

April 2026

Morning Work

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Use these pages for a first activity of the day. Each one varies in style a bit to keep students on their toes and is designed to get in just a bit of thinking without overwhelming students with work.

- 4-1: April Fool's Day
- 4-2: Autism Acceptance Day
- 4-3: National Robotics Week
- 4-6: National Libraries Week
- 4-7: World Health Day
- 4-8: Five Magic Seeds
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- 4-22: Earth Day
- 4-23: Shakespeare's Birthday
- 4-24: National Picnic Day Yesterday
- 4-27: Arbor Day Yesterday
- 4-28: Parallels
- 4-29: Poem in Your Pocket Day
- 4-30: Design New Postage Stamps

Wednesday, April 1, 2025



Happy Owl Day!

Did you enjoy Groundhog Day? _____

Many people find it fun to see if the groundhog sees his shadow on February 2nd to guess how long it will be until spring. But up until now, there has been no holiday to determine how far away summer vacation will be.

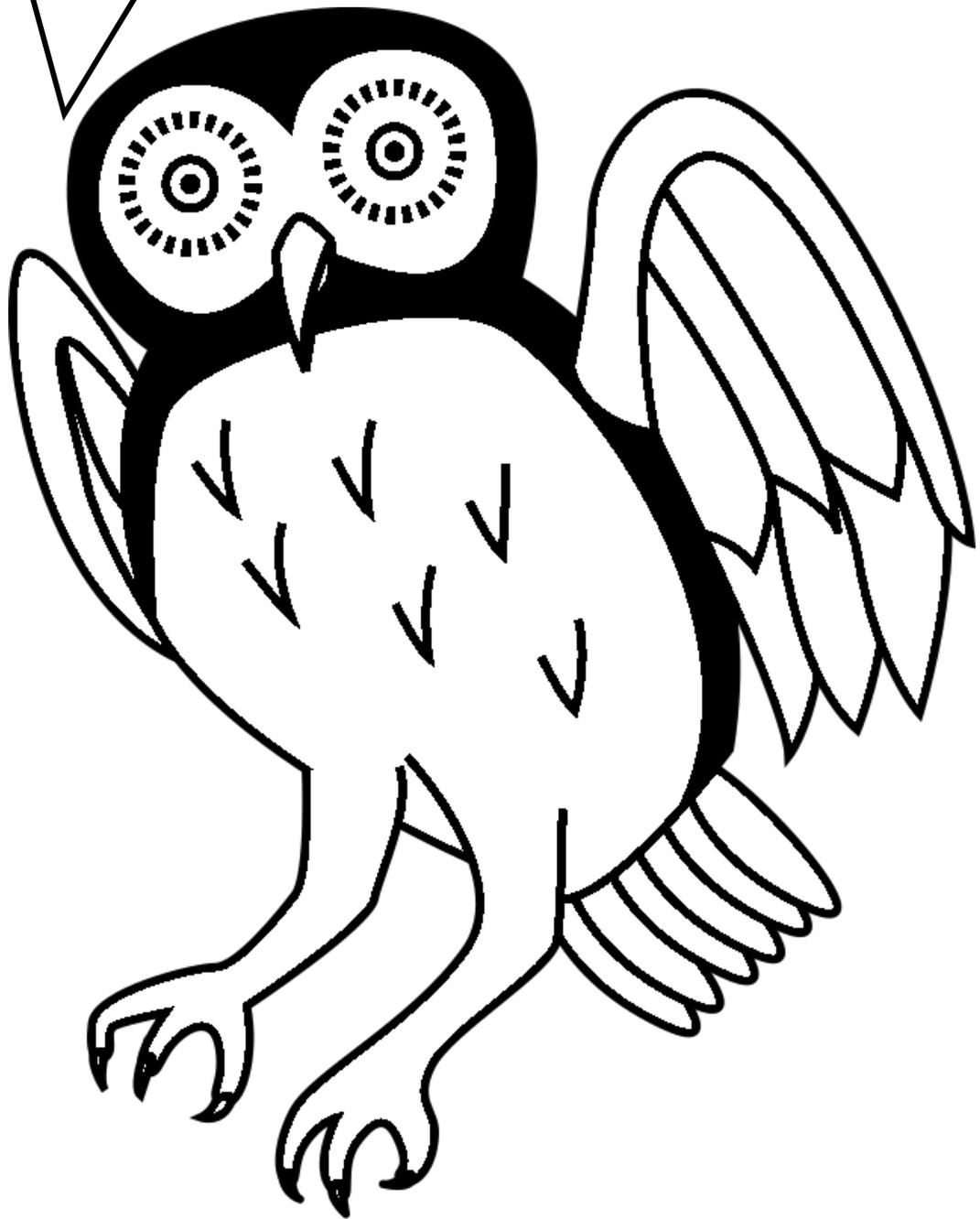
This will be the first year ever to find out how far off summer is. Today is Owl Day.

Owl Day is a new holiday that is very similar to Groundhog Day. Tonight, just after sunset, the local leaders of your town will visit a special tree that has been voted on by the local council. They will knock three times to make sure the owl is not startled and will not try to bite them. Then, they will reach in and bring the owl out. If the owl flies up toward the moon, that means that summer vacation will come at its usual time. However, if the owl flies toward the ground to hunt something, that means there will be six more weeks of school at the end of the year.

How can you celebrate Owl Day? First, ask your teacher to look up what time sunset will be this evening. Ask your parents to turn on their local news this evening right at that time. You may wish to make owl-shaped snacks to enjoy together. If you really want to get in the spirit, wear a shirt with an owl on it. You can always print a picture of an owl and pin it onto a regular shirt.

On the back, color in the picture of the Owl Day owl.

HAPPY
APRIL FOOL'S
DAY!



Wednesday, April 1, 2026



Happy April Fool's Day!

Did anyone prank you today? _____

Did you prank anyone today? _____

April Fool's Day has been a tradition for centuries, but no one knows exactly how long people have been playfully tricking each other on April 1st. There are theories, though.

One theory is that it comes from 1582, when calendars in Europe all changed to a new system. The European calendar used to begin the new year on the Spring Equinox, which could have been calculated around April 1st back then. When the date switched to January 1st, those who didn't know about it would have seemed foolish.

Have you ever been in a situation where everyone seemed to know what was going on, but you didn't?

Another story is that it comes from the idea that Mother Nature "tricks" people with weather that keeps going back and forth between warm and cold around this time of year.

What is the weather like today? _____

Have you had any days when it warmed up, then cooled again lately? _____

Did you feel "tricked?" _____

On the back draw a picture of your favorite April Fool's prank.

Today Is Autism Acceptance Day!

Do you know anyone with autism? _____

Autism is also called Autism Spectrum Disorder. Some people just call it “being on the spectrum.” People with Autism have different learning and social challenges. Some are strongly bothered by loud noises, and may need to make certain noises or movements to feel calm again. Some people with Autism may not speak or make eye contact. This does not mean they are unintelligent. It just means that their brains work differently. Many people with Autism are extremely smart and talented. Each person with Autism is unique and has a different combination of traits.

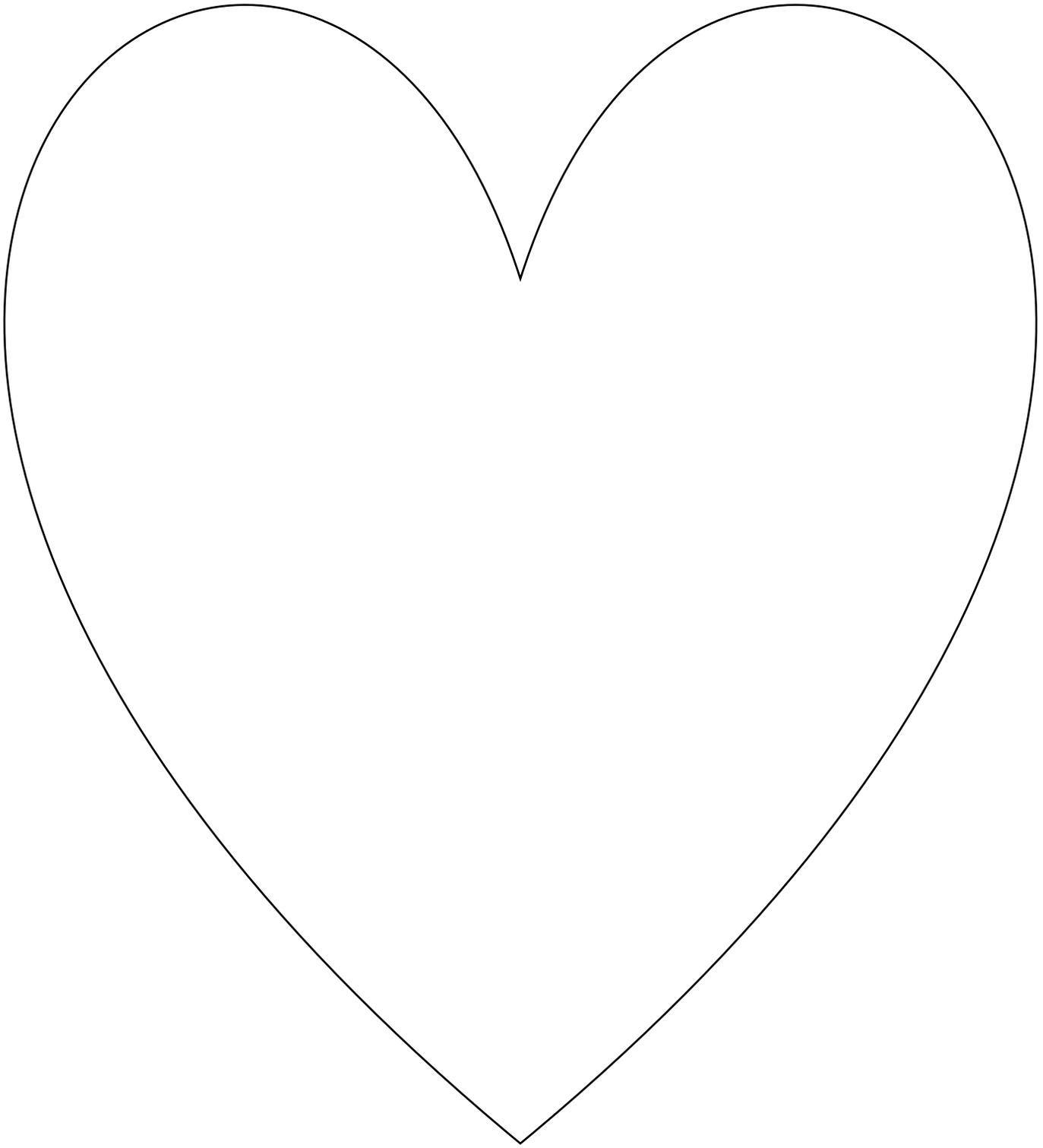
Have you ever had someone think something about you based on one piece of information? _____

This is called making an assumption. Most people don’t like others to make assumptions about them. It’s important to not make them about others.

How can you show kindness to people with Autism?

- Don’t ask someone if they have Autism because they “look” like they do. If they want to tell you, they will.
- Sometimes Autism may not be noticeable in a person. Treat all new friends as an open book, who will surprise you in many ways.
- If a child seems uncomfortable or unsure, be friendly and ask in a nice voice what they like to play and how.
- Be patient and respectful.
- Just get to know them as a person. Don’t expect them to be able to do everything you do. But also, don’t expect them to be incapable of doing everything you do.
- Remember that just because someone may communicate or act differently doesn’t mean their feelings are different from yours. They still have feelings just like you.

On the back, color in the heart with pictures of ways to show kindness.



National Robotics Week Starts Tomorrow!

National Robotics Week, or RoboWeek, is a time to inspire students to study robotics and other STEM-related fields.

When you think of robots, do you think of toys or futuristic butlers? Robots today have much more important jobs. Robots are used to do dangerous jobs that would be unsafe for humans up close. They also are used in surgeries. Most don't really look like people.

Robots were originally called automatons. The first one recorded dates back to the 4th century BC! The word 'robot' was first used in the early 1900s.

If you invented a robot, what would it be made of?

What jobs would your robot do?

On the back, draw a picture of your robot.

Monday, April 6, 2026

This Week is Library Week!

Millions of Americans visit their local libraries every week. Have you been this week? _____

Do you have a library card? _____

If not, ask an adult at home to help you get one. They're free and give you so many benefits! But libraries offer more than free books to borrow. Many branches also have free:

- ❖ Movies and music to borrow
- ❖ Audio books and e-books
- ❖ Playdates in summer
- ❖ Theater
- ❖ Board games
- ❖ Art classes
- ❖ Chess classes
- ❖ Storytime
- ❖ Puzzle swaps
- ❖ Scavenger hunts

What do you most like to do in a library?

What would you like to see libraries have more of?

Did you know that the first public library was founded in 330BC? It was a famous library in Alexandria, Egypt, a city founded by, Alexander the Great. Benjamin Franklin started the first subscription library in the colonies in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

On the back, draw a picture of yourself doing something fun at the library.

Tuesday, April 7, 2026



Today Is World Health Day!

On April 7, 1948, the World Health Organization was founded. Also called the WHO, it is a special agency of the United Nations, located in Switzerland. Scientists and doctors from all over the world get together to share ideas about how to help all people around the globe be healthier.

What is something you do every day to be healthier?

What is something BIG you do to be healthier?

Each year the World Health Organization chooses a health problem they want to bring attention to. They use World Health Day to focus on it.

What do you think people should focus on to be healthier?

Why? _____

What is something you actually enjoy doing to stay healthy?

What is your least favorite thing to do to stay healthy?

On the back, draw a picture of yourself making a good health choice.

Five Magic Seeds

Imagine someone sold you five magic seeds. Each seed is a different color, and has a different magic power. Tell what each seed looks like when it sprouts, and what it can do.

Red Seed: _____

Blue Seed: _____

Green Seed: _____

Purple Seed: _____

Orange Seed: _____

On the back, draw a picture of your magical garden.

If You Were a Sea Creature

Imagine you were a sea creature. Are you a:

- Dolphin
- Whale
- Shark
- Seal
- Eel
- Fish
- Walrus
- _____

Color in the places you would swim:



What would you spend most of your day doing?

What would you eat? _____

What would be the best part of being a sea creature?

What would be the worst part of being a sea creature?

On the back draw a picture of yourself as a sea creature.

Friday, April 10, 2026



Tomorrow Is National Pet Day!

Do you have a pet? _____ What kind is it?

If you don't have a pet, what pet might you like?

What are some things kids can do with their pets?

What do you think would be the hardest pet to have?

What might that pet do that would be difficult?

If you could have any animal on earth as your pet, what would it be? _____

Why do you think people don't have that animal as a pet?

National Pet Day was founded in 2006 to bring attention to overcrowded pet shelters and encourage people to adopt shelter pets. Having a pet doesn't just benefit the pet. Being with an animal is a great way to feel less stress. In fact, the vibrations of cat purrs can help people's health. Dogs are being trained to smell illnesses in humans. Maybe one day your dog will be able to press a button to let you know you are becoming sick!

On the back, draw a picture of you with your pet. If you don't have one, draw a picture with your dream pet.

Today Is Thomas Jefferson's Birthday!

Thomas Jefferson is one of the most famous people in American history. Why? Because he:

- Wrote most of the Declaration of Independence
- Was a member of the Continental Congress
- Served as America's first secretary of state
- Served as America's third president
- Doubled the size of America when he purchased the Louisiana Territory from France

Thomas Jefferson was born in the colony of Virginia. He loved science, history, and literature. He grew up to become a lawyer and to serve in local government. Jefferson had strong feelings about democracy, freedom of religion, and freedom of speech.

The most difficult thing to understand about Thomas Jefferson is that he wrote that, "All men are created equal," but owned slaves. Jefferson often expressed a desire to see slavery end, but did not choose to take the first step to make that happen himself.

Have you ever felt something was wrong, but kept doing it?

What is something you believe should change to make the world a better place? _____

What steps could you take, now or as an adult, to make that happen? _____

On the back, draw a picture of yourself making this change.

Story Starters

Have you ever felt like you would like to tell a story, but just don't know where to begin? Try writing an opening paragraph for each of these story starters.

It was a dark and stormy night... _____

Once upon a time in a magical kingdom... _____

In a galaxy far, far away... _____

On a small raft in the middle of the ocean... _____

During a terrible snowstorm in the middle of winter... _____

If you like one a lot, continue writing about it on the back.

Wednesday, April 15, 2026



Today is National ASL Day!

Do you know what ASL is? It stands for American Sign Language. Sign language is not a universal language. Many signs are connected to the culture and language in different parts of the world.

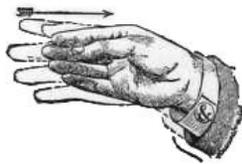
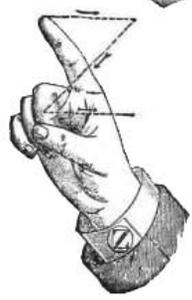
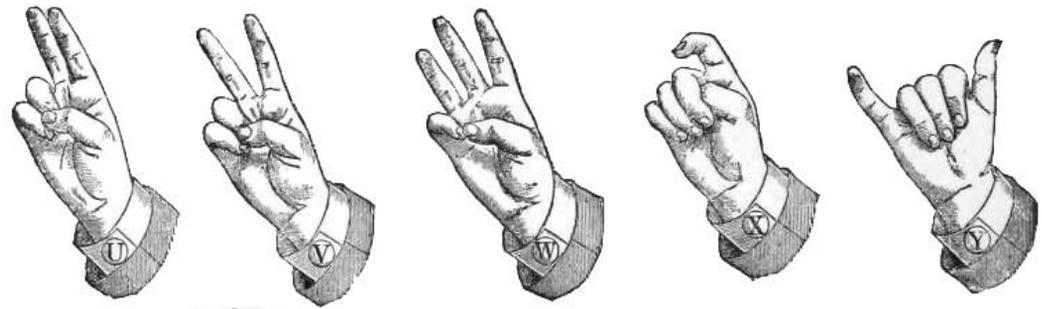
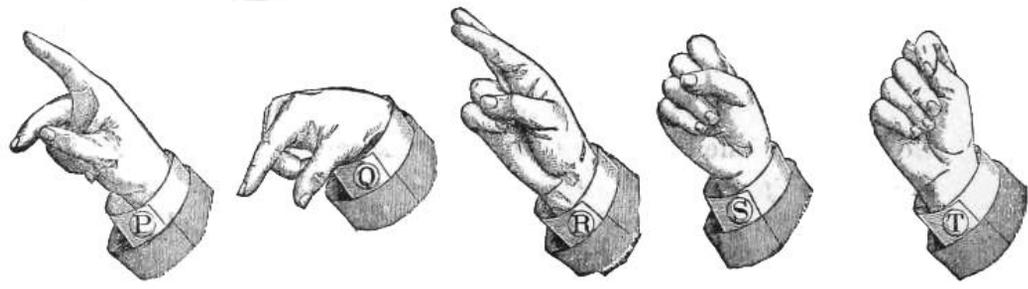
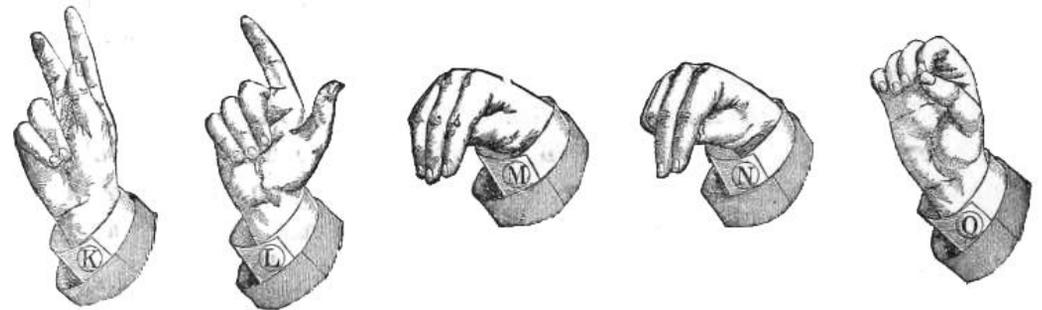
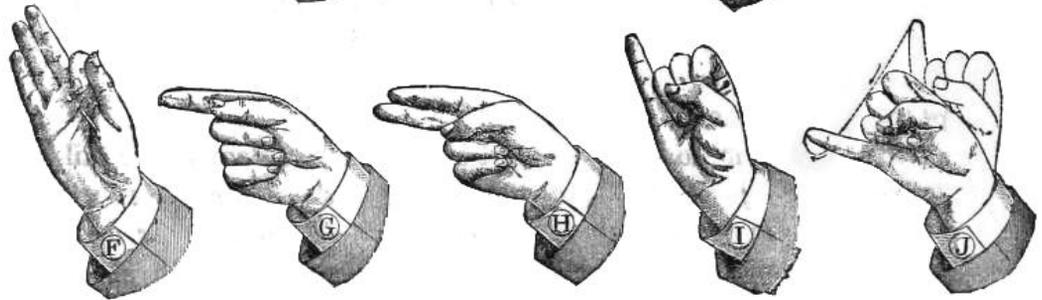
April 15th celebrates the opening of the first school for deaf children in America in 1816. Unfortunately, for much of history, hearing people assumed that deaf people were not able to learn language. Although families with deaf children and other groups had always found ways to communicate with hand motions, it was not until the 1700s that more a more formal sign language was created in Paris, France. Some famous deaf people include Beethoven, Thomas Edison, and Helen Keller.

Do you know how to say I Love You in ASL? _____
What about the alphabet? _____

Sign language is not just for those who are deaf or have deaf family members. Everyone can benefit by learning sign language. Ask an adult at home to help you get a library book of ASL, or to show you videos of ASL lessons.

When deaf people need to communicate with people who do not know sign language, they may read the person's lips. But this is difficult because so many words look the same on the lips. Always let the person tell you how they wish for you to communicate. If they read your lips, be sure to face them and not put your hand in front of your face.

On the back, color and practice the ASL alphabet.



Thursday, April 16, 2026

Your Own Holiday

Imagine if you had your own holiday. It could be about you, or it could just be created by you. What would the name of the holiday be?

It could be celebrated on the same day each year (like Christmas is always December 25th) or it could always be celebrated on the same day of the week (like Thanksgiving is always the fourth Thursday in November).

It would be on _____

What colors would be associated with this holiday?

What kind of decorations would people use?

Would it have songs? _____ A parade? _____

What food would people eat? _____

What would be the story behind this holiday?

On the back make a poster for your holiday

Friday, April 17, 2026



Today Is Ellis Island Family History Day!

Ellis Island was the main way for immigrants to come to America from 1892 to 1924. Ellis Island is a small island in the Hudson Harbor, between New York City and New Jersey. On April 17th, 2001, Ellis Island did something that was very exciting. It made all of its records available online. Now people who want to learn about their family history don't have to travel all the way there to do so.

Do you know how your ancestors (or you) came to this country? _____

Do you know what country or countries your ancestors came from? _____

Do you know when they came? _____

Do you know why they came? _____

Take this page home to interview your family about your history. Maybe some of your ancestors came through Ellis Island. If they did, you can ask an adult to help you look for records on the Ellis Island website.

Use the chart on the back to help you see how long your family has been here. Highlight each box that is the first person to immigrate here.

Me	Father	Grandfather	Great-Grandfather	Great-Great-Grandfather
			Great-Grandmother	Great-Great-Grandmother
		Grandmother	Great-Grandfather	Great-Great-Grandfather
			Great-Grandmother	Great-Great-Grandmother
	Mother	Grandfather	Great-Grandfather	Great-Great-Grandfather
			Great-Grandmother	Great-Great-Grandmother
			Great-Grandfather	Great-Great-Grandfather
			Great-Grandmother	Great-Great-Grandmother
		Grandmother	Great-Grandfather	Great-Great-Grandfather
			Great-Grandmother	Great-Great-Grandmother
			Great-Grandfather	Great-Great-Grandfather
			Great-Grandmother	Great-Great-Grandmother

Your Weekend as a Kangaroo

Tell all about your real activities this weekend...but imagine you had turned into a kangaroo for the weekend.

Friday Night: _____

Saturday Morning: _____

Saturday Afternoon: _____

Saturday Evening: _____

Sunday Morning: _____

Sunday Afternoon: _____

Sunday Evening: _____

On the back, draw a picture of frog-you's favorite part of this weekend.

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Wanted: The Perfect Pet

Do you have a pet? _____ If not, do you want one? _____ Why? _____

Imagine you have to write a wanted ad for the perfect pet. If you think you already have the perfect pet, write it as if you don't have it yet, but are looking for it.

WANTED

I am looking for a pet that is a _____. It is very _____, _____, and _____. This pet should absolutely never _____.

I should not have to spend too much time training this pet to _____.

Ideally, I would like this pet's colors to be _____.

This pet should be able to _____.

This pet would sleep in a _____ in my home.

On the back draw a picture of your perfect pet.

Happy Earth Day!

The first Earth Day was held on April 22nd, 1970. People had begun to worry that too much pollution in the air and water, too much garbage piling up in landfills, and too much misuse of earth's natural resources would soon cause problems that could not be reversed.

One of the first ways to start helping the earth is with the Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

What is one thing you could reduce?

What is one thing you could reuse?

What is one thing you could recycle?

Here are some ideas of things kids just like you can do to make a change. Get a group together to petition your school to:

- ❖ start a collection of items that don't get recycled by regular city recycling (like dry-erase markers), but could be picked up in bulk when there is enough of them.
- ❖ ban glitter from crafts, as the small bits are very bad for the environment.
- ❖ replace plastic and Styrofoam plates and cups with paper ones and forks and spoons with bamboo ones.

On the back, color in the picture of the earth.



Today Is Shakespeare's Birthday!

Have you heard of William Shakespeare? _____

He is the most famous author in the English language.

Shakespeare was born in April 23rd, 1564. He wrote about 39 plays and 154 poems, called sonnets.

Which of these plays have you heard of:

- Romeo and Juliet
- Hamlet
- A Midsummer Night's Dream
- King Lear
- The Merchant of Venice
- Much Ado About Nothing

Have you ever been in a play?

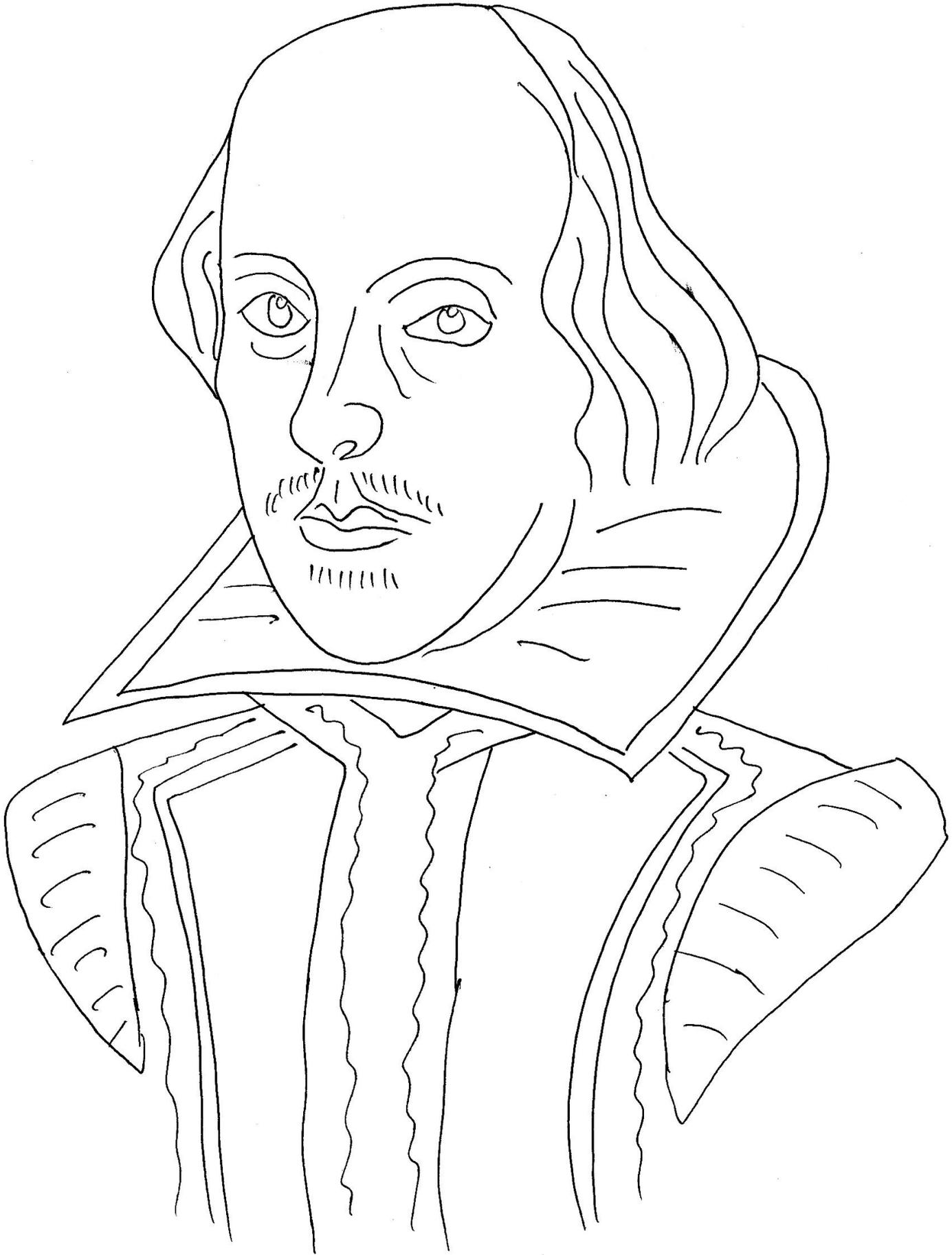
Was it fun?

But one of the most important things Shakespeare did was to invent many new words that are now a part of the English language. Shakespeare added about 1,700 words. Imagine how much English changed during this one person's lifetime!

Here are some of the words he invented. See if you can use any of them in a sentence:

admirable	amazement	countless	critic
gloomy	majestic	misplaced	suspicious

On the back, color in the picture of William Shakespeare.



Yesterday Was National Picnic Day!

Do you like to go on picnics? _____

The word 'picnic' can actually mean different things in different parts of the country. What some people call a picnic, others call a barbeque or cookout.

The word picnic comes from the French word, pique-nique. For centuries France was ruled by kings who built enormous, beautiful gardens around their palaces. After France no longer had kings, the gardens were opened to the public. Regular people brought blankets and baskets of food to eat while enjoying the parks. Soon other countries began to copy this idea of eating on the ground in nature.

If you were packing for a picnic, what would be the most important items to bring?

On the back, draw a picture of yourself having a picnic.

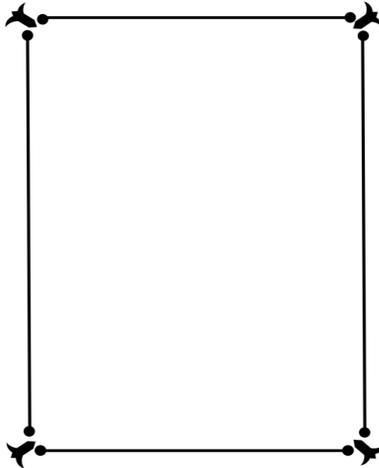
Yesterday Was Arbor Day!

Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April each year. Arbor is the Latin word for tree. Arbor Day is a day to celebrate trees and plant them.

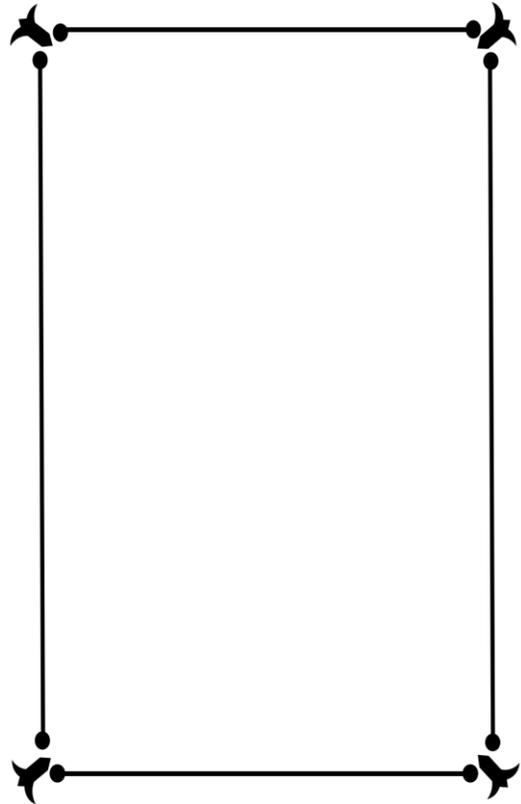
How many of these tree names do you recognize?

- Oak
- Sycamore
- Weeping willow
- Maple
- Pine
- Apple
- Cherry
- Magnolia

Draw a leaf:



Draw your favorite tree:



What is your favorite tree activity?

- Swinging in a tree swing
- Climbing a tree
- Having a picnic under a tree
- Running around a tree in circles

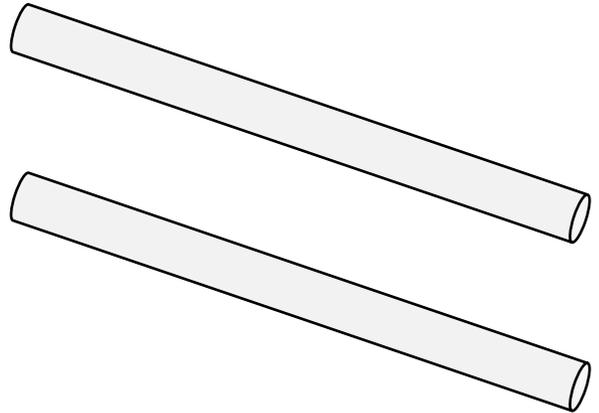
What would the world be like if there were no more trees?

On the back, draw yourself enjoying trees.

Parallels

Stretch both your arms out in front of you. They make two parallel lines. You may have learned about parallel lines in math. Those are lines right next to each other that keep the same distance between them from start to finish.

In gymnastics some gymnasts do routines on the parallel bars. Draw a stick figure of a gymnast on these bars:



Parallel actually has lots of meanings. It can mean two things that are equal, identical, or almost the same.

Some people like to imagine stories that take place in parallel universes. It's fun to make up a place that is almost like our world, but lots of things are slightly different. If you created a parallel universe, what four things would be very different from our world?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

On the back draw a picture of your parallel universe.

Today Is Poem in Your Pocket Day!

Today is a day for people to keep a poem in their pocket and pull it out to recite it to different people they see in the hallways, at lunch, on the playground, or when you go somewhere after school.

Do you have a poem in your pocket yet? _____

If not, you can ask your teacher for one, or write one yourself.

Do you like poetry? _____ Even if you said no, it's possible you just haven't found the right poem yet.

There are poems written about almost any subject you can imagine. People write poems about sports, their favorite Anime characters, pets, and food.

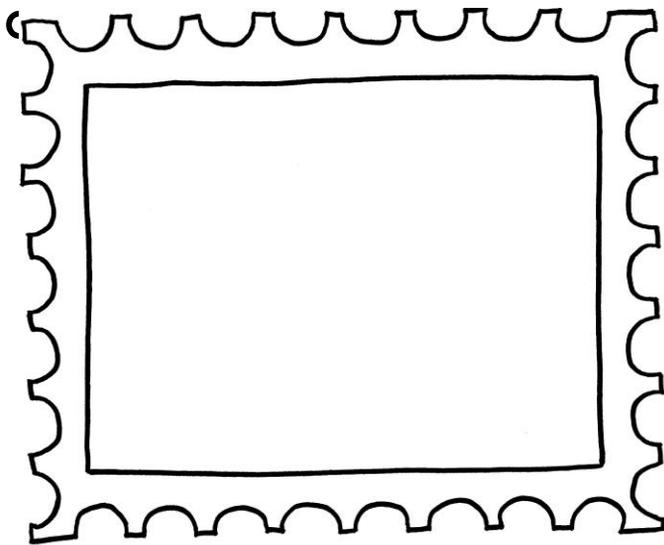
A poem can be written about something you really love, or even something you really dislike. If you were going to write a poem about something, what would it be?

You can make regular writing sound more poetic by:

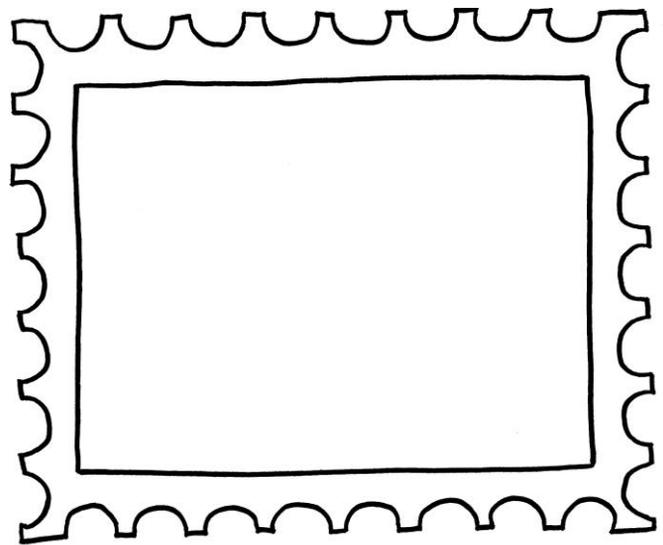
- ❖ Making it rhyme
 - ❖ I will be true to you, as long as the sky is blue.
 - ❖ Using repetition of key words
 - ❖ The waves crashed up and down, up and down
 - ❖ Reversing normal grammar structure
 - ❖ I have a cat, so restless, I have a dog, quite sleepless
- On the back, try writing your own poem.

Design New Postage Stamps

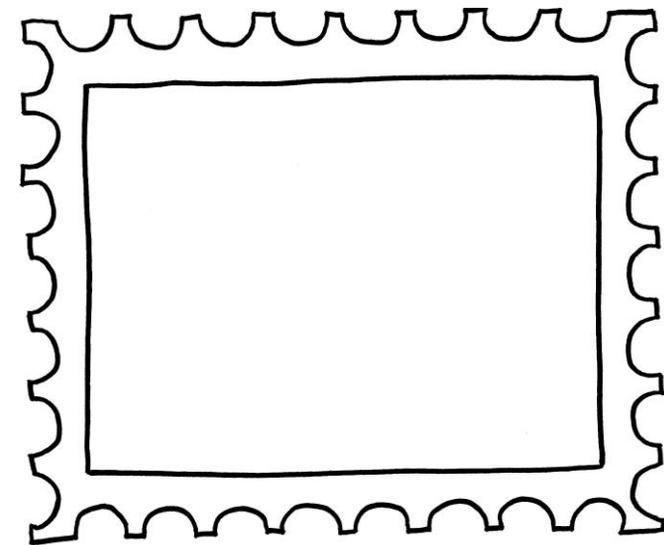
The post office is constantly coming up with new stamps. Sometimes these commemorate (which means to remember and show respect for) a special person, place, historical event, or holiday. Create a new stamp for each



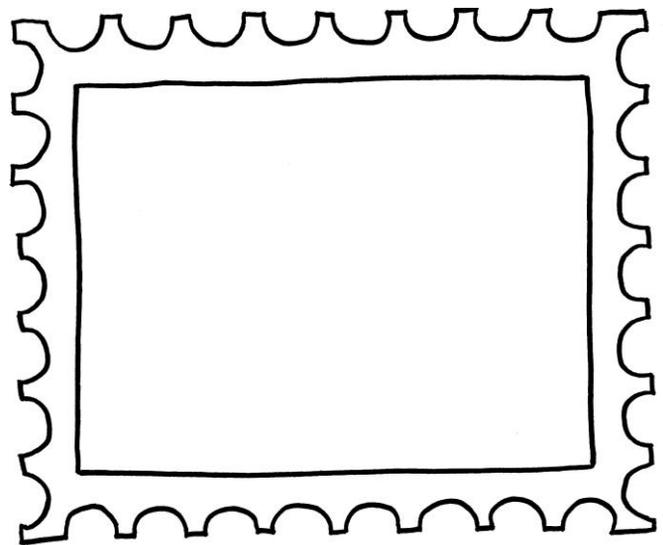
Historical Event: _____



Person: _____



Place: _____



Holiday: _____