



**Happy
KWANZAA**

Activity Sheets



December 26th to January 1st

Learn About Kwanzaa



What is the history of Kwanzaa?

Kwanzaa, a variation of the Swahili word “Kwanza” which means “first,” is an African-American holiday celebrated December 26 - January 1. It is a festival of African-American life created by Maulana Karenga, a graduate student, in 1966 who wanted to celebrate the diversity of Black Americans in the United States.

To understand the motivation behind creating this holiday, it is important to understand what was happening in California, where racial tension was front and center. In August of 1965, the Watts Rebellion began with police violence perpetrated by the members of a predominantly white police force. It was fueled by ongoing practices of racial discrimination despite the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which made these practices illegal. Black Veterans who returned from World War II were refused jobs, housing and basic Civil Rights. The escalation of the racial tension resulted in a week-long period of civil unrest in which the Governor Pat Brown brought in the California Army National Guard to help break up the riots.

As community members tried to heal from violence, Maulana Karenga hoped to create a values-based holiday to honor the rich history and culture of Africa. Unlike the first harvest celebration of African communities which take place at the end of August and may now combine some Christian and Islamic practices, Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday. And while those festivals last only a day, Kwanzaa is a week-long event emphasizing the colors red, black, and green.

What are the colors of Kwanzaa?

Black - represents the descendants of the African Diaspora (the dispersion of African people during the Transatlantic Slave Trade (1500s-1800s))

Red - represents those who have died fighting for freedom and liberty

Green - represents the Earth/Land from which Black Americans come





Learn About **KWANZAA**



What are the Nguzo Saba (The Seven Principles) of Kwanzaa?

Umoja (unity): To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Kujichagulia (self-determination): To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

Ujima (collective work and responsibility): To build and maintain our community together and to make our Brother's and sister's problems, our problems and to solve them together.

Ujamaa (cooperative economics): To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia (purpose): To make as our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba (creativity): To do always as much as we can, in the way that we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful than when we inherited it.

Imani (faith): To believe with all our hearts in our parents, our teachers, our leaders, our people and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.



Kwanzaa Word Search

Find the seven principles of Kwanzaa in the word grid.

Word Box

UMOJA KUJICHAGULIA UJIMA UJAMAA NIA KUUMBA IMANI

K	N	D	N	I	A	J	K	L	A
U	J	A	M	A	A	D	V	X	G
J	V	A	F	J	I	T	O	B	K
I	X	Z	U	M	O	J	A	U	U
C	D	Y	J	B	X	S	M	H	U
H	S	W	I	E	E	I	O	G	M
A	K	Q	M	D	Q	C	J	F	B
G	R	H	A	H	I	A	L	R	A
U	F	V	D	R	G	V	F	E	G
L	Y	N	L	V	T	I	W	Q	D
I	L	M	I	M	A	N	I	K	A
A	O	L	D	C	V	V	N	S	Z

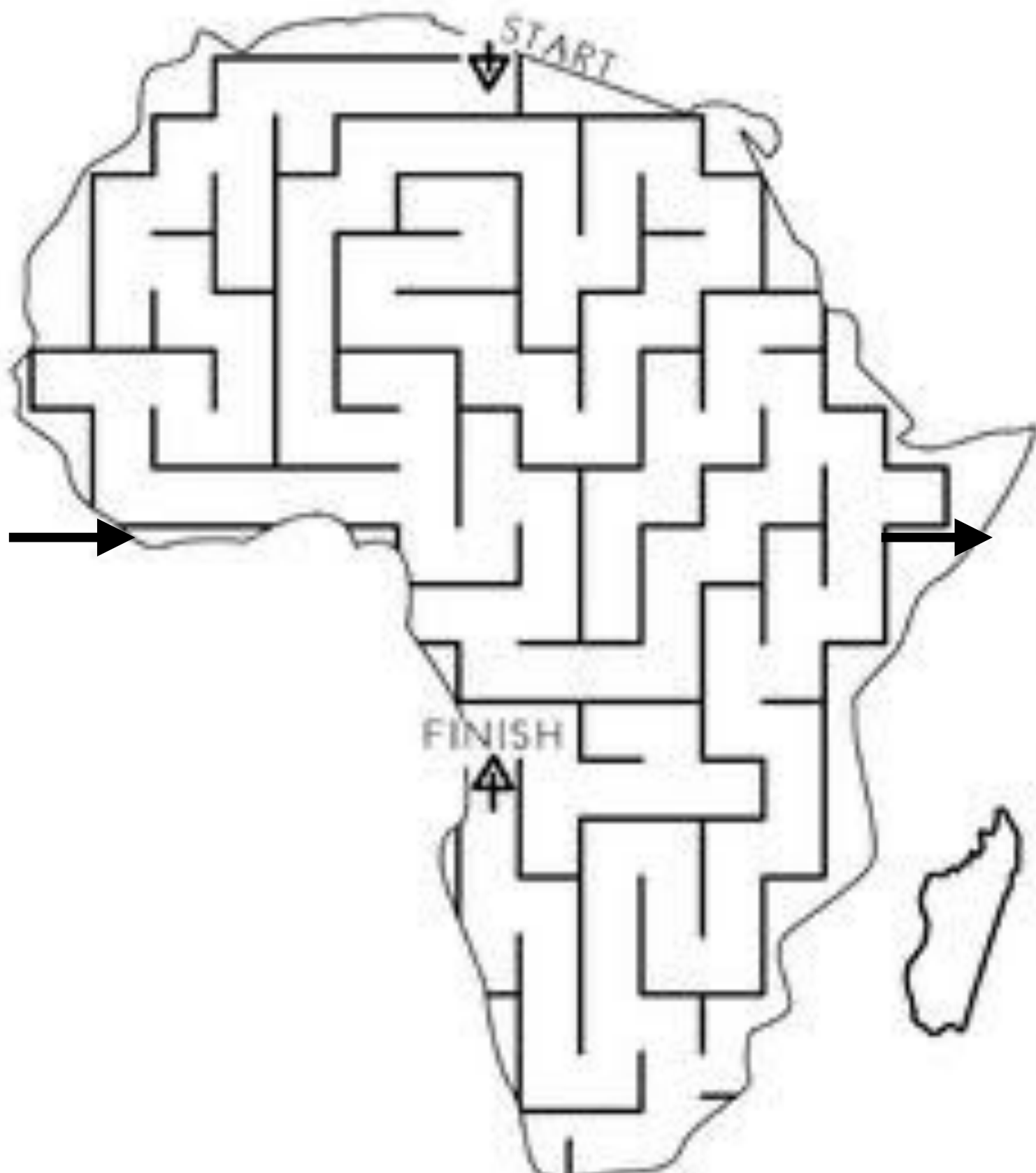
Vocabulary Words

For Kwanzaa



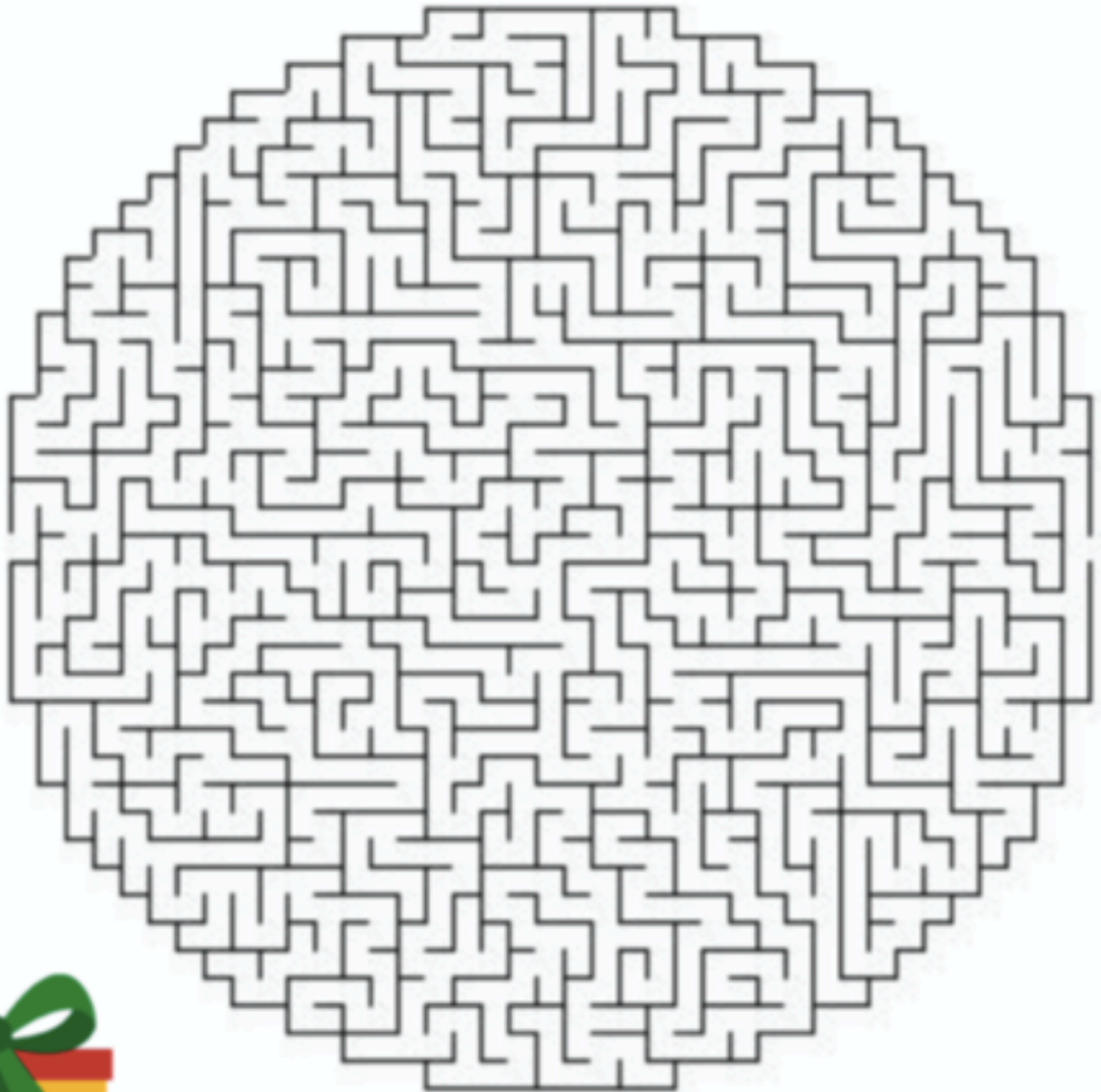
1. **Umoja** (OO-moa-ja) - Unity - Joining together as families and communities
2. **Kujichagulia** (KOO-ji-cha-goo-lia) - Self-Determination - Being responsible for yourself and for your future
3. **Ujima** (OO-ji-ma) - Collective Work and Responsibility - Working together to help each other and your community
4. **Ujamaa** (OO-ja-ma) - Cooperative Economics - Creating your own business and opportunities. Sharing.
5. **Nia** (NEE-ah) - Purpose - Improving yourself, your family, and your community
6. **Kuumba** (KOO-um-ba) - Creativity - Thinking of ways to make your life and community more beautiful
7. **Imani** (I-ma-ni) - Faith - Honoring African leaders, traditions, and cultures.
8. **Nguzo Saba** (n-GOO-zah SAH-ba) - The Seven Principles
9. **Mazao** (MAH-zah-oh) - Crops - Symbols of the Harvest
10. **Mkeka** (M-kay-kah) - Placemat
11. **Kinara** (KEE-nah-rah) - Wooden Candleholder
12. **Muhindi** (MOO-heen-dee) - Ears of Corn - One ear of corn for each child in the family
13. **Zawadi** (SAH-wah-dee) - Homemade Gifts
14. **Kikombe Cha Umoja** (KEE-coam-bay CHAH OO-moa-ja) - The Unity Cup
15. **Mishumaa Saba** (MEE-shoo-ma-ah SAH-bah) - The Seven Candles
16. **Harambee** (hah-RAHM-bee) - Let's Pull Together!
17. **Karamu** (kah-RAH-moo) - The feast on the 31st of December

Africa Maze



Happy Kwanzaa!

An A-MAZE-ing celebration



Start

Finish



Kwanzaa Word Search

Click each word from the list in the puzzle. The words can go in any direction.

G	A	G	U	C	A	N	D	L	E	S	B	F	R
J	I	I	Z	O	R	D	S	R	A	B	F	W	E
H	P	F	V	O	R	Y	O	C	U	P	O	G	S
H	D	T	N	P	T	F	H	E	D	A	Q	G	P
F	G	S	O	E	H	E	A	M	P	N	W	H	O
O	H	C	O	R	N	D	G	I	T	V	F	D	N
O	H	D	U	A	U	Q	E	B	T	E	I	V	S
K	I	G	L	T	U	N	I	T	Y	H	T	R	I
J	A	N	R	I	I	A	J	R	T	D	F	Y	B
D	H	Q	Z	V	K	W	A	N	Z	A	A	K	I
L	H	C	R	E	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y	J	L
D	P	O	R	T	I	C	E	L	S	C	H	K	I
G	G	J	K	L	M	R	S	E	L	F	O	G	T
F	P	U	R	P	O	S	E	N	V	X	Q	W	Y

Candles
Cooperative
Corn
Creativity

Cup
Faith
Gifts
Kwanzaa

Purpose
Responsibility
Self
Unity

Happy Kwanzaa!

A Word Search Celebration



H	A	R	A	M	B	E	E	A	W	T	S	A	E	F
N	D	C	A	N	D	L	E	H	O	L	D	E	R	R
D	S	U	F	Z	B	L	A	V	I	T	S	E	F	E
B	L	D	L	W	F	C	G	I	C	E	J	X	O	S
H	O	E	A	S	T	N	T	R	R	L	K	Y	S	P
X	B	R	G	I	I	A	E	U	R	B	Q	Q	E	O
K	M	U	V	R	M	A	T	O	E	C	K	S	S	N
X	Y	I	A	E	T	L	S	N	A	O	H	P	O	S
X	S	H	C	I	U	S	D	F	F	M	E	R	P	I
T	S	A	V	C	E	E	R	I	R	M	R	O	R	B
O	L	I	V	F	R	I	C	Z	U	U	I	M	U	I
P	T	F	O	A	C	U	Z	F	I	N	T	I	P	L
Y	W	R	Q	A	P	M	P	F	T	I	A	S	J	I
P	P	B	N	S	K	C	A	L	B	T	G	E	M	T
V	N	S	E	L	D	N	A	C	W	Y	E	S	S	Y



RED
BLACK
CANDLEHOLDER
PLACEMAT
FLAG
FRUIT
CUP
FESTIVAL
PROFESSOR
ACTIVIST
HERITAGE
COMMUNITY



BENDERA
SYMBOLS
CULTURE
CANDLES
RESPONSIBILITY
SHARING
PURPOSE
CREATIVITY
HARAMBEE
AFRICAN
FEAST
PROMISES





Seven Principles of Kwanzaa



ODRGUDV L L E F A D G L
S X K J R C Y S R O I L Y E U
T I I N A M I M R L V F R U Y
A M Y S F Y Z I U J S I Q M W
A K C F R R K G N N E V Z O M
P A L F G P A U C F Q X H J O
C F O Q L H V D U W D S N A U
J C J M C V K R A M B N E I A
F W J I T T C H N C B M E Y V
M T J Q U Z O V R B E A N C J
W U T Q I L Y M V G W Y D P N
K N A D L D D A H M S A Q M U
J G I T H G E T R G C I I F C
M V E U J A M A A C C K K N R
L E W H E T B G X W C J F I T

Imani
Kujichagulia
Kuumba
Nia

Ujamaa
Ujima
Umoja

