



READING-PRACTICE

Name:

1. Look at the title and the first and last paragraphs to find the meaning of the topic.

Reading Tip: Read the title and the first and last paragraphs to find the meaning of the topic. What is the article about?

Kwanzaa

Americans celebrate several holidays in December. These are: Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and depending on the year, Eid al Adha. But unlike Christmas, Hanukkah, and Eid al-Adha, Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday. It celebrates African-American culture, community, and family.

Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor at California State University, Long Beach, created Kwanzaa in 1966. For many years, he looked for a way to bring African-American people together by connecting them with their African roots, or beginnings. *Kwanzaa* comes from a phrase in Kiswahili, a language spoken in eastern and central Africa, for "first fruits." So the holiday combines traditions from different African harvest festivals.

The number seven is important in Kwanzaa. The holiday lasts seven days, from December 26 to January 1, and there are seven principles, or rules, to follow. The *Nguzo Saba*, or seven principles, are:

1. *Umoja* (unity): Joining together to form and maintain unity in the family, community, and as African-Americans;
2. *Kujichagulia* (self-determination): To speak for, create for, and take care of ourselves;
3. *Ujima* (collective work and responsibility): Building the community and solving its problems together;
4. *Ujamaa* (cooperative economics): A community building and profiting from its own businesses;
5. *Nia* (purpose): The goal of building and developing African-American communities;
6. *Kuumba* (creativity): Using new ideas to make the community beautiful and successful;

7. *Imani* (faith): Belief in the importance of African and African-American culture, history, family, and leaders.

Each family celebrates Kwanzaa in its own way. Celebrations often include songs and dances, African drumming, storytelling, poetry, and traditional foods. Many people enjoy wearing brightly colored African clothes. On each of the seven nights, the family gathers and a child lights a candle. Then the family discusses one of the seven principles. Kwanzaa also has seven basic symbols that symbolize values and ideas from African culture. The symbols include an ear of corn, a cup, candles, a candleholder, crops (fruits, nuts, and vegetables), a mat, and gifts. A feast of African or African-American foods, called *karamu*, is held on December 31.

Kwanzaa is growing in popularity around the world. It is now celebrated by almost 20 million people with African ancestry in the United States, the United Kingdom, the Bahamas, and Brazil, as well as in Kenya and Zimbabwe.



a) What's the article about?

b) Write your ten new words.

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c) Read the statements. Then, choose *T*(true) or *F*(false).

- Kwanzaa is a religious holiday. ☐ T ☐ F
- Dr. Maulana Karenga created Kwanzaa in 1966. ☐ T ☐ F
- He looked for a way to connect African – American with African roots. ☐ T ☐ F
- Kwanzaa comes from a phrase in English. ☐ T ☐ F
- Kwanzaa means “first fruits”. ☐ T ☐ F
- Kwanzaa holiday lasts 10 days. ☐ T ☐ F
- Kwanzaa is from December 26 to January 1. ☐ T ☐ F
- Kwanzaa is growing in popularity around the world. ☐ T ☐ F

2. Build your vocabulary.

A Suffixes are letter(s) added to the end of a word to change its meaning or part of speech. The suffix *-ity* is added to adjectives to change them to nouns. Find the nouns that end in *-ity* in the paragraph indicated and underline them. Write the words into Column 1 in the chart. Then use a dictionary to complete the chart with the definition of the noun and the adjective form of the word.

Nouns	Definition	Adjective
1. ¶1, community	Any group living in the same area or having common interests.	communal
2. ¶2, _____		
3. ¶3, _____		
4. ¶3, _____		
5. ¶3, _____		
6. ¶5, _____		