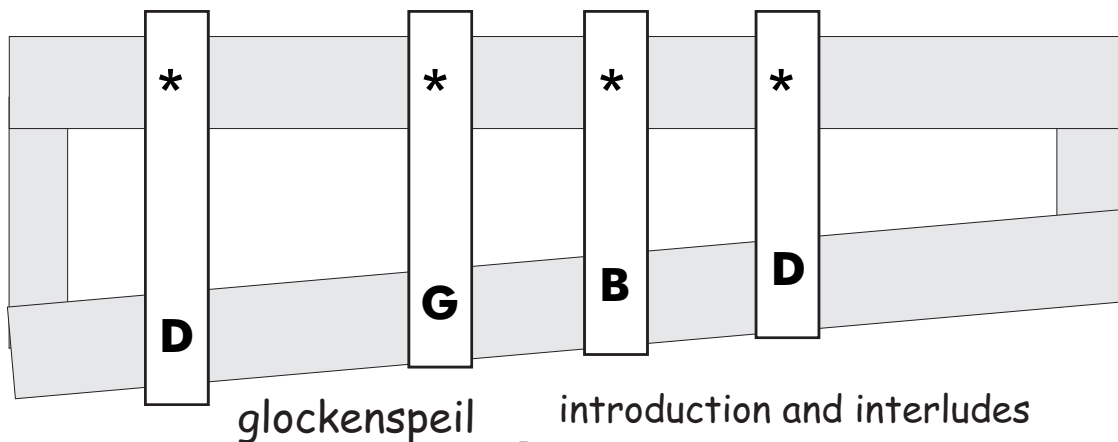


**All around the world,
people play dreidel,
and sing the dreidel song.**



Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel

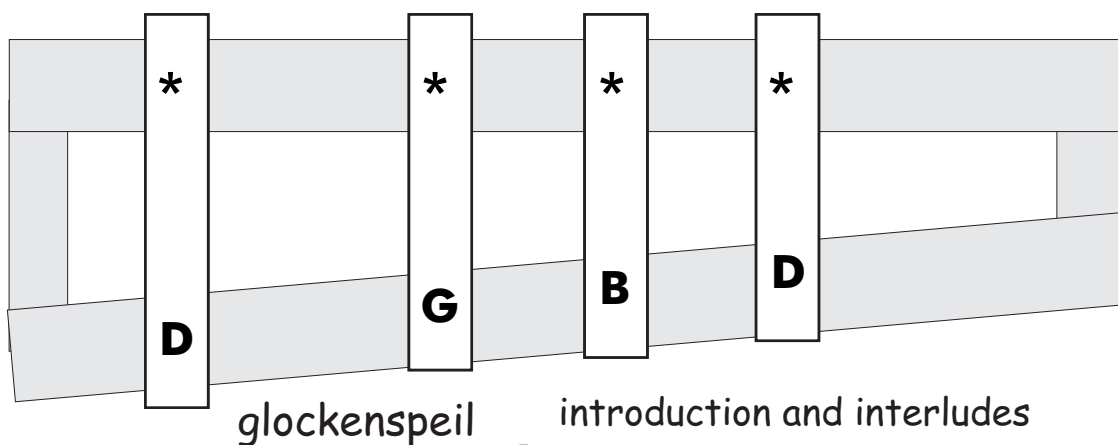
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1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4
D D	DD	DD	DD		DD	DD	D	-
B B	B B	GG	G G		DD	DD	D	-

Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel

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1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4
D D	DD	DD	DD		DD	DD	D	-
B B	B B	GG	G G		DD	DD	D	-