## Kindergarten Activities by Holidays \& Monthly Themes

Following are some ideas for the kinds of activities you can do with Kindergarteners each month . . . The images are not necessarily printable, just some ideas about what you can do with not a lot of prep time. Look around your house, invest in a few supplies . . . You don't have to go out and buy it all at once, just collect a little perhaps each month. You might suggest to grandparents, other friends \& relatives, that these are the kinds of things they could provide in place of less enriching fare as gifts.


Jan—New Year, MLK Jr, snow, black \& white

What's black \& white around the house?



Storytelling, Art, Vocabulary, Science, Writing, Math . . .


Snowman:
Trace 3 size circles on white paper. Paste onto black paper. Black dots from paper punch can make eyes and buttons. Draw more details with pen and white chalk. Note size comparison of circles.

## Snowflake:

Fold a paper diagonally and cut off the extra, so that you have a square. Fold into another triangle. Draw design to cut if you like. Label with white chalk. Note symmetry.

black and white beans sprouted

Black \& White Bean
Penguin (start with 2-oval outline)


Measure the licorice pieces. How many of each size?
(trim a piece of licorice to $8^{\prime \prime}$, then cut others in multiples of $2^{\prime \prime}$ segments)

February-red, hearts, octagonal stop sign, friendship/kindness/social skills
Groundhog Day, Valentines, Presidents Day, Superbowl Sunday (sometimes Mardi Gras, Chinese New Year, Leap Year), Black History Month


Red Cardinal bird; Groundhogs—small, medium, large: which would eat more? Which less? Which the most, which least? Computers make it easy to make an image smaller and larger.


Chinese Zodiac-find a folk tale each year
2020 rat
2021 ox
2022 tiger
2023 rabbit
2024 dragon
2025 snake
2026 horse
2027 goat
2028 monkey
2029 rooster
2030 dog
2031 pig


Chinese New Year dancers performing at the Mall


How to Win Friends \& Influence People by Dale Carnegie --Put hearts with the 6 principles written on them in a bag or bowl.
--Take turns pulling a heart out of the bag and acting out the principle (could be charades teams).
--Paste the hearts on a paper or put them on a flannel board or something similar to review at the end.


Small bowl, large bowl, "Superbowl"
Which has more? Which has less? Which has the most? Which has the least?


Early reds in the garden: Lenten Rose \& rhubarb


A fun winter gift bag. Redwork embroidery.


More red animals:
Red Ruffed Lemurs
https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/red-ruffed-lemur

25 Amazing Red Animals . . . nice photos, brief info https://list25.com/25-amazing-red-animals-you-need-to-see-to-believe/


Red around the house and out \& about:




Sort \& Order: tallest to smallest \& vice versa, group by color and size, which is more, which less?

March— green, Dr. Seuss Birthday/National Read Across America Day, Pi Day, St. Patrick's, Spring Equinox, March Madness, "in like a lion, out like a lamb", (Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Day, Purim)


Make a shamrock similar to making a snowflake. Fold the paper down and mark where to cut to make a square. Fold it two more times to make triangles. Draw where to cut. Don't cut the center apart. You can make the shamrock simple and easy, or make a
 more decorative one, depending on skill level.


Above center: shamrocks \& African Violet (in ivy pot). Right: celery "tree", tree stencil.


Hats for St. Pat's.
Green gems \& jewelry.


March begins the garden season.


Use the gold foil wrapping from two chocolate coins for the pot of gold.


Equi = equal; nox = night: days and nights are equal. Alternatively, you can use a brad to attach moveable hands on the clocks. Note that the hands go around the clock twice in a 1-day cycle.

X and O,
X and O,
Tic Tac Toe
Tic Tac Toe
which line is dashed?
which line is dashed?
vertical or horizontal!
vertical or horizontal!

.........
.!!..

How many frogs have green skin? । How many altogether?

Two fat frogs
sat on a log.
One jumped in to take a swim. How many left on the log?


Pot of gold: count the coins. How would you spend them? (If they were half dollars.)

April—pink, April Fools, April showers/rain, Tax Day, Arbor Day, Earth Day, gardening all spring, (sometimes Passover, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter)


Light \& dark pink, tall \& short snapdragons; pink Rock Rose, petal number \& shape


Pink rhododendron cluster of flowers. How many flowers from the cluster?


Italian Heather; pink hydrangeas, pink flamingo stuffed animals


Count the petals on a clematis flower, above left. What colors \& shape are they? How are the clematis and the tulips (center) alike (similar) and different?


Count the shrimps curled into pink spirals; salmon fish, look at the lines; salmon silver skin side, pattern of scales showing (though the scales have been scraped/cleaned off)

14 Pink Animals
https://www.treehugger.com/slideshows/natural-sciences/pink-animals/


Which pig is partly pink?
Octopi may be pink, or other colors.
Have you seen a worm that is partly or all pink after a rain?


Circle the dark pink gumballs. Count the light and dark pink gumballs. How many altogether? Look at the pattern of pairs. Pink grapefruit happy face. Count the circles (3), count the sections.


Drawing and writing in pink salt on black paper or aluminum foil. Could be done in a low-sided dish to contain the salt. Salt can be saved for further projects in art and science.


Eyes
Open them and shut them, Open them and shut them.
Can you do it fast?
Open one, shut one, Open two, shut two, Flutter them at last.

To make a pink tulip picture, draw an egg shape or oval on pink paper. If you fold the paper, you can cut out 2 or more at a time. Cut one of the ovals in two vertically for the outer petals. Place the pink oval and half-ovals on the paper to see where to paste/glue them. The half ovals should go behind the whole oval. Just use one oval for a tulip bud. Glue the flowers on the paper and draw the stems and leaves. You can give as a card (for instance on May Day: May 1)

find half empty.


| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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Passover or Easter week: draw a picture for each day. What days are "weekdays", "weekend"?

May—purple, flowers, May Day/Mother Goose Day, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Memorial Day: it's all about memories--making them and celebrating them.

May flowers-little purple pansies (and violas), petunias, and more . . .


Can you count the flowers in each photo above? Far right are purple Allium spherical (ballshaped) clusters of tiny flowers. The white sphere is a ball of onion flowers. Count the spheres.


Rhododendron, lavender, lilac blossoms above.


Columbine left; I'm not sure what in the center, but pretty. Dark purple iris on the right.

crocheted afghan, wisteria "tree" made with wire and beads, purple rose, May Pole quilt.


The first day of May is called "May Day". People used to give flowers for May Day, sometimes in baskets. You can make one like this to give to neighbors, family, friends, especially elderly folks, or people in rest homes, to let them know they are not forgotten. (The "Mayday!" that is a call for help is from the French " $m$ 'aider", meaning "help me.")


For May Day people were so happy for Spring, they used to dance around a Maypole with streamers, going opposite directions, so that the colorful streamers were woven together. Go to Coloring-Page.net to get a page to color: Spring Coloring Page - The May Pole.

Or, instead of a May Pole, you can set a big pot or vase of roses in the center (stable, so it won't tip over) and play the Mother Goose Rhyme "Ring Around the Rosies". "Pockets" used to be like little draw-string bags. You can carry a little bag of posies (flowers) hanging from your wrist or belt as you play the game.

Here is an M\&M flower. What else can you use to make colorful flowers?


Cinco de Mayo is the fifth day of the fifth Month.
What is the first month of our calendar year?
What is the second? The third? Fourth?

A simple colorful skirt can be made by sewing colorful strips of cloth together horizontally, adding elastic at the waist, and a shirt hem at the bottom, or putting lace around the bottom. You can get a Mexican hat at the $\$ 1$ store to dance around. Boys may just like to wear a hat as they dance in a circle to Mexican music you can find on the internet.


Big colorful flower décor perhaps for Cinco de Mayo

US stamp: Cinco de May $32 \$$


Purple animals: certain fish, beetles, sea stars, sea snails, butterflies, frogs, snakes ... https://www.animalfunfacts.net/pictures/animals-by-color/379-purple-animals.html http://blognator.com/purple-animals/


## Purple Honors

You may honor a wounded soldier with a purple heart, You may honor your mother with a purple tart, You may honor your teacher by being smart, But the best way to honor them is to play an honorable part In life.

Cut out a flower, or a bunch of flowers, and tape it to the skewer with the cute saying. Option: add leaves.


poppies in remembrance, for Memorial Day

June—blue, Flag Day, Juneteenth, Summer Solstice (longest day of the year), Father's Day, BBQ, bugs (esp. bees, butterflies, beetles), birds, berries, brides ...


Blue outdoors: blue balloons (larger and smaller) to bat around in the air or over a net/obstacle, blue glass tulip, blue sidewalk chalk, blue play do' and dinosaur (Jello) mold can be used with play do', blue pinwheel, blue bubble bottle, blue bird rain gauge-for fun, science, art . . . round blue mosaic tile table with a pattern, blue pot for an agave plant . . .


Blue indoors: butterfly card, blue ceramic and glassware in the window, blue blankets (2 quilts \& a crocheted afghan), "the blue room"


Blue Levi/Jeans camp quilt atop bed with blue \& yellow quilt

Blue songs: "Blue Eyes", "Blue Suede Shoes", "Love is Blue", "Blue Skies", "Blue Bayou", "Don’t It Make My Brown Eyes Blue", "Blue Mood", "Once in a Blue Moon", "Blue Christmas", "Bluer Than Blue", "Off We Go Into the Wild Blue Yonder", "Song Sung Blue", "Forever in Blue Jeans" . . . https://spinditty.com/playlists/Popular-Songs-with-the-Color-Blue-in-the-Title And there are songs by the Moody Blues, and folks singin' the Blues . . .

You can Google "blue animals" to see pictures—lots of birds, some frogs, fish and sea creatures, butterflies . . . you can find sites with pictures and brief text such as https://www.animalwised.com/15-blue-animals-in-nature-3289.html and http://invorma.com/15-beautiful-blue-colored-animals/

Earth is known as "the blue planet" because it is covered with so much water that from space it looks mostly blue.

flag day . . . a flag is given as a memorial to the families of military persons who pass away


Fun with Flags sign: The King's Colors
"King James of Scotland succeeded Elizabeth the First of England in 1603. To signify the union of the two lands, he designed this flag, combining the red cross of Saint Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland. This flag flew over all the English new world colonies. Note the difference from the modern Union Jack, which has added to it the red cross of Saint Patrick for Northern Ireland."

Ladybug Luncheon/Picnic


Ladybug timer can help develop a sense of time . . . what can you do in (or for) one minute? 5?


Maybe Dad would like his hardware sorted for Father's Day? Break it up into manageable parts . . . maybe 10-20 pieces per child at a time? Could be fun to do as a relay, or teams, or a competition to see who can do the most or finish first.


The "boys in blue" can refer to policemen; a "blue collar worker" may have a job of manual labor. Lots of jobs have blue uniforms, such as,


June is typified as a month for weddings (brides)


Blue skies . . . it's not a bird, it's a plane . . . and a great day to go biking . . .


2 bags to take a trip to the seashore, and a poster of the deep blue sea


Big boat sea story from the Bible


## Action Activities:

--Fold and fly paper airplanes, how far can they fly? How fast? Compare to toy balsa airplanes. --Float your own boat. Try different materials and designs to make \& float boats. You can float them in a wading pool or other large container, even in the tub. Compare to toy boats you buy.

July-red, white, \& blue; Canada Day, July 4 Independence Day, Pioneer/Founders Days


Red, white, and blue in the garden-plant what will bloom in July for a spectacular show


## Action Activities:

--Paul Revere relay/race: each team member is given a 1-line patriotic message to run/bike/skateboard to give to a team member at a distance, who must run back and tell the message to the group. The next person is given a new patriotic message to relay.
--make a flag, practice the Pledge of Allegiance with hand over heart (tell what it means)
--visit a museum or history venue
--watch or make your own parade
--learn the "Star-Spangled Banner"
--Pioneer Chore relay: by turns, team members $1^{\text {st }}$ put on a pair of footwear, open $\&$ shut door or gate as you go out, pick up sticks from a disorderly pile, lay them straight in an orderly stack, proceed to the "hen house" to gather eggs from a nest box, and bring them back.
--Pioneer Pack-up: try to put all you would need for a trip (trek to the park/around the block, a family vacation trip, or a 3-4 month pioneer trek) in the car, a large box, or a wagon (and pull it on a "journey").
--make a model wagon or handcart. Wagon box below about the size of a matchbox.
Cardboard from packaging of linens (could use cereal box), canvas top from ordinary paper, pushpins to attach wheels.



Left: pioneer dress for a young one to dress-up below: model covered wagon, model stage coach


Washington (state) was part of Oregon Territory until 1853.


Imagine trying to fit all your belongings into a wagon.
Some went all the way overland, some rode on rafts part of the way on the Columbia River

symbols of the USA-calendar, postage stamps, animal card

For red animals, see Feb. More blue animals, see June. More white animals, see Jan.



August-yellow, vacations, things to do \& places to go, transportation

squash flower
yellow marigolds in the greens yellow foods: egg salad sandwich, pepperoncini, etc. might also include banana \& applesauce ...

--with a toy car drive across a map of the US. What will you see in each state? What sites do you want to see? Plan or prepare for a family trip-it doesn't have to be all the way across the US. You can make this a game by tossing a die for how many states you can cross if you can tell at least one thing about each. Or use a color coded spinner and drive to any state that is the same color on the map. Collect points for how many things you can tell about that state.

ways to go

## Places to go:

Zoo or Safari . . . you can make a pretend zoo with pictures of habitats. A few years ago the USPS did stamp sets that had habitats. Calendars often have animal and habitat pictures. You can find inexpensive ones, or even use used ones from family/friends. Optional: mount them.

PICIFICCOIST R III FOREST


SO\OR II DESERT


## Prairie Grasslands ACTIVITY GUIDE



## Born wíld <br> A 16-Month wall calendar



Center left: animal colorings with shades of yellow.

Below: compare shapes and coloring, and what we call them.


Art Museum or Gallery . . . you can create your own, sometimes inspired by famous works of art, make your own gallery for your family, or create a virtual tour for loved ones far away. Again, calendars can be an inexpensive source, beside library books, or $2^{\text {nd }}$ hand books.


Alaska, Hawaii, or any other place . . . calendars, picture books, photos you take, or photos friends and family share, can inspire the imagination, and can help kids have a conception of places beside just a shape and color on a map. You can decorate the house or a room, include foods, costumes, music, dance, art, stories \& folklore, etc. to pretend to vacation somewhere.


Below: shell lei, ribbon lei, crocheted lei



Hawaiian vacation at home


Action Activities:
--sort the little erasers, or use them as game pieces (Bingo, Tic Tac Toe, or others), or as rewards.
--have your own Luau, include Hawaiian music you can find at the library or online. You can even include hula or other Polynesian dancers via internet.

3 minute video
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMD1hYuAL40
nearly 2.5 hours various dances and performers
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAua1 OyHWU

How to Hula in 2.5 minutes
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qO10aSsWSU


Historical Museums \& Sites: kids will be amazed how different past technology was; take time as you travel, don't pass by historical and other informative markers. Get out the family albums and share the stories with your kids. Enrich their lives with a sense of where/who they come from.


Events of Interest: beside current interests, expand the view!


Planetariums, Observatories, Science Museums, Children's Museums, geologic sites ...

Which vehicle below would you choose to go to the moon? How can a mail truck help you travel? (may bring letters from afar) Where would you go in a sailboat? A train? A helicopter? An ambulance? (follow safety rules, no one wants to spend their vacation in the hospital!)


About 20 years ago the USDA Forest Service published a great Smokey's Coloring Book about fire safety. They don't seem to have it around still, but I finally found it at http://crayonpalace.blogspot.com/2016/09/a-coloring-book-for-smokeys-friends.html

Smokey's Five Rules:

1. Don't play with matches or lighters.
2. If you find matches or lighters, give them to an adult.
3. If you see younger kids playing with matches or lighters, take them away and give them to an adult.
4. If you see older kids playing with matches or lighters, tell an adult.
5. If you see a fire, call 911 [updated from calling the fire department].


--Sort the cards by color. Put the yellow cards in counting order.
--Turn the sand timer over at the same time starting a stopwatch or other timer to see how much time it takes the sand to fall through. You can use this as a "Just a minute" timer when someone's "minute" tends to last longer than 60 seconds. Equally so for adults as children.

Below: trip journal—adult writes the child's words/ideas and helps with drawing, this one like a rebus. Read together, review and reflect occasionally.

"Oh, What do you do in the summer time?" Name the games and what equipment they use.


Make a collage of summer activities, or the game/sport you like best (uniform, equipment, rules...)

September—primary colors, Labor Day, 9-11, school, Mexican Independence, fall equinox (see March, spring equinox), apples, (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, some years)


Paint stripes in primary colors.


This checkboard has numbered squares. Match the number of apples with the numeral and tape them together like dominoes. Cut out 3 colors of apples and put them in different patterns. Cut out the animals and put them in a hat, bag, or bowl. Take turns drawing one picture out to play Animal Charades. It can be silent Charades, or making the sound of the animal. It can also be played as teams.



One whole apple


8 apple eighths, 16 apple sixteenths
Note that the more pieces you cut an apple into, the smaller the pieces get.


Whole class exercises (different days):

1. Compare cats and dogs on a Venn Diagram. What do they both have? What do they each have that the other doesn't? 2. Use a T-chart to show how many in the class have dogs, or cats.
2. Use a bar chart to show how many total cats class members have, compared to how many dogs class members have in their families.
3. Put a picture of a pet in the center of a "spider" graph. Brainstorm what things a pet needs (option, include pictures). Compare what people need to what animals/pets need.

October-Columbus Day (ocean, ships, Italian food), Oktoberfest, Halloween, orange, bats, cats, spiders, and bones (spider exo-skeletons, the others' skeletons on the inside), $\mathbf{O}$ is for October, oval, owls, oct- (October used to be $8^{\text {th }}$ month; spiders have 8 legs, octagons 8 sides), October ShakeOut (earthquake preparedness practice), Jack o'lantern feeling faces, pirates \& princesses dress-up party if you please. (Sometimes Sukkot). Daylight Savings.


O is for October, orange, owls . . . math and art (above left is a rubbing of the back of a window décor, but could be painted, colored with markers, etc.), you could read about or study owls for science (including making comparisons between birds and other animals, between owls and other birds, and between different species of owls), think about owls in children's literature and cultural connotations of owls (That wise old owl: the less he hooted the more he heard, the more he heard the wiser he grew, we should all be like that wise old bird-roughly quoted).

"That's the way the (oatmeal chocolate chip) cookie crumbles"-earthquake symbol (or archeology "dig"); Jello, blocks and Dominoes all fall down-earthquake simulation.


5 Little Pumpkins-fence and pumpkins (with 5 different faces) on a straight piece, blue and black shadow background longer so that it curves and allows the creation to stand, poem on back). Front and back stapled together. Ceramic Jack o' Lantern cookie jar.


Draw or paste appropriate face parts on the Jack o' Lanterns, draw a face on the kitty (including whiskers). Optional color the cat a different color, or cut out a kitty face to glue in place, with frosting or google eyes, etc. Add some tree branches to the picture, if you like.


Below left: match the pirate partners (draw a line between); be careful, they are tricky: some look very similar, and some have no mates. Count the princess' jewels.

Below right: look in an anatomy book to see how feet and hand bones look. Note the spider web is a rough octagon. Count the sides.


November—brown \& gray, election day (Tuesday after $1^{\text {st }}$ Monday of November), Veterans Day (Nov 11), Thanksgiving (Diwali, Hanukkah some years)


Which animals are brown, which are gray? Which can be either?
Which animals have fur, which have feathers? Which have paws and claws?
What shape of ears? What kind of tail? What kind of nose? Which are big, medium, little?


Which eat meat? Which eat only plants? Where do they live (besides in the zoo)?
Which are active at night? Which in the day? Which are wild? Tame?



Above: dolly chair; brown and grey hiking boots—are they a pair?


Above left: brown ingredients for baking (brown flour, brown sugar, brown egg, cocoa, yeast) Above right: brown bag lunch, choose what you would mix with peanut butter for a sandwich on lightly browned (golden brown) toasted bread) - cinnamon sugar, honey, caramel, butterscotch chips, M\&Ms? Below left: squirrel and acorn sandwich/cookie cutters, or maple leaf (could mix maple syrup w/PB).



Above left: cut out a white circle and glue it on the page. Cut out part of a red circle and part of a blue circle so they leave room for the word in the middle. Glue the red and blue parts on. Write the word VOTE on the white stripe in between. Write the word "Vets" below the words "thank you". Above right: starting at Sammy Squirrel's forepaw, draw a line to help him find his acorn hidden in the leaves.



December—silver \& gold, Advent, Winter solstice, Christmas, Kwanzaa, New Year's Eve (sometimes Hanukkah)


What does it mean to be "born with a silver spoon" in one's mouth?
What does gold jewelry symbolize?


Above left: can you draw these 3 styles of Christmas trees? Above right (camera had a hard time with the reflectivity of the silver and gold papers): draw lights/flames on the menorah, how many holiday songs mention silver or gold (can you sing them)? Use markers to color 3 red Kwanzaa candles on the left, 3 green candles on the right, and a black one in the middle. Draw a flame on the top of each. 6 trees are for sale. One is sold (mark it off with an X ). Count how many are left. Now 5 trees are for sale, one is sold (mark it off), count how many are left. Continue until they are all sold.


There are 4 Sundays between Thanksgiving and Christmas (including the last of November). Many advent calendars count the days from Dec 1-24. But between Thanksgiving and Christmas are a month of days: 30-31. Could that be a reason the third Thursday of November was chosen for celebrating Thanksgiving? There are 2 gold fish, 2 silver fish. 3 fish are facing right ( 2 gold, 1 silver), and 1 is facing left. Whichever way you count it, there are 4 altogether. Note the line of symmetry used to cut the fish by folding the paper.

Above right: "I looked in the window and what did I see? Lots of things that begin with C." A cup of cocoa with cookies, a cup of Christmas tea, candles, and candy canes. Which go together? Silent Night goes with Holy Night, both from the song "Silent Night". The two reindeer go together, both deer. Which might have things you can eat? Any of them might, even a package or a wreath. But not all packages contain edibles, nor are all wreaths made with things you can eat. Each sticker has a phrase you might hear in a Christmas song: "Oh there's no place like home for the holidays", many Christmas songs speak of peace (such as, "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear", and "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day", and "O Little Town of Bethlehem"), "The Holly and the Ivy" is the name of a Christmas carol, as well as "Happy Holidays".

Fold a sheet of green construction paper in half the long way ("hot dog" style). Draw half a Christmas tree with the center at the fold. Cut it out, unfold it, then decorate it. Note the line of symmetry.


