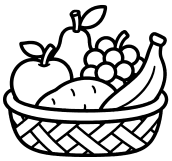
Name _____ Date _____



Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

How Kwanzaa Began

Kwanzaa is an African American holiday. It celebrates family, community and culture. It lasts seven days, from December 26 to January 1. Dr. Maulana Karenga made it in 1966. He wanted African Americans to have a holiday that honored their roots in Africa.

The name Kwanzaa comes from Swahili words that mean **first fruits**. In many parts of Africa, people hold big feasts at harvest time. They give thanks for the crops. Kwanzaa is built on those harvest feasts.

Kwanzaa is a **cultural** holiday. It is not a religious one, so people of any faith can keep it. Each of its days honors one of seven **principles**. A principle is an idea about how to live.

---

1. When does Kwanzaa start? **December 26** **December 25** **January 1**

2. Who created Kwanzaa?

_____

3. The name Kwanzaa comes from words that mean first fruits. **true** **false**

4. Only people of one faith can keep Kwanzaa. **true** **false**

5. Why did Dr. Karenga create Kwanzaa?

_____

_____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

Day 1: read about Umoja. Then write.

Day 1 · December 26

Umoja

Say it: oo-MOH-jah

Unity



Umoja means **unity**. Unity is being together, like one team. On this day, families think about how to stay close. They think about their town and their people, too. A family shows unity when they all help make a meal. Then they sit down and eat it together.

1. Umoja means ____ **unity** **purpose** **faith**

How can you show unity at home, at school or in your town? Give an example.

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Name _____ Date _____

Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

Day 2: read about Kujichagulia. Then write.

Day 2 · December 27

Kujichagulia

Say it: koo-jee-chah-goo-LEE-ah

Self-Determination



Kujichagulia means **self-determination**. It means that we choose for ourselves who we are and what we will do. It also means that we name ourselves and speak for ourselves. You show it when you set a goal and stick to it, or when you tell your own story in your own words.

1. Kujichagulia is about choosing for ourselves who we are. **true** **false**

What is a goal you can choose for yourself? What steps will you take to reach it?

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Name _____ Date _____

Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

Day 3: read about Ujima. Then write.

Day 3 · December 28

Ujima

Say it: oo-JEE-mah

Collective Work and Responsibility



Ujima means **collective work and responsibility**. That is a big way to say that we work together. We take care of each other. If a neighbor has a problem, we help solve it as if it were our own. You show Ujima when your class cleans up the playground as a team.

1. Ujima means that we work ____ **quietly** **together** **alone**

Think of a problem at your school or in your neighborhood. How could people work together to solve it?

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Name _____ Date _____

Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

Day 4: read about Ujamaa. Then write.

Day 4 · December 29

Ujamaa

Say it: oo-jah-MAH-ah

Cooperative Economics



Ujamaa means **cooperative economics**. That is a big way to say that people build and run their own shops. They work together and share what they earn. Families show Ujamaa when they buy from shops owned by people in their community. Then the money helps them all.

1. Ujamaa is about people building and running shops of their own, together. **true** **false**

What shop or business could people in your community build together? How would it help them all?

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Name _____ Date _____

Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

Day 5: read about Nia. Then write.

Day 5 · December 30

Nia

Say it: NEE-ah

Purpose



Nia means **purpose**. Your purpose is the reason for what you do. On this day, people think about how they can help their community grow strong. You might want to be a nurse, a teacher or a builder one day. How could your work help the people around you?

1. Nia means ____ **creativity** **purpose** **unity**

What would you like to do when you grow up? How would your work help the people around you?

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Name _____ Date _____

Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

Day 6: read about Kuumba. Then write.

Day 6 · December 31

Kuumba

Say it: koo-OOM-bah

Creativity



Kuumba means **creativity**. It means using your ideas and gifts to make things better. We try to leave our town more beautiful than we found it. People show Kuumba with music, art, stories and gardens. On this day, many families share a big feast. It is called the **karamu**.

1. The karamu is a ____ **feast** **song** **candle**

How could you make your school or your town more beautiful? Describe your idea.

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Name _____ Date _____

Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

Day 7: read about Imani. Then write.

Day 7 · January 1

Imani

Say it: ee-MAH-nee

Faith



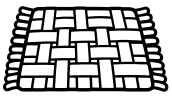
Imani means **faith**. Here, faith means that you believe with all your heart in your family, your teachers, your leaders and your people. Imani is the last day of Kwanzaa. On this day, all seven candles on the kinara are lit. Children are often given gifts.

1. How many candles are lit on the last day? **3** **1** **7**

Who do you believe in with all your heart? Tell who, and explain why.

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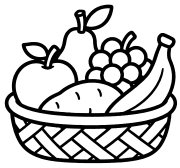
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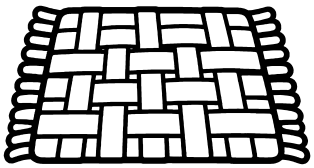
Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

Write the name of each symbol. Use the word bank.

muhindi (corn) **mazao (crops)** **zawadi (gifts)**
kinara (candle holder) **kikombe cha umoja (unity cup)** **mkeka (mat)**
mishumaa saba (seven candles)



_____



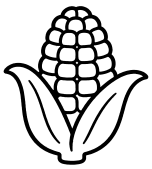
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_____



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_____



_____

© 2026 Eggroll Games

Name _____ Date _____



Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

Write each day's principle. Use the word bank.

Kuumba **Ujima** **Umoja** **Imani**
Ujamaa **Kujichagulia** **Nia**

December 26
Day 1



_____

December 27
Day 2



_____

December 28
Day 3



_____

December 29
Day 4



_____

December 30
Day 5



_____

December 31
Day 6



_____

January 1
Day 7

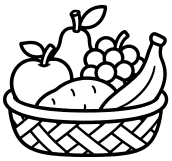


_____

1. On which date is the karamu, the feast? **January 1** **December 31** **December 26**

2. How many candles are lit on December 29? **5** **4** **3**

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Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

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How Kwanzaa Began

Kwanzaa is an African American holiday. It celebrates family, community and culture. It lasts seven days, from December 26 to January 1. Dr. Maulana Karenga made it in 1966. He wanted African Americans to have a holiday that honored their roots in Africa.

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---

1. When does Kwanzaa start? **December 26** **December 25** **January 1**

2. Who created Kwanzaa?

Dr. Maulana Karenga

3. The name Kwanzaa comes from words that mean first fruits. **true** **false**

4. Only people of one faith can keep Kwanzaa. **true** **false**

5. Why did Dr. Karenga create Kwanzaa?

So African Americans would have a holiday that honored their roots in Africa.

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Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

Day 1: read about Umoja. Then write.

Day 1 · December 26

Umoja

Say it: oo-MOH-jah

Unity



Umoja means **unity**. Unity is being together, like one team. On this day, families think about how to stay close. They think about their town and their people, too. A family shows unity when they all help make a meal. Then they sit down and eat it together.

1. Umoja means ____ **unity** **purpose** **faith**

How can you show unity at home, at school or in your town? Give an example.

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Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

Day 2: read about Kujichagulia. Then write.

Day 2 · December 27

Kujichagulia

Say it: koo-jee-chah-goo-LEE-ah

Self-Determination



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What is a goal you can choose for yourself? What steps will you take to reach it?

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Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

Day 3: read about Ujima. Then write.

Day 3 · December 28

Ujima

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Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

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Day 4 · December 29

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Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

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Day 5 · December 30

Nia

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Purpose



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Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

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Day 6 · December 31

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Creativity



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Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

Day 7: read about Imani. Then write.

Day 7 · January 1

Imani

Say it: ee-MAH-nee

Faith

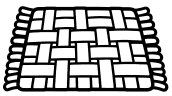


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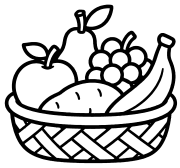
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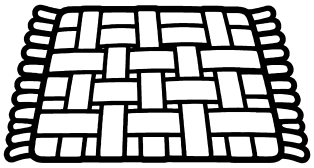
Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

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mishumaa saba (seven candles)



mazao



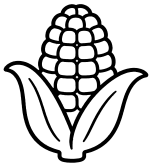
mkeka



kinara



mishumaa saba



muhindi



kikombe cha umoja



zawadi

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Kwanzaa's Seven Principles

Write each day's principle. Use the word bank.

Kuumba **Ujima** **Umoja** **Imani**
Ujamaa **Kujichagulia** **Nia**

December 26
Day 1



Umoja

December 27
Day 2



Kujichagulia

December 28
Day 3



Ujima

December 29
Day 4



Ujamaa

December 30
Day 5



Nia

December 31
Day 6



Kuumba

January 1
Day 7



Imani

1. On which date is the karamu, the feast? **January 1** **December 31** **December 26**

2. How many candles are lit on December 29? **5** **4** **3**

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