



2024 - 2025
School Year
Calendar

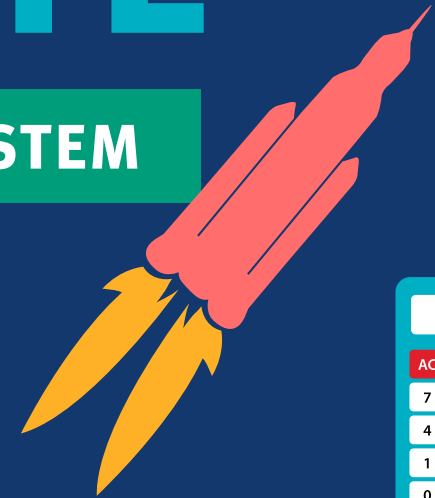
CELEBRATE

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN STEM

FIRST BOOK 

CELEBRATE

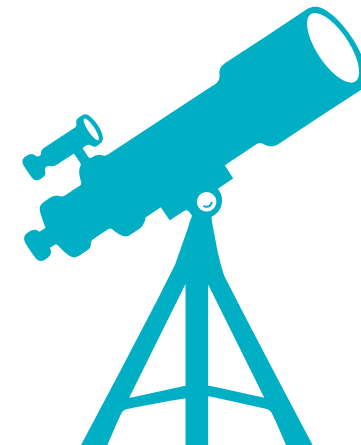
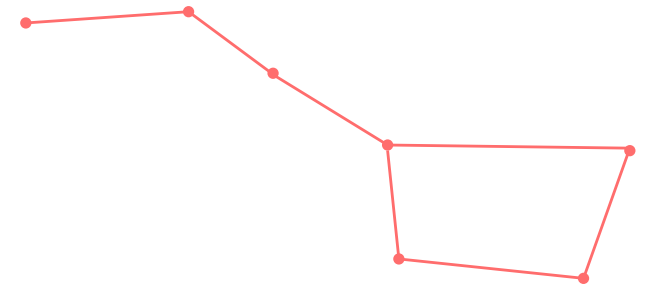
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN STEM



For the 2024-2025 school year, First Book is celebrating the wide world of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). This calendar celebrates STEM subjects and careers and the diverse scientists, engineers, and mathematicians whose contributions have changed our world for the better. Throughout the calendar, you will find themed months, religious observances, dates with cultural and historical significance, and STEM-related events and celebrations.

The U.S. population is becoming more and more diverse, and the need to embrace the many cultures in our classrooms is more important than ever. When a student's learning environment respects their history, values, beliefs, and traditions, students and their families are better positioned to thrive. Be sure to visit fbmarketplace.org/free-resources for more materials to help you celebrate culture, diversity & inclusion all year long with your students!

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FIRST BOOK 

AUGUST

August is National Back to School Month! Back to School is not just leaving summer behind — it also means meeting new teachers, getting to know a new classroom, and making new friends. For some students, this transition can cause stress and anxiety.

TRY THIS!

- ◆ Help students manage feelings of stress and anxiety and support their social and emotional competency with [Taking Care: An Educator Guide to Healthy Habits for Student Emotional Wellness](#). The guide provides strategies and activities to support young people's well-being and tips for educator self-care.
- ◆ Explore the [Social and Emotional Learning page](#) on the First Book Marketplace, searchable by topics and age range.
- ◆ Ease stress and anxiety by making students laugh with First Book's [Funny Books](#) category.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NATIONAL BACK TO SCHOOL MONTH				1	2 Isabel Allende was born on this day in 1942. Allende is a Chilean writer whose stories honor the lives of women and combine myth and historical events. She has sold more than 75 million books.	3
4 Barack H. Obama, the 44th and first African American president of the United States, was born on this day in 1961.	5 Dr. Shirley Anne Jackson, an inventor and physicist, was born on this day in 1946. She was the first Black woman to receive a Ph.D. from MIT.	6 Sonia Sotomayor was confirmed as the first Supreme Court Justice of Hispanic descent on this day in 2009.	7 José M. Hernández, a Mexican American astronaut and engineer, was born on this day in 1962. In 2009, he spent 14 days in space.	8	9 Book Day is a time to celebrate books and reading. Ask students to share their favorite book with the class.	10 Frances "Poppy" Northcutt was born on this day in 1943. She worked for NASA and the moon's "Crater Poppy" is named for her.
11	12 The Perseid meteor shower is active yearly from mid-July to late August. Watch for this year's peak shooting star display tonight.	13 Bon Festival (Feast of Lanterns) (13th – 15th) is a Japanese Buddhist custom that honors the spirits of one's ancestors and has been celebrated for over 500 years.	14 Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day In 1942, the U.S. Marines recruited Navajo men to transmit messages in a code based on the Navajo language during WWII combat operations.	15	16 National Liberation Day of Korea celebrates the end of the decades-long Japanese occupation of Korea. It is the only holiday celebrated in both North & South Korea.	17 Marcus Garvey Day celebrates the birthday of the Jamaican politician and activist credited with starting the Back to Africa movement.
18	19 National Aviation Day was established in 1939 by President Roosevelt, who chose Orville Wright's birthday for the occasion.	20 National Radio Day In the U.S., the first commercial radio station was established in 1920 in Detroit. Radio's Golden Age was the late '20s through the early '50s.	21	22	23	24 Pluto Demoted Day recognizes when Pluto's status was downgraded from a full sized planet to a dwarf planet.
25	26 Women's Equality Day commemorates the 1920 adoption of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.	27	28	29	30 National Grief Awareness Day is an opportunity to educate people about grief and make space for loss.	31

SEPTEMBER

Welcoming Week (September 13-22) is a time to celebrate diversity in the classroom and ensure all students, including those new to the community or country, feel welcome. With International Literacy Day on the 8th and Banned Books Week starting on the 22nd, September is also a time to celebrate books as windows and mirrors.*

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Visit the [Welcoming Schools & Communities](#) and [Immigrant and Refugee Experiences](#) sections on the First Book Marketplace for books to help you build inclusive and representative libraries.
- ✦ Use the [Literacy Rich Classroom Library Checklist](#) to assess your classroom library and advocate for the resources you need to create an equitable environment.
- ✦ Explore the [Diversity & Inclusion](#) section for books that reflect our country's diversity.

* Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop introduced these concepts in her groundbreaking article "[Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors](#)" (Bishop, 1990).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day is an annual tribute to the contributions of all workers toward the strength and prosperity of the U.S.	3 Eileen Feng Gu—also known by her Chinese name, Gu Ailing—was born on this day in 2003. At age 18, she became the youngest Olympic champion in freestyle skiing after winning two gold medals and one silver medal at the 2022 Winter Olympics.	4 Los Angeles was founded in 1781 by Spaniards, Latinos, Afro Latinos, and indigenous people. L.A. currently has one of the largest Latine populations in the U.S.	5	6 National Read a Book Day is the perfect day to have students select a book from their classroom or school library.	7
8 International Literacy Day was established by UNESCO to promote literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights.	9 Ed Dwight, the country's first Black astronaut candidate was born on this day in 1933. In May 2024, at age 90, he became the oldest person to go to space.	10	11 September 11th became the National Day of Service under the 2009 Serve America Act and commemorates the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.	12 Mae C. Jemison, an engineer, physician, and astronaut, became the first Black woman to travel in space when she flew on the shuttle Endeavor in 1992.	13 Welcoming Week (13th – 22nd)	
15 National Pollution Prevention Week (16th – 22th) is time to think about pollution prevention measures and take action.	16 Eid Milad Un Nabi (16th – 17th) is the Muslim holiday marking the birth of Muhammed and is celebrated from sundown to sundown.*	17 National Voter Registration Day This day encourages voter registration across all communities and promotes awareness of upcoming local, state, and national elections.	18	19	20 International Week of the Deaf (20th – 26th) Launched in 1958, this week highlights the cultural contributions of members of the deaf community and promotes human rights.	21 International Day of Peace Established in 1981 and approved by all UN countries, this day encourages all of humanity to commit to a culture of peace.
22 Banned Books Week (22nd – 28th) is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read and free access to information.	23 International Day of Sign Languages is the time to celebrate the language and culture of deaf people and sign language users.	24	25	26 Serena Williams, one of the greatest tennis players of all time, was born on this day in 1981.	27	28 Ruby Bridges, born on this day in 1954, was the first Black child to attend an all White elementary school in New Orleans (1960), six years after <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> .
29	30 Elie Wiesel, a Romanian-born American writer was born this day in 1928. His most famous book, <i>Night</i> , is based on his experiences as a Jewish prisoner in concentration camps in Nazi Germany. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986.		ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH		HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH (September 15 – October 15)	KINSHIP CARE AWARENESS MONTH
						NATIONAL LITERACY MONTH

* Note: Islamic holidays follow the lunar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

OCTOBER

With Energy Efficiency Day on the 4th and International Day of Climate Action on the 24th, October is a great time for students to learn about energy efficiency, sustainability, climate change, and human impact.

TRY THIS!

- ◆ The award-winning [STEM Defines Our Future video series](#), created in collaboration with General Motors, features GM employees using STEM skills to address complex problems like sustainability.
- ◆ Use the accompanying [STEM Defines Our Future educator guide](#) to show students how soft skills like creativity and teamwork are important in STEM fields.
- ◆ Use First Book's [Climate Change & Human Impact](#) resources to teach kids about the importance of biodiversity and how human behavior affects the environment and climate.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH (September 15 - October 15)	LGBT HISTORY MONTH	1	2 Rosh Hashanah (2nd – 4th) The Jewish New Year begins at sundown on October 2nd. It marks the first of the Jewish High Holy Days.*	3	4 Energy Efficiency Day is a day to consider how energy efficiency can save money, reduce pollution, and create jobs.	5 National Do Something Nice Day Remind students to do something nice on Saturday and ask for volunteers to share on Monday.
6 Stress Awareness Day is an opportunity to think about sources of stress in our lives and address chronic stress.	7 Mental Illness Awareness Week (6th-12th) was established in 1990 to raise awareness about mental illness.	8	9	10 World Mental Health Day is a day to raise awareness about mental health issues.	11 National Coming Out Day is a day to celebrate coming out as LGBTQ+ and discuss the challenges and triumphs experienced in different cultural settings.	12 Yom Kippur (11th –12th) is the holiest day of the year in Judaism and is also known as the Day of Atonement.*
13	14 Indigenous Peoples' Day is a day to celebrate the contributions, traditions, and cultures of indigenous people.	15	16 International Pronouns Day seeks to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace.	17	18	19 National Chemistry Week (20th – 26th) raises public awareness of the importance of chemistry in everyday life.
20 National Day of Writing is a day to celebrate all forms of writing and recognize the importance of the written word.	21 Celia Cruz, an Afro-Cuban singer and the most popular Latin American music artist in the 20th century, was born on this day in 1925. Known as the "Queen of Salsa," she is an iconic symbol of Latin culture worldwide.	22 International Stuttering Awareness Day was designated to raise awareness about an issue that affects millions of people worldwide.	23	24 International Day of Climate Action is dedicated to addressing climate change through biodiversity and reducing carbon emissions.	25	26 Make a Difference Day is an national community service event that inspires millions to give back to their local communities.
27 Dr. Gladys Mae West, born on this day in 1930, is known for mathematical modeling that contributed to GPS technology.	28	29	30	31 Día de los Muertos/ Day of the Dead (31st – November 2nd) is a Mexican holiday that honors deceased friends and family members with celebrations and prayers.	LEARNING DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH	NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

* Note: Jewish holidays follow the lunisolar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

NOVEMBER

With World Kindness Day on the 13th and Children’s Grief Awareness Day on the 21st, November is a time to consider the profound impact grief can have on a child and the role kindness plays in supporting healing.

TRY THIS!

- ◆ Help children think about positive actions they can take with these books on [kindness and compassion](#).
- ◆ Support grieving children with [free downloadable resources in English and Spanish](#).
- ◆ Find books that help students build resilience and learn coping techniques in First Book’s [Grief, Loss, & Healing collection](#).
- ◆ Challenge students to perform random acts of kindness, and ask volunteers to share what they did and how they felt.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PUERTO RICAN HERITAGE MONTH	AMERICAN INDIAN & ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH				National Family Literacy Day kicks off a month-long celebration of the importance of families reading together. Diwali [§]	Día de los Muertos/ Day of the Dead (31st – November 2nd) is a Mexican holiday that honors deceased friends and family members with celebrations and prayers.
3	4 National Stress Awareness Day is an opportunity to reflect on the sources of physical and mental stress and how we can manage them.	5	6 Dalip Singh Saund was elected to represent California in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1956, becoming the first Asian American to serve in Congress.	7 Marie Curie (born 1867) was a Polish physicist and chemist. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person to win twice, and the only person to win in two scientific fields.	8 STEM/STEAM DAY is a day to inspire kids to explore their interests in science, technology, engineering, and math.	9 Hedy Lamarr, an award-winning actress, was born on this day in 1914. She invented frequency hopping, a type of wireless technology used in WiFi, Bluetooth, and GPS.
10	11 Veterans Day is a U.S. holiday honoring military veterans and is also celebrated internationally as Armistice Day, or Remembrance Day, commemorating the end of World War I in 1918.	12	13 World Kindness Day is a day to celebrate good deeds and commit to acts of kindness.	14	15 America Recycles Day is a day to promote and celebrate recycling.	16 International Day for Tolerance was founded by the United Nations to promote respect for various religions, languages, and cultures.
17 National Take a Hike Day encourages everyone to enjoy their local hiking trails.	18 LGBTQ+ STEM Day celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ people in STEM fields.	19	20 Transgender Day of Remembrance memorializes those who have been killed as a result of transphobia and raises awareness of the continued violence endured by the transgender community.	21 Children’s Grief Awareness Day is an opportunity to give grieving students the support they need.	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Red Planet Day commemorates the launch of Spacecraft Mariner 4 to explore Mars.	29 National Native American Heritage Day celebrates the many cultures, traditions, and contributions of Native Americans.	30

* Note: Hindu holidays follow the lunisolar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

§ Diwali is the Hindu, Jain, and Sikh festival of lights and celebrates the triumph of light over dark and knowledge over ignorance.

DECEMBER

December kicks off with National Special Education Day and International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Take time this month to promote inclusivity and accessibility in your classroom or program, and make sure all students have the tools they need to succeed.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Explore the resources in First Book's [Quick Start Guide: Free Literacy Tools to Support K-12 Students](#). These digital tools support students with vision, learning, and other differences and disabilities.
- ✦ Provide windows and mirrors for all students by sharing stories from the [Neurodivergent & Disabled Characters & Culture](#) section on the Marketplace.
- ✦ Have students work in small groups to research someone with a disability whose STEM innovation or invention has contributed to society. Have each group share what they learned with the class.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 World AIDS Day is an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the prevention, care, and treatment of HIV and AIDS, and mourning those who have died of the disease.	2 National Special Education Day commemorates the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, signed by President Ford in 1975.	3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities is a UN holiday that promotes the integration of persons with disabilities in all areas of political, economic, and cultural life.	4	5	6	7
8 Bodhi Day is a Buddhist holy day commemorating the day that the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni), experienced enlightenment, also known as <i>bodhi</i> in Sanskrit and Pali.	9 Computer Science Education Week (9th – 15th) raises awareness of the educational and career opportunities available in computer science.	10 Human Rights Day commemorates the United Nation's 1948 adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 In 1865, the 13th Amendment outlawing slavery in the U.S. was officially adopted into the Constitution, 246 years after the first Africans were brought to Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619.	19	20	21 Yule Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year and is celebrated by Pagans and Wiccans. A solstice is an astronomical event that happens twice each year.
22 Jean Michel-Basquiat, an influential artist of Haitian and Puerto Rican descent was born on this day in 1960. The children's book <i>Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat</i> , by Javaka Steptoe, is about his life.	23	24	25 Christmas is an annual Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Hanukkah ^{§*} (25th – Jan. 2nd)	26 Kwanzaa (26th – Jan. 1st) is a 7-day celebration of African heritage, culture, and unity. The holiday gets its name from the phrase <i>matunda ya kwanza</i> , meaning "first fruits" in Swahili.	27	28 Nichelle Nichols was born on this day in 1932. Her role as Lieutenant Uhura in <i>Star Trek</i> inspired many people of color to pursue careers in science.
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				

* Note: Jewish holidays follow the lunisolar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

§ Hanukkah (25th – January 2nd) is the 8-day Jewish "festival of lights," celebrating a victory over foreign rulers by sharing food, games, gifts, and lighting the menorah.

JANUARY

J.R.R. Tolkien, who wrote *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings*, has been called one of the most influential authors of all time and is considered the father of modern fantasy literature.

TRY THIS!

- ◆ Shop First Book's [Fantasy & SciFi](#) section for more stories in this genre.
- ◆ *The Hobbit* has been translated into more than 60 languages and has received two awards. Check out First Book's selection of [award-winning titles](#), as well as books in many [world languages](#).

Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy of work to support civil rights through activism and service.

TRY THIS!

- ◆ Explore First Book's collection of books on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others who have worked to support [civil rights](#).
- ◆ Inspire your students as changemakers using these [Time for Change resources](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MENTAL WELLNESS MONTH			1 The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by Abraham Lincoln on this day in 1863, freeing enslaved people held in Confederate states. Ellis Island opened in 1892.	2 National Science Fiction Day is celebrated on the birthdate of science fiction writer Isaac Asimov.	3 J.R.R. Tolkien, philologist and author of <i>The Hobbit</i> and <i>Lord of the Rings</i> , was born on this day in 1892.	4 World Braille Day is observed on inventor Louis Braille's birthday to raise awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication for blind and partially sighted people.
	5	6 Epiphany or Día de los Reyes (Three Kings Day) is a Christian holy day that recognizes the visit of the three wise men to the baby Jesus 12 days after his birth.	7 Zora Neale Hurston, author, anthropologist, and key figure of the Harlem Renaissance was born on this day in 1891. Her most famous book is <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> .	8 National Static Electricity Day is a day dedicated to the electric charge phenomenon and learning about why it happens.	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 World Religion Day encourages interfaith understanding and asks people worldwide to recognize that all religions have common spiritual goals.	20 MLK Jr. Day of Service	21	22	23 Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to earn a medical degree in the U.S. in 1849.	24
25	26 International Environmental Education Day is a chance to educate students about environmental issues.	27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day is a day to honor victims of the Holocaust and to work toward preventing future genocides.	28	29 Lunar New Year is China's most important holiday, and celebrations last 15 days. The Chinese zodiac sign for 2025 is the snake.	30	31 National Backward Day (YAD DRAWK CAB LANOITAN) is a day to use our imagination to reverse our ways. Dessert for breakfast?

FEBRUARY

Black History Month is a time to celebrate the history, achievements, and contributions of African Americans.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Explore the [Black History](#) and [Black Characters & Cultures](#) sections for books that feature diverse Black experiences.
- ✦ Use the [Empowering Educators](#) and [Colorful Conversations](#) resources to help students develop respect for racial differences and positive racial identity.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science is time to celebrate the contributions of women in science and inspire girls to pursue STEM careers

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Find engaging nonfiction and fiction science books in the [Science](#) section of the Marketplace.
- ✦ Share the [STEM Defines Our Future video series](#) featuring diverse GM employees who have found rewarding careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BLACK HISTORY MONTH						1 World Hijab Day recognizes the millions of Muslim girls and women who choose to wear the hijab and promotes religious freedom for all.
2 World Wetlands Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet.	3	4 Rosa Parks, named one of the most influential people in the 20th century by <i>Time</i> magazine and best known for her role in the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott, was born on this day in 1913.	5	6	7 National Periodic Table Day celebrates the modern periodic table, where elements are organized according to their atomic number.	8
9	10	11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science is a day to work for gender equity in science education and scientific fields.	12	13	14 National Book Giving Day is a day to celebrate reading by gifting someone a book. Shop the First Book Marketplace!	15 Nirvana Day the Buddhist holy day that celebrates the day Buddha achieved nirvana—the final goal of Buddhism—upon the death of his physical body.
16	17 Random Acts of Kindness Day is a day to spread kindness in your classroom and community.	18 National Engineers Week (18th – 24th) is a time to celebrate the difference engineers make in our lives.	19 In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt authorized the incarceration or deportation of over 110,000 Japanese Americans by issuing Executive Order 9066 during World War II.	20	21 International Mother Language Day promotes awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and celebrates multilingualism.	22 George Washington was born on this day in 1732. National Engineers Week is celebrated around this day because many consider him the first U.S. engineer.
23 W.E.B. DuBois, the first African American to hold a PhD from Harvard, was born on this day in 1868.	24	25	26 Tell a Fairy Tale Day is a time to honor the history and power of fairy tales from cultures around the world.	27	28	

MARCH

March brings the springtime awakening of flowers and animals. With Global Recycling Day on the 18th, International Day of Forests on the 21st, and International World Water Day on the 22nd, take time this month to talk to students about how we can protect the natural world.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Download [A Future Without Waste](#) for information, videos, and activities on recycling, and the benefits of a circular economy.
- ✦ Challenge students to brainstorm ways to save water at home.
- ✦ Inspire students to take action with stories from First Book's [Activism and Civic Engagement – Community Projects & Volunteering](#) section.
- ✦ Invite students to celebrate their favorite tree by creating a poster or writing a poem or story about it.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Ramadan (1st – 30th) is a month-long Islamic observation celebrating the first revelation of the Quran and includes strict fasting observed from sunrise to sunset.*
2 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH	3 MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH	4 NATIONAL READING MONTH	5	6	7 Amanda Gorman, a poet and activist, was born on this day in 1998.	8 International Women's Day is a day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, and a call for gender parity worldwide.
World Teen Mental Wellness Day Read Across America Day	World Wildlife Day is a day to raise awareness about issues that impact wildlife.					
9	10	11	12 Tammy Duckworth was born on this day in 1968. In 2017, she became the first Thai American woman, and the first woman with a disability, to be elected to Congress.	13	14 World Sleep Day Is a day to learn about the importance of sleep and adjust our nighttime routines to improve our well-being.	15 Holi (14th – 15th) is a Hindu spring festival that celebrates colors and love.*
16 <i>Freedom's Journal, the first African American newspaper in the U.S., was first published on this day in 1827.</i>	17	18 Global Recycling Day is a day to think about what we throw out, recycle, and reuse.	19 Mario José Molina-Pasquel Henríquez was a co-recipient of the 1995 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work in discovering the Antarctic ozone hole. He was born on this day in 1943.	20 Nowruz/Persian New Year (21st – 22nd) is a day of joy, celebration, and renewal. It is held annually on the spring equinox.	21 International Day of Forests is time to celebrate and raise awareness about the importance of forests.	22 World Water Day is a UN observance day that highlights the importance of fresh water.
23	24	25 International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade honors the victims of the slave trade.	26	27	28	29 The Emmett Till Antilynching Act was signed into law in 2022, making lynching a federal hate crime for the first time in U.S. history.
30 Eid al-Fitr[§] (30th – 31st)	31 International Transgender Day of Visibility^{§§}					

* Note: These Muslim and Hindu holidays follow the lunar and lunisolar calendars and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

§ Eid al-Fitr (30th-31st) is one of the most significant Muslim holidays, marking the end of Ramadan.

§§ International Transgender Day of Visibility celebrates the contributions and lives of transgender people worldwide.

APRIL

Yom HaShoah commemorates the Warsaw Ghetto uprising (1943) and is the day the Jewish community honors the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ [Getting Started Guide: Teaching About the Holocaust](#) (7th-12th grades) was created with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and offers guidelines, lessons, survivor testimony, and more.

World Creativity and Innovation Day on the 21st is a UN-designated day to focus on how creativity and innovation are vital to sustainable development.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Share videos of [relatable young changemakers](#) who found creative, innovative ways to make positive changes in their communities.
- ✦ Learn how to incorporate a changemaking mindset into a variety of subject areas with [Time for Change tip sheets](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NATIONAL POETRY MONTH	NATIONAL ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH	1	2 World Autism Acceptance Day recognizes the rights of people with autism.	3	4 National School Librarian Day recognizes the professionals who curate books and programming in school libraries.	5 Star Trek First Contact Day has been celebrated since 1997. On this day in 2063, humanity will make first contact with the extraterrestrial Vulcan species — according to many Star Trek fans.
6 Global Good Deeds Day is a day when individuals and organizations worldwide unite to volunteer and #DoGood.	7 National Library Week (6th – 12th) celebrates the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians.	8	9	10	11 Passover (12th – 20th) is a Jewish holiday that celebrates the liberation from slavery in ancient Egypt.*	12 Drop Everything and Read Day is a great reminder to pick up a book and read!
13 The Songkran Festival (13th – 15th) marks the Thai New Year and is celebrated by a three-day water fight.	14 National Dolphin Day is a day to learn more about dolphins, their habitats, and their intelligence.	15	16	17	18	19
20 Easter is a sacred and widely observed Christian holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*	21 World Creativity and Innovation Day is a UN-designated day to focus on how creativity and innovation are vital to sustainable development.	22 Earth Day is an annual celebration to promote environmental protection across the world.	23 World Laboratory Day celebrates where great inventions happen and those who work in these unique workspaces.	24 Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoa) (23rd – 24th)	25 Gathering of Nations (24th – 26th) is the largest Native American Powwow in North America, with 500+ nations celebrating Native American culture.	26 Global Youth Service Day (25th – 27th) mobilizes youth worldwide to improve their communities through service.
27 National Tell a Story Day is a time to share stories passed down in your family or to write your own.	28	29	30 Children's Day/ Book Day (El día de los niños/ El día de los libros) is a Mexican celebration of reading that emphasizes literacy for every child.	MATHEMATICS AWARENESS MONTH	AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH	DIVERSITY MONTH

* Note: These Jewish and Christian holidays do not fall on the same dates each year.

MAY

On Teacher Appreciation Day — and every day! — THANK YOU for everything you do to champion and educate our nation’s children and youth.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Explore our free [First Book Accelerator resources](#) for tools and resources to support you throughout the year.
- ✦ Encourage fellow teachers and adults supporting children in need to [join First Book](#) to get access to books, resources, and gift credits to use on the First Book Marketplace.

Highlight the amazing diversity of our planet’s wildlife on Endangered Species Day on the 16th and World Biodiversity Day on the 22nd.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Order the free [Build the Change: Biodiversity and Climate Change Course Pack](#) with 10 lesson plans.
- ✦ Find books on [Animals and Habitats](#) through the First Book Marketplace.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ASIAN AMERICAN & NATIVE HAWAIIAN/ PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH		JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH	NATIONAL INVENTORS MONTH	1 School Principal's Day is a day to appreciate and recognize the nation's hard-working school principals.	2	3 Free Comic Book Day is when participating comic book stores give away comic books for free to anyone who visits their store.
4 May the Fourth Be with You is the unofficial holiday celebrating the epic Star Wars franchise.	5 Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Mexican defeat of the French army at the Battle of Puebla in 1862.	6 Teacher Appreciation Day honors and celebrates the lasting contributions teachers make in the lives of students and society.	7 National School Nurse Day celebrates the more than 45,000 school nurses in the U.S. Hug a nurse today!	8 National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day links positive mental health to a child's healthy development.	9	10 Ellen Ochoa, the first Latinx woman to travel into space (1993), was born on this day in 1958.
11 On this day in 1916, Albert Einstein presented the groundbreaking Theory of General Relativity to the Prussian Academy of Sciences.	12 National Limerick Day recognizes these five-line poems and their unique rhyming style.	13	14	15 Global Accessibility Awareness Day brings attention to the more than one billion people living with disabilities worldwide.	16 Endangered Species Day is a day to focus on wildlife conversation and the progress made since the Endangered Species Act (1973).	17 Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the historic Supreme Court ruling whose goal was to desegregate American public schools (1954).
18	19 Malcolm X, an African American Muslim minister and human rights activist, was born on this day in 1925.	20 The Hubble telescope captured its first image on this day in 1990.	21	22 World Biodiversity Day is a day to educate about and promote biodiversity.	23	24 National Scavenger Hunt Day challenges teams to find a list of items for fun and prizes.
25	26 Sally Ride, a physicist, astronaut, and the first American woman to fly in space, was born on this day in 1951.	27	28	29	30 National Creativity Day is a day to celebrate creative people of all kinds and explore your own creativity.	31

JUNE

Pura Belpre Awards are given to Latine writers and illustrators whose works celebrate the Latine cultural experience. Pura Belpre was the first Latina librarian at the New York Public Library.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Explore [Pura Belpré Award winners](#) and other excellent books featuring [Latine Characters & Cultures](#) to share with your students as windows and mirrors.
- ✦ Shop the [Spanish and Bilingual Children's](#) section for engaging books to support literacy at home and in the classroom.

In 2024, the UN designated June 11 as International Day of Play. Every child can reach their full potential with the time, space, and access to play.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Shop the [Activities section](#) of the Marketplace for games and activities that encourage learning through play.
- ✦ Explore free [Build the Change "learning through play" resources](#) designed to engage students around environmental issues.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The Tulsa Race Riot took place on this day in 1921. Mobs of White people attacked Black residents and businesses, killing hundreds.	2	3	4	5 Day of Arafat (5th – 6th) is a Muslim holy day of repentance and forgiveness marked by fasting.*	6 Eid al-Adha (6th – 7th) the Muslim day of sacrifice and one of the most significant Muslim holidays is usually marked with a large meal.*	7
8 World Oceans Day is a day to think about how oceans impact our world and what we can do to protect them.	9	10	11 Puerto Rican Day is marked by parades across the U.S. in several major cities. International Day of Play	12 Anne Frank, author of <i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> , the most widely read personal account of the Holocaust, was born on this day in 1929.	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth is a holiday commemorating the emancipation of slaves in Texas, marking the official end of slavery in the U.S.	20 World Refugee Day is a day to honor people forced to flee their home country to escape conflict and persecution.	21
22 Octavia Butler, renowned science fiction author and recipient of Hugo and Nebula awards and a MacArthur Fellowship, was born on this day in 1947.	23 International Women in Engineering Day is a day to celebrate the accomplishments of women in engineering.	24 Johannes Guttenberg (b. 1400) is credited as the inventor of the printing press, but the oldest printed text is from China (first millennium AD).	25 In 1876, the Lakota Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes fought and defeated the 7th Cavalry Regiment of the U.S. Army in the Battle of Little Bighorn, as the U.S. government sought to gain ownership of indigenous lands.	26 Islamic New Year (26th – 27th) Celebrated on the first day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar. Islam is the world's second-largest religious group with over 1.8 billion devotees.*	27	28 Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, a series of demonstrations by the LGBTQ community in response to a police raid in 1969.
29	30				AUDIOBOOK APPRECIATION MONTH	LGBTQIA+ PRIDE MONTH

* Note: Islamic holidays follow the lunar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

JULY

The International Day of Friendship reminds us that developing friendships with people from other cultures and backgrounds can build bridges between communities.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Explore First Book's collection of [Global Stories](#).
- ✦ Help build bridges in your own community with books about [Immigrant & Refugee Experiences](#).

Children who don't read over the summer lose at least two months of reading development. Support summer reading through reading challenges, library and park programs, and books!

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Explore First Book's [Summer Reading section](#) for titles for all ages.
- ✦ Provide stories in popular formats, such as [Graphic Novels & Comics](#).
- ✦ Expand access to online reading through [Open eBooks](#).
- ✦ Help students [find their local library](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH MONTH		1	2 Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that outlawed discrimination based on race, sex, or national origin. This law outlawed segregation in public spaces and banned employment discrimination.	3	4 On this day in 1946, the Philippines gained independence from the U.S. Filipinos were the 4th largest immigrant group to the U.S. between 1960 and 2019.	5
6 Dalai Lama's Birthday[§] Ann Tsukamoto was born on this day in 1952. She co-patented the process to isolate a human stem cell, a discovery relevant to cancer research.	7 On this day in 1912, Jim Thorpe became the first Native American to win an Olympic gold medal, in the pentathlon. In the same games, he also won a gold medal in the decathlon.	8 Math 2.0 Day celebrates the powerful combination of math and technology.	9	10	11 Naadam (11th – 15th) is a 3-day festival marking Mongolia's independence from China. The holiday blends traditional arts and sports with competitions in archery, horse racing, and wrestling.	12 Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist for the education of girls was born on this day in 1997. She was 17 when she became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 On this day in 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon as part of the historic <i>Appollo 11</i> mission.	21	22	23	24 Aviation pioneer and author Amelia Earhart was born on this day in 1897.	25	26 National Disability Independence Day commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
27	28 Beatrix Potter was born on this day in 1866. An English writer, illustrator, and conservationist, she wrote <i>The Tale of Peter Rabbit</i> .	29	30 International Day of Friendship encourages making friends with people outside of your own culture, country, or background.	31		DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

* Note: Islamic holidays follow the lunar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

§The current Dalai Llama was born on this day in 1935. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

For more resources to support you and your students, please visit:
fbmarketplace.org/free-resources

