Kwanzaa 713
Sopris West Six-Minute Solutions

Many African American people celebrate Kwanzaa. It was reported in The New (York) Times that more than 18 million people (worldwide) celebrate this holiday. Kwanzaa comes from (Swahili), an African language. The word "kwanzaa" (means) "first fruit of the harvest." During (Kwanzaa), people celebrate by getting together with (family) and friends. Kwanzaa begins the day (after) Christmas. It lasts until New Year's (Day).

Kwanzaa is neither a religious nor (a) political holiday. It is based on (seven) guiding principles. The principles focus on (African) values. For example, one guiding principle (is) the importance of family togetherness. Another (is) self-determination. Collective work and responsibility are (guiding) principles. So is cooperative economics. The (other) principles are purpose, creativity, and faith.

(For) each of the seven nights of (Kwanzaa), people celebrate and share food. They (eat) chicken, yams, vegetables, rice, and beans. (During) Kwanzaa celebrations, candles are lit. A (candleholder) called a kinara is used. The (kinara) holds seven candles. A straw mat (is) often used during Kwanzaa celebrations. Symbols (of) Kwanzaa are placed upon this straw (mat). For example, one of the symbols (of) Kwanzaa is an ear of corn. (It) is the symbol for a child. (Many) families place one ear of corn (for) each child on the straw mat. (The) colors of Kwanzaa are black, red, (and) green. These colors are used for (decorating) the home with balloons, flowers, and (prints). Gifts are usually exchanged on the (last) day of Kwanzaa. These gifts are (often) homemade and are educational or artistic. (Kwanzaa) is truly a special seven-day celebration!
Many African American people celebrate Kwanzaa. It was reported in *The New York Times* that more than 18 million people worldwide celebrate this holiday. Kwanzaa comes from *Swahili*, an African language. The word "kwanzaa" means "first fruit of the harvest." During *Kwanzaa*, people celebrate by getting together with friends and family. Kwanzaa begins the day after Christmas. It lasts until New Year's Day.

Kwanzaa is neither a religious nor a political holiday. It is based on seven guiding principles. The principles focus on *African* values. For example, one guiding principle is the importance of family togetherness. Another is self-determination. Collective work and responsibility are principles. So is cooperative economics. The principles are purpose, creativity, and faith.

*For each of the seven nights of Kwanzaa*, people celebrate and share food. They *branch*, *face*, *eat* chicken, yams, vegetables, rice, and beans. *During* Kwanzaa celebrations, candles are lit. A *candleholder*, called a kinara is used. The *kinara* holds seven candles. A straw mat is used during Kwanzaa celebrations. Symbols *of* Kwanzaa are placed upon this straw mat. For example, one of the symbols *of* Kwanzaa is an ear of corn. *It* is the symbol for a child. *Contain*, *Many*, *Ball* families place one ear of corn on each child on the straw mat. *Animal*, *The*, *Agree* colors of Kwanzaa are black, red, and green. These colors are used for *street*, *decorating*, *serve* the home with balloons, flowers, and *us*, *moaning*, *prints*. Gifts are usually exchanged on the *say*, *given*, *last* day of Kwanzaa. These gifts are *impulse*, *band*, *often* homemade and are educational or artistic. *Carelessly*, *Weight*, *Kwanzaa* is truly a special seven-day celebration!