

Names for Kwanzaa



Umoja (Unity)

December 26: Day One of Kwanzaa

- **AZUBUIKE** (ah-zoo-boo-EE-keh). Unity is strength. *Nigeria (Igbo) (M)*
- **LUSAMBYA** (loo-sahm-bjah). The unifier. *DRC (Rega) (M)*
- **SIRA** (see-rah). May he join together his friends. *Somalia*
- **SOMBOZA** (ssohm-boh-zaah). One who brings together. *Uganda (Ganda) (M)*
- **TIZILALE** (tee-zee-lah-leh). We shall gather together, unite. *Zambia (M)*
- **UNGAMANA** (oon-gah-MAH-nah). Be united. *Kiswahili*
- **YANJANANI** (yahn-jahn-ah-nee). Unite, understand each other. *Zambia (M)*

Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)

December 27: Day Two of Kwanzaa

- **DHATI** (DAH-tee). Determination, free-will. *Kiswahili*
- **IBHEJI** (ee-beh-jee) Determination. *Azania (Zulu)*
- **JILELE** (jee-LEH-lee). Be self-reliant. *Zambia (Tumbuka) (M)*
- **JINGA** (jehn-gah). Determination. *Cameroon (Mubako) (M)*
- **OBIORA** (oh-bee-OH-rah). The will of the people. *Nigeria*

Ujima (Collective Work & Responsibility)

December 28: Day Three of Kwanzaa

- **DARAKA** (dah-RAH-kah). Responsibility. *Kiswahili*
- **IKEDIORA** (ee-kee-dee-OH-rah). The power of a community. *Nigeria (M)*
- **MADARAKA** (mah-dah-RAH-kah). Responsibility. *Kiswahili*
- **ODUSINA** (oh-doo-SEE-nah). Hard work opens ways. *Nigeria*
- **SHIME** (SHEE-meh). We work together; we pull together. *Kiswahili*
- **THANDIZANI** (tahn-dee- ZAH-nee). Let's help people in the community who are suffering.
Zambia (M)

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)

December 29: Day Four of Kwanzaa

- **AKOLU** (ah-KOH-loo). Success is more likely when there is cooperation. *Nigeria*
- **AKUDO** (ah-KOO-doo). Wealth is acquired by peaceful means. *Nigeria (Igbo)*
- **IBEBUIKE** (ee-beh-boo-EE-keh). Partnership is power. *Nigeria (Igbo) (M)*
- **KBELLO** (K-BEHL-loh). Something shared. *Azania (Sotho)*
- **KETASE** (keh-TAH-seh). Cooperation. *Zambia (Tumbuka) (F)*
- **ODOZIAKU** (oh-doh-zee-ah-koo). Keeper of wealth. *Nigeria (Igbo) (F)*
- **OLAMINA** (oh-lah-MEE-nah). This is my wealth. *Nigeria (Yoruba)*
- **SIHAM** (SEE-hahm). Sharing; participation. *Kiswahili (F)*
- **UNGANA** (oon-GAH-nah). To combine. *Kiswahili*

Nia (Purpose)

December 30: Day Five of Kwanzaa

- **ASHIA** (ah-SHEE-ah). Meaningful existence. *East Africa*
- **MAKUSUDI** (mah-koo-SOO-dee). On purpose. *Kiswahili*
- **NIAMOJA** (nee-ah-moh-JAH). One purpose. *East Africa (Kiswahili) (M)*
- **NYAH** (n-yah). Purpose. *East Africa (F)*
- **SABABU** (sah-BAH-boo). The reason why. *Sierra Leone (M)*

Kuumba (Creativity)

December 31: Day Six of Kwanzaa

- **ADWIN** (AHD-ween). Creative, imaginative. *West Africa*
- **DALA** (DAH-lah). Be creative; create something new. *Azania (Xhosa) (M)*
- **KENYA** (KEHN-yah). Artist. *East Africa*
- **SEITU** (seh-ee-too). Artist. *East Africa*

Imani (Faith)

January 1: Day Seven of Kwanzaa

- **AMINIFU** (ah-mee-NEE-foo). Faith, belief. *Kenya, Tanzania*
- **DINI** (DEE-nee). Faith, religion. *Kenya, Tanzania (Kiswahili) (M)*
- **EJIRA** (eh-JEE-rah). Believe. *Nigeria (Eleme)*
- **KEMBA** (KEHM-bah). She is full of faith. *Central Africa (F)*
- **NKOLO** (n-KOH-loh). Faith. *Azania (Xhosa) (M)*
- **SUBI** (SOO-bee). Faith. *Zambia (Bemba)*
- **TUMELO** (too-MEH-loh). Believe. *Azania (North Sotho)*

Prepared by Dr. Askhari Johnson Hodari, the author of *The African Book of Names* (available wherever books are sold). For more information, please visit: AfrikanNames.com. Download this document from: <http://afrikanames.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Kwanzaa-Names.pdf>. You have permission to copy and distribute this document as long as this footer remains visible and intact.