

Classroom Connections

Utilize this lesson plan as a fun way for students to make personal connections with the principles of Kwanzaa while still building their skills in reading, writing, speaking, researching, and art making!



National Art Standards

Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

Anchor Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

Common Core Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.2

Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.9

Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1

Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

Be sure to visit www.kwanzaacoloringbook.com and let us know the wonderful lessons you have tried with [the Kwanzaa coloring book!](#)

Materials:

the Kwanzaa coloring book, a variety of colored and patterned paper, white paper cut small narrow rectangles, glue sticks, scissors, crayons, markers, and pencils

Day One-Group Learning:

Students will work together to discover through group work and research the principles of Kwanzaa to present to their peers.

1. Break students into several groups and divide the principles amongst the groups: unity, self determination, collective work and responsibility, co-operative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.
2. Students will color the corresponding page and research their principle. *Great research questions could include: "What is it? How can someone live this principle? Why might this be an important principle to live by?"*
3. Students will present their findings to the group. (See below for fun ideas on alternative ways to do this!*)
4. Hang the coloring book pages with their written findings.

Day Two- Art Connection:

Using the symbols of Kwanzaa, students will make personal connections to the principles.

1. On a large sheet of black paper, students will cover the bottom of the paper with an African patterned sheet of paper, representing the **Mkeka**.
2. Students will draw and cut out a **Kinara** on the colored paper of their choice.
3. Using seven white rectangular strips of paper as the **Mishuma Saba**, students will draw a representation of what each principle means to them within the candle, color it, and paste it to the Kinara.
4. Students can expand their collaged work of art using colored paper to add on a **Kikombi Cha Umoia** and **Mazao** if time allows.

* Differentiating for age and ability: Tips from the Pro's!

- Let's get Digital! Have your students video tape their Kwanzaa research as a newscast and share it in their class blog!
- Young researchers? Turn their findings in to a puppet show!
- Have the teams create a virtual newspaper on each principle, and photograph their coloring book pages to use as graphics to go with it!
- Do you have young artists? Pre-cut each part, or create stencils and have them trace it.
- Older artists? Perhaps a watercolor representation of the principle they most connect with- all hand drawn!