

Black History 365

December: Kwanzaa is an annual celebration of African American culture from December 26th to January 1st. It was created by activist Maulana Karenga who based the celebration on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of West, East, as well as Southeast Africa. Karenga said his goal was to "give black people an alternative to the existing holiday of Christmas and give black people an opportunity to celebrate themselves and their history, rather than simply imitate the practice of the dominant society."

Kwanzaa was first celebrated on December 26, 1966.

About Kwanzaa



Kwanzaa celebrates what its founder called the seven principles of Kwanzaa, or Nguzo Saba:

December 26

Umoja (Unity)

December 27

Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)

December 28

Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)

December 29

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)

December 30

Nia (Purpose)

December 31

Kuumba (Creativity)

January 1

Imani (Faith)



On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus, a planned and coordinated protest that eventually led to the Montgomery bus boycott.



Multimedia

- [Harambee! \(1996\)](#)
- [Advancing Black and Human History: Maulana Karenga at Florida A&M University \(February 14, 2013\)](#)



Readings

- [The Story of Kwanzaa: A Kwanzaa Holiday Book for Kids](#) by Donna L. Washington
- Jessica B. Harris on the [Meaning and Principles of Kwanzaa](#)
- [Your Guide to Kwanzaa Food Traditions](#)



TV / Video

- [A Kwanzaa Keepsake and Cookbook – A Conversation with Jessica B. Harris](#)
- [Sesame Street: Celebrate Kwanzaa Song!](#) Learn the 7 Principles of Kwanzaa



Jams

- [Kwanzaa Spotify Playlist](#)