

KWANZAA



Habari gani?! Let's RISE Together and celebrate Kwanzaa!

RISE COMMUNITY KWANZAA

Using your RISE Kwanzaa Kit, join us in creating new cultural memories with your family.

u m o j a



u n i t y

kujichagulia



self-determination

ujima



collective work &
responsibility

ujamaa



cooperative economics

nia



purpose

kuumba



creativity

imani



faith

RISE CULTURAL COMPONENTS

"Our culture is not supplemental. It's essential and elemental." - Javonté Anyabwélé

RITUALS

Rituals are a regular sacred practice of taking the time as a family unit to reflect on our cultural core competencies.

LIBATIONS: an Ancient african practice of recognizing the power of the divine spirit that dwells within all of us, the power and presence of our ancestors, and the gift of future generations. It doesn't matter your religious background or faith. it can be practiced by anyone. Atheists can recognize their higher power as life, love, or our state of being. Use the [RISE Imani Geniuses Soundcloud playlist](#) to practice.

SANKOFA CARDS: It's important that we're intentional about teaching our children about who we are and from whom we come. Use the upcoming Sankofa Cards to teach simple facts about our ancestors and heroes. Play matching and "Guess Who" games. Teach your Imani Geniuses at least one (1) fact about each one.

AFFIRMATIONS: The affirmations are daily reminders of our greatness and what we're capable of doing. They serve as mantras in many cases to help Imani Geniuses tap into their greatest potential. There is one in particular I'd like you to help your Imani Geniuses learn. We will recite this when answering the driving question, "Who Are We." It's to be done as a call and response with a leader leading each line. Imani Geniuses will simply repeat it as follows:

We are strong African children.

We shall become strong African men and women.

And, we shall always be a credit to our people.

"I AM BECAUSE WE ARE." - AFRICAN PROVERB

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THE SYMBOLS OF KWANZAA

"If you have no confidence in self, you are twice defeated in the race of life." —Marcus Garvey

THE ADINKRA SYMBOLS AND THE NGUZO SABA

Kwanzaa was founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulena Karenga. The Nguzo Saba, or seven principles, are the fundamental principles upon which Kwanzaa is based. They are written in Swahili, as are most of the terms used in Kwanzaa, and are represented by Adinkra symbols of the same meaning. They are also the foundation of the RISE Curriculum and our guiding framework for character building. The Nguzo Saba each have a corresponding candle. The red candles are placed in the kinara to the farthest left, then the single black candle in the middle, and lastly, the green candles to the right. They are lit, one additional one each day, starting with the black candle, then alternating from the farthest outside red to the farthest outside green, and so forth until every principle's candle is lit. The Nguzo Saba are as follows:

1 UMOJA (Unity): "to strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race." On the first night of Kwanzaa, December 26th, light the center black candle for unity.

2 KUJICHAGULIA (Self-Determination): "To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and SPEAK for ourselves." On the second day of Kwanzaa, light the Umoja candle followed by the farthest left red candle for Kujichagulia.

3 UJIMA (Collective Work and Responsibility): "To build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our own." On the third day of Kwanzaa, light the Umoja & Kujichagulia candles followed by the farthest right green candle for Ujima.

"KNOWLEDGE IS LIKE A GARDEN..."

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THE SYMBOLS OF KWANZAA

"Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave. I RISE. I RISE. I RISE." - Maya Angelou

4 UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics): "To build, maintain, and support our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together." On the fourth night of Kwanzaa, light all of the previous candles, and the second farthest red candle.

5 NIA (Purpose): "To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness." On the fifth day of Kwanzaa, light all of the previous candles, and the second farthest green candle from the center for Nia.

6 KUUMBA (Creativity): "To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than when we inherited it." On the sixth day of Kwanzaa, light all of the previous candles followed by the last red candle for Kuumba.

7 IMANI (Faith): "To believe with all our heart in our people, parents, teachers, leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle." On the seventh day of Kwanzaa, light all of the previous candles in order, and close the lighting ceremony by lighting the last green candle for Imani.

The most important component of Kwanzaa is to come together to celebrate how we've displayed the Nguzo Saba throughout the year, and how we plan to do so in the New Year. It is to unite for the purpose of celebrating the beauty of our culture throughout the African Diaspora.

...IF IT IS NOT CULTIVATED, IT CANNOT BE HARVESTED..
- AFRICAN PROVERB

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THE KWANZAA DISPLAY

"The soul that is within me, no man can degrade" - Frederick Douglass

The Kwanzaa Altar: The best part about Kwanzaa is decorating your altar or display in the way that reflects your family or community. Here are the components you'll need for your display:

- **Mkeka**- place mat usually made of straw atop African fabric as the base of the display.
- **Mazao**- fruits, nuts, and vegetables to represent the provision of the Creator and the harvest you've had for the year. They are usually placed in a wooden or straw bowl.
- **Vibunzi or Muhindi**- ears of corn are placed on the Kwanzaa display to represent the number of children in your family, community, or that you'd like to manifest in your family.
- **Kikombe cha Umoja**- the cup of unity is used to hold the water poured into a plant or soil during libations.
- **Kinara**- the candleholder is usually placed at the center of the display with the candles placed in order from left to right as all red, black, then green.
- **Zawadi**- handmade gifts for each family member are usually displayed and opened on the last day of Kwanzaa, New Year's Day. The gifts are nominal in monetary value, but significant in meaning.
- **Books by African authors**- to represent our constant zeal for knowledge and excellence
- **African Artifacts**- to show the beauty and creativity we possess as a people.
- **Pictures of Ancestors**-to invoke their spiritual presence and provoke conversation about their contributions to our people or family.

"INSTRUCTION IN YOUTH IS LIKE ENGRAVING IN STONE." -

AFRICAN PROVERB

THE KWANZAA DISPLAY



Using the clues hidden in past lessons, identify the principle each Adinkra symbol represents.

