

# LIGHT X EIGHT

## Hanukkah 2010 Family Guide

Begin your Hanukkah tour on the second floor in *A Hanukkah Project: Daniel Libeskind's Line of Fire*.  
*As you walk around this gallery be very careful not to touch or bump any of the lamps.*

Do you know anything about the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah?

Do you know why people light Hanukkah lamps?

**Hanukkah** is the joyous festival, sometimes called the “festival of lights,” that celebrates an ancient victory for religious freedom over 2,000 years ago and a miracle that occurred as a one-day supply of oil burned for eight days. To honor this miracle, Jewish people around the world light Hanukkah lamps for eight nights in a row.

### What do you notice when you first walk into this room?

These lamps come from all over the world. They were all made at different times in history and they all look different; however, their purpose has remained the same for centuries. As you follow the *Line of Fire*, think about what these special lamps might tell you about the places they come from and the link they create between people across time.

Find the lamp entitled Architectural Lamp.

#### **What do you notice about this lamp? What shapes do you see?**

Each candleholder in this lamp tells a story about significant events in Jewish history -- some sad and some happy.

For example, the first candleholder on the left is in the shape of an ancient Egyptian monument called an obelisk. The artist, Richard Meier, uses the obelisk to represent the departure of the ancient Israelites from Egypt.

Now take a look at the sixth candleholder from the left. In the late 1800s Jewish communities in Austria were granted religious freedom. This candleholder, inspired by Austrian buildings, symbolizes the liberation of Jewish people thousands of years after the Jews fled Egypt.



Architectural Lamp, Richard Meier, New York, 1985. The Jewish Museum, New York. Purchase: Samuel and Rose Riemer Private Foundation Gift, 1998-31

Do any of the buildings in this Hanukkah lamp remind you of familiar places or buildings?

Move on to the work of art called *Menorahmorph*.

### Describe this lamp to your grown-up.

- What is different about this lamp compared to the lamp you just looked at?
  - Can you think of any similarities between these two Hanukkah lamps?
- What do you think *Menorahmorph* is made of? Using your imagination, and without touching the lamp, what do you think it might feel like?

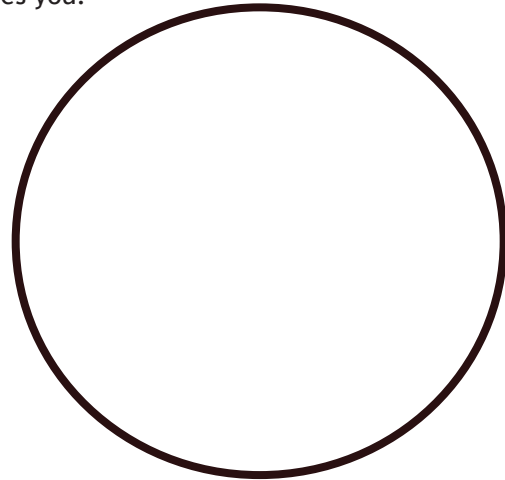
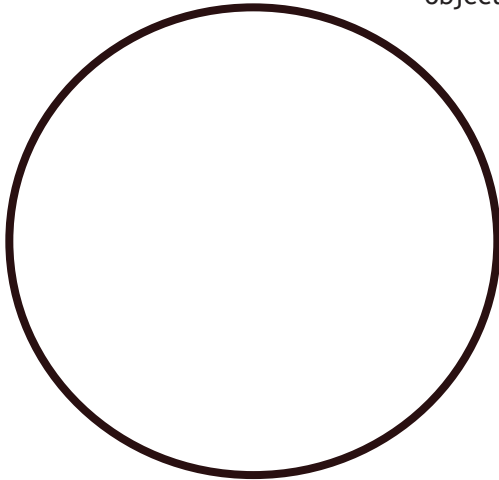
Let's take a close look at the next lamp on the *Line of Fire* to your left...

- What kinds of animals and objects can you find in this lamp?
- Describe a detail that you think is interesting.

The artist included twelve images to represent the Twelve Tribes of Israel. These are based on a story in the Torah or Hebrew Bible about a man named Jacob who gave each of his twelve sons a different symbol that best described their character.

**What animal or object would you choose to represent yourself?**

Use the circles below to draw one of the symbols representing the Twelve Tribes of Israel and one animal or object that describes you.



The architect Daniel Libeskind paired his sculptural platform, *Line of Fire*, with words written by other people describing fire. With your family, read some of the text on the wall of this gallery.

What are three words you would use to describe fire?

1.

2.

3.

Exit this gallery and take the elevator up to the third floor. Make a right when you exit the elevator and another right to enter the room with two very bright works of art by Lynn Godley and Mathew McCaslin.



*Being the Light*, Mathew McCaslin, New York, 2000.  
The Jewish Museum, New York. Purchase:  
Contemporary Judaica Acquisitions Committee Fund  
and Judaica Acquisitions Fund, 2001-14a-j

**What do you see? What materials do you notice?**

How are these two works of art similar or different?

**What might the light in these lamps represent?**

How is this light different than light created by fire?

*Before you leave the museum, be sure to visit the fourth floor to see our permanent exhibition of Hanukkah lamps!*

Can you find a lamp with chairs?

How many lions can you see in this case of lamps?

Where is the Hulk Hogan lamp?

What other unusual objects have these artists used to create unique Hanukkah lamps?

Find the Statue of Liberty figures or the colorful blocks.

**Congratulations, you have completed your Hanukkah tour at The Jewish Museum!**

For more fun related to Hanukkah check out our Holiday Feature online at

[www.thejewishmuseum.org/kidzone](http://www.thejewishmuseum.org/kidzone)