



# KUJICHAGULIA (determining our future)

**Kujichagulia** means self-determination. People must stand up for themselves to create the future they want. The symbol for **Kujichagulia**, the principle of the second day of Kwanzaa, is **Mkeke** - the straw mat.

## Create your own Kente Color Placemat

Once made only for kings, Kente cloth is made by the Asante people of Ghana. Kente cloth is famous for its beautiful, bright colors. You can make your own Mkeke in Kente colors.

### You will need:

- A 12" x 9" piece of black construction paper
- strips of brightly coloured construction paper - 12" x 1" in red, green, blue, gold and yellow
- scissors
- clear plastic adhesive paper

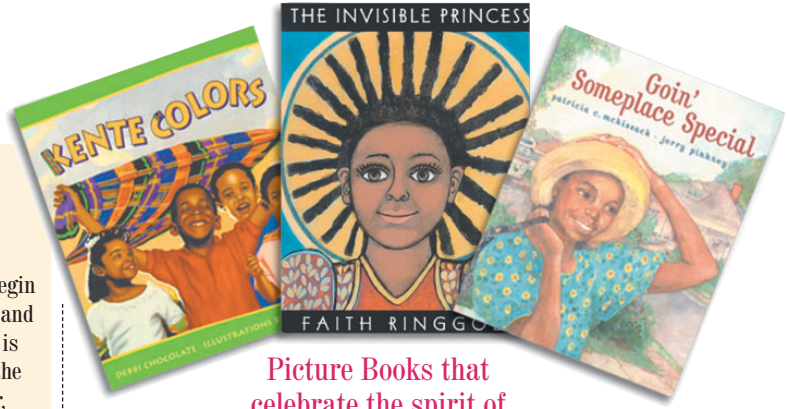
1. Fold the black construction paper in half. Cut 1" wide slits starting at the folded edge and cutting up. Stop 1" from the top.

2. Open up the black paper. Begin to weave the colored strips in and out of the black paper. Row 1 is under, over, under, over, until the end. Row 2 is over, under, over, under, until the end. Repeat until complete.

3. Make a waterproof placemat by covering your Mkeke with the clear adhesive paper.



# African HERITAGE MONTH



## Picture Books that celebrate the spirit of Kujichagulia:

**Kente Colors**  
by Deborah Chocolate;  
Illustrated by John Ward

**Something Beautiful**  
by Sharon Dennis Wyeth;  
Illustrated by Chris K. Soentpiet

**Dancing in the Wings**  
by Debbie Allen;  
Illustrated by Kadir Nelson

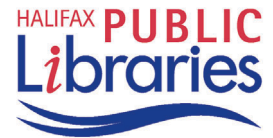
**Car Washing Street**  
by Denise Lewis Patrick;  
Illustrated by John Ward

**Faraway Drums**  
by Virginia Kroll;  
Illustrated by Floyd Cooper

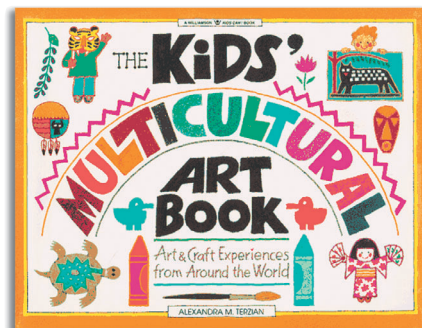
**Wood-Hoopoe Willie**  
by Virginia Kroll; Illustrated  
by Katherine Roundtree

**Goin' Someplace Special**  
by Patricia C. McKissack;  
Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney

**The Invisible Princess**  
by Faith Ringgold



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**Kente Color Placemat From: *The Kids' Multicultural Art Book: Art and Craft Experiences from Around the World* by Alexandra M. Terzian**