

HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

DESIGN INSPIRATIONS FROM HANUKKAH LAMPS

The four images supplied exemplify the diversity of design ideas that were used in different times and places, while adhering to the rules for a kosher *hanukkiyah*. First draw what you think a *hanukkiyah* looks like. Then surprise yourself by some entirely different design ideas.

ACTIVITY #1

LOOK AT THE FOUR PICTURES AND OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING:

Materials: Print-outs or projections of images

- Which of these lamps use candles? Which ones use oil?
- Which ones have a *shamash*? Which one also provides holders for Sabbath candles?
- What do all four designs have in common? (Did you notice that all four are symmetrical?)
- In the Austro-Hungarian and Eastern European lamps, how many of the creatures and symbols listed below can you find? (The numbers indicate the total, for teacher's reference)

Crowns	2	Double headed eagles	1
Seven branch menorahs	1	Flowers	12
Lions	12	Leaves	>30
Birds	9	Cartouches	1
Griffins	2	(decorative oval shape or shield)	
(creature with a lion's body and a bird's head!)			

Crowns	Double headed eagles
Seven branch menorahs	Flowers
Lions	Leaves
Birds	Cartouches
	(decorative oval shape or shield)
Griffins	
(creature with a lion's body and a bird's head!)	

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Image 1 (of 4): Eastern European, 19th century



Eastern European Hanukkah lamp; Collection of Yeshiva University Museum (1986.160)

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Image 2 (of 4): Ottoman, Saloniki, 19th century



Ottoman hanukkah lamp, 19th ct., Saloniki; Collection of Yeshiva University Museum (1995.464)

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Image 3 (of 4): Austro-Hungarian, 19th century



Austro-Hungarian Hanukkah lamp; Collection of Yeshiva University Museum (1986.154)

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Image 4 (of 4): Israeli, artist: Ari Ofir, 20th century



Israeli Hanukkah lamp by artist Ari Ofir, 20th ct; Collection of Yeshiva University Museum (1992.115)

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ACTIVITY #2

CREATE YOUR OWN DESIGN

Materials: soft pencil, sketching and tracing paper.

- In the Ottoman and the Israeli designs- which are abstract- there are no images, but there are shapes. Sketch at least four of the shapes.
- Sketch some of the C and S shapes that are used to render twigs and leaves (they make great designs!).
- Mark a rectangular border measuring 6" x 12" on tracing paper, fold it in half and use a variation of these C, S and I shapes for a design of your own. Sketch only half of the design, then trace the other half as a symmetrical (or mirror) image.
- From the inventory above, sketch 3 of your favorite creatures or symbols. Add some of your own invention.
- Insert some of these creatures into your design sketch. Bring the sketch with you to the museum, where you will copy it onto a panel of clear Lucite and paint it with translucent paints.
- When returning from the museum trip, put the panel behind your hanukkiah in the window to be illuminated by the burning candles.

Eastern European, 19th ct.



Ottoman, Saloniki, 19th ct.



Austro-Hungarian, 19th ct.



Israeli, Ari Ofir, 20th ct.

