



Create a Heirloom Jerusalem Stone *Hanukkiyah*

(Hanukkah Menorah)

Topic: Jerusalem Stone *Hanukkiyah*

Grade Level: Family, All



Please note: This project can be more costly than most projects. Consider using this craft as the centerpiece activity for a family learning event.

Goals for the Lesson/Activity

Students will gain familiarity with:

- a brief history of Jerusalem stone
- explore the connection many Jews feel to this ancient stone and to the land of Israel.

Students will be able to create their own heirloom *Hanukkiyah*, Hanukkah menorah, from Jerusalem stone.

Materials needed

- Jerusalem stone pieces; rinsed and dried. Boxes of Jerusalem stone may be purchased from <http://www.jerusalemstoneusa.com/>. For current pricing, contact them at: info@jerusalemstoneusa.com.
- 9 candle cups per *Hanukkiyah* – Candle cups vary in price and metals. A few different sources are:
 - <http://www.1-800-dreidel.com/>
 - http://www.weissjudaica.com/system/scripts/results_big.cgi?product=0147
 - <http://www.tjssc.com/pc-1644-225-180-chanukah-menorah-metal-candle-bases.aspx>
- Glue that is non-toxic, nonflammable, and bonds stone to stone and stone to metal. We recommend Weldbond for classroom use.
- One 4x12 limestone tile per person/family (base for the *Hanukkiyah*), available at home improvement stores.
- Grout – Optional (We typically don't use grout when making this project with students.)

Background for Teacher

- For over 3,000 years, buildings in Jerusalem have been constructed with Jerusalem stone.
- The laws requiring the use of Jerusalem stone for the facades of all buildings in Jerusalem was formalized under the British Mandate in the early 20th century.
- “Jerusalem Stone is a type of dolomitic limestone that is quarried around Jerusalem and other parts of Israel. Jerusalem Stone is a generic term describing natural stone



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material coming from areas from the Jordan River on the east to the Mediterranean Sea on the west, and from the southern Port of Eilat on the Red Sea to The Galilee and Haifa on the north.” Taken from: <http://www.jerusalemstoneusa.com/aboutstone.html>

- Jerusalem stone may be found in a wide range of colors, including several different shades of beige/gold as well as shades of light pink, white and grey.

Description of Activities

Before starting the art project, encourage each participant to take a piece of stone and hold it in their hands. Talk about the stones. How does it feel to hold a piece of stone from the land of Israel? Why might creating a Hanukkah menorah out of Jerusalem stone be different than creating a menorah from rocks from the local home improvement store? Perhaps the stones they are holding came from a town near Modi'in- hometown of the Macabbees!

Making the *Hanukkiyah*:

1. Feet: If you would like to elevate the base on “feet”, build four sets of stones to the desired height. For safety sake, limit each stack to no more than three stones, and make sure that they all measure the same height. This will insure that the *hanukkiyah* will stand firm and not wobble. Glue each stack of stones together and put them aside. Attach them to the bottom of the *hanukkiyah* after they have dried.
2. Pick stones that will be glued onto the top of the 4x12 tile. Encourage students to spend time choosing the stones and arranging them on the tile before gluing. They can experiment with color, height, and making sure their stones fit snugly next to each other.
3. Glue stones to the base. Be careful not to saturate the surface with glue or stones will slide.*
4. Glue on the candle cups.
5. Let *hanukkiyah* dry overnight before moving. Attach feet once the *hanukkiyah* has dried completely.

***NOTE:** If you are going to add grout, do not glue on the candle cups at this point. Instead let the piece dry over night. Attach the feet, grout according to directions and then attach candle cups.