

**Title: Kwanzaa, An African American Tradition****Grade Level: Kindergarten****Subject: Social Studies****Keywords: Kwanzaa, Tradition, Umoja, Kujichagulia, Ujima, Ujamaa, Nia, Kuumba and Imani**

<b>Lesson Plan:</b>	Kwanzaa, An African American Tradition
<b>Subject:</b>	American History
<b>Grade:</b>	Kindergarten
<b>Description/ Abstract of Lesson</b>	<p>Kwanzaa is a seven-day festival that celebrates African and African American culture and history. Kwanzaa takes place from 26th December to 1st January.</p> <p>The name Kwanzaa comes from the phrase 'matunda ya kwanza' which means 'first fruits' in the Swahili language (an Eastern African language spoken in countries including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique and Zimbabwe). Kwanzaa is mostly celebrated in the USA.</p>
<b>SS.K.A.2.2</b>	Students will recognize the importance of celebrations and national holidays as a way of remembering and honoring people, events, and our nation's ethnic heritage.
<b>Objective(s):</b>	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify the seven days of Kwanzaa and the meaning of the words used to express those days.</li> <li>● Identify how the candles in Kwanzaa represent the seven principles of Kwanzaa (Nguzo Saba)</li> <li>● Celebrate the seven sayings of Kwanzaa within the classroom during a class celebration of the first harvest.</li> </ul>
<b>Materials:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Digital resources- <a href="https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/kwanzaa.shtml">https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/kwanzaa.shtml</a></li> <li>● Books, magazines and other resources made available by the school Media Center</li> <li>● Class set of the Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa worksheet</li> <li>● Crayons or markers</li> <li>● Candle holder and Seven Candles (three red and green &amp; one black)</li> <li>● Unite Cup</li> <li>● Table (for displaying the first harvest for the Kwanzaa celebration)</li> <li>● Fruits and Nuts</li> </ul>
<b>Duration:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1-2 class periods</li> <li>● Block Scheduling (90 min.) 1 class period</li> </ul>
<b>Lesson Lead In/ Opening:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The teacher will have the display table setup with the candles, fruits, and nuts displayed for students to observe</li> <li>2. The teacher will ask the students if they have ever seen a table display like the one presented in the class.</li> <li>3. After the discussion the teacher will write on the board what each color represents: Red: The Blood (What bonds African people) Black: The People Green: The Land (Africa)</li> <li>4. The teacher will show the students a video on Kwanzaa, to provide the students with a visual representation of the African American Holiday. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kV-6qVp98Q">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kV-6qVp98Q</a></li> </ol>

<b>Activity 1:</b>	<p>Warm up or Do Now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The teacher will read aloud the Dr. Maulana Karenga worksheet passage with the students, for them to analyze what they have just learned.</i></li> <li>• <i>Class discussion: Select a few students to share what they have learned from the reading.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Activity 2:</b>	<p>The teacher will display the Seven Says of Kwanzaa on the white board or chart paper for students to have a visual of these words and their meanings.</p> <p><b>Day One: Umoja (Unity)</b>- Unity of the family, community, nation and race</p> <p><b>Day Two: Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)</b> Being responsible for your own conduct and behavior</p> <p><b>Day Three: Ujima (Collective work and responsibility)</b> Working to Help each other and in the community</p> <p><b>Day Four: Ujamaa (Cooperative economics)</b>- Working to build shops and businesses</p> <p><b>Day Five: Nia (Purpose)</b> - Remembering and restoring African and African American cultures, customs and history</p> <p><b>Day Six: Kuumba (Creativity)</b> - Using creating and your imagination to make communities better</p> <p><b>Day Seven: Imani (Faith)</b> - Believing in people, families, leaders, teachers and the righteousness of the African American struggle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will then be assigned a word and asked to draw a picture to represent their word.</li> </ul>
<b>Activity 3:</b>	<p>The teacher will distribute the class set of the “Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa worksheets to the students for them to color</p>
<b>Activity 4:</b>	<p>The class as a whole will practice (in celebration) the African American Holiday Kwanzaa before students leave for Winter Break.</p>
<b>Higher Order Thinking Questions:</b>	<p>What is one of the seven sayings of Kwanzaa?          What are the colors that represent the Kwanzaa candles?          What do those colors mean? Red, Green, and Black?          How can you teach your family about Kwanzaa?</p>
<b>Suggested Books:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My First Kwanzaa. by Karen Katz.</li> <li>• Seven Days of Kwanzaa. by Melrose Cooper.</li> <li>• The Story of Kwanzaa. by Donna L. Washington</li> </ul>
<b>Web Resources</b>	<p>Sesame Street: Kwanzaa- <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kV-6qVp98Q">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kV-6qVp98Q</a></p> <p>Kwanzaa Christmas Customs- <a href="https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/kwanzaa.shtml">https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/kwanzaa.shtml</a></p> <p>Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa Creator Coloring page- <a href="https://www.teachervision.com/dr-maulana-karenga-kwanzaa-creator-coloring-page">https://www.teachervision.com/dr-maulana-karenga-kwanzaa-creator-coloring-page</a></p>

**Web Resources:**