

Celebrate Kwanzaa

As we thankfully approach the end of 2020 and its challenges, we pause to acknowledge the year's blessings, and the Seven Principles or Nguzo Saba of Kwanzaa that we carry into 2021.

Kwanzaa - a Black holiday that takes place between December 26 and January 1 each year during which Black people are encouraged to celebrate their community, culture, and kinship.

It is a celebration focused on seven principles rooted in the sacred teachings of Asante and Zulu harvest celebrations: Unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. They characterize some of our shared values as a people.

Umoja—striving for unity in the family, community, nation, and race—is celebrated on the first day of Kwanzaa and is the holiday's most foundational principle.

Kujichagulia, marked on December 27, is the principle that deals with self-determination—our ability to define ourselves, name ourselves, and not be defined by others.

Ujima, the principle recognizing collective work and responsibility, is the third principle.

Ujamaa marks the fourth day, and celebrates cooperative economics—the principle of combining our energy to build economic stability, businesses, and support of each other's economic goals.

The fifth day of Kwanzaa is about celebrating Nia, the principle that centers on purpose—knowing and working towards our personal goals and those of our community.

On the sixth day, we celebrate Kuumba, the principle that's all about creativity and recognizing the long practice of Black people beautifying whatever we get our talented hands on.

Kwanzaa closes out with the principle Imani, which translates to faith and is about belief in our people, families, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

