

Happy Holidays

There is so much to celebrate!

Hanukkah

November 28th to
December 6th



Christmas

December 25th



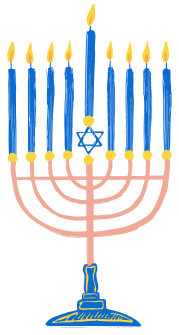
Kwanzaa

December 26th to
January 1st

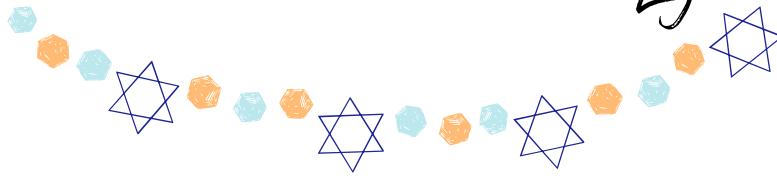


Take home a packet to play fun
games and learn more about the
celebrations happening this
holiday season!





Hanukkah or Chanukah the Jewish Festival of Lights



The Jewish festival of Hanukkah, or Chanukah, is also called the Festival of Lights. It lasts for eight days! This year Hanukkah is from November 28th to December 6th. It commemorates not only the triumph of the Maccabees over the great army of the Syrian king, Antiochus IV, in 165 B.C., but also the universal message that all people have the right to be free!

Jews use a candleholder called the menorah that holds 9 candles.

One of the candles called the *shamash*, is used to light the others.

During the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean revolt, a small quantity of oil used to light the Temple's menorah miraculously burned for eight days.

The other 8 candles stand for the 8 days that the oil kept burning at the Temple.

Hanukkah is celebrated by lighting the candles of the menorah,

playing games of chance with a spinning top called a dreidel,

and eating special holiday foods such as potato pancakes called latkes!

Children often receive a gift on each night in addition to Hanukkah *gelt* (money).

This gelt sometimes consists of chocolate wrapped in gold foil to look like money.



Dreidel Game Instructions

This traditional Jewish game can be played with a small group or with the entire class. Give each player 12 markers (e.g., candy pieces, raisins, or dried beans). Each player puts one marker into the pot, or center of the circle. One at a time, players take turns spinning the dreidel. During his turn, the player follows this code according to which side of the dreidel faces up after his spin:

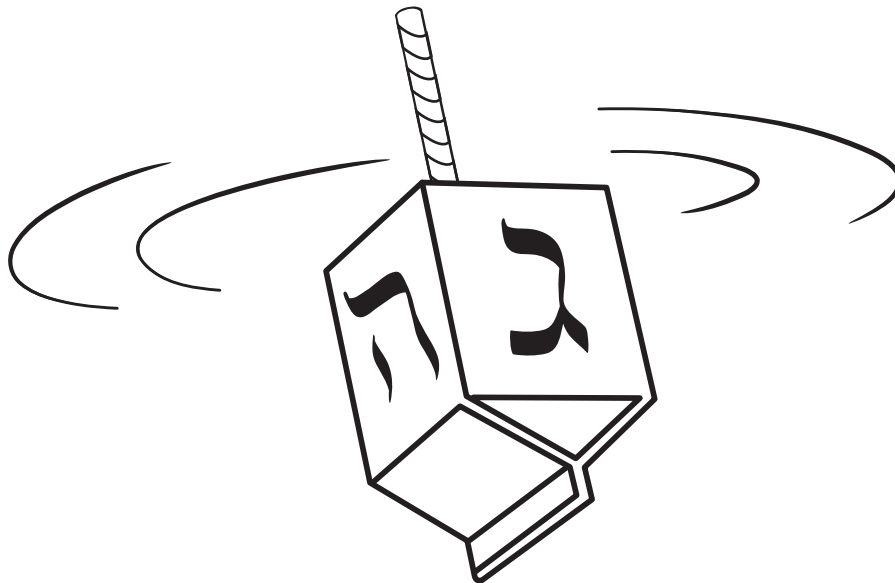
נ (Nun)—player does nothing

ג (Gimel)—player takes all the markers in the pot

ה (Hei)—player takes half the markers in the pot

ש (Shin)—player adds a marker to the pot

When the pot is empty or has only one marker left, each player adds another marker to the pot. Play continues until one player has collected all the markers.





Christmas

ORIGINS & TRADITIONS



Christmas is celebrated on December 25th. It is a holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who, according to the Christian religion, is the son of God. For many people it is no longer only a religious festival, it has become a season of general celebration and giving presents!

There are many traditions that go along with the Christmas holiday. One common Christmas tradition is giving presents, which is frequently associated with a figure named Santa Claus. Children leave out cookies or other treats for him to eat as he delivers presents! They also hang stockings for him to fill with gifts.

Other traditions include the sending of cards to family and friends, parties with good food and drink, singing of carols, decorating a tree, stringing lights, and making gingerbread houses!







In the U.S. we associate Christmas with snow and cold weather, however, in New Zealand, Australia and South America, Christmas falls in summer! Brazilian's have Christmas fireworks and picnics outside like the Kiwi's have a Christmas lunch barbeque! In Peru, the main Christmas celebrations are held on Christmas Eve which is called 'Noche Buena', which means 'the good night'. There's a countdown to midnight, people say 'Feliz Navidad' (Merry Christmas) and then, the presents are exchanged.



CHRISTMAS COUNT

Instructions: Count each item, then tally them into the boxes below:



Name: _____

CHRISTMAS



Write an acrostic poem using the letters below.

C

H

R

I

S

T

M

A

S

Counting Santa's Gifts

How many gifts does Santa have for the kids?

Directions: The red gifts are for the kids in Christmas Village, the green gifts are for the kids in Yuletide Village, and the gold gifts are for the kids in Holiday Village.

Count how many gifts go to each village. Write them in the boxes below.



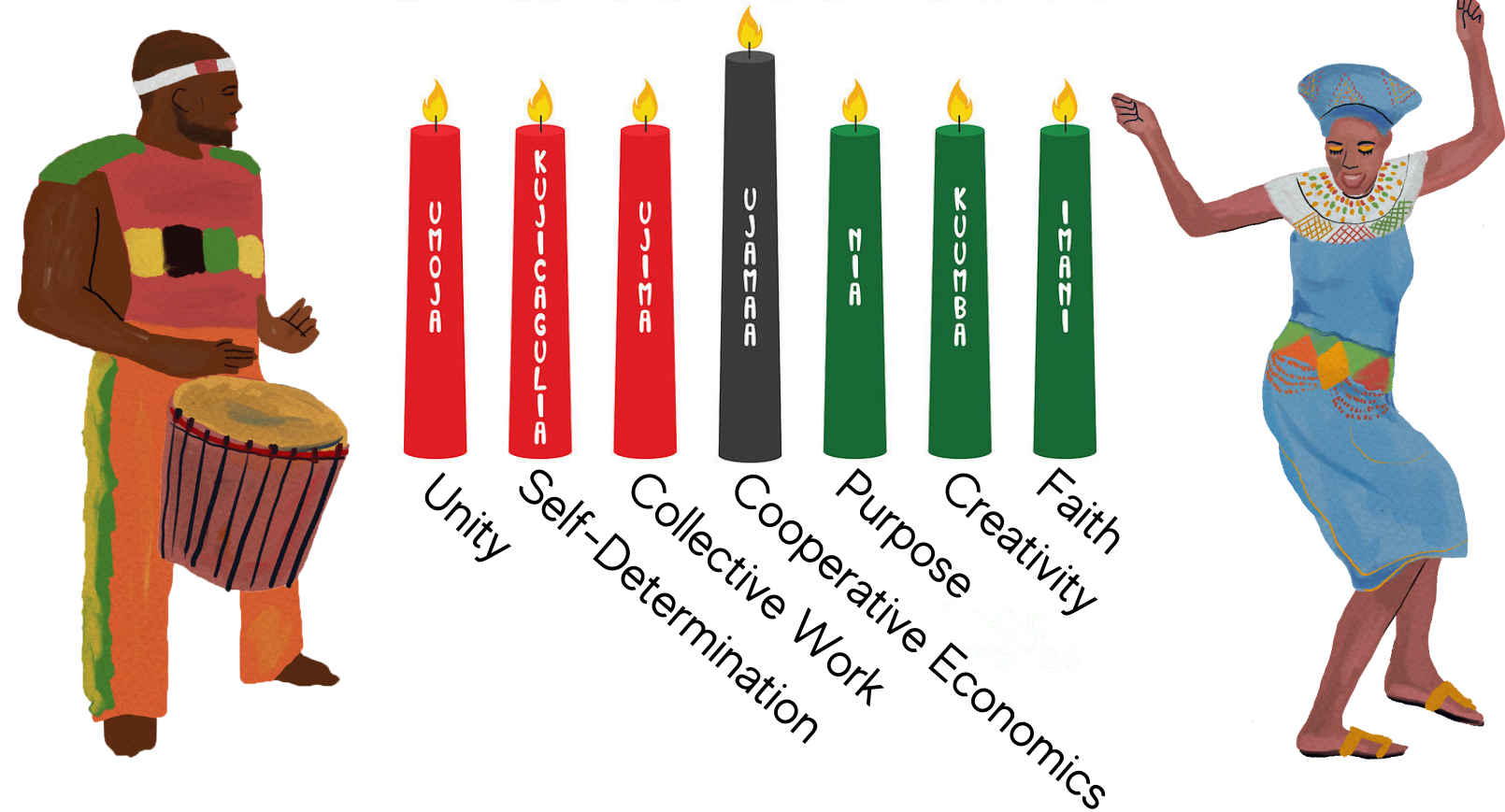
Christmas Village

Yuletide Village

Holiday Village



KWANZAA



In 1966, following the Watts Rebellion in Los Angeles, Black Studies professor and chairman, Dr. Maulana Karenga, created Kwanzaa.

The name Kwanzaa is derived from the Swahili phrase "*matunda ya kwanza*" which means "*first fruits*" and is celebrated from December 26th to January 1st.

Kwanzaa celebrates the African-American community by combining aspects of Ashanti and Zulu harvest celebrations. Kwanzaa is celebrated with African drums, storytelling, poetry reading, songs and dance, as well as a large traditional meal.

On each of the 7 nights of Kwanzaa, families gather to light one of the candles on the *Kinara*, then discuss one of the 7 principles, known as *Nguzo Saba*.



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.



Seven Principles of Kwanzaa



O D R G U D V 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

