

Kwanzaa Cloze

Use the words in the box to fill in the blanks in the paragraph below.

African	December	red
basket	first	seven
corn	heritage	straw
cup	kinara	Swahili

Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday celebrated mainly in the US for the week between 26th _____ and 1st January each year.

The holiday was established in 1966 to help _____ Americans remember and celebrate their _____. The word "Kwanzaa" comes from the _____ language and means "_____ fruits". Each day of the seven days is dedicated to one of "The _____ Principles of Kwanzaa".

A candle is lit each day on the special candlestick, the "_____"; to represent these principles. The kinara is placed on a mkeka, a traditional _____ mat, and one ear of _____ is also placed on the mat for each child in the family. A fruit _____, called a "mazao", is also displayed, along with a special "unity" _____, out of which everyone drinks. Families decorate their homes with traditional African crafts. The colours _____, green and black - representing the African flag - are used. Gifts, known as "zawadi", are given on the last day of Kwanzaa.