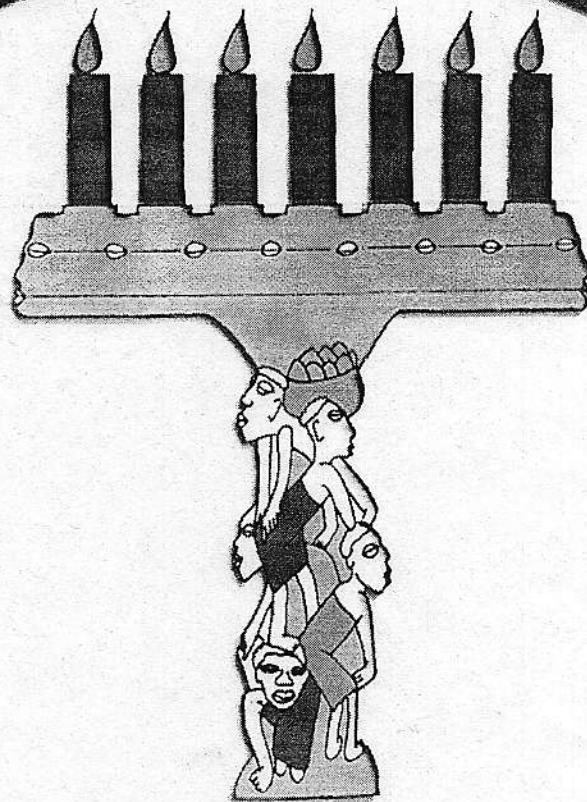


# HARAMBEE!

PRE-KWANZAA FESTIVAL



## STUDY GUIDE

Dear Teacher:

We are so pleased that you could join us at the Harambee Pre-Kwanzaa Festival this year. We believe that you made a great choice of field trips for your students, one that will remain in their minds for years to come. This experience will hopefully impact your students in a positive way and inspire them to learn more about Kwanzaa and African culture around the globe.

HPKF is an effective teaching tool because it reaches young people through various senses. It entertains them while teaching concepts about family, character, principled living and the negative affects of violence and drug and tobacco use. HPKF helps to instill a sense of pride and accomplishment. The music is danceable and thought provoking and we encourage you to use it in your classroom, not only during pre-Kwanzaa lessons, but also throughout the year.

This study guide contains lessons and activities to help students understand the purpose of the Kwanzaa celebration and to reinforce the terminology that was used during the Harambee Pre-Kwanzaa Festival. These activities can easily be adapted to different subject and grade levels.

The first three pages are for your reference and the final pages may be copied and given to your students to complete or they may answer the questions on a separate sheet .

Kwanzaa is a holiday celebrated by Africans in America from December 26<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup>. It is based on the agricultural celebrations of Africa and is a time for African people to celebrate achievements, commemorate the past, recommit to cultural ideals and to celebrate the good.

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chair of the Department of Black Studies at California State University at Long Beach.

It is important to note that Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday, not a religious one, thus available to and practiced by Africans of all religious faiths.

Thank you for your dedicated work with our children.

*Kwame Steve Cobb • Chavunduka*

Kwame Steve Cobb and Chavunduka

## Ideas for Classroom Activities

- Have students draw a picture of their favorite scene in the show
- Allow the students to identify and discuss the characters and behaviors that from the skit, *Transformation*. Let them recreate the skit in the classroom
- Where resources permit, have the students research the history and purpose of Kwanzaa
- Learn to recite the Principles and their meanings
- Listen to the songs ( Students will love to sing along at the show)
- Purchase or make a Kwanzaa kit for your classroom (candleholder, candles, unity cup, straw mat, fruits and vegetables and gifts (books and heritage symbols)
- Discuss harvest and how a non-agricultural society can have a harvest
- Color a map of Africa emphasizing the East African countries of Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Kenya, where the language of KiSwahili is used
- Read aloud the *Story of Kwanzaa* by Safisha Madhubuti, Third World Press
- Have students make Kwanzaa cards. The cards can be their own design or a design made by the teacher for the students to complete. Use colorful markers, African fabric scraps, glitter, etc.
- Use the last seven days of school before the holiday break to simulate the Seven Days of Kwanzaa. Do a candle lighting ritual each day and discuss the principle of the day.
- Have students plan a Kwanzaa party for the seventh day and invite someone from their family.
  - Students can decorate with red, black and green streamers, balloons, flags
  - They can make room ornaments including masks, African drums, ankhs (the ancient Egyptian symbol of life) and other African-inspired crafts.
  - They can also make and send invitations
- Make a Kwanzaa banner. Every student can sign their name and list their goals and commitments for the New Year.
- Have students research their family history and create a family tree
- Have the students design a holiday for their own family. They should include the following information: purpose; date or time of year; symbols and colors; how it is celebrated; music; food; rituals; who should be present

## Pronunciation Guide

**Kwanzaa** (QUAN-zah) - First Fruits

**Harambee** (hah-RAHM-BAY-ay) - Pull Together

**Nguzo Saba** (n-GOO-zo SAH-bah) - Seven Principles

**Umoja** (oo-MO-jah) - Unity

**Kujichagulia** (KOO-jee-cha-goo-LEE-ah) - Self-Determination

**Ujima** (oo-JEE-mah) - Collective Work and Responsibility

**Ujamaa** (oo-jah-MAAH) - Cooperative Economics

**Nia** (NEE-ah) - Purpose

**Kuumba** (koo-OOM-bah) - Creativity

**Imani** (ee-MAH-nee) - Faith

**Asante sana** (Ah-SAHN-tay SA- nah)- Thank you very much

## Reading List

Madhubuti, Safisha. *The Story of Kwanzaa*, Chicago: Third World Press

Pickney, Andrea. *Seven Candles for Kwanzaa*, New York: Dial Books, 1993

## Internet Resources

[www.cobbala.com](http://www.cobbala.com)

[www.itskwanzaatime.com](http://www.itskwanzaatime.com)

[etemusic.com](http://etemusic.com)

[www.melanet.com](http://www.melanet.com)

## Other Resources

### *Chicago*

Afrocentric Bookstore	333 S. State St.	(312) 939-1956
Underground Bookstore	1727 E 87 <sup>th</sup> St.	(773) 768-8869
Safari Marketplace	1403 W. 111 <sup>th</sup> St.	(773) 233-8307

# What time is it? It's Kwanzaa Time!

Dear Student:

We are so glad that you came to the Harambee Pre-Kwanzaa Festival this year. We had a great time and hope that you were inspired to learn more about Kwanzaa and African culture around the world.

In order to help you hang on to what you learned, we have provided this study guide. Do your best to remember what you saw and heard. Read and fill in the blanks.

Kwanzaa is a celebration of family, community and culture. It is celebrated each year from December \_\_\_\_ through January \_\_. Kwanzaa is a time for gathering together, sharing time with our families, celebrating the good in our lives and planning for the future. It is a joyful and peaceful time.

Kwanzaa is based on the harvest celebrations of Africa. It was created in 19\_\_ by Dr. Maulana Karenga. Dr. Karenga is professor and chairperson of the Department of Black Studies at California State University at Long Beach. Dr. Karenga believes that in order for African people to live better lives, we must focus on the important things in life, like values and principles.

- Principles are the rules that we live by.
- Values are the things that are important to us or things that we value.

Many of the words you heard during the Harambee Pre-Kwanzaa Festival are in the language of \_\_\_\_\_, which is spoken in East Africa. Two countries where KiSwahili is spoken are Kenya and Tanzania.

Nguzo Saba is a KiSwahili term that means Seven Principles. These are the principles that Kwanzaa is based on. Do you remember what they mean? Write the meaning next to the KiSwahili word.

Umoja means \_\_\_\_\_.

Kujichagulia means \_\_\_\_\_.

Ujima means \_\_\_\_\_.

Ujamaa means \_\_\_\_\_.

Nia means \_\_\_\_\_.

Kuumba means \_\_\_\_\_.

Imani means \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer the questions on this page. Think about what you heard and saw at the Harambee Pre-Kwanzaa Festival.

## **Ancestors**

What is an ancestor?

Did you recognize any of the ancestors projected during the Transformation scene? Name them here:

Who are some of your personal ancestors? Do you anything about their lives? (Where did they live? What type of work did they do?)

Why are ancestors important?

## **Language**

Name one African language and the country or countries in which it is spoken?

Why are so many different languages spoken in Africa?

Why do most American-born Africans speak only one language?

## **Principles and Values**

Umoja means unity. Which person in history do you think embodies the principle of unity the best? Why?

Who in your own family embodies or practices the principle of unity best? Why?

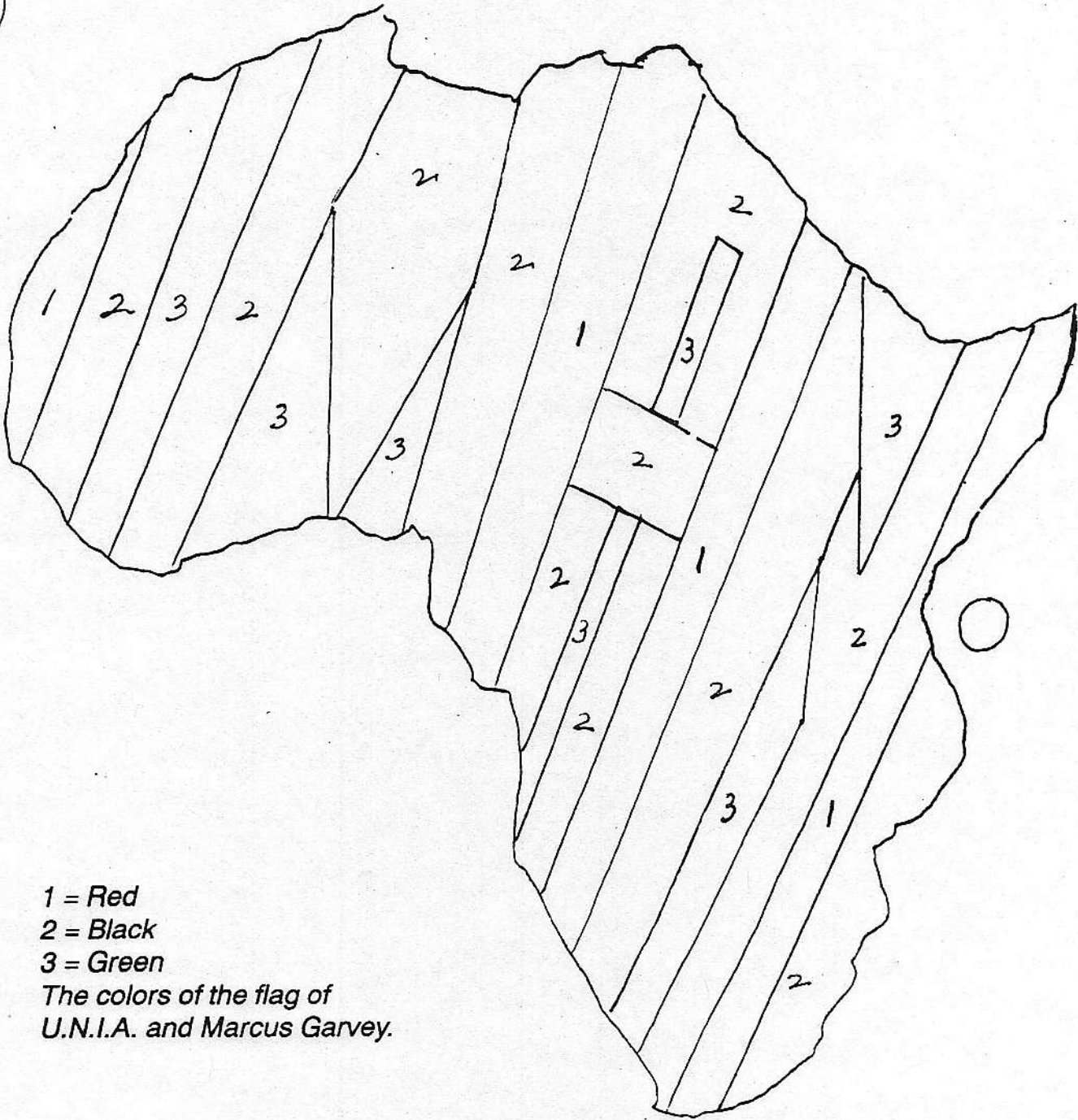
How is unity in one's family and community affected by alcohol, tobacco or other drugs?

What meaning did you get from the Transformation skit?

What values or principles did the youth actors exhibit?

What did the dancer represent?

# Color this map of Africa by numbers



1 = Red

2 = Black

3 = Green

The colors of the flag of  
U.N.I.A. and Marcus Garvey.

The word I see is \_\_\_\_\_  
which means faith.



**Color this beautiful kinara  
and mishumaa saba (seven candles).**

