

# CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

## Lesson Plan

### Seven Kwanzaa Truths

Lesson Plan for *Kwanzaa*

Grade 2

#### Objective

To help students demonstrate comprehension by answering true-or-false questions about a text read aloud.

#### Things Needed

- *Kwanzaa* book
- Seven Kwanzaa Truths worksheet (attached)

#### Before the Activity

Print a copy of the Seven Kwanzaa Truths worksheet for each student.

#### Activity

Read the *Kwanzaa* book out loud as a class. Then pass out the worksheets. Explain that the worksheet has several true-or-false statements about Kwanzaa, but only seven of them are true. Students should circle the correct answer based on what they remember from the book. If the answer is false, students can earn a bonus point by changing part of the sentence to make it true. They can write this new, correct sentence in the space below the false sentence.

#### Evaluation

Collect the worksheets and use the attached answer key to correct students' work. Award 1 point for each answer students circled correctly and 1 bonus point for each false statement they corrected. If students get all 7 bonus points, they can score up to 21 points.

#### Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 2 (RI 2.1).



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## Seven Kwanzaa Truths

1. True or False? Kwanzaa begins on May 1.
2. True or False? Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday and is not based on a religion.
3. True or False? Pan-Africanism is a belief that all people with African backgrounds should come together.
4. True or False? Each day of Kwanzaa, people light two kinara candles.
5. True or False? The Kwanzaa candles are red, green, and black.
6. True or False? The seven symbols of Kwanzaa are the mkeka, crops, corn, the unity cup, candles, a kinara, and zawadi.
7. True or False? Karamu is a mat that stands for African history and culture.
8. True or False? Kwanzaa was started to help African Americans feel proud of their culture and connect with their African roots.
9. True or False? The first Kwanzaa was celebrated in 1866.
10. True or False? Zawadi are gifts people give to one another.
11. True or False? Faith is not a principle of Kwanzaa.
12. True or False? The name Kwanzaa is based on a Swahili phrase that means “homeland.”
13. True or False? There are 10 candles in a kinara.
14. True or False? Jollof rice is a popular Kwanzaa food that is often served with chicken and plantains.



## Seven Kwanzaa Truths **ANSWER KEY**

1. True or **False**? Kwanzaa begins on May 1.

**Kwanzaa begins on December 26.**

2. **True** or False? Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday and is not based on a religion.

3. **True** or False? Pan-Africanism is a belief that all people with African backgrounds should come together.

4. True or **False**? Each day of Kwanzaa, people light two kinara candles.

**People light one candle each day of Kwanzaa.**

5. **True** or False? The Kwanzaa candles are red, green, and black.

6. **True** or False? The seven symbols of Kwanzaa are the mkeka, crops, corn, the unity cup, candles, a kinara, and zawadi.

7. True or **False**? Karamu is a mat that stands for African history and culture.

**Karamu is a big feast.**

8. **True** or False? Kwanzaa was started to help African Americans feel proud of their culture and connect with their African roots.

9. True or **False**? The first Kwanzaa was celebrated in 1866.

**The first Kwanzaa was celebrated in 1966.**

10. **True** or False? Zawadi are gifts people give to one another.

11. True or **False**? Faith is not a principle of Kwanzaa.

**Faith is a principle of Kwanzaa.**

12. True or **False**? The name Kwanzaa is based on a Swahili phrase that means “homeland.”

**The name Kwanzaa is based on a Swahili phrase that means “first fruits.”**

13. True or **False**? There are 10 candles in a kinara.

**There are 7 candles in the kinara.**

14. **True** or False? Jollof rice is a popular Kwanzaa food that is often served with chicken and plantains.

