

# Kinara

## Background:

The kinara is the candle holder used in Kwanzaa celebrations in the United States. During the week-long celebration of Kwanzaa, seven candles are placed in the kinara - three red on the left, three green on the right, and a single black candle in the center. The word *kinara* is a Swahili word that means *candle holder*. The seven candles represent the Seven Principles (or *Nguzo Saba*) of Kwanzaa. Red, green, and black are the symbolic colors of the holiday.

## Directions:

1. Fold a paper plate in half. On the fold, punch seven evenly spaced holes.
2. Decorate both sides of the plate.
3. To make the candles, color seven craft sticks: three red, one black and three green.
4. Cut out seven "flames" from the yellow tissue paper. Glue one at the end of each candle.
5. Push the candle through the holes in the folded plate. If necessary, use tape to hold each candle in place.



Holiday Traditions from Around the World  
San Mateo County History Museum