

Holiday Ideas & Activities By the Month

Theme ideas—check out books/media from the library/internet (short, light introductions)

Jan colors: black & white 1. Snow, states of water 2. MLK Jr; blacks in America, black history 3. Black & White—art, animals, objects; black & white work together: cooperation, complimentary (things that go together) 4. Polar/Black bear compare, hibernation, penguins, arctic/Antarctic—what’s the diff?	July colors: red, white, & blue review/revue 1. Independence (Canadian & US), Founding Fathers (such as Ben Franklin) freedom/choice/responsibility/consequences 2. science, experiments, electricity, magnets 3. Pioneers—westward expansion, western culture 4. Power, energy, forces, simple machines, balance
Feb colors: red 1. Hearts, heart health, circulatory system, symmetry 2. Valentines, love & kindness, belonging 3. Presidents & wives (choose 1 pres): Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Teddy R, FDR, JFK, current president 4. Chinese New Year, Groundhogs, Winter Olympics, Purim, Mardi Gras, or Leap Year...	Aug colors: yellow 1. Bubbles & balls, wheels, cycles, summer sports & games, vehicles, travel . . . 2. Mountain habitats, hiking, volcanos, earthquakes & mountain building 3. Oceans/lakes/river habitats, floods, tsunamis, swimming, water safety 4. Hawaii & islands
Mar colors: green 1. March Hare/Mad Hatter/Alice in Wonderland, or Dr. Seuss, or lion & lamb 2. Wind/air/kites etc, breathing, or rainbows 3. St Patrick/Irish, immigrants or inventions 4. 1 st Day Spring, gardening, time & calendar	Sept colors: primary colors 1. Labor Day; work, chores, jobs/careers, workers, child labor, pregnancy, muscles 2. 9-11, Mexican independence, or fall Jewish holidays 3. School, learning, thinking brain, why rules? 4. Apples in the kitchen, art, math, science...
Apr colors: pink 1. Rain, water cycle, raindrop shape 2. Passover/Easter; egg science & art, oval 3. Tax Day-budgeting 4. Arbor Day—trees, tree shapes, leaves, blossoms, fruits & nuts	Oct colors: orange 1. Pumpkin science & art, including feelings 2. Columbus, explorers, Native Americans (Indigenous Peoples) 3. Bats, cats, spiders, skeletons (inner & exo-skeletons) 4. Halloween, costumes/dress-up, personal safety rules
May colors: purple 1. May Day/Mother Goose/Cinco de Mayo 2. flowers 3. Mothers & babies 4. Memorial Day	Nov colors: brown & grey 1. Elections, voting, choosing good leaders 2. Veteran’s Day—gratitude; digestive system 3. Thanksgiving/Pilgrims/colonies, harvest festivals 4. Hanukkah; Light & eyesight, senses
June colors: blue 1. Flag Day, fire safety 2. Fathers & families, fathers of brides ... 3. Summer solstice/solar system 4. Berries, bugs (esp. bees, butterflies), birds	Dec colors: silver & gold 1. Gingerbread house/men, cookies/cooking 2. World/family Christmas traditions; winter solstice 3. Gifts/giving, giving & caring for others 4. Kwanzaa, beginnings/endings, goals

(Holidays in parentheses are “moveable feasts”, different dates year to year)

I made a set of felt numbers for the cloth calendars below and pinned them on each month as it came.

January



--cut paper snowflakes or make paper snowmen by having the children look for 3 different size circles to trace--such as glasses & bowls--cut out the circles and paste onto black paper and decorate; alternatively, trace a snowman cookie cutter

--make macaroon, ice cream (3 scoops on a cone), cookie, popcorn ball, or marshmallow snowmen

--go sledding or ice skating, or take an outing/travel to play in the snow; discuss safety in cold

--compare liquid water, solid water (ice), and water vapor (steam is close, or your breath in cold air)

--make snow or ice sculptures or molds, or an ice cube igloo

--draw pictures with white chalk or white pencil on black paper (a snowman in a snowstorm?)

--get a book of art that shows art done in black and white, or make your own

--song: "Ebony and Ivory" Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder, find online

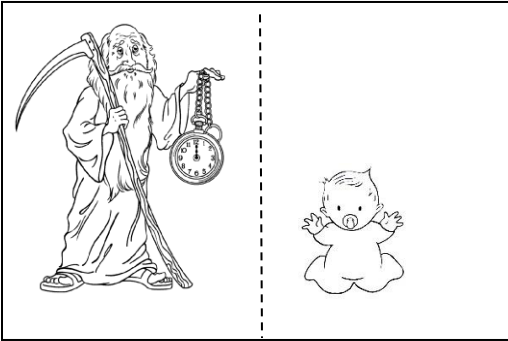
--Baby Animals Black and White by Phyllis Limbacher Tildes, Big Cat, Little Cat by Elisha Cooper, etc

--you can make party hats with wrapping paper . . . make a cone; or like the newspaper hats we used to make . . . cut a 12"x16" paper, fold it to 12"x8". Fold & unfold it to find center & fold corners down (like for paper airplanes); double fold bottom up on either side & tape--decorate, if you like.



New Year's Day—Jan 1

--make a door and attach it to the center of a horizontal paper; draw (or print from internet) an old man for the old year on the left side, draw a baby for the new year on the right side; close the door on the old year, by opening the door to the new year



attach door on dotted line, so you can close it on the old man/year, and it shows the baby/new year

--talk about how every year, every week, every day is a new start, a chance to try again

--what are your goals, what do you want to accomplish? You might draw a picture of it. Talk about how you could accomplish it . . . how can you help others accomplish their goals?

--put pictures of special days, on a calendar of the new year

--favorite food New Year buffet

--movies: "Frozen", "The Snow Queen" (2012 animated adventure family comedy) & "Snow Queen" (2002 TV Hallmark movie based on Hans Christian Anderson), various versions of "Snow White", "North to Alaska", "Frosty the Snowman", "Happy Feet", "101 Dalmatians", "Racing Stripes", "King Fu Panda" . . .

--books: Happy New Year, Spot! By Eric Hill, The Night Before New Year's by Natasha Wing

Martin Luther King Jr. Day—3rd Monday

--A KID EXPLAINS MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkNk6T2dRvQ>

--Students remember 'I have a dream' speech, published by the Washington Post

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8_1NYYKixM

Description: Fourth graders from Watkins Elementary School recite Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963 speech at the Lincoln Memorial.

--The Story of Martin Luther King Jr. by Kid President <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xXZhXTFWnE>

*books read on videos online

--Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King Jr. by Doreen Rappaport

--My Daddy Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr by Martin Luther King III

--I am Martin Luther King, Jr by Brad Maltzer (People Change the World series)

*music videos available online

--"Ballad of Birmingham" by various artists, such as Brittany Miller, or Jerry Moore

--"We Shall Overcome" by Pete Seeger

--"Abraham, Martin, & John" performed by Dion

--"Glory" from the movie "Selma"

--draw a picture and talk about your dreams for our world and for yourself

--favorite foods of MLK Jr: pecan pie, southern foods such as fried chicken, sweet potatoes, & collard greens

(Chinese New Year)—new moon between Jan 21-Feb 20

Beside non-fiction and Nursery Rhymes, folk and fairy tales about each animal, you may like some of the following books and media:

- Holidays Around the World: Celebrate Chinese New Year: With Fireworks, Dragons, and Lanterns by Carolyn Otto
- Bringing in the New Year by Grace Lin (Board Book)
- Chinese New Year Wishes: Chinese Spring and Lantern Festival Celebration by Jillian Lin (English & Chinese)
- Chinese folktales in general: Strange Tales from Liaozhai, 2008 (tr. Sidney L. Sondergard), another translation: Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio, 2006 (tr. John Minford). Etc.
- “Mulan” I & II, “Kung Fu Panda”, “Big Trouble in Little China”, “Flower Drum Song”
- Traditional Chinese NY foods: spring rolls (egg rolls), dumplings (pot stickers), noodles (symbolizing long life), New Year cake (little sticky or yellow rice “cakes”), etc. see <https://chinesenewyear.net/>
- organize a little parade; discuss the importance of following the leader, and the leader’s responsibility to those following behind
- get stencils of Chinese characters or print/copy them from online, to say Happy Chinese New Year

2020—rat

- Why Rat Comes First: A Story of the Chinese Zodiac by Clara Yen, 1991
- Rat and Roach: Friends to the End by David Covell, 2012
- Cool Daddy Rat by Kristyn Crow
- The Tale of Samuel Whiskers, Or, The Roly-poly Pudding by Beatrix Potter
- A Rat’s Tale by Tor Seidler, 1999
- Cinderella’s Rat by Susan Meddaugh, 1997 (Cinderella tale from rat’s perspective)

2021—ox

- “The Frog and the Ox” by Aesop
- “The Four Oxen and the Lion” by Aesop
- Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall



2022—tiger

- “How the Tiger Got His Stripes” humorous folktale from Vietnam
- “Careless Tiger” a folktale from India
- The Tiger Who Came to Tea by Judith Kerr
- Augustus and His Smile by Catherine Ryner
- Tiger on a Tree by Anushka Ravishankar (Ala Notable Children’s Books)
- There’s a Tiger in the Garden by Lizzy Stewart (Tigger from Winnie the Pooh)



2023—rabbit

- “Bre’r Rabbit” stories from Uncle Remus
- The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter
- The Tale of Benjamin Bunny by Beatrix Potter
- A Little Bunny by Rosalee Wren
- The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld
- Marshmallow by Clare Turlay Newberry
- “The Velveteen Rabbit” movie based on the book

2024—dragon

- “Pete’s Dragon” movie
- “How to Train Your Dragon” movies
- “Puff the Magic Dragon” song
- Good Night, Little Dragons by Leigh Ann Tyson (Little Golden Book)
- Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubin



2025—snake

Snake Tales for Kids: Four Magical Fairy Stories About Snakes for Children by Andrew Lang

I (Don't) Like Snakes by Nicola Davies

Verdi by Janell Cannon

2026—horse

Robert the Rose Horse by Joan Heilbroner

Henrietta and the Hat by Mabel Watts (A Golden tell-a-tale book) 1985

My Pony by Susan Jeffers

"Mr. Ned" old TV series

"My Friend Flicka" old TV series



2027—goat

"Three Billy Goats Gruff", various versions

"The Wolf and the Seven Little Goats" from the Brothers Grimm

Grumpy Goat by Brett Helquist

Noisy Farm: Gobbly Goat by Axel Scheffler (Sound-button Stories)

Gregory, the Terrible Eater by Mitchell Sharmat

2028—monkey

Curious George by H.A. Rey

"Curious George" movie and TV series

Grumpy Monkey by Suzanne Lang

Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb by Al Perkins

Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Elieen Christelow

--play Monkey See, Monkey Do (like Simon Says)

2029—rooster

"Chanticleer"

Rooster's Off to See the World by Eric Carle

Richard Scarry's The Rooster Struts

The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet by Carmen Agra Deedy

Red Rooster Barnyard Detective by Sonica Ellis

"Chicken Run" movie

2030—dog

Biscuit series

Clifford the Big Red Dog series

Blue, series

You're a Good Dog, Carl by Alexandra Day

The Poky Little Puppy by Janette Sebring Lowrey

Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion

Charlie the Ranch Dog by Ree Drummond and Diane deGroat, series

Harold and the Poopy Little Puppy by Ellie Crowe



2031—pig

"The Three Little Pigs"—various versions and take-offs

A Piglet Named Mercy by Kate DiCamillo (series)

Elephant and Piggie series by Mo Willems

Olivia series by Ian Falconer



(then the cycle starts over)

February



- Fold red or pink paper. Draw half a heart on the folded edge and cut it out while still folded. When you open the heart (physically and figuratively) you can share it with others, with good kind words written or stamped on it, or draw loving symbols, or decorate it with stickers or other scrapbooking type materials. Note that when you cut it out and open it, both sides are the same, like a mirror image of each other. That is symmetry.
- Other than cookie hearts you can cut heart shaped sandwiches, make a heart shaped pizza or other food.
- Don't get detailed about the circulatory system, just look at a picture or diagram that shows the heart and how the blood takes food and oxygen/air to all parts of the body, and takes away the waste.
- shadow play: make shadow figures, silhouettes, shadow theatricals/puppetry

Groundhog Day—Feb 2

--For Groundhog Day: make pigs in blankets with hot dogs or little smokies or other sausages. For the blanket you can use biscuit or bread dough (cook the meat in the dough, in the oven), a crepe or a pancake can wrap precooked meat . . . or, have sausage rolls (ground hog), or similar. The blanket symbolizes that the Groundhog sees more winter coming, so wraps up in his blanket to finish his sleep. Alternatively, when you find out about Groundhogs, you can eat what Groundhogs like to eat: leaves, seeds/nuts, cress, violets (beside bark, roots, saplings, garden & field produce, snails & insects)

Huff and Puff on Groundhog Day by Jean Warren; preschool & primary grades, inclu. Activities

Groundhog Day by Lisa M. Herrington (Rookie Read-About-Holidays)

My Favorite Animal: Groundhogs by Victoria Marcos

"Groundhog Day" (1993) Bill Murray

Winter Olympics—2022, & every 4th year afterward

- create your own mini Olympics
- Feb 4-20 2022 Beijing China XXIV Olympic Winter Games
- "Cool Runnings" 1993 Disney family comedy, bobsledding
- go skiing, sledding, ice skating



Valentine's Day—Feb 14

--make your own Valentine cards, bouquet, chocolates or other candy/treats; or heart shaped/healthy foods
--"Seven Brides for Seven Brothers", "Gnomeo & Juliet", "Swan Princess", "Tangled", "Beauty and the Beast" (various versions in literature and film), "Cinderella" (various versions in literature and film),

Presidents' Day—3rd Monday (Lincoln's Bday Feb 12; Washington's Bday Feb 22)

--You can find favorite foods of each president online. One site I like is Food Timeline, which has more than just favorite foods of the presidents: <http://www.foodtimeline.org/presidents.html>
--check out which presidents are on which coins and bills (money men); you might make rubbings from coins
--"Yankee Doodle", "America the Beautiful"

--A Picture Book of George Washington by David A. Adler
--George Washington Our First President by Cornelius Van
--Biography The Story of George Washington for Kids: Story of the American president for children <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAajmjibego>
--Abe Lincoln: The Boy Who Loved Books by Kay Winters
--Looking at Lincoln by Maira Kalman
--Abe Lincoln's Hat by Martha Brenner
-- Biography The Story of Abraham Lincoln for Kids: story of the American president for children <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pb5aFH6Nyu0>



--Free fishing/crabbing/clamming in Oregon Presidents' Day Weekend (details from Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife)

(Chinese New Year)—new moon between Jan 21- February 20

--Ideas for Chinese New Year under January.

(Purim)—(2020 begins evening of Monday, March 9)—see also March

--Foods: hamantaschen (triangle shape, filled cookies), Challah bread (egg braid), Jewish & Persian dishes
See https://www.chabad.org/recipes/recipe_cdo/aid/1365/jewish/Purim-Recipes.htm

And <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/purim-foods>

And <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/purim-foods/>

--The Whole Megillah by Shoshana Silberman (English and Hebrew)
--"Queen Esther" full movie in animation, 13 min (Christian production)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUdhJhRr3wI>

--"Fiddler on the Roof"



(Mardi Gras—day before Ash Wed/Lent; 47 days before Easter)—also called Shrove Tuesday

--For Mardi Gras you can make masks, your own little parade, eat jambalaya ... other foods:
<https://www.forkly.com/food/easy-mardi-gras-themed-recipes-10-traditional-party-foods/>
Mardi Gras is also known as Shrove Tuesday, and is celebrated in England by eating pancakes. In several other countries it is celebrated with various kinds of donut-like desserts
--"The Princess and the Frog" 2009 Disney animated musical comedy

Leap Year—Feb 29, 2020, & every 4th year afterward

--"Leapin' Lizards!" Little Orphan Annie used to say in her comic strip
--other leaping creatures: fish, frogs, kangaroo rat, grass hopper, bharal, antelope . . . 10 Lords were leaping on the 10th day of Christmas . . . see also:
https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/02/160228-pictures-leap-year-animals-february/#/01_NationalGeographic_1297095.jpg



--play Leap Frog

--foods: fish; "Frog Eye Salad" (made with large tapioca)

March



--“In like a lion, out like a lamb” is an old saying about March referring to the windy weather that occurs with the change of the season. March is named for Mars, Roman god of war, and probably the beginning of the year for war-making/marching off to war; Jesus Christ was called “the Lamb of God”, “the Prince of Peace”.

--you could learn about lions and lambs, and compare them in real life, and what they symbolize in different cultures

--you can watch online: “Lambert the Sheepish Lion” (1952), Silly Symphony animated series; likewise, you can find Warner Brothers Looney Tunes “Forward March Hare” (1953) Bugs Bunny accidentally ends up in the army

--you could watch “March of the Penguins”: the end of the Antarctic summer is in March . . . not every March has to be about war!

--“March Hare” and “Mad Hatter” were also old sayings—referring to crazy behavior (the old chemicals used to make hats were not good for human contact), and were personified in “Alice in Wonderland” at the tea party. You could have a “tea” party with March (windblown) Hair, or go mad/crazy with hats. Watch Disney’s animated “Alice in Wonderland”.

--you might like to make and/or fly kites when there is just the right amount of wind for success, sing “Let’s go fly a kite”

--along with learning about inventions and inventors, you can gather various items to build your own invention, or invent a new kind of food, or a new way of doing things more efficiently

--look at a diagram of the lungs and respiratory system; practice breathing deeply, holding your breath, compare your breathing at rest and after running; blow out a candle, blow bubbles and pinwheels; flutter crepe paper streamers in the wind or with a fan; compare a handheld fan to an electric one . . . Lots of ideas for experimenting/observing air, the atmosphere, and wind. You can find extreme weather videos at the library /online Books: [The Wind Blew](#) by Pat Hutchins (humor), [I Can Read About Weather](#) by Robyn Supraner , “Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day” . . .

--have an “Eat a Rainbow” luncheon . . . with foods of all different colors (tacos or fruit salad work nicely)



Dr Seuss' Birthday (Read Across America)—Mar 2



--films: "Horton Hatches the Egg" 1942 animated, 10 min; "Horton Hears a Who!" 2008 animated comedy

Pi Day (3.14)—Mar 14



--turn a plate upside down, run a piece of string or yarn around the circumference, and cut it. Turn the plate right side up, and use the circumference length string to cut one, two, three diameters—note that one circumference makes just a little more than three diameters.

--pies for Pi Day: Shepherd's Pie, Moon Pies, pizza pie, sweet (fruit, nut, custard, etc) or savory pies (such as meat, fish, or poultry pot pie), (crustless quiche for those who are on a low carb diet) . . .



St. Patrick's Day—Mar 17

--Foods: corned beef, carrots, & cabbage dinner; corned beef on rye with Irish cheese and coleslaw; Irish cream soda, Irish soda bread, Irish stew, etc.

--wear green and dance a jig to the music of the Irish Rovers

--songs: My Wild Irish Rose, O Danny Boy, When Irish Eyes Are Smiling, Who Threw the Overalls in Mrs. Murphy's Chowder? . . . for more, see <http://www.irishamericanjourney.com/2011/10/irish-american-songs.html>

--movies: "Darby O'Gill and the Little People" 1959; "The Gnome-Mobile" 1967 Disney comedy-fantasy; "The Quiet Man" 1952 romantic comedy; "Pot o' Gold" 1941 romantic musical comedy with James Stewart and Paulette Goddard

--cut 4 green heart shapes and glue them on a paper to make a 4 leafed clover (look for symmetry)

Daylight Savings (begins)—2nd Sun March

- You can make a clock pizza, pancake--any cake or pie . . .
- Use an old clock, or make one with hands attached with a brad to explore time . . . count the seconds in a minute, count backward with the microwave timer . . . try to hold your breath or hop as you count the seconds/minutes . . .
- Once Upon a Daylight Saving Time by R.E. Skibiski



Mark 3, 6, 9, and 12 on the clock face first, then fill in the other numbers

1st Day of Spring/Spring Equinox—Mar 20, 21, or 22

- Foods: spring rolls, spring water, spring mix salad greens with spring onions; asparagus, rhubarb dessert
- Decorate stemware to look like tulips (cut ovals and attach as petals) . . . you can make a spring bouquet by cutting paper or foam tulips and other spring flowers and attaching to bamboo skewers . . . or you may make a fruit or vegetable bouquet
- great time for gardening . . . plan the garden, plant the early vegetables, play Seed Bingo



--equinox is when the days and nights are an equal number of hours each day, or at least for a day/night. Take a look at a diagram of the earth, sun, and moon, and where the spring and fall equinoxes are. You might also look at where the summer and winter solstices are (summer solstice: longest day; winter solstice: shortest day of the year). Note that when the earth makes it all the way around the sun, that's a year. When the earth spins one full turn, that's a day. When the moon goes all the way around the earth (more or less), that is a month

--books:

A Prickly Tale by Evelyn M. Begley Springtime Babies by Danna Smith

Pig & Goose and the First Day of Spring by Rebecca Bond

It's Spring! By Susan Swan

In the Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming

When Spring Comes by Kevin Henkes

Egg by Kevin Henkes

--movies:

"It Happens Every Spring" 1949 baseball comedy

"Bambi" 1942 Disney animation

"Springtime in the Rockies" 1942 musical comedy, Betty Grable

"Spring in Park Lane" 1948 romantic comedy

(Purim)—see Feb

(Mardi Gras—day before Ash Wed/Lent; 47 days before Easter)—also called Shrove Tuesday

--For Mardi Gras you can make masks, your own little parade, eat jambalaya ... other foods:

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--"The Princess and the Frog" 2009 Disney animated musical comedy



(Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Passover, Easter)

--color/decorate eggs a couple days ahead of Sat egg hunt, followed on Sat by deviled eggs or egg salad sandwiches

--read Make Way for Ducklings, Chicken Little, Chickens Aren't the Only Ones, etc for bedtime stories

Foods:

Palm Sunday: date nut bread, small palm plant centerpiece

Good Friday: fish; try not to get caught as you do good deeds

Passover: brisket, gefilte fish, matzoh ball soup, potato kugel, matzah, haroset, (seder plate), or,

Passover Pitas: lamb or chicken, horseradish, romaine & parsley, chopped egg & onion, chopped apples and almonds kept from going brown with a little saltwater & honey or grape juice—all wrapped in a pita

Easter: lamb (dripped with lemon) for the person, Near Eastern lentils or couscous for the place, Greek salad for the Greek cultural influence in the region, Italian dressing for the Roman rule . . . olives, pita with hummus or falafel & yogurt/cucumber sauce or butter & honey, opt. tabbouleh, almonds & raisins (apricots, dates, or figs), grape juice . . . bunny shaped (opt) carrot cake or Russian Paskha and Kulich

Passover info, including recipes: https://www.chabad.org/holidays/passover/default_cdo/jewish/Passover.htm

And <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/category/celebrate/passover/> etc.

Jesus Enters Jerusalem by Jane L. Fryar

Humphrey's First Palm Sunday by Carol Heyer, told from camel perspective, humor in pictures, board book

The Week That Led to Easter by Joanne Larrison

Good Friday by Louise Ulmer

The Holy Bible and Bible stories for kids

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams

The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

Holidays Around the World: Celebrate Passover: With Matzah, Maror, and Memories

by Deborah Heiligman

Let My People Go! By Tilda Balsley

This is the Matzah by Abby Levine

"The Prince of Egypt" 1998 animated musical drama about Moses & Exodus

"Joseph, King of Dreams" 2000, animated

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" 1999, musical, Donny Osmond

"Joseph" 1995, with Ben Kingsley

"Easter Parade" 1948 musical with Fred Astaire & Judy Garland, Berlin songs; "Peter Rabbit" 2018 comedy

"Hop" 2011 live/animated comedy





April



--"April showers bring May flowers" . . . how does your garden grow, Mistress Mary? Garden science, plan/plant a garden...

--rain, raindrops, rainbows . . . science and art; "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head", "Singin' in the Rain" (song, picture book, and movie), "The Rainbow Connection", "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", "Little April Showers" (from "Bambi" movie—lyrics and videos online), "I Love a Rainy Night" (Eddy Rabbit) ...

--books: [A Good Day for Ducks](#) by Jane Whittingham, [Puddle](#) by Hyewon Yum, [I Love Rainy Days!](#) By Hans Wilhelm, [Rain](#) by Robert Kalan, [The Yellow Umbrella](#) by Caitlin Dundon, [Tap Tap Boom Boom](#) by Elizabeth Bluemle, [Red Rubber Boot Day](#) by Mary Lyn Ray, [BOOM!: Big, Big Thunder & One Small Dog](#) by Mary Lyn Ray

--"When life throws you a rainy day, play in the puddles." Winnie the Pooh; alternatively, "When life gives you rainy days, wear cute boots and jump in the puddles", or, "I like people who smile when it's raining", "A single gentle rain makes the grass many shades greener", "The grass isn't always greener on the other side, it's only greener when you water it", "I'm too busy working on my own grass to notice if yours is greener" ...

--"It's raining like cats and dogs" . . . umbrellas, galoshes, storms . . . [Raining Cats and Dogs: A Collection of Irresistible Idioms and Illustrations to Tickle the Funny Bones of Young People](#) by Will Moses (similarly: [In a Pickle: And Other Funny Idioms](#) by Marvin Terban, and, [There's a Frog in My Throat!: 440 Animal Sayings A Little Bird Told Me](#) by Pat Street)

--Baby Showers: baby animals, (esp. chicks, ducks, birds, bunnies, puppies, kitties, etc.), stories by Beatrix Potter . . . eggs, life cycles

--lilies and lambs

April Fools Day—April 1

--Trompe l'oeil foods, such as meatloaf cake frosted with mashed potatoes, crepe "tacos", Jello in the glasses to look like a drink . . .

--look at Trompe l'oeil art in books, online, or in person---try creating your own picture tricker

--read [April Foolishness](#) by Teresa Bateman

--watch Disney's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame"

(Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Passover, Easter)

(see March)



Tax Day—April 15

--A Taxing Day! Use candy or other food to practice budgeting—chocolate coins, Pay Day, Nestle 100 Grand candy bar, Money Mints, Barton’s Million Dollar milk chocolate bar . . . or any kind of food (pizza, cake, banana, or whatever) . . . Cut it into 10 pieces (or use 10 coins or pieces), and dole them out to show where the money goes: 2 for taxes, 1 for charity, 1 for savings, 3 for house (payment or rent), 1 for utilities and insurance, 1 for food and car payment, and 1 for phone/internet/TV/gasoline for the car/clothes/gifts/entertainment. Or, divide it similarly to show your own family budget (keep it to 10 categories or less for young children).

--Taxes, Taxes! Where the Money Goes by Nancy Loewen (don’t feel obligated to read the entire book to little ones, just what’s appropriate for the understanding and attention span)

--Schoolhouse Rock: Money—“Tax Man Max” available online

--take a car trip and point out everything that taxes pay for (roads, schools, police, fire fighters, military to defend our country), subsidies to the post office, etc . . . Social Security income, health care for the poor, welfare . . . you might check out ahead of time:

<https://turbotax.intuit.com/tax-tips/general/how-are-federal-taxes-spent/L6kinGuUt> or,
<https://www.google.com/search?q=what+do+taxes+pay+for&tbm=isch&source=univ&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewiC5JTmxfnhAhVuGTQIHV7JB8cQsAR6BAgJEAE&biw=779&bih=756>

Remember, there are Federal, State, County, and City taxes . . . each entity has different responsibilities

(Ramadan—2020, April 23-May 23)

Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors by Hena Khan

Under the Ramadan Moon by Sylvia Whitman

Ramadan by Hannah Eliot (Celebrate the World series)

Let’s Celebrate Ramadan & Eid! By Ajanta Chakraborty & Vivek Kumar (Muslim Festival of Fasting & Sweets; Maya & Neel’s India Adventure Series, Book 4)

My Illustrated Quran Storybook by Saniyasnain Khan (goodword): Islamic Children’s Books on the Quarn, the Hadith, and the Prophet Muhammad

Disney’s “Aladdin”

Dreamworks “Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas” (2003)

“Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves kids story cartoon animation” 24 min. (Fairy Tales and Stories for Kids)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4A4XzRx0UY>

Arbor Day—last Friday of April

ABCedar: An Alphabet of Trees by George Ella Lyon

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

A Tree is Nice by Janice May Udry

The Busy Tree by Jennifer Ward

The Big Honey Hunt by Stan Berenstain

“The Legend of Johnny Appleseed” Disney short, 1948

“The Man Who Planted Trees” 1987, 30 min

“Flowers and Trees” 1932 Disney Silly Symphonies cartoon

“Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree” 1966 Disney live action/animation

--Food ideas: tree fruits and nuts, Waldorf Salad, citrus salad, fruit cocktail/salad ... fruit or nut pie/tart...

List of fruit trees: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fruit_tree

List of culinary nuts: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_culinary_nuts

--paste pictures on your family tree (genealogy), tell family history stories, name your grandparents . . .



May



--“April showers bring May flowers”—May is a month of flowers, with May Day, Cinco de Mayo, Mother’s Day, and Memorial Day . . . learn more about flowers, collect garden and wild flower bouquets to give, make all

sorts of flower arts and crafts, press flowers, dry flowers . . . make “paper roses” and other fancy flowers
--Flower Math: 1 petal flower (Calla Lily), 2 petal flower (Asiatic dayflower), 3 petal flower (trillium), 4 petal flower (evening primrose), 5 petal flowers (geraniums, apple blossoms, hibiscus, violets...), 6 petal flowers (yucca, lilies...), 7 or more petals (what can you find)—note: although not all strictly botanically speaking, close enough for preschoolers. Draw flowers with different numbers of petals (can be imaginative).

--Use flower stamps, stencils, or stickers to count, add, sort, and group flowers, or make patterns.

--dance to “Waltz of the Flowers” by Tchaikovsky (see also “Fantasia” 1940), “Walk to the Paradise Garden” by Delius, “Crisantemi” (Chrysanthemums) by Puccini, “Les Roses d’Ispahan” by Faure, “Down by the Salley Gardens” Irish folk song arranged by Britten, etc. see <https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/mood/summer/classical-music-about-flowers/>

--visit a museum or gallery of flower art—very many artists, but some samples: Monet, Manet, Van Gogh, Warhol, O’Keeffe, Renoir, Bosschaert, Ruysch, Hiroshige, Fantin-Latour, see <https://mymodernmet.com/famous-flower-paintings/>

--go to see or practice flower arranging, a florist, or similar

--put white carnations in vases of colored water and watch them take on colors; use flowers to dye a bandana

May Day/Mother Goose Day—May 1

--collect flowers to give a May Day bouquet to an elderly or lonely person, perhaps take to a rest home

--use a tether ball or other standing pole to weave a maypole, with different colors of crepe paper or long strips of fabric

--“Mother Goose Goes Hollywood” 1938 short, Disney Silly Symphony, celebrity caricatures, abt 8 min; you can find on the internet

--read “Mother Goose” rhymes, illustrate, dress-up, re-enact, or relate them in other ways...art, science, music, math, etc

--Foods: fruit or veggie “flower” bouquets or pictures, or, make an edible flower salad (nasturtiums, pansies...), make a flower of stemware by attaching paper petals or a flower shaped cupcake paper



Cinco de Mayo—May 5



--Cinco de Mayo is not so much a Mexican holiday, as a Mexican American holiday

--Foods: what Americans call “Mexican”; tacos, guacamole, burritos, enchiladas, quesadillas, nachos, flautas, fajitas, tamales, empanadas, pozole, Tres Leches cake, flan, churros ...

--“Coco” 2017, possibly “The Book of Life” 2014 (“some scary imagery”), old Zorro TV episodes (1957-61)

--children’s videos in Spanish: “Me Gusta Ser Yo” (I like to be me) & “Vamos a Cantar” (We’re Going to Sing), from Plaza Sesamo (Spanish Sesame Street)

--fun Spanish songs to learn: see <https://spanishmama.com/spanish-songs-for-kids-cds/> , and popular children’s Spanish songs by Jose Luis Orozco www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFS1MIh-Pok, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAyUzDvNkTw> , <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/projects/ninos/songsrhymes.html> , https://www.123teachme.com/learn_spanish/childrens_music_videos_index (lyrics in Spanish & English)

--dance to the “Mexican Hat Dance”, “La Cucaracha”, “La Bamba”, mariachi music

--Listen to Ritchie Valens (such as “La Bamba”), Santana (such as “Smooth”), Los Lobos ...

Mother’s Day—2nd Sun May

--“The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world” . . . famous quotes about mothers:

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/mothersday> . Make a picture with your favorite quote about moms

--play “Mother May I”, name the mom and baby animal (doe—fawn, ewe—lamb . . .), how many ways can you say Mom? (English, Spanish, Chinese , ASL, . . . ? <https://www.1800flowers.com/blog/flower-facts/how-to-say-mom-in-different-languages/>), can you name your Mom’s mom? Your dad’s mom?

--Mother’s Day Games and Activities <https://www.thespruce.com/mothers-day-games-and-activities-2104574> , and <https://www.diva-girl-parties-and-stuff.com/mothers-day-games.html> ; Have a Mother & Daughter tea party

--Are You My Mother? By P.D. Eastman (also a bilingual Spanish/English edition), Is Your Mama a Llama? by Deborah Guarino and Steven Kellogg, Love You Forever by Robert Munsch, Mama, Do You Love Me? by Barbara M. Joosse, I Love You as Much by Laura Krauss Melmed, The Big Big Sea by Martin Waddell, I Love You to the Moon and Back by Tim Warnes, The Best Mother by C.M. Surrisi, Harriet, You’ll Drive Me Wild! By Mem Fox, How to Raise a Mom by Jean Reagan, Mama’s Belly by Kate Hosford, A Gift for Mama by Linda Ravin Lodding and Alison Jay, Mama’s Day with Little Gray by Aimee Reid, On the Night You Were Born by Nancy Tillman, I Would Tuck You In by Sarah Asper-Smith and Mitchell Watley,, Mom and I by Ava G. Kalisch (www.readinga-z.com) very simple leveled reader, animal moms; Little Mommy by Sharon Kane, Bee-Bim Bop

--sing songs about Moms, such as “That Wonderful Mother of Mine”, “M-O-T-H-E-R”, “Two of Us”, “Coat of Many Colors”, see <https://www.oprahmag.com/entertainment/g26750788/best-mothers-day-songs-playlist/>

--“Yours, Mine, and Ours” 1968 and 2005; “Dumbo” 1941, 2019; “The Incredibles” I, II

Memorial Day—last Monday of May (from 1868-1970 it was May 30)

--take flowers to the cemetery; flags for those who served in the military

--Memorial Day Surprise by Theresa Golding, Rolling Thunder by Kate Messner and Greg Ruth, Memorial Day by Emma Carlson Berne, Don’t Forget, God Bless Our Troops by Jill Biden and Raul Colon, The Wall by Eve Bunting and Ronald Himler

--Make a timeline of wars the USA has been involved in; mark the ones your parents, grandparents, or ancestors served in, add their pictures. Look at any medals they may have earned.

--watch a Memorial Day parade, or have a Memorial Day meal/BBQ for those you know who have served: be thankful to them for being willing to put their lives on the line for us/US



June



--theme ideas: bugs (esp bees, butterflies, beetles/ladybugs—you can bake a cake in a metal bowl and turn it upside down to decorate as a ladybug, with red & black frosting, oreo or chocolate mint patty dots, etc.), ... draw 2 Bs back to back and cut out to make a butterfly—I use for top crust of blueberry pie (symmetry: use the fold of a paper for the straight side, cut out a B and unfold a butterfly)

--brides ("Fiddle-de-dee, Fiddle-de-dee, The Fly has married the Bumble Bee..." one source of lyrics: <https://www.kiddles.com/lyrics/f067.html>),

-- "June is bustin' out all over" from "Carousel"



--berries, birds, and BBQs

Read The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear by Don and Audrey Wood

--more theme ideas: B things, such as, balls, bubbles, balloons, (teddy) bears



National Get Outdoors Day: free entrance National & WA State parks (1st or 2nd Sat?)

Free Fishing Weekend—first weekend of June in Oregon (free fishing, crabbing, and clamming-many free events include equipment & instruction); first weekend after first Monday in Washington State . . . see National Park Service, ODFW, and Washington State Parks

Flag Day—June 14

--Flag cake or Jello

--color, paint, or cut and paste a paper flag

--fly your flags in your own little parade

--Francis Scott Key and "The Star Spangled Banner" (a bit above preschoolers, but short . . . they might get something)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Umg8v6DLZjs> and <https://www.smithsonianchannel.com/videos/the-battle-of-fort-mchenry-through-francis-scott-keys-eyes/31299>



--books: Francis Scott Key's Star-Spangled Banner by Monica Kulling (Step into Reading), F is for Flag by Wendy Cheyette Lewison, Red, White, and Blue: The Story of the American Flag by John Herman (Penguin Young Readers, level 3), I'm Your Flag So Please Treat Me Right by Julia Cook, The Star-Spangled Banner by Peter Spier

Father's Day—3rd Sun June

- have a Dad's Day favorite BBQ
- books: My Daddy by Susan Paradis (board book), I Love You, Daddy! By Edie Evans, Daddies by Janet Frank, Just Me and My Dad by Mercer Mayer (Little Critter)
- sing "The Ants Go Marching", "My Dad, He is My Favorite Pal", "I'm So Glad When Daddy Comes Home" ...
- movies: "Daddy Daycare" 2003 comedy, "Mrs. Doubtfire" 1993 comedy, "The Pursuit of Happyness" 2006 biographical drama, "The Parent Trap" 1961 and 1998 comedies, "Mr. Mom" 1983 comedy
- spend the day before with Dad--go fishing, target practicing, play basket or baseball, hike, bike, other favorite dad thing to do



1st Day Summer/Summer Solstice—June 20, 21, or 22

- have a ladybug picnic, with all the food and décor red & black, polka dotted; make ladybug crafts, sing "Ladybug Picnic" from Sesame Street (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xr8vUTm64h0>)—the song gives some ideas for games to play, but you might come up with others
- have a teddy bear picnic—eat bear foods or B foods, play B games (balls, balloons, bubbles, BINGO (using pictures of different kinds of bears, and buttons for the markers), ...), sing Teddy Bears Picnic (sung by Anne Murray), . . .
- The Longest Day: Celebrating the Summer Solstice by Wendy Pfeffer (poetic text, inclu. science of seasons, activities)



Red & black foods: enchiladas, red & black bean & red onion salad, cranberry cake, strawberry shortcake, ladybug cupcakes (also, watermelon, cherries, pomegranate, raspberries, currants, apples, plums, pears, red grapes, blackberries, black figs, red drink or Jello, red & black licorice, jelly beans, olives, black rice & pasta, lasagna, spaghetti, chili, peppers, beets, potatoes, cabbage, radishes, tomatoes—you can also decorate tomato halves cut side down like ladybugs . . .)

(Pentecost/Whitsunday)—7th Sunday after Easter (also, Jewish Festival of Weeks/Shavuot)

Earliest is May 10, latest is June 13

- see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentecost> includes lots of interesting background, history, various celebrations/customs
- The Coming of the Holy Spirit by Robert Baden, the story in rhyme, available on Kindle
- see Acts 2, of the New Testament (Bible)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIJrk9-dtRE> good portrayal of the NT story, follows the scriptures, 9min
- doves—learn about doves; why symbol of Holy Spirit? Role of dove with Noah's ark.
- Shavuot: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shavuot>, Ex. 34:22, Deut. 16:10, Num 28:26; <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/shavuot-activities-for-kids/> and <https://pilibrary.org/shavuot> and <http://jewitup.com/our-favorite-childrens-books-for-shavuot/>
- the book of Ruth in the OT is read on Shavuot, and the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20)

July



- fruits and veggies from the garden, cherries, apricots
- make star shaped ice, Jello, cakes, etc
- building block cabins, quilts, color Sun Bonnet Sue, stitch gingham, Old MacDonald and other farms, wagons, wheelbarrow races, bike rodeo/parade
- compare transportation and other technology then and now
- family reunions/gathering
- western migration/expansion in the US
- science (Ben Franklin not only a Founding Father, but a scientist):

Experiments—The Curious Kid's Science Book: 100+ Creative Hands-On Activities for Ages 4-8 by Asia Citro

Electricity—Power Up by Seth Fishman; Switch On, Switch Off by Melvin Berger (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science 2),
2 min video from Australia where we get electricity https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zif9w_vqx0

Magnets—What Makes a Magnet? By Franklyn Branley, Magnets: Pulling Together, Pushing Apart by Natalie Rosinsky, Magnets Push, Magnets Pull by David A. Adler, A Look at Magnets by Barbara Alpert, The Shivers in the Fridge by Fran Manushkin

Energy—Energy Makes Things Happen by Kimberly Bradley Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science Series, level 2)

Forces—Forces Make Things Move by Kimberly Bradley (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science Series, level 2)

Simple machines—Simple Machines by D.J. Ward (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science Series, level 2), Simple Machines: Wheels, Levers, and Pulleys by David A. Adler, How Do You Lift a Lion? By Robert E. Wells (Wells of Knowledge Science Series)

Balance—Balancing Act by Ellen Stoll Walsh (ages 2-8), Just a Little Bit by Ann Tompert,

Canada Day—July 1

- be neighborly! Learn a little Canadian history/culture; compare their history/geography with the USA
- Foods: poutine (French fries with gravy & cheese curds), bacon & maple syrup, butter tarts, "beavertails" (pastry shaped like a beaver tail), Nanaimo bars, game meat (such as boar, bison, venison, caribou, rabbit), salmon, BC spot prawns, okechries, chsaskatoon berries, wild or lowbush blueberries, blueberry blossom honey, oysters, apples, Prince Edward Island potatoes and mussels, Nova Scotia lobster and blueberry grunt and rappie pie, Alberta beef, Montreal bagels & smoked meats, bannock (traditional Scottish flat bread adopted by North American Natives), pemmican, Arctic Char, tourtiere (savory meat pie), fiddleheads (curled edible fern shoots), Halifax donairs, oka cheese, sugar pie, Saskatchewan lentils, sourdough bread and flapjacks, purple garlic ...
see <https://www.hostelworld.com/blog/best-traditional-canadian-food/> and https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/06/28/canadian-food_n_2869764.html

--to look at things from a little different perspective, Canada also looks on Niagra Falls, the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the Great Lakes, the Rocky Mountains, the Great Plains . . . Banff National Park is in the Rockies, the CN Tower is one of Canada's most famous things to see (in Toronto, Canada's largest city), see Old Quebec (Vieux-Quebec), Vancouver, BC and Whistler ski resort/village 2 hours from Vancouver BC, Ottawa's Parliament Hill (including summer changing of the guard in uniforms reminiscent of England's), St. John's Signal Hill National Historic Site (Newfoundland), Old Montreal, polar bear migration (Hudson Bay, near Churchill, Manitoba), Victoria and more on Vancouver Island (BC), Bay of Fundy between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Gros Morne National Park (Newfoundland), Calgary Stampede in July, and West Edmonton Mall



(Edmonton, Alberta Canada)—largest shopping mall in North America (was the world's largest until 2004), ride the rails across Canada --movies: "Susannah of the Mounties" 1939 Shirley Temple, "Nikki, Wild Dog of the North" 1961 Disney co-produced, "Big Red" 1962 Disney co-produced, "The Incredible Journey" 1963 shot in Canada, "Anne of Green Gables" 1985

--children's books by Canadian authors: Alligator Pie by Dennis Lee, Spork by Kyo Maclear (see also <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzwGxAd9GnQ>), Something from Nothing by Phoebe Gilman, Paulette Bourgeois is the author of the Franklin the Turtle series, Wild Berries by Julie Flett, Marie-Louise Gay has written a Stella series as well as a Sam series and Rainy Day Magic <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3F27bpxx3A>, Princess Pistachio, and Yuck, A Love Story; The Hockey Sweater by Roch Carrier (original in French, translated to English by Sheila Fischman/ an animated short "The Sweater" made in 1980, and a musical was made in 2017 trailers: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bz_-EjMJKwk and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dp3kyfjuELs>)

US Independence Day—July 4



--School House Rock: Fireworks <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmSVnP-oDRs>

--PBS video about the 4th of July, 1 min 19 sec, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvS58YqMzRM>

--fireworks song for preschoolers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVFTjO3Lo-g>

--Drummer Hoff by Barbara & Ed Emberley, Mouse Creeps by Peter Harris, America: A Patriotic Primer by Lynne Cheney, The Story of America's Birthday by Patricia A Pingry (author has a series of books for various holidays), L is for Liberty by Wendy Cheyette Lewison, This Land is Your Land illustrated by Kathy Jakobsen (song by Woodie Guthrie), America the Beautiful song by Katharine Lee Bates (various books, various illustrators, such as: Chris Gall, Wendell Minor, Neil Waldman, and a Scholastic special edition), Apple Pie 4th of July by Janet S. Wong, Hooray for the 4th of July (I'm Going to Read level 2), Hooray for the Fourth of July by Wendy Watson (not the same as previous)

--puzzle challenge: who can put the 50 states together? Or, how many states can you name? Who lives (in this state)...?

--sing all the patriotic songs at a campfire making S'mores, while awaiting the fireworks

--make your own family/friends or extended family 4th of July parade

--do you have ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War, or another country's fight for freedom? Tell their stories, draw pictures to illustrate, make a booklet...

Pioneer Day/Founder's Days/local historic celebrations

--if you have pioneers that helped to discover or settle the west, share their stories

--have your own family history or pioneer parade with hats, vests, boots, bandanas, bonnets, aprons . . .

--attend a community parade or other historic commemoration; many communities have historic re-enactments

--have pioneer relays, sack races, egg toss, tug o' war, sawing/digging/hammering contests, square dancing, walk a mile? Sing pioneer and/or cowboy songs, cook over a fire . . .

--make bread/butter/jam, stew, jerky or smoked meat/fish, pickles, pie, homemade ice cream, family/ancestor recipes...

--note: the rhyme "1, 2, Buckle My Shoe" is like children's chores:

put your shoes on, shut the door as you go out to gather sticks and stack them for the fire, gather the eggs. What other chores did kids have in "the old days"? Ask your grandparents to tell about their childhood.

--watch "Little House on the Prairie", "Sarah, Plain and Tall" 1991, "Pecos Bill", Disney's "American Legends", "Home on the Range" 2004 Disney animation, "The Lone Ranger"

--Covered Wagons, Bumpy Trails & Rough, Tough Charley by Verla Kay, Dandelion by Eve Bunting, Apples to Oregon by Deborah Hopkinson, see also: <https://www.mylearningtable.com/what-to-read-wednesday-pioneer-books-for-kids/>



Summer Olympics—July/Aug 2020, & every 4th year after

--create your own family/friends backyard Olympics with events suitable to the skills of the participants—such as walking a 2x4", balloon volleyball, an obstacle course, jump rope, a bike race, show your swimming skills, archery, rowing, horse riding, gymnastics, tennis, trampoline, martial arts . . . Wilma Rudolph by Isabel Sanchez Vegara (Little People, Big Dreams series), Jesse Owens by Laurie Calkhoven (You Should Meet series), The First Olympics of Ancient Greece by Lisa M. Bolt Simons (also Kindle), simple coloring book at <https://www.icanteachmychild.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Olympic-Events-Alphabet-Coloring-Book.pdf>

August



--blackberries are in season, in the Pacific Northwest . . . lots of fruits and veggies are ripening in Aug; cool treats for the heat; banana boats/planes, freeze an ice castle, explore sun and shade/shadows

--Summer Vacations, day trips, exploring, such as:

- Mountains, lakes, rivers, fishing, camping, picnicking
- Beach, Hawaii or Hawaiian themed party/luau (or other islands)
- Boating, swimming, target practice (bow & arrow, guns, darts . . .
- Sports camps? Balloon rides?
- Water or Amusement parks, state & county fairs
- Girls'/Guys' Get-Away, or, each week picnic/play at a different city park
- Summer concerts and activities through parks & rec, schools, etc.
- Study of the Night sky, telescopes, visit an observatory or planetarium
- Museums (art, science, culture...), historic or tourist sites, zoo, etc.
- Family gatherings/reunions; picnic/(kiddie) pool party on the patio



--How do you travel? Explore options. Read Who Sank the Boat?

--trace your route on a map, collect car games for the trip, make a scrap book of your vacation, . . .

--sing "Row Your Boat", "Sailing, Sailing", "Down by the Station", "Love Train", "I've Been Working on the Railroad", "Rock Island Line", "A Bicycle Built for Two", "The Wheels on the Bus", "Leavin' On a Jet Plane" "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star", "When You Wish Upon a Star" , "Take Me Out to the Ballgame", camp songs, other family favorites (or songs passed down through the generations), songs by theme or decade to make the car ride shorter. . .



“Lava” <https://www.google.com/search?q=lava+song&oq=lava+song&aqs=chrome..69i57j0l5.2127j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>), . . .

--before a reunion or family gathering, gather pictures of everyone, or family groups, to review who is who (you could glue them to a simple chart); collect pictures of the gathering and organize them afterward, or make a scrap book of the family/reunion

--look for animal tracks and try to identify them

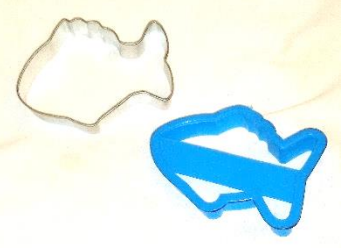
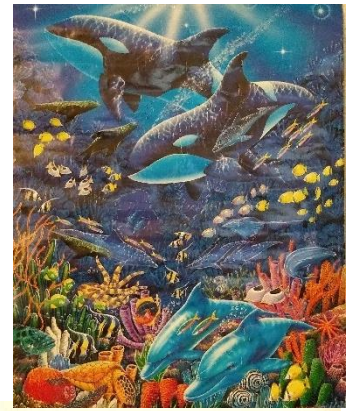
--movies: “Mr. Bean’s Holiday” 2002 comedy, “Johnny Lingo” 1969, “The Legend of Johnny Lingo” 2003, “Moana” 2016 animated comedy adventure, “Lilo and Stitch” 2002 Disney animated (and sequels), “Surf’s Up” 2007 animated adventure/comedy, Beach Party movies with Annette Funicello and Frankie Avalon of the mid 1960s, Elvis Presley beach movies (“Blue Hawaii”, etc.—you can Google for more), “Finding Nemo” (and “Finding Dory”), “Swiss Family Robinson” 1960 (remake 1998), “Robinson Crusoe”, “Shipwrecked” 1990 . . . various pirate movies . . . “Soul Surfer” 2011 family biography/drama . . .

--books about the beach: of course Swiss Family Robinson, Robinson Crusoe, Beach by Elisha Cooper, Duck & Goose Go to the Beach by Tad Hills, A Day at the Seashore by Kathryn Jackson, Flotsam by David Wiesner, The Seashore Book by Charlotte Zolotow, Seashells by the Seashore by Marianne Berkes, Hello Ocean by Pam Munoz Ryan, Bats at the Beach by Brian Lies, At the Beach by Ann & Harlow Rockwell . . . and lots more!

--books about camping, etc.: A Camping Spree with Mr. Magee by Chris Van Duesen, Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping by Peggy Parish (An I Can Read Book level 2), Baily Goes Camping by Kevin Henkes, Curious George Goes Camping by Margret & H.A. Rey, Flashlight by Lizi Boyd (wordless), Toasting Marshmallows: Camping Poems by Kristine O’Connell George, Today I’m Going Fishing with My Dad by N.L. Sharp, Gone Fishing by Earlene R. Long, The Berenstain Bears: Gone Fishin’! (I Can Read Level 1) . . .

--books about sports: My First Book of . . . (Baseball, Basketball, Football in the series Rookie Book), Little Sports series (Little Baseball, Little Basketball, Little Football), Play Ball, Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish (I Can Read! Level 2; more I Can Read Books at <https://www.icanread.com/levels/>)

--other books: Family Reunion by Marilyn Singer, The Berenstain Bears’ Family Reunion (I Can Read! Level 1), Our Stars by Anne Rockwell, Stargazers by Gail Gibbons, The Planets by Gail Gibbons, Spots of Light by Dana Meachen Rau, Bright Star, Night Star: An Astronomy Story by Karl Beckstrand (poems), Glow-in-the-Dark Constellations by C.E. Thompson, Can You See What I See? Once Upon a Time by Walter Wick



National Park Service birthday

free entrance National Parks and Washington State Parks; OR state parks free previous weekend

September



- jobs, careers, chores, child labor; try all different chores around the house, make a chore chart
- muscles: try different exercises that use different muscles; what do muscles need to work? Lift a light weight (such as a paper), a medium weight (such as a can), and a heavy weight (such as a gallon of milk). How long can you hold each up? Reference book: My First Body Book by Angela Wilkes, for reading: Me and My Amazing Body by Joan Sweeney
- apple art, science, math, literature; The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree by Gail Gibbons, The Apple Tree—A Modern Day Cherokee Story Told in English & Cherokee by Sandy Tharp-Thee, The Apple Tree by John Rebolz, The Apple Pie Tree by Zoe Hall
- apple tree resources <https://www.readinga-z.com/book.php?id=2418>
- building block buildings, esp towers
- Check out National Public Lands Day (free day for Washington State Parks, too)

(new school year)

- sing "School Days", alphabet and counting songs (lots of versions/options on internet/videos/CDs)
- How rules help us: 1. They help us know what to expect, 2. They help keep us safe, 3. They help make things fair (compare traffic rules, pool rules, game rules ... is it fun to play with a cheater? If you cheat to win, have you really won?)
- to get more freedom/privileges, be more responsible—show you can make good choices & stick to them
- make patterns by sequencing different color apples; count, sort, group, combine, cut & count apple pieces
- to read: 10 Apples on Top, Dr. Seuss ABC Book, I'm Your Bus, Curious George Goes to School, David Goes to School, Morris Goes to School, Sammy the Seal, Teacher from the Black Lagoon
- explore what school was like in the old days: browse through McGuffey's Eclectic Primer (you can find it online at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/14642/14642-pdf.pdf>), write on a lap chalkboard . . .
- "Kindergarten Cop" 1990 comedy, "The Nutty Professor", "The Absent Omined Professor", "Flubber", "The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes"

Labor Day—1st Monday September



--play career dress up or charades; there are children's card games with career themed cards, or make your own
--play restaurant: how many different jobs are involved? (waitress, cook, cashier, delivery person, janitor, manager ...); what will you serve? Make a picture menu, set a table, play it out
--Books: Labor Day by Robin Nelson, Joe Kaufman's Book About Busy People and How They Do Their Work by Joe Kaufman, Career Day by Anne Rockwell, The Berenstain Bears' Jobs Around Town, When I Grow Up by Al Yankovic, When I Grow Up by Tad Carpenter, Bears at Work (in English and Spanish), Whose Hat is This? and Whose Tools Are These? by Sharon Katz Cooper,

Clothesline Clues to Jobs People Do by Kathryn Heling

--movies: "Newsies" 1992 Disney family musical drama, "9-5" 1980 comedy, "Dirty Jobs" 2007 documentary (30 min)

--sing "Heigh Ho" and "Whistle While You Work" from Disney's "Snow White", "A Hard Day's Night" by the Beatles, "Takin' Care of Business" by Bachman Turner Overdrive, "9 to 5" by Dolly Parton, "Banana Boat Song" by Harry Belafonte, "Five O'clock World" by the Vogues

--last cook-out of the "summer"

9-11

--build 2 block towers and a pentagon shaped building, and using 4 toy airplanes, re-enact how the bad people crashed two planes into the towers and one into the Pentagon, and the passengers in the 4th plane tried to take back control of the airplane

--read Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey by Maira Kalman (tells from 1931 to 9-11)

--color a map of New York City boroughs and water bodies, and mark where the Twin Towers (now 9-11 memorial) were, and the Statue of Liberty stands (NYC is a historically and culturally important city for the United States, so some familiarity with it is part of being well educated)

--eat a New York specialty, such as bagels, pizza, cheese cake, pretzels ...

See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuisine_of_New_York_City

Mexico's Independence Day—Sept 16

--simple 3 minute video

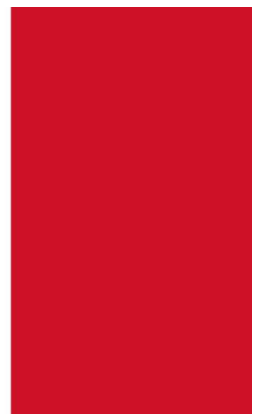
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vz6fH7MIBoo>

--Mexican food history <https://world-food-and-wine.com/mexican-food-history> and <http://www.aztec-history.com/traditional-mexican-food.html> and

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_cuisine

--authentic Mexican foods:

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/top-10-foods-try-mexico>



“Beef burritos, nachos, cheese dip, and fajitas are often on the brain when one suggests going out for Mexican food. But calling it that is incorrect in and of itself – authentic Mexican food almost never incorporates ingredients like beef, cheddar cheese, black beans, and wheat flour.” (thedailymeal.com/travel/how-mexican-food-different...)

--books: Round is a Tortilla: A Book of Shapes by Roseanne Thong, Sopa de frijoles/Bean Soup by Jorge Argueta, Todos a Comer! A Mexican Food Alphabet Book by Dr. Ma. Alma Gonzalez Perez, Diego by Johan Winter (Spanish & English versions), Too Many Tamales by Gary Soto, Abuela by Arthur Dorros (English with Spanish phrases), Off We Go to Mexico! An Adventure in the Sun by Laurie Krebs and Christopher Corr, Tiny Travelers Mexico Treasure Quest by Steven Wolfe Pereira, In My Family/En Mi Familia by Carmen Lomas Garza, Adelita: A Mexican Cinderella Story by Tomie dePaola,

--movies: “Coco” Disney animated

--get a sombrero and dance the Mexican Hat Dance <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvRRvMw9-fg>
Or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QN-p4mUbg6k>

(Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot



--books: Rosh Hashanah is Coming by Tracy Newman, Is It Rosh Hashanah Yet? By Chris Barash, New Year at the Pier: A Rosh Hashanah Story by April Halprin Wayland, Apple Days: A Rosh Hashanah Story by Allison Sarnoff Soffer, Apples and Honey: A Rosh Hashanah Story by Jonny Zucker, Talia and the Very YUM Kippur by Linda Elovitz Marshall, The Best Sukkot Pumpkin Ever by Laya Steinberg, The Very Crowded Sukkah by Leslie Kimmelman, Is It Sukkot Yet? By Chris Barash (Celebrate Jewish Holidays series)

--Celebrating Sukkot with Children (explains a little about the holiday)
<https://pilibrary.org/beyond-books/piblog/october-2014/celebrating-sukkot-with-children>

--Sukkot explained simply <https://toriavey.com/what-is-sukkot/>

--movies: “An American Tail” 1986, “The Frisco Kid” 1979, “Beau Jest” 2008, “Funny Girl” 1968

--brief synopsis of Jewish holidays: <https://www.makomny.org/jewish-holidays.html>

Fall/Winter:

Rosh Hashanah—Jewish New Year, blow shofar (ram’s horn)

1st day dip apple in honey, also enjoy round Challah bread,

tzimmes, dates, pomegranates, pumpkin, leeks, beets

see <https://www.thespruceeats.com/rosh-hashanah-menus-2122115> for menus

Yom Kippur—Day of Atonement, last day of Rosh Hashanah

(reconciliation with God & fellow beings), Fasting

Sukkot—Feast of Booths/Tabernacles, Fall Harvest, 40 yr wandering

Enjoy kreplach (stuffed dumplings), harvest foods

Chanukah/Hanukkah—Festival of Lights, Maccabees,

enjoy things cooked in oil, such as latkes & donuts

see <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/hanukkah-foods/>

Spring:

Purim—Queen Esther, enjoy hamantashen cookies

Passover/Pesach—Exodus from Egypt, eat no leavening

Shavuot/Feast of Weeks (7 weeks after Passover)—end of first grain

harvest in Israel, celebrate also the giving of the 10 Commandments,

enjoy dairy foods, blintzes & cheesecake



October



--pumpkin/Jack O'lantern art, science, math ... pumpkin faces/feelings, pumpkin faces/shapes, count seeds or pumpkin stamps/stickers, cut pie or other pumpkin treat (simple intro to fractions), growing pumpkins, etc.
--bats, cats, spiders, skeletons/bones—compare inner and exoskeletons, count/sort stamps or stickers, figures, etc.—reading, writing, art, science, math activities using bats, cats, spiders, skeletons, or skeletons, etc.
--dress-up

--role play personal safety rules: 1. Know name/parent's names, address, phone numbers; 2. Don't accept candy/money/etc from strangers without parent there—get away from that person/never go with a stranger (don't believe stories they tell to try to entice); 3. Don't climb fences, don't go in houses without parent; 4. Buddy system/don't go off alone/without permission; 5. The area a bathing suit covers is personal and private—teach about good/bad touch; 6. Good secrets/bad secrets—you don't have to keep a promise made under duress (eg someone makes you promise not to tell); 7. What to do when lost; 8. Don't give out your personal information except to emergency personnel; 9. Trust your gut: if you feel uncomfortable, avoid/don't do it—don't feel you have to prove yourself by doing a dare; 10. Know when to call 911

A good site: <https://www.thepragmaticparent.com/safety-rules-for-kids/>

--bird migration art, science, math, etc <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/the-basics-how-why-and-where-of-bird-migration/> "Winged Migration" 2001 documentary



Columbus Day—2nd Monday October

--explorers, Native Americans, oceans, ships

--foods: Italian & Spanish, Native American (google recipes)

--math ideas: count “gold” coins (chocolate, plastic, etc.), sort ships by kind/size ...

--history: put pictures of ships in order (ancient ships with oars, sailing ships, steamers, modern passenger ships); learn about Native American cultures, compare Native American cultures to European cultures

--science: North American habitats, make little “ships” to float from walnut shell halves, paper bowls, etc

--art: crafts of any of the above

--Columbus’ ship https://www.123rf.com/photo_56546472_stock-vector-sailing-ship-floating-on-the-sea-waves-caravel-santa-maria-with-columbus-hand-drawn-design-element-v.html



--books: A Picture of Book of Christopher Columbus by David A. Adler (perhaps a bit much for a preschooler), Christopher Columbus by Stephen Krensky (Step into Reading level 3), Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus by Peter Sis, Christopher Columbus by Marion Dane Bauer (My First Biography series), In 1492 by Jean Marzollo, Adventures of the Treasure Fleet: China Discovers the World by Ann Bowler, [could not find a simple book or video on Leif Erikson, so you would just have to tell a brief story of him], The Very First Americans by Cara Ashrose (All Aboard Books), North American Indians by Douglas Gorsline (may need to be summarized for preschoolers), Brilliant Boats by Tony Mitton & Ann Parker, Historic Sailing Ships Coloring Book by Tre Tryckare Company (although this is meant for older children, could be a browsing book for young children)

--nursery rhyme video “I Saw a Ship a Sailing, a Sailing on the Sea”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVwhUpznyA0>

--Columbus Day printable simple word book

<https://www.enchantedlearning.com/books/holiday/columbus/wordsmini/>

--song video about Columbus for preschoolers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yzzCYJDPrQ>

Halloween—Oct 31



--pumpkin and Halloween treats, lots of ideas online,

such as <https://www.countryliving.com/food-drinks/g1194/halloween-treats/>

--songs: “Eensy Weensy Spider”, “5 Little Pumpkins” (two)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cm1qvX1ygOo> and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trDI36m9pgA>, “The Monster Mash”, (Halloween Rules, not about rules, but the fun of Halloween)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=du06K8aSK1s>, “The Adams Family” theme (find on YouTube), “Ding, dong, the Witch is Dead!” from The Wizard of Oz, “The Purple People Eater”, more songs on KIDiddles:

<https://www.kididdles.com/lyrics/spookyongs.html> and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nUQCuk7fDI>

--A song I learned as a kid, but didn’t find online:

Halloween, Halloween, Lots of fun on Halloween:

Black cats and Ghosts, skeletons too

All together, they all say “Boo!”

(I always thought it was “elephants” and couldn’t figure that!)



--movies: “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown” 1966 animated, “Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein” 1948 comedy, “The Adventures of Ichabod and Mr. Toad” 1949 Disney animation, “Bedknobs and Broomsticks” 1971 Disney live/animation, “Bewitched” 2005 comedy, “The Black Cauldron” 1985 animation,

“Blackbeard’s Ghost” 1968 comedy, “Casper” 1995, “Hotel Transylvania” (1, 2, & 3) 2015-2018 animated comedies, “Igor” 2008 animated comedy, “Monsters, Inc” 2001 and sequel, animated comedy, “Escape to Witch Mountain” 1975 (remake 1995 “Race to Witch Mountain” 2009)

--books: Clifford and the Halloween Parade, Grow a Pumpkin Pie, Pumpkin Heads!, Pumpkin Time, The Runaway Pumpkin, The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything, Bears in the Night, Berenstain Bears and the Spooky Old Tree, Go Away Monster, I Spy Spooky Night, The Monster at the End of This Book, What Was I Scared Of?, Where’s My Mummy?, The Monster Under the Shed (Thomas & Friends), The Count’s Counting Party, The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle, Anansi’s Narrow Waist, Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti, The Spider and the Fly, Are You a Spider?, Spiders by Laura K. Murray (Seedlings series has several titles about various animals), Pete the Cat series, Kitten’s First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes, Kitty by Nick Bruel (series), Hello Kitty series, Cat in the Hat series, books about bats for young ones at <https://www.adabofgluewilldo.com/books-about-bats/>



November



- leaves, giving thanks (make thank you cards, esp. for Vets), harvest (make harvest baskets for the needy) . . .
- hunting, "A Hunting We Will Go", Tom Lehrer sings "The Hunting Song" (1967 comedy)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQyoSLOglw>
- hibernation: Bear Can't Sleep by Karma Wilson
- digestion

Daylight Savings ends—1st Sun Nov

- see Daylight Savings begins, in March

Election Day—2nd Tues Nov

- vote for what to eat, who to eat it with, who will provide, who is in charge, who will cook, clean, etc.
- books: Lilian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by Jonah Winter (summarize for young children, talk about the pictures), One Vote, Two Votes, I Vote, You Vote by Bonnie Worth (Cat in the Hat's Learning Library), Let's Vote on It! By Janice Behrens (Scholastic News Nonfiction Readers)
- 1952 Eisenhower "I Like Ike" presidential jingle
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmCDaXeDRI4>
- John Kennedy campaign song
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DoUiNxb_0
- "Young Abe Lincoln Make a Tall, Tall Man" sung by Johnny Horton
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ro0SIVPIWE>
- electioneering song from "The One and Only Genuine Original Family Band", Cleveland vs Harrison
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeQRgIii5n4>
- 3 year old speechwriter for the president
<https://www.facebook.com/tinymusician/videos/2249215298646380/?v=2249215298646380>
- US Presidents song for kids: all the presidents of the USA in order
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JlhiwNpui0> (fast)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cj-q2VNa89c> (slower)



Veteran's Day—Nov 11

- make a parade of toy army men, some carrying toothpick flags; eat red, white, and blue foods
- books: Hero Dad and Hero Mom by Melinda Hardin, Veterans Day by Jacqueline S. Cotton (Rookie Read-About Holidays—list of other holidays in the series on back cover, nice variety)
- sing the songs of US military: “Anchors Aweigh” (Navy), “The Caissons Go Rolling Along” (Army), “The Wild , Blue Yonder” (Air Force), “The Marine’s Hymn” (Marines), “Semper Paratus” (US Coast Guard)—Google them
Or, Alfred piano book: Official Songs of the United States Armed Forces
5 Piano Solos and a Medley, Arr. Dan Coates, Level: Intermediate / Late Intermediate
- 1 min video about Veteran’s Day, by PBS kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PqQkskHW3g>
- free admission to all national parks, and Washington state parks

Thanksgiving—4th Thursday



- make thankyou cards, perhaps especially for veterans and those serving in the military
- give thanks for at least one thing each day of the month
- books: Over the River and Through the Wood illustrated by Christopher Manson, Feast for 10 by Cathryn Falwell, Thank You, God, for Water (Happy Day Book), Very First Americans by Cara Ashrose, North American Indians by Marie and Douglas Gorsline, Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanksgiving by Joseph Bruchac, The First Thanksgiving by Linda Hayward (Step into Reading level 3), The Pilgrims' First Thanksgiving by Ann McGovern, The Story of the Pilgrims by Katharine Ross (not my favorite)

--songs: “Over the River and Through the Wood”, “Thanksgiving Day is Coming, and Mr. Turkey said, ‘I’d better watch out when I go out, or I may lose my head”, “For Health and Strength and daily bread we praise Thy Name O Lord”, various Thanksgiving hymns . . .

--Thanksgiving Songs ... video (begins w/cute dance) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t61ptUMZHhw>



- turkey and Thanksgiving arts/crafts for kids on web; one popular is to make a turkey from a hand print
- traditional Thanksgiving feast: roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes & gravy, cranberry sauce, candied yams/sweet potato casserole, rolls, green bean casserole, corn, pies; for foods of the 1st Thanksgiving, see books above. For modern adaptations, google Thanksgiving menus/recipes;

leftover turkey can be used to make soup or pot pie
--while you're letting the food settle, movies: “Garfield Thanksgiving Special”, “Winnie the Pooh ‘Our Thanksgiving Day’”, various versions of Pocahontas (mostly so far from fact I can't watch them), Alvin and the Chipmunks “Alvin’s Thanksgiving Celebration” 2008, Dora the Explorer “Dora’s Thanksgiving Day Parade” 2012, “Molly’s Pilgrim”



Black Friday (day after Thanksgiving) many shop sales, but you can spend it at a National Park; free entrance to Washington state parks; free fishing/crabbing/clamming weekend in Oregon

(Hanukkah—the Festival of Lights)—Nov/Dec

- books: Is It Hanukkah Yet? By Chris Barash, Hanukkah Bear by Eric A. Kimmel, The Night Before Hanukkah by Natasha Wing
- information about Hanukkah <https://pjlibrary.org/hanukkah> (Hanukkah celebrates the Maccabees)
- foods: latkes, apple sauce, donuts (things fried in oil)
- songs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLqG3BqMC8E> , <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqJqGWcqNV8>

December



- make Christmas cookies and treats for family and friends, neighbors, needy, lonely
- donate time/money to various charities, bell ringers, food & clothing collections, shelters
- Gingerbread house, gingerbread train/train station, gingerbread man, Hansel & Gretel . . .
- jigsaw puzzles, Christmas village . .
- 12 Days of Christmas . . . “ring & run”, leaving a gift for a family 12 days in a row, anonymously
- caroling, wassail or hot chocolate



Advent—begins 4th Sunday before Christmas, between 27 Nov & 3 Dec

- ready house and hearts for the coming of Christ
- Advent Calendar (may include readings from the Bible)
- watch Christmas specials, make a cookie nativity
- send cards & packages to loved ones and people serving away from home
- send homemade recording of a family Christmas program to grandparents or people away from home

(Hanukkah)

--see November



Christmas Eve—Dec 24

- Christmas Eve “Light of the World” dinner with Jesus foods, or, Nativity Dinner: shepherd’s pie, candy/fruit/nut cups for gold/frankincense/myrrh (chocolate coins/smoked almonds/dried apricots, golden raisins, or jelly beans), “Bread of Life”, “Living Water”, angel cake (decorate as an angel)
- retell or role play the Nativity story/make a little family program including songs & poems

Christmas—Dec 25

- traditional: goose, prime rib, ham, turkey dinner or buffet (lots of recipes in books, magazines, online...)
- movies: “It’s Christmas, Charlie Brown” 1965 animation, “A Very Monkey Christmas” 2009 animated Curious George, “A Dog Named Christmas” 1998, “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” 1966 animated (2000 live action, “The Grinch” 2018), “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer”, “The Velveteen Rabbit” 2009 live and animation, “Frosty the Snowman” 1969 animation, “Prancer”, “The Santa Clause” and sequels, etc.
- books: Bible & Bible stories, Babushka: An Old Russian Folktale by Charles Mikolaycak, The Legend of Old Befana: An Italian Christmas Story by Tomie dePaola,
- Simplified retellings of: The Nutcracker, The Velveteen Rabbit, The Little Match Girl by Hans Christian Anderson, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry, The Steadfast Tin Soldier by Hans Christian Anderson . . . list of 20 famous Christmas Stories <https://osr.org/blog/tips-gifts/20-famous-christmas-stories/> and a list of 30 <https://medium.com/the-mission/the-30-best-christmas-books-of-all-time-c492c468051b> a list of 8 to read as a family <https://medium.com/the-mission/8-christmas-stories-to-read-as-a-family-on-christmas-eve-e012f3b9c007> and more

Below: Nutcracker themed buffet for Christmas



Kwanzaa & Boxing Day—Dec 26 (Kwanza lasts til Jan 1)

- Boxing day is not about the fight rink, it’s a day to box up Christmas décor, etc.—have a box lunch
- info about Kwanzaa: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kwanzaa>

7 candles represent unity, self-determination, work/responsibility, cooperation, purpose, creativity, faith

- books: Together for Kwanzaa by Juwanda G. Ford, Seven Spools of Thread: A Kwanzaa Story, by Angela Shelf Medearis, Kevin’s Kwanzaa by Lisa Bullard and Costansa Basaluzzo, The Story of Kwanzaa by Donna L.

Washington,

- Kwanzaa Songs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kg2T3zRfIRc>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPR7jsc6JRw> , <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4u5xSa0zmo>

New Year’s Eve—Dec 31

- snacks, hors d'oeuvres, antipasto, appetizers, fondue, family games or movies
- make party hats, homemade band/percussion to make a noise at midnight
- have an early “midnight” (celebrate early, for instance, when NYC greets the New Year)
- review the year for yourself/family—tell stories of the best or most hilarious times for the year
- watch a show about the big news stories of the year