MADE WITH LITTLE STORYBOOK

What Is Kwanzaa?

Visual lesson



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Three colours

The day after Christmas, Noa knocks on Amara's door. On the table by the window, there is a wooden candle holder with seven candles. Only the middle one is lit. "Why are your candles three colours?" asks Noa.





It's Kwanzaa!

"It's Kwanzaa!" says Amara. Kwanzaa celebrates African American family, community and culture. It lasts seven days, from the twenty-sixth of December to the first of January. It is not a religious holiday, so families of many faiths keep it.

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> Look around Amara's room. Can a family keep Kwanzaa and Christmas too?

The kinara

"This candle holder is called a kinara," says Grandpa Joe. "Black is for the people. Red is for the hard times they were brave through. And green is for hope, and the future."





Which one first?

Kwanzaa has seven days and seven candles. Each day, the family lights one more.

TALK ABOUT IT

Which candle do you think is lit on the very first day?

Umoja

On day one, Grandpa Joe lights the black candle. Each day has its own big idea, with a name in Swahili, a language spoken in East Africa. Day one is Umoja. It means unity: sticking together.





First fruits

On a straw mat, the family sets out fruit and vegetables, for the harvest. The name Kwanzaa comes from Swahili words for "first fruits". There is an ear of corn for each child. "And one for me," jokes Grandpa Joe. "I'm a child inside!"

Made by hand

Kwanzaa gifts are often handmade, or books. One of the big ideas is about being creative. So Amara and Noa thread bright bead bracelets, one for each other.

TALK ABOUT IT

True or false: Kwanzaa is only for people of one religion.





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A big feast

Near the end, on the thirty-first of December, there is a big feast with family and friends. There is music, drumming and dancing. Amara wears her special dress.

Seven candles glowing

On the seventh day, all seven candles glow. Kwanzaa is seven days of family, community and culture, with a big idea for each day. Which big idea would you choose?



Check your wonder

1 **How many days does Kwanzaa last?**

- **A.** Seven days
- **B.** Eight days
- **C.** One day

2 **Which candle is lit on the first day?**

- **A.** The black one in the middle
- **B.** A red one
- **C.** All of them

3 **What does Umoja mean?**

- **A.** Unity, sticking together
- **B.** A big feast
- **C.** First fruits

ANSWERS 1-A 2-A 3-A

1. Yes! Seven days and seven candles. 2. That's it. Grandpa Joe lit the black candle first. 3. Yes! Umoja means sticking together.

THE END

Visual lesson



Put your child in this story

Free to try. Scan the code or visit

littlestorybook.ai/learn/en/what-is-kwanzaa-for-kids

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