

Kwanzaa is a celebration of traditional African values of family, community responsibility, trade, and self-development.



Kwanzaa was established in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga. Kwanzaa means "first fruits of the harvest" in the African language Swahili.



DECEMBER-JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Kwanzaa is celebrated from December 26th to January 1st. Kwanzaa is based on seven guiding principles, or values, one for each day it is observed.



The first night celebrates Umoja which means unity. Unity stresses the importance of togetherness for the family and the community.



The second night celebrates Kujichagulia, or self-determination. We focus on our common interests and make decisions that are in the best interest of our family and community.



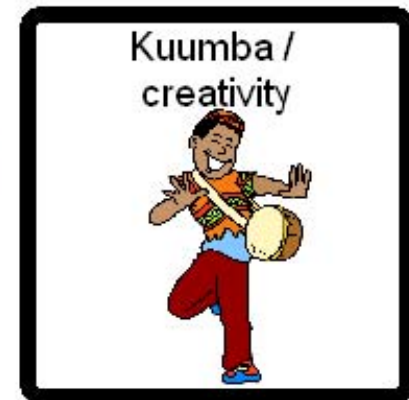
The third night of Kwanzaa celebrates Ujima or responsibility. This is our collective responsibility to play a role in the community, society, and world.



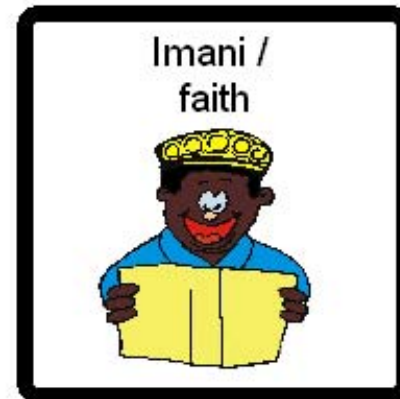
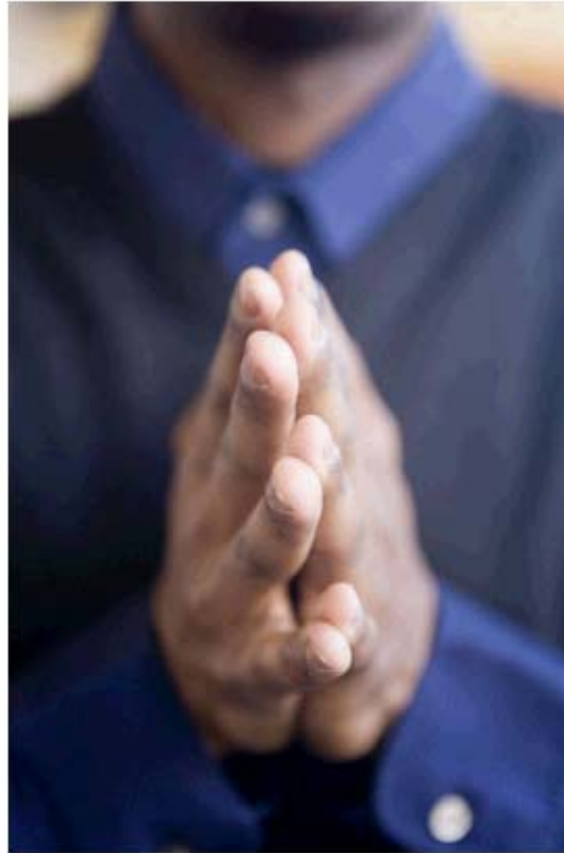
The fourth night of Kwanzaa celebrates Ujamaa or economic cooperation. It is the strength that encourages us to meet our needs through communal support.



The fifth night of Kwanzaa celebrates Nia or personal goals. We are encouraged to set personal goals that are a benefit to the community.



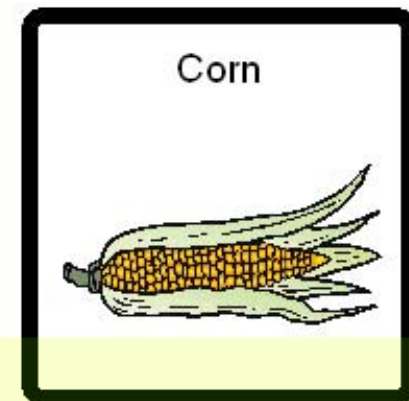
The sixth night of Kwanzaa celebrates Kuumba or creativity. This means using our creativity to build and maintain a vibrant community.



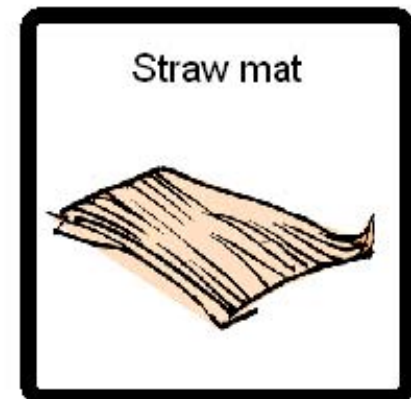
The seventh night of Kwanzaa celebrates Imani or faith. This is an honoring of our faith and the best of our traditions.



On Kwanzaa, a Kinara or candle holder with seven candles or *Mishumaa saba* is lit. There is one black candle, three red candles and three green candles.



During Kwanzaa, families decorate their homes in black, red and green using homemade objects. It is tradition to set out harvest fruits and vegetables, especially ears of corn.



An Mkeka or hand sewn straw mat is used when decorating the home.



Gifts between parents and children are traditionally given on January first. Kuumba or creativity is encouraged. Gifts should be affordable, educational and artistic.



The Kwanzaa feast Karumu is held on December 31st. Traditionally, the celebration involves welcoming, remembering and rejoicing.



The feast ends with a farewell statement and a call for greater unity among all people. Kwanzaa is a fun holiday to celebrate!

