



CELEBRATE KWANZAA

**A Celebration of Culture, Community & Heritage
Observed December 26 – January 1**

Habari Ganni (hah-BAR-eeGAH-nee)
Swahili - What is the news...



How did Kwanzaa Start?

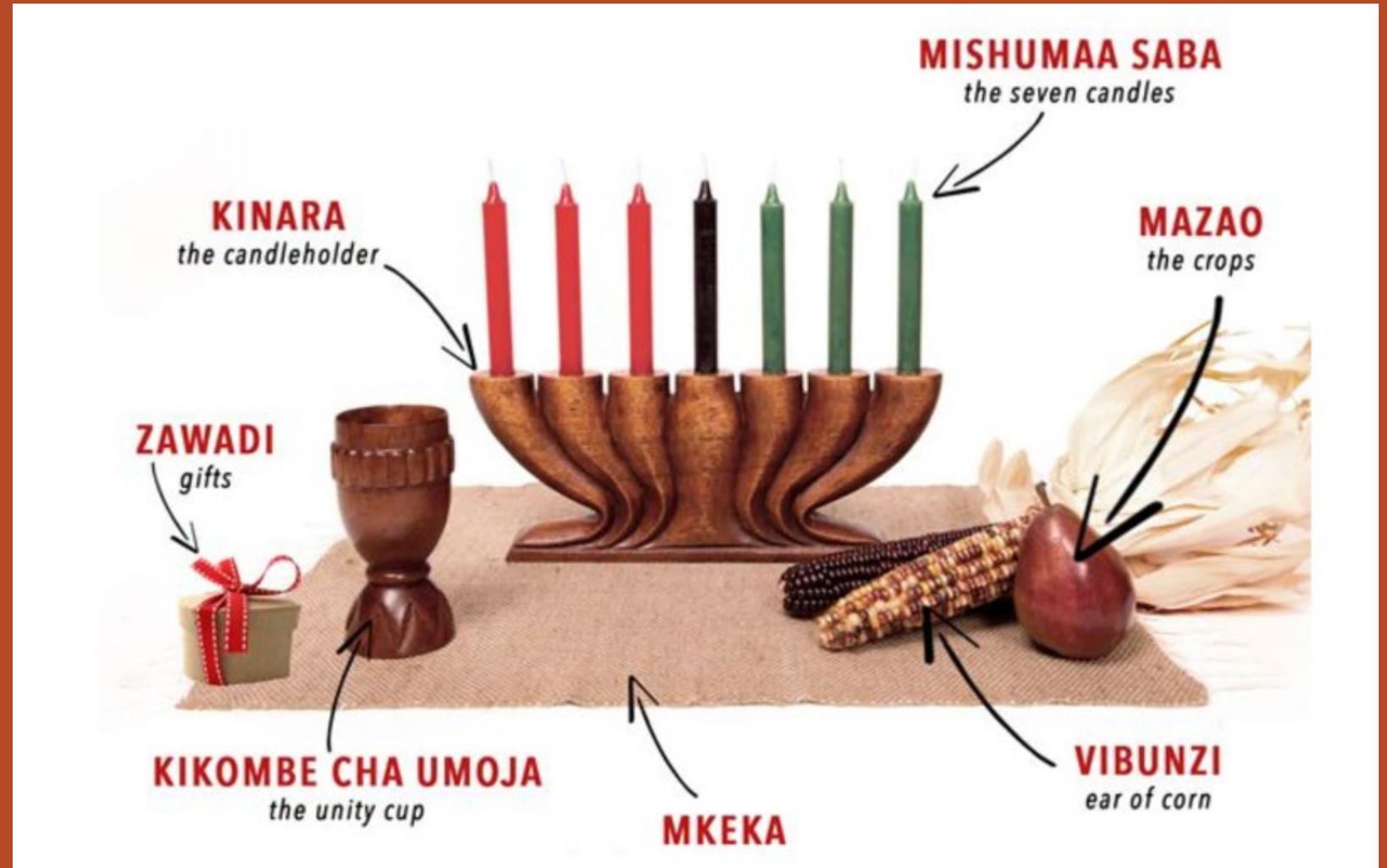


Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor of African American studies at California State University, Long Beach.



Hakim Abdullah Jamal: American activist and co-founder of the "US" organization with Maulana Karenga to promote African-American cultural unity .

What is Kwanzaa



Nguzo Saba (n-GU-zo SAH-bah)

The 7 Principles



Umoja (Unity)

December 26th

Efforts that seek to maintain unity whether in the family, the community, or the nation.

Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)

December 27th

Defining and speaking for ourselves, rather than being defined by or spoken for, by others

Ujima (Collective Work & Responsibility)

December 28th

Working collectively to build-up the community and solve problems

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)

December 29th

Supporting our businesses and entrepreneurial efforts so that our communities can thrive

Nia (Purpose)

December 30th

Grounding our work and collective efforts in the purpose of restoring our traditional greatness

Kuumba (Creativity)

December 31st

Generating beauty through creative and artistic endeavors that establishes mutual benefit to the community

Imani (Faith)

January 1st

Having faith in the community power to be resilient even during the struggle for justice



How did Kwanzaa Start?



Is Kwanzaa Relevant Today?



Year	Estimated Participants (US)	Estimated Participants (Worldwide)
2015	33.3 million	15 million
2016	37 million	17 million
2017	37.3 million	17.5 million
2018	36.3 million	16.5 million
2019	35.5 million	16 million
2020	30 million	14 million
2021	24.7 million	12 million
2022	26.4 million	13 million
2023	27.1 million	13.5 million
2024 (projected)	27.8 million	14 million
2025 (projected)	28.5 million	15 million

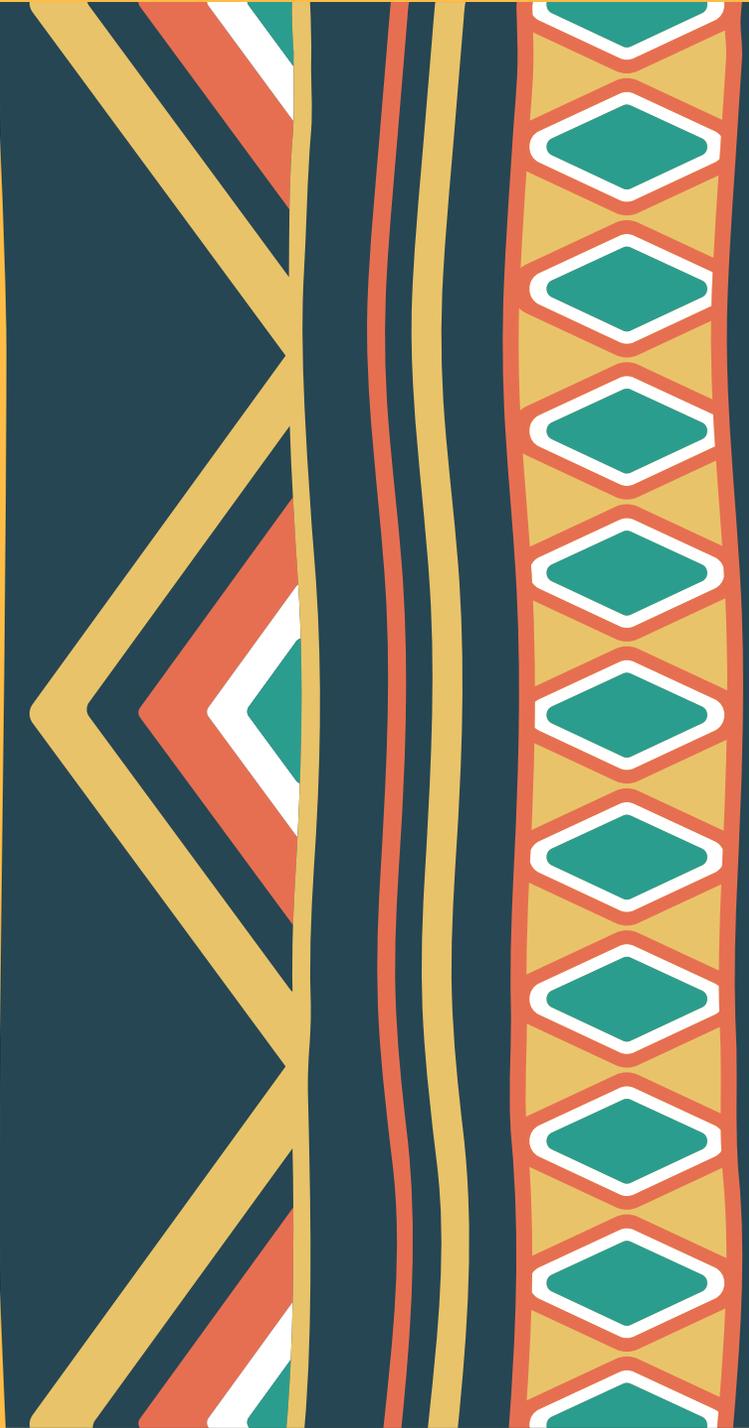
2025 Theme

**Practicing the Seven Principles
in Dimly-Lit Times:
Lifting Up the Light,
Hurrying the Dawn**

[Official Kwanzaa Website](#)



Why I Celebrate Kwanzaa



How to Celebrate Kwanzaa

1. Light the Kinara

Light one candle each day to honor the 7 principles (Nguzo Saba).

2. Reflect on the Principle of the Day

Discuss or journal on the meaning of each principle.

3. Decorate with Cultural Symbols

Use Mkeka (mat), Mazao (crops), Kinara, Mishumaa Saba (7 candles), Kikombe cha Umoja (Unity Cup), and Zawadi (gifts).

4. Celebrate with Community

Share meals, music, storytelling, and cultural traditions with family and friends.

5. Participate in Daily Activities

Engage in acts of service, creativity, learning, or community building tied to each day's principle.

6. Exchange Meaningful Gifts

Give handmade, educational, or culturally significant gifts (Zawadi) that promote growth.

7. Conclude with a Feast (Karamu)

Enjoy a communal meal on December 31 celebrating heritage and unity.



Community Celebrations

community festivals, public celebrations, and shared meals or brunch-type gatherings are now popular ways to celebrate Kwanzaa and echo the holiday's original intent to foster community, culture, and collective reflection.





How will you celebrate?

Call & Response: "Light the Principal"

**Speaker: *Umoja?*
Audience: Unity!**

**Speaker: *Kujichagulia?*
Audience: Self-Determination!**

**Speaker: *Ujima?*
Audience: Collective Work and Responsibility!**

**Speaker: *Ujamaa?*
Audience: Cooperative Economics!**

**Speaker: *Nia?*
Audience: Purpose!**

**Speaker: *Kuumba?*
Audience: Creativity!**

**Speaker: *Imani?*
Audience: Faith!**

Speaker: *Keep the light burning!*

Audience: "We will keep the light!"

Conclusion

Kwanzaa is open to anyone who wishes to celebrate African heritage and the values of unity, self-determination, and community. It's not limited to people of African descent. Kwanzaa is for everyone!

Questions & Answers





Resources

List the resources you used for your research:

- [The Organization Us](#)
- [What Is Kwanzaa? How to Celebrate and Other Facts](#)
- [The History of Kwanza — When Did Kwanza Begin?](#)
- [Kwanzaa 2025: Celebrating African Heritage and Unity - Maga Router](#)