Here are some Chanuka challenges that can be fun at a family party (or just for you)

Take the 8-letter word **MIRACLES** and see how many words of three letters or more you can make from its letters.
(word.tips finds over 350 words! Don't overdo your attempt)

Differently, see how many anagrams you can make from **MIRACLES**, such as RICE SLAM

Start with the word 'A'. Add one letter at a time and make a new word - you can scramble the letters. Next make a 3-letter word by adding another letter. Continue until the 8th word is **MIRACLES**. You should end up with a list of 8 words, increasing in number of letters from 1 to 8. Just like...

CHANUKA GELT: Challenge your Chanuka-gelt-intended recipients with this challenge. I want to give you two shekels. How can I do it with 8 coins? So too with 5, 10, 18 shekels - and - different numbers of coins - whatever you plan on giving. Make your children or grandchildren work a little for it. Remember, Chanuka fun is the goal - not frustration. So go easy when that is called for.

As a group game, you can sit around in a circle, spin a dreidel and when it "lands", each player tries to be the first to call out a Chanuka word beginning with that letter. Do a couple of rounds for Chanuka words, and then call out a different category. Animals, fruits, items of clothing, parts of the body, and so on. If you find it too hard with only the NUN, GIMEL, HEI, and PEI, you can add the letters of the words they each represent: NUN includes NUN and SAMACH for NEIS. GIMEL is also DALET, VAV, and LAMED. Etc. For one or more rounds, you can have the spinner sing a song beginning with that letter.

Use the numbers 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 in order, with the four basic arithmetic symbols [+, -, ×, ÷, parentheses, when necessary] - you can also concatenate numbers - that is, put 1 and 2 together to form 12 - to form expressions that equal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. For example: (12÷3 - 4) × 5678 = 0. We didn't ask for zero, but this is how you can get it. Your challenge is to form the numbers 1 through 8. You can set other goals to extend the challenge. Those goals can be any numbers at all, of they can be Chanuka related. 36 or 44, for example. Connection? Total number of candles - without or with Shamash. 89 or 83? Gimatriya of Chanuka, with or without the VAV.

Here's a Chanuka riddle for older kids (and adults who are math-minded -

How many candles (not including shamashim) would Fibonacci use for his Chanuka lighting, and why wouldn't it be totally Mehadrin Min HaM'hadrin?

Take the Hebrew ALEF-BET or the English alphabet (or both) and see if you can come up with a Chanuka-related word for each letter. ALEF and/or A is for Antiochus,
BET and/or B is for BEIT HAMIKDASH... now you take over

Make 4-word Hebrew and/or English sentences with נ ג ה פ &/or N G H P

Why have wine during dreidel-play? (in Israel but not abroad)

Zevulun is odd; Gad is triangular, Levi is square - how many candles does each one need for Chanuka? (incl. Shamashim)

What is more likely to occur when spinning a dreidel four times - getting all the same letter or getting all four different letters? What is the probability of each event? What's the most common result?

Dreidel Probability

Spin four dreidels (or spin a dreidel four times).

There are 256 possible outcomes. That's 4×4×4×4.

Only four of those outcomes will give you the same letter on each dreidel. 4 NUNs, 4 GIMELs, 4 HEIs, or 4 PEIs - a bit more than 1.5%

24 outcomes will give us all four letters - 9.45%

Two dreidels the same and the other two the same (but a different letter) makes up 36 of the 256 outcomes - 14.17%

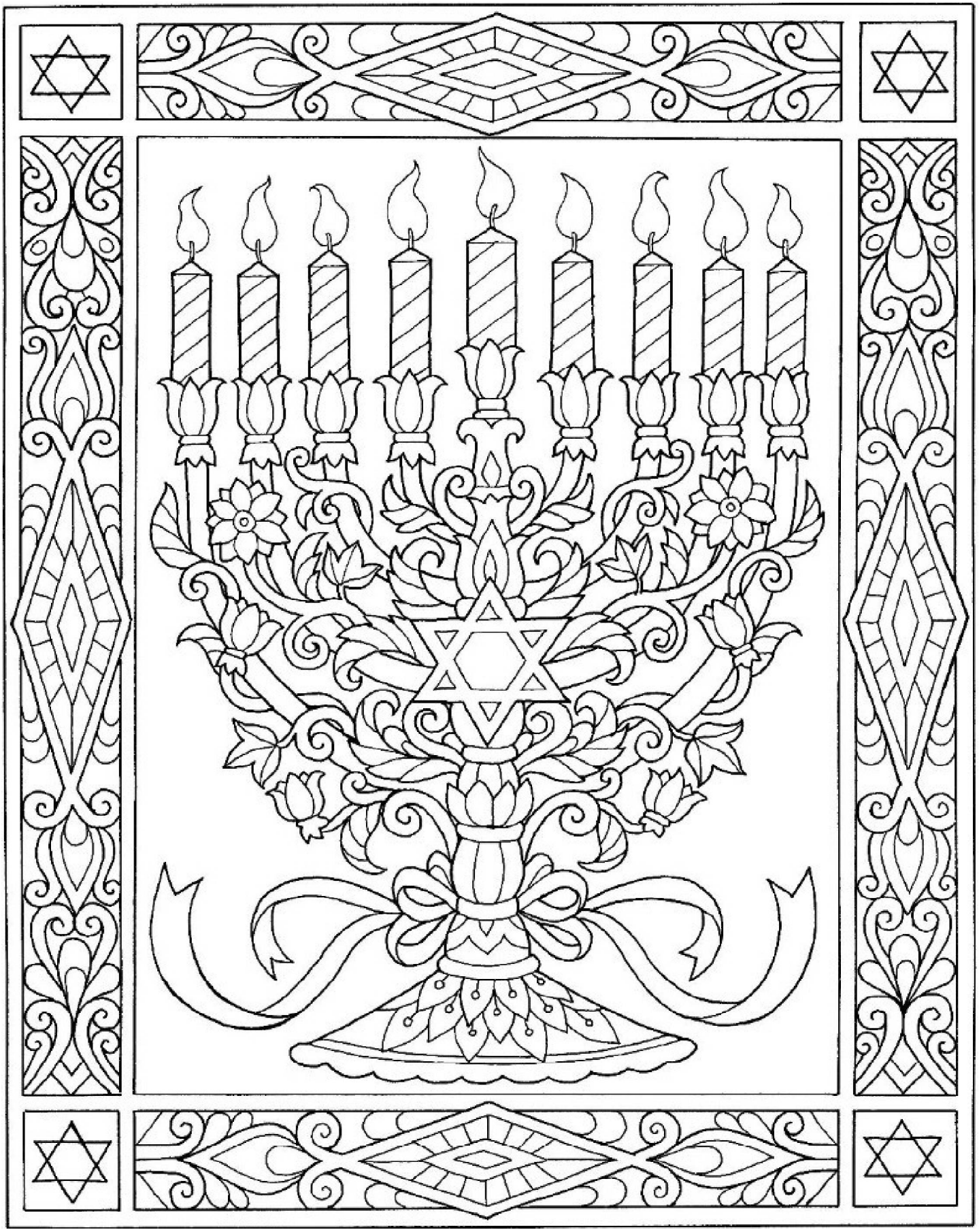
How about three the same and the other one different? There are 48 possible ways that can happen - 18.9%

So far, that's 4+24+36+48 = 112. That's 112 of the 256 possible outcomes with four dreidels are accounted for with the above situations - all the same, all different, two & two, three & one.

That leaves 144 possible outcomes (56.7%) for two the same and two different. Like GIMEL HEI GIMEL PEI, HEI HEI PEI NUN... and so on. This outcome - two the same and two other different - is by far, the most common for spinning four dreidels.

CHANUKA COLORING FOR THE YOUNG ONES

(including the Young at Heart)





חֲנֻכָּה שָׂמֵחַ

