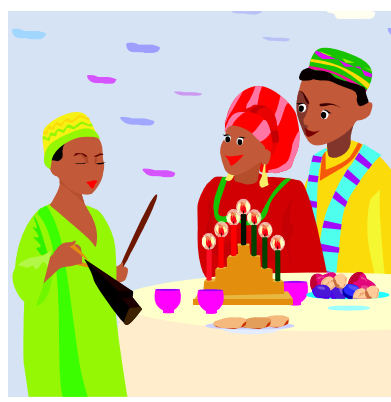


Name _____



Learning the Principles of Kwanzaa

Once upon a time, in a vibrant community, a young girl named Amani eagerly awaited the arrival of Kwanzaa. She loved the beautiful traditions and celebrations that surrounded this special holiday. As her family gathered around the Kinara, a candleholder with seven candles, Amani's grandfather began to share the story of the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa.

Grandfather explained that Kwanzaa was a week-long celebration that honored African heritage and culture. He told Amani and her siblings that each day of Kwanzaa represented one of the Seven Principles, also known as the Nguzo Saba.

The first principle was Umoja, which means unity. Grandfather explained that Umoja encouraged people to come together as a family and as a community. It reminded everyone of the importance of cooperation and working towards a common goal.

The second principle was Kujichagulia, which means self-determination. Amani learned that Kujichagulia encouraged individuals to believe in themselves and make choices that lead to a successful and fulfilling life.

The third principle was Ujima, which means collective work and responsibility. Grandfather emphasized the importance of helping others and taking part in activities that benefit the entire community. Amani realized that through Ujima, everyone could make a positive difference in the world.

The fourth principle was Ujamaa, which means cooperative economics. Amani discovered that Ujamaa promoted supporting local businesses and working together to create economic stability within the community.

The fifth principle was Nia, which means purpose. Grandfather shared that Nia encouraged people to set goals and strive to make a meaningful contribution to society. Amani felt inspired to find her own purpose and make a difference in the world around her.

The sixth principle was Kuumba, which means creativity. Amani learned that Kuumba celebrated the beauty and creativity of African culture, and she was encouraged to express herself through art, music, dance, and storytelling.

The final principle was Imani, which means faith. Grandfather explained that Imani encouraged people to believe in themselves, their community, and their ancestors. It reminded everyone to have faith in the future and to strive for a better world.

As Grandfather finished sharing the story of the Seven Principles, Amani and her siblings felt a deep sense of understanding and appreciation for the rich heritage celebrated during Kwanzaa. They understood that these principles were not just for the holiday season but should be carried throughout the year.

The family then lit the first candle, representing Umoja, and Amani's heart filled with warmth and unity. Each night, they lit another candle, reflecting on the principles and discussing how they could apply them in their lives.

Amani realized that Kwanzaa was not just a time for presents and feasts, but a time to honor their African roots and strengthen their community bonds. She felt grateful to be part of such a meaningful celebration.

Name _____

Learning the Principles of Kwanzaa

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What are the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa called?
2. What does the principle of Kujichagulia mean?
3. What does the principle of Ujima promote?
4. What is the principle of Kuumba about?
5. Why is Imani an important principle during Kwanzaa?