



✶ Smithsonian

# Early Childhood **Kwanzaa Activities**

# Habari Gani?

# UMOJA!

Unity

This chef's jacket and pot belonged to Chef Leah Chase who owned Dooky Chase Restaurant in Louisiana. Her restaurant has always been a place for all kinds of people to enjoy a delicious meal and practice Umoja. Chef Leah believed that, "We can talk to each other and relate to each other when we eat together."

? **What do you enjoy doing with others in your family, school or community?**



The first principle of Kwanzaa is Umoja. This principle reminds us that when we come together to live, work, share and learn, we are stronger.

**Pretend to fill a pot with ingredients and stir it up! What are you cooking?**



★ **Draw a picture of a meal you enjoy making and eating with people you love.**

★ **Talk about what unity means to you. Why is unity important?**

★ **Sing "Come Together" with John Legend and Sesame Street friends!**

# Habari Gani? **KUJICHAGULIA!** Self-Determination

The second principle of Kwanzaa is Kujichagulia. It reminds us that when we stay determined and keep trying – even when things are hard or we make a mistake – we can accomplish great things!



**Dare to try something new today!**  
**How does it feel to do something for the first time? Keep going!**



**Sing "Don't Give Up" with Bruno Mars and Sesame Street friends!**

**What is something challenging you would like to do one day?**

**How will you use Kujichagulia to do it?**



It's not easy to do something new or to do something that very few people like you have done before. With a lot of hard work, bravery and determination, Charles Bolden became an astronaut in 1986 – something very few African Americans had done before. During his life, he has spent over 680 hours in space! Astronaut Charles Bolden reminds us of the amazing things we can do with Kujichagulia.

# Habari Gani? **UJIMA!** Collective Work & Responsibility



Look closely at  
the people in  
this painting.

How many people do you see?  
Count together!



What are the people in the  
painting and photo doing?  
Can you tell how they are  
practicing Ujima?

The people in these pictures are marching!  
When groups of people march to protest  
something that they feel is unfair, they are  
working together to solve a problem.

When was a time you worked with  
others to make a positive change?



Show how you would move  
your feet if you were marching  
in this group!

Then try moving forward in different kinds  
of ways. Take BIG steps and tiny ones!  
Hop. Skip!

How far can you go?





# Habari Gani?

## UJAMAA

### Cooperative Economics

During her life, Madame C.J. Walker wanted other Black women, like herself, to feel beautiful and to be able to take good care of their hair - but there weren't many healthy hair products available for Black women to buy at the time.

So Madame C.J. Walker designed her own! She started a successful hair care business and hired other Black women to work with her to share items like creams, oils and shampoos all over the United States.



**This hair product helped to grow and care for Black hair.**  
**How do you care for your hair?**



**If you could create something to help people in your community, what would it be?**  
**Design and draw it.**

# Habari Gani?

## NIA Purpose

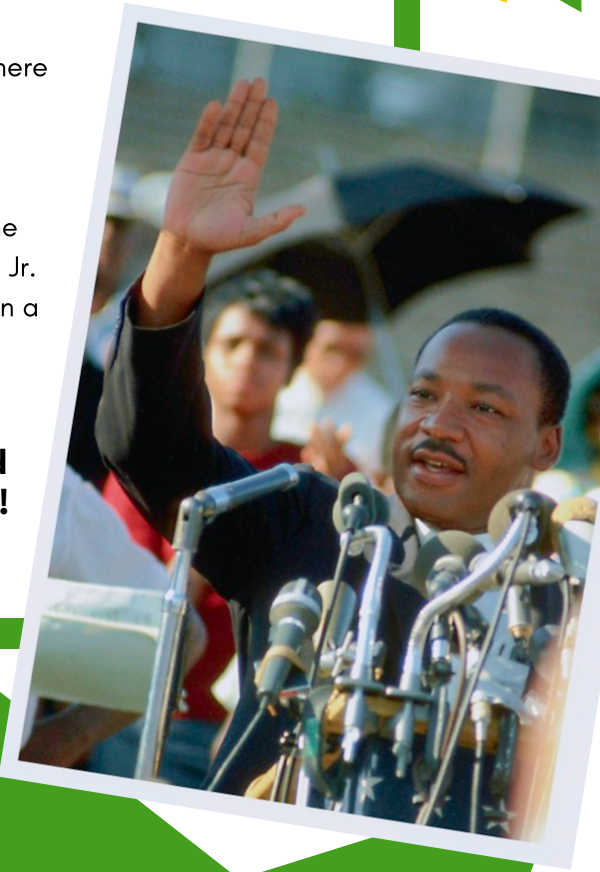
The fifth principle of Kwanzaa is Nia. This principle encourages us to make building and bettering our communities the purpose of all that we do.

Marching through city streets is one way that people use their voices and their bodies to speak up about what they believe in and want to see change. After a really long march to a city called Selma, Martin Luther King Jr. rested his tired feet in this bucket!

**How do you work hard for something that is important to you?**

Martin Luther King Jr. lived his life with purpose! He wanted to see the United States become a place where all people were treated equally no matter what the color of their skin is. Everyday he worked for what he believed in by talking to people and peacefully protesting things he knew were unfair. Because of the hard work and important words of Martin Luther King Jr. and the many others with his same purpose, we live in a place that is a little more fair for everyone.

**Today, we can make creating a more fair world our purpose in everything we do and continue the work of Martin Luther King Jr.!**



**The words we say can help make our communities better.**

**Create a poster of words that tell others how you'd like to make the world a better place!**



# Habari Gani? KUUMBA! Creativity

This dress belonged to singer Celia Cruz. Celia was known for her vibrant style, her strong voice and her energetic performances.

Celia used her creativity to express herself and celebrate her culture and community!

**?** How can you use your creativity to celebrate or help your community?

**Look at this sparkly dress!  
What colors can you see?**



The sixth principle of Kwanzaa is Kuumba. It reminds us that we all can use our creativity to make our communities and the world around us a better and more beautiful place.

**Music is a creative way to express yourself. Write a short song that tells others about who you are.**

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**Celia Cruz loved to dance and sing. Turn on some music and show off your best dance moves!**



# Habari Gani?

# IMANI

## Faith

The seventh principle of Kwanzaa is Imani. This principle reminds us to have faith and believe with all our heart in ourselves, our people, our family, our teachers and our leaders that we can and will overcome challenges and be victorious in our fights for justice and equality.



**Design your own pin to show faith in yourself or someone special to you!**

The Kwanzaa principle of Imani tells us how important it is to have faith so we can do amazing things and make the world a better place for everyone. Even when we can't see exactly how something will work out, with faith, you believe it will!

Though an African American had never become president in the United States before, Barack Obama, African Americans and so many others believed it could happen. In 2008, people practiced Imani, worked together and voted to elect Barack Obama.



**What letters or words do you see on these button pins?**

When Barack Obama was running for president, pins that said "Yes We Can" encouraged people to have faith that he (and the positive things he stood for) could win no matter what his skin color was. He did it - Barack Obama became the first Black president!

**What is something you believed you could do and you did?**

