



# HAPPY KWANZAA


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Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration held in the United States that honors African heritage in African-American culture. Kwanzaa is observed from December 26th to January 1st, and culminates in gift giving and a big feast.

Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chairman of Africana Studies at California State University, first created Kwanzaa in 1966. He created this holiday in response to the Watts Riots in Los Angeles in 1965 as a way to bring African-Americans together as a community.


Dr. Karenga researched African harvest celebrations and combined aspects of several different celebrations, such as those of the Ashanti and those of the Zulu, to form the foundation of Kwanzaa. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase *matunda ya kwanza* which means first fruits, or harvest, in Swahili.

Celebrations often include singing and dancing, storytelling, poetry reading, African drumming, and feasting and lighting the Kinara with a candle each day to represent the 7 principles of Kwanzaa.





# 7 PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA

1. Umoja (oo-MOH-jah): Unity; to be as one with family and community.
  2. Kujichagulia (koo-jee-chah-goo-LEE-ah): Self-determination; to be responsible for ourselves and in control of our own destiny.
  3. Ujima (oo-JEE-mah): Collective work and responsibility; to work together to help one another for the greater good of the community.
  4. Ujamaa (oo-jah-MAH): Collective economics; to build, maintain and support businesses within the community, as well as to set and meet common goals through mutual support.
  5. Nia (NEE-ah): Purpose; to be responsible and to set personal goals that will benefit the community as a whole.
  6. Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah): Creativity; to support the use of creativity and imagination to improve the vibrance and strength of the community.
  7. Imani (ee-MAH-nee): Faith; to have faith in the strength of the community, our families and ourselves to strive towards the goal of reaching a higher level of existence for humankind.
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# MAKING YOUR OWN KWANZAA KINARA

Step 1: Grab one paper towel tube and six toilet paper tubes. You may want to cut the paper towel tube down so it is only a little taller than the toilet paper tubes.



Step 2: Paint your paper towel tube black and paint 3 of your toilet paper tubes green and 3 of them red.



# MAKING YOUR OWN KWANZAA KINARA

Step 4: Cut out flames from the yellow paper and glue them onto the top of a popsicle stick.



step 4: Glue the other side of the popsicle sticks on the inside of each of your rolls. Then glue the rolls together with the black in the middle

