Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is a Jewish holiday that lasts for eight nights and usually occurs in December.

Hanukkah celebrates a Jewish military victory over foreign rulers in Jerusalem. Some 30 years after foreign rule the Jews were forced to give up their religious practices. There was a successful rebellion by the Jews to take back control of their Temple. The Temple was cleaned, rebuilt, and rededicated.

According to tradition, only one small jar of lamp oil was found when the Jews entered the Temple, enough for one night. Miraculously, it lasted for eight nights until more oil was found.

To celebrate the eight nights of Hanukkah people light candles on a branched candlestick called a menorah, gifts are exchanged and children play holiday games.*

To learn more about Hanukkah:

On our Student Research page use the keyword "Hanukkah" in the Britannica School database.

You will need a Redwood City Public Library card.  
http://www.redwoodcity.org/studentresearch