

COLOR A DREIDEL

The word "dreydl" comes from the Yiddish word "dreyen" which means to twist or to turn – so it's no wonder that this great little spinning top is called by that name. The dreydl (also written as dreydel, dreidl or dreidel) has four sides, each bearing a letter in Hebrew.

ו SHAM

נ NES

ג GADOL

ה HAYA

I have a little dreydl I made it out of clay And when it's dry and ready A dreydl I will play
Oh dreydl, dreydl, dreydl I made you out of clay And when you're dry and ready A dreydl I will play
My dreydl has four corners And a letter on each face To remind us of the miracle That long ago took place
Oh dreydl, dreydl, dreydl I made you out of clay And when you're dry and ready A dreydl I will play
The letters also tell us Who will lose or win I have a pile of goodies (walnuts) I'm ready, let's begin

HOW TO PLAY

Players start with a small pile of treats of goodies. In the early days, this probably meant things like walnuts, small candies or a wonderful little chocolate coins called "Hanukkah gelt" (Hanukkah money). Then each player takes their turn and spins the dreydl. What appears on the face will tell them what to do next.

WHAT THE LETTERS MEAN

The letters make a reference to the miracle that happened at Hanukkah. If you read the letters from right to left, you see this message:

Sham (or Shin)
Haya (or Hay)
Gadol (or Gimel)
Nes (or Nun)

There (meaning it happened there in Israel)
Happened
Great
Miracle

Each letter also tells you what to do:

Nes (or Nun)	Do nothing, pass your turn
Sham (or Shin)	Add one treat to the pot
Haya (or Hay)	Get half the pot
Gadol (or Gimel)	Get everything in the pot