

Kwanzaa



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What is Kwanzaa?

An African-American celebration of family, community and culture lasting 7 days to correlate with 7 different principles and symbols.

Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga and is based on traditions from various regions in Africa. It was first celebrated in 1966.

Kwanzaa begins on December 26th, 2021 and last for 7 days, ending on January 1, 2022

1

DID YOU KNOW?

Kwanzaa is a Swahili word that means "first" and signifies the first fruits of the harvest.

2

HABARI GANI

The traditional greeting used during Kwanzaa which means "What is the news?" In Swahili

3

TODAY

4% of Americans report celebrating Kwanzaa. That translates to over 12.5 million people.



CREATION

Dr Karenga created Kwanzaa in response to the Watts riots. He saw the holiday as a way to celebrate, strengthen and unite the African-American community.

CELEBRATE

During Kwanzaa families and communities organize activities around the seven principles. It is also celebrated with feasts, dance, music and poetry.

KNOW

The colors of Kwanzaa have meaning. Black represents the people, red the noble blood that unites people of African ancestry and green represents the rich lands of Africa.

Principles of Kwanzaa

Day 1: Umoja (Unity) To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Day 2: Kujichagulia (Self-Determination) To define ourselves, name ourselves, create ourselves and speak for ourselves.

Day 3: Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility) To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers and sisters problems into our problems and solve them together.

Day 4: Ujimaa (Cooperative Economics) To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Day 5: Nia (Purpose) To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Day 6: Kuumba (Creativity) To always do as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Day 7: Imani (Faith) To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.



events.dekalblibrary.org

Primary Symbols

Tables are decorated with the essential symbols of Kwanzaa.

Mazao (Crops) represents the harvest and collective labor

Mkeka (Mat) represents the foundation of traditions and history.

Muhindi(Corn) represents the children and their future

Mishumaa Saba(The Seven Candles)each represents one of the 7 principles of Kwanzaa

Kinara (The Candleholder) symbolic of the roots and people on the African Continent.

Kikombe Cha Umoja(The Unity Cup) relates to the unity of family and of the African people.

Zwandi (Gifts) represents to labor of parents the rewards to their children. Gifts are given to educate and enrich.

DIG DEEPER

Watch:



What is Kwanzaa? How is Kwanzaa Celebrated?



Afro-One Dancers Kwanzaa Celebration

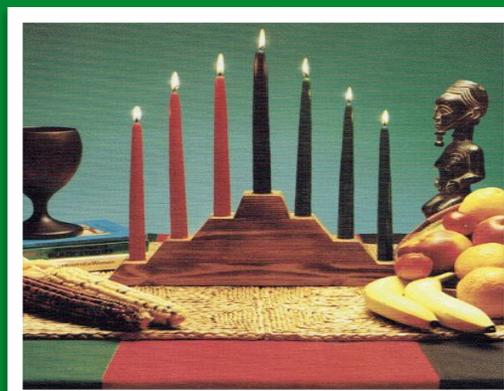


PBSKids All about the Holidays: Kwanzaa

Read:



The 10 Best Kwanzaa Books for Kids



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