



Kwanzaa - December 26, 2024 - January 1, 2025

Kwanzaa is an annual celebration observed from December 26th to January 1st, honoring African heritage and culture in African American communities. Established in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa is rooted in traditional African harvest festivals and serves as a time for reflection, reaffirmation of values, and community building. Each day of Kwanzaa is dedicated to one of seven principles, known as the Nguzo Saba, including unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Celebrations typically include candle-lighting ceremonies using a kinara, cultural performances, storytelling, and feasting on traditional foods. Kwanzaa serves as a meaningful occasion to honor African heritage, promote unity, and strengthen community bonds through shared values and traditions.

HOW CAN WE CELEBRATE?

- Assemble a **Kwanzaa display**: mat, kinara, unity cup, crops such as fruit or vegetables, corn, and gifts for children
- **Reflect on the seven principles**: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith
- Cook **traditional Kwanzaa food** such as jambalaya, black eyed peas, collard greens, and hummingbird cake
- **Give gifts to children** such as books, handmade presents, and heritage symbols



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