

KWANZAA FLASHCARDS!







okras



yams



fritters



ears of corn



goblet drum



straw mat



Africa



masks



crops



pullover robe



seven candles



unity cup



African and
English!

umojja



To strive and maintain unity in our family, nation, and race.

unity

kuumba



To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

creativity

Kujichagulia



To define and name ourselves, as well as to create and speak for ourselves.

self-determination

ujima



To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.

collective work & responsibility

ujamaa



To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.

cooperative economics

nia



To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

purpose

imani



To believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

faith

**Definitions
Included!**

What is Kwanzaa?

Kwanzaa is an annual celebration of African-American culture held from December 26th to January 1st. It was created in 1966 by Maulana Karenga and is based on African harvest festival traditions.

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How is it celebrated?

Kwanzaa is mainly celebrated in America. Families decorate their homes in colorful African fabrics, drink from a unity cup, light candles on a kinara, discuss the seven principles of Nguzo Saba, place fresh crops on a mat, sing songs, dance, and exchange gifts with each other.

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What is the History?

Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili. Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chair of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach, created Kwanzaa in 1966 as a way to unite African Americans together as a community. It is a combination of several different African harvest festival traditions combined to form the basis of Kwanzaa.

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What is Mishumaa Saba?

Mishumaa saba are the seven candles which represent the seven core principles of Kwanzaa. The black candle symbolizes Umoja (unity of the African American people) and is lit on December 26. The three green candles, representing Nia, Ujima, and Imani, are placed to the right of the Umoja candle, while the three red candles, representing Kujichagulia, Ujamaa, and Kumba, are placed to the left of it.

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What is Kinara?

The kinara is a candleholder for the mishumaa saba. It represents African ancestry and can be made from fallen branches, wood, or other natural materials. In African festivals, ancestors are remembered and honored.

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What is Karamu?

Karamu Ya Imani or "Feast of Faith" is a feast that takes place on December 31, the sixth day of the Kwanzaa. Tables are full of African-American, traditional African, Caribbean, and South American dishes. Some of these foods include African creole, Cajun catfish, jerk chicken, stew, Jollof rice, collard greens, grits, beans and rice, and okra.

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What is Mazao?

Mazao are fruits, vegetables, and nuts placed on a mkeka (straw place mat) to symbolize the hard work and personal sacrifice of the farmers that brought forth new plant life to feed the people and animals of the earth. It also represents joy, sharing, unity, and thanksgiving of the harvest.

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What is a Mkeka?

Mkeka is made from straw or cloth and symbolizes the foundation of African-American people to stand on and build a future. The mishumaa saba, the vibunzi, the mazao, the zawadi, the kikombe cha umoja, and the kinara are placed directly on the mkeka.

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What is Kikombe Cha Umoja?

The kikombe cha umoja is a special unity cup used to perform the libation (tambiko) ritual during the Karamu feast on the sixth day of Kwanzaa. During the Karamu feast, the kikombe cha umoja is passed to family member and guests, who drink from it to promote unity. Then, the eldest person present pours the libation (tambiko) to honor the ancestors.

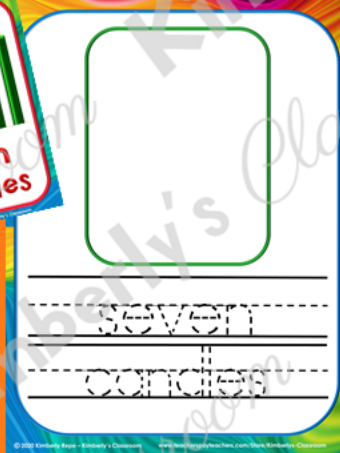
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What is Zawadi?

Zawadi are gifts exchanged with family members and guests on the seventh day of Kwanzaa to celebrate Imani. These gifts are usually handmade and educational. They are given to encourage growth, self-determination, achievement, and success. Accepting a gift makes the receiver part of the family and promotes Umoja.

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