

June 2026

Morning Work

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Use these pages for a first activity of the day (aka, “Morning Work”). 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.

- 6-1: National Pen Pal Day
- 6-2: First Ladies Day
- 6-3: World Bicycle Day
- 6-4: National Cheese Day
- 6-5: National Donut Day
- 6-8: Yo-Yo Day Saturday
- 6-9: Design Your Dream Pool
- 6-10: Benjamin Franklin Lightning Experiment Anniversary
- 6-11: A Story of Random Things
- 6-12: The Whole World Is Reversed
- 6-15: Flag Day Yesterday
- 6-16: What If Humans Were Built Differently
- 6-17: Father’s Day on Sunday
- 6-18: Flip-Flop Day Tomorrow
- 6-19: Juneteenth
- 6-22: Summer Solstice Yesterday
- 6-23: An Island of Talking Animals
- 6-24: Upcycling
- 6-25: Colors
- 6-26: Paul Bunyan Day on Sunday
- 6-29: National Camera Day
- 6-30: Halfway Through the Year

Today Is National Pen Pal Day!

Do you have a pen pal? _____

Have you ever had a pen pal in the past? _____

Would you like to have one in the future? _____

Of course, you can always have more than one pen pal!

Having a pen pal to write to can give you a good opportunity to practice your writing skills. You might learn about what life is like in another part of the country, or even in another part of the world. You could get to know a person whose background is very different from yours.

So, how do you begin a pen-pal relationship?

1. Ask your teacher or parents to help you connect with a pen pal.
2. Get a paper, pencil, envelope, and stamp.
3. Introduce yourself:
 - ✓ Your name
 - ✓ The grade are you in
 - ✓ What you like to do
 - ✓ What life is like where you live
 - ✓ Ask questions about those same things for the pen pal.
4. When you get a response, ask follow up questions about things the person tells you about their life.

On the back, start drafting your first pen pal letter.

Today Is First Ladies' Day!

Do you know what a First Lady is? She is the wife of a president. The husband of a president would be called a First Gentleman. Here are some fun facts about the first ladies:

- ❖ Martha Washington was the first First Lady
- ❖ Abigail Adams and Martha Bush are the only First Ladies to also be mothers of presidents
- ❖ Eleanor Roosevelt is often considered the first modern first lady.
- ❖ Lady Bird Johnson was the only First Lady named Lady.
- ❖ Hillary Clinton is the only First Lady to later run for president.
- ❖ Jaqueline Kennedy was the only First Lady to win an Emmy.
- ❖ Rose Cleveland was the only First Lady who wasn't married to the president. She served as her brother's First Lady until he got married, while in office.

Imagine one of the First Ladies were in this room. What question would you want to ask her? _____

If you could talk to a First Lady from the past, what would you want her to know about our own time? _____

On the back, draw yourself talking to a First Lady.

Today is World Bicycle Day!

Do you like to ride a bike? _____ How old were you when you first learned? _____

Almost everyone rides a bicycle, so it's hard to imagine a time when they didn't exist. After all, they're not cars that need motors or gasoline. They could be made without complicated machines. But bicycles weren't actually invented until 1817. In 2018 the United Nations officially named June 3rd World Bicycle Day to bring attention to the importance of cycling. Why?

➤ Cycling is great exercise! You work out your legs, strengthen the muscles in your torso, keep your heart healthy, and practice balance.

I can make a plan to get _____ minutes of exercise each week riding my bicycle.

➤ Cycling is better than driving for the environment. Many people choose to commute to different places by bicycle rather than by car to keep pollution out of the air.

Places my family and I could bike to instead of driving are:

➤ Bicycles take up less space than cars. Many people in crowded cities use bicycles because they are easier to park.

Do you live in a place with a lot of people? Ask for help to look up the population density in your area. Population density is the number of people who live in a place relative to its size.

I live in _____, which has a population density of _____ people per _____

On the back, draw a picture of your dream bicycle.

Today is National Cheese Day!

Do you love cheese? _____

Some people cannot eat cheese, or other dairy. These people are lactose intolerant. Some cheeses don't have any lactose, like extra-sharp cheddar. Sometimes people with lactose intolerance take medicine so they can still have dairy.

People have been making cheese since before recorded history. There are thousands of types of cheese.

Here are a few:

Cheddar	Parmesan	Munster	Mozzarella
Gouda	Edam	Brie	Goat Cheese

What is your favorite kind of cheese? _____

Do you like cheese with:

- Crackers
- Apples
- Grapes
- Slices of meat
- Olives
- Fruit spread

Fun Fact!

In 1836 a 1,400-pound block of cheese was delivered to President Andrew Jackson at the White House. It took 10,000 visitors two hours to eat all of it.

What is your favorite meal that involves cheese?

Draw a picture of it on the back.

Friday, June 5, 2026

Today Is National Donut Day!

Do you like donuts? _____ What about doughnuts? Do you like them, too? Well, they're actually the same thing. The word donut/doughnut can be spelled both ways...and both are correct!

Some other words that are spelled correctly two ways are:

- curtsy/curtsey
- hiccup/hiccough
- hooray/hurray
- liquorice/licorice
- nosy/nosey
- phoney/phony
- yoghurt/yogurt

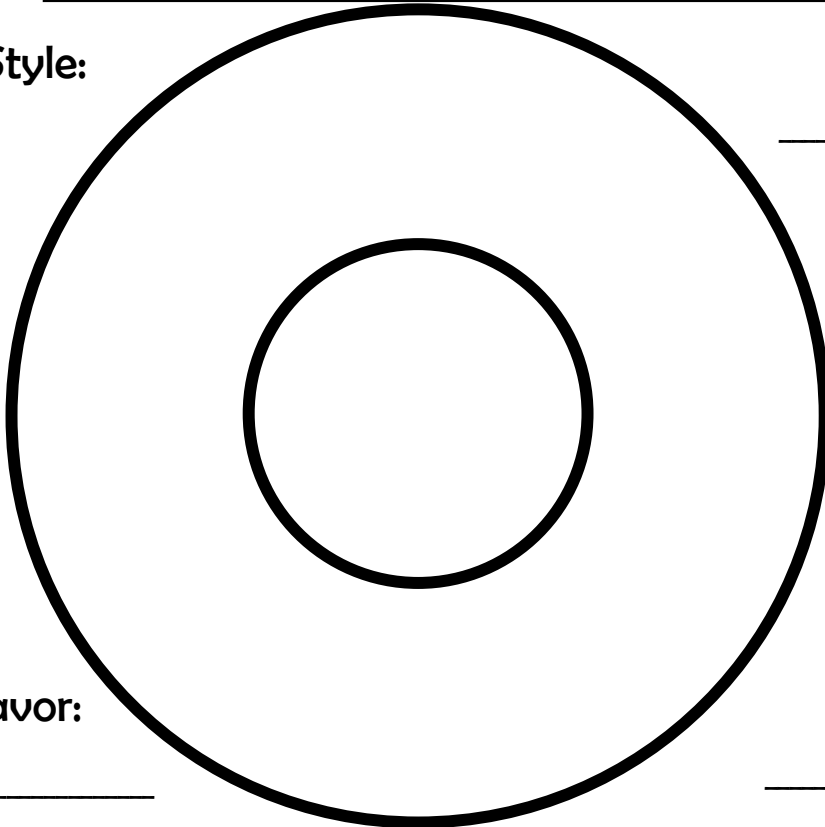
Underline the version you think should be used.

Design the perfect donut/doughnut.

Dough Style:

- Cake
- Airy
- Flaky

Dough Flavor:



Icing Flavor:

Topping:

Saturday Was National Yo-Yo Day!

Do you like to play with yo-yos? _____

Once you have learned the basic moves, yo-yos are very easy to work.

Many people like to do tricks with yo-yos.

These include:

- ❖ Walk the Dog
- ❖ Breakaway
- ❖ The Pinwheel
- ❖ Rock the Cradle
- ❖ Around the Corner
- ❖ Trapeze Walker

Yo-Yo Fun Facts!

Yo-yos have been around since 500BC.

They may have been invented in Greece or the Philippines.

The yo-yo was the first toy to be brought onto a spaceship.

One appeal of the yo-yo is its name. The name yo-yo was first used in a Filipino dictionary in 1860. The repetition of a sound like this is called reduplication.

Here are some other examples of reduplication:

so-so	Dada	Mama	criss-cross
tick-tock	see-saw	zig-zag	pitter-patter

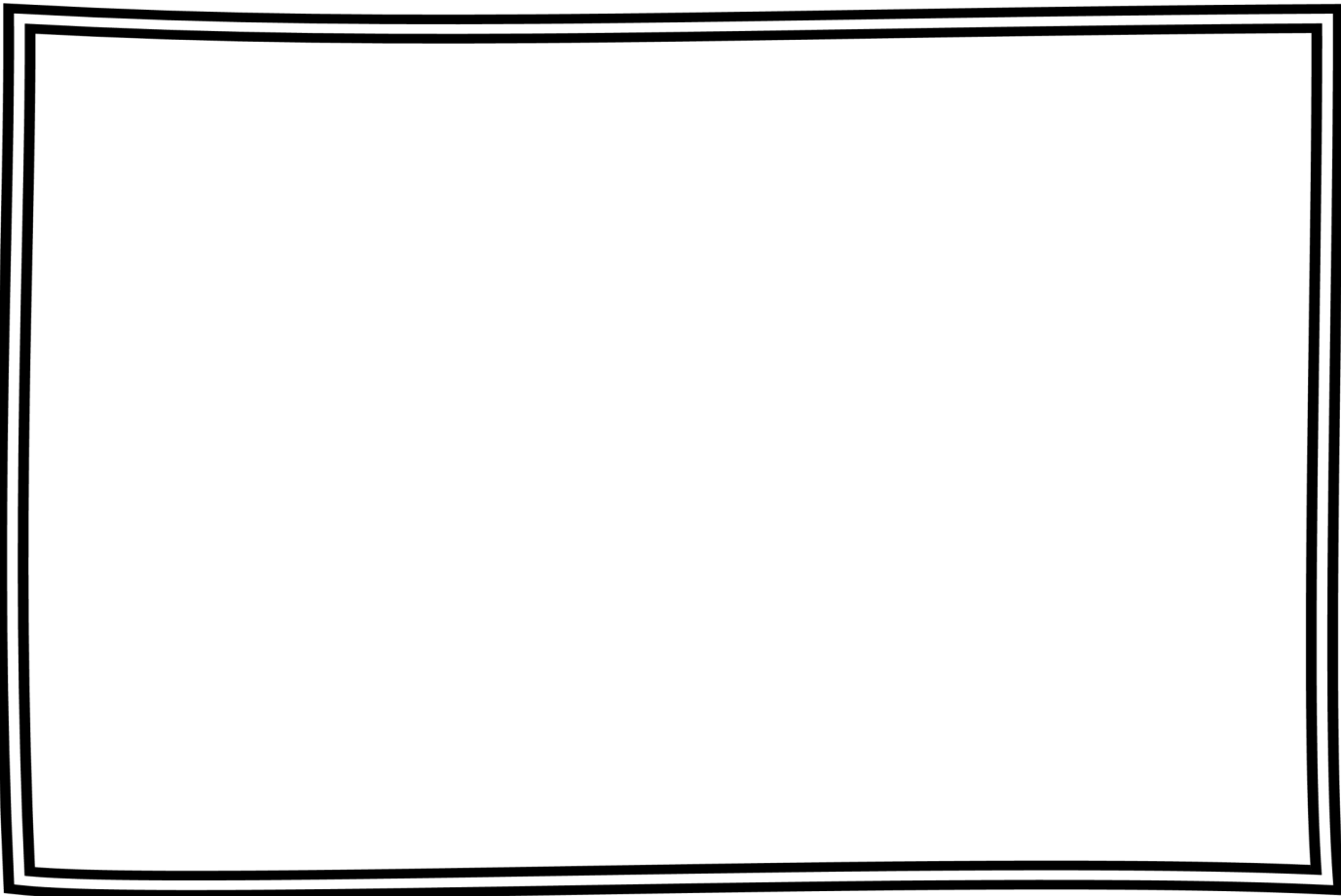
Write a short story using as many reduplication words as you can:

On the back, draw a picture from your story.

Design Your Dream Pool

My pool will have:

- _____ lap lanes
- Diving board
- Lazy river
- Slide
- Deep end
- Shallow end
- Splash pad
- Stair-free entrance
- Seating around pool
- Seating within pool
- _____



Wednesday, June 10, 2026



Today Is the Anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's Kite Experiment!

...or is it? We don't know for sure of the exact date, but Benjamin Franklin did this experiment in June of 1752, and June 10 is the date when it is believed to happen.

Have you heard that Benjamin Franklin discovered electricity? _____ That's not true! People had known about and were experimenting with electricity for a thousand years before this famous lightning storm.

Benjamin Franklin did prove that we can get electricity from lightning, and also how to keep houses safe from lightning storms.

In June, 1752, Benjamin Franklin used a kite, a wire, a key, twine, and a silk thread to pick up electrical energy in the air during a lightning storm. His kite wasn't hit by lightning, though. If it had been, Franklin would not have lived long enough to become a founding father. And Franklin wasn't standing out in the rain. He did this from a doorway, which also helped him survive.

Have you ever wanted to test out an idea with everyday items? _____ What experiment would you do?

On the back, draw a picture of yourself doing a science experiment. What are you discovering?

Silly Story

What is the last appliance in your kitchen you touched?

(A) _____

What is your favorite flower? (B) _____

What is your least favorite type of math?

(C) _____

What type of clothing do you like to wear the most often?

(D) _____

What is a hobby or skill you wish you could do?

(E) _____

Write your first name backwards

(F) _____

Now...write a story about a superhero named (F)

_____ who got their powers by

accidentally swallowing a (B) _____. Now

this person can do (E) _____

to an extreme level, but their weakness is (C)

_____, and their arch nemesis, who has

the power of a (A) _____ knows

how to use it against them.

On the back, draw a picture of your story.

The Whole World Is Reversed!

Imagine if everything in the world were backwards.

For Example, imagine if flowers were in the sky and stars were on the ground.

Think of more things that could be reversed:

_____ would be _____

_____ would be _____

_____ would be _____

_____ would be _____

Would you like this world better or worse than ours?

Why?

On the back, draw a picture your backward world.

Monday, June 15, 2026



Yesterday Was Flag Day!

On June 14th, 1777, during the Revolutionary War, the Second Continental Congress adopted the stars and stripes for the flag of the United States of America. It was not until 100 years later, however, that June 14th was celebrated as Flag Day for the first time. In 1877 the country celebrated the centennial of the American flag. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation for the national observance of Flag Day, but it still was not officially recognized until President Harry Truman signed it into law in 1949. The original flag had 13 white stars on a blue field and 13 alternating red and white stripes. But congress did not specify where each item went, in what direction, or what the proportions should be. When two new states were added to the Union in 1795, a new flag act called for 15 stripes and 15 stars. Francis Scott Key was gazing at a flag like this in 1812 when he wrote The Star-Spangled Banner, a poem that later became the American national anthem.

This pattern of adding a new star and stripe continued until it became obvious that there would not be room for continuing to add stripes. In 1912 President Taft established the current pattern, of 13 stripes to represent the original thirteen colonies, and one star for each state. The flag added its last two stars in 1960 when Hawaii and Alaska became the most recent states to join the Union.

In 1870 Betsy Ross' grandson gave a speech at a historic society in Philadelphia. He related a story which he said his grandmother told him as a boy, of how General Washington came to her to ask that she design and sew a new flag for the country. Betsy Ross was an upholsterer who made flags for the Pennsylvania Navy, so it would make sense that she would be asked to do this. However, the fact that nearly one hundred years passed before she was given official credit has since caused many people to doubt if the story is true.

On the back, draw the American flag as well as you can. Remember, it has thirteen red and white stripes (the top and bottom stripe are both red), and fifty stars (you can just do as many as will fit.)

50 States Word Search

O	M	O	N	T	A	N	A	L	A	B	A	M	A	T	Y	U	N
C	Q	K	E	W	E	O	L	H	R	R	T	A	D	E	I	K	O
I	A	L	W	P	O	I	A	A	I	N	D	I	A	N	A	A	R
X	W	A	H	Y	L	H	S	W	Z	K	J	N	V	N	A	N	T
E	O	H	A	G	O	O	K	A	O	M	H	E	E	E	I	S	H
M	I	O	M	F	W	M	A	I	N	A	D	S	N	S	N	A	C
W	Y	M	P	A	E	A	I	I	A	R	K	A	N	S	A	S	A
E	E	A	S	M	S	V	S	N	C	Y	X	Z	T	E	V	A	R
N	S	L	H	I	T	S	B	H	G	L	N	M	E	E	L	L	O
E	R	O	I	S	V	O	A	J	I	A	K	L	X	O	Y	A	L
W	E	U	R	S	I	U	I	C	H	N	G	F	A	R	S	T	I
Y	J	I	E	I	R	T	N	O	H	D	G	D	S	E	N	O	N
O	W	S	R	S	G	H	I	L	I	U	A	T	S	G	N	K	A
R	E	I	A	S	I	D	G	O	W	D	S	Q	O	O	E	A	T
K	N	A	W	I	N	A	R	R	E	R	A	E	T	N	P	D	O
N	I	N	A	P	I	K	I	A	P	O	I	H	T	U	Y	H	S
E	S	A	L	P	A	O	V	D	L	K	J	H	O	T	G	T	E
B	N	D	E	I	S	T	N	O	M	R	E	V	D	F	S	R	N
R	O	I	D	A	Z	A	I	N	R	O	F	I	L	A	C	O	I
A	C	R	C	X	T	U	C	I	T	C	E	N	N	O	C	N	M
S	S	O	R	H	O	D	E	I	S	L	A	N	D	J	K	L	P
K	I	L	L	I	N	O	I	S	G	Y	K	C	U	T	N	E	K
A	W	F	S	O	U	T	H	C	A	R	O	L	I	N	A	O	I
N	B	V	I	R	U	O	S	S	I	M	I	C	H	I	G	A	N
G	E	O	R	G	I	A	Q	W	E	R	T	H	A	T	U	Y	U

ALABAMA

ALASKA

ARIZONA

ARKANSAS

CALIFORNIA

COLORADO

CONNECTICUT

DELAWARE

FLORIDA

GEORGIA

HAWAII

IDAHO

ILLINOIS

INDIANA

IOWA

KANSAS

KENTUCKY

LOUISIANA

MAINE

MARYLAND

MASSACHUSETTS

MICHIGAN

MINNESOTA

MISSISSIPPI

MISSOURI

MONTANA

NEBRASKA

NEVADA

NEW HAMPSHIRE

NEW JERSEY

NEW MEXICO

NEW YORK

NORTH CAROLINA

NORTH DAKOTA

OHIO

OKLAHOMA

OREGON

PENNSYLVANIA

RHODE ISLAND

SOUTH CAROLINA

SOUTH DAKOTA

TENNESSEE

TEXAS

UTAH

VERMONT

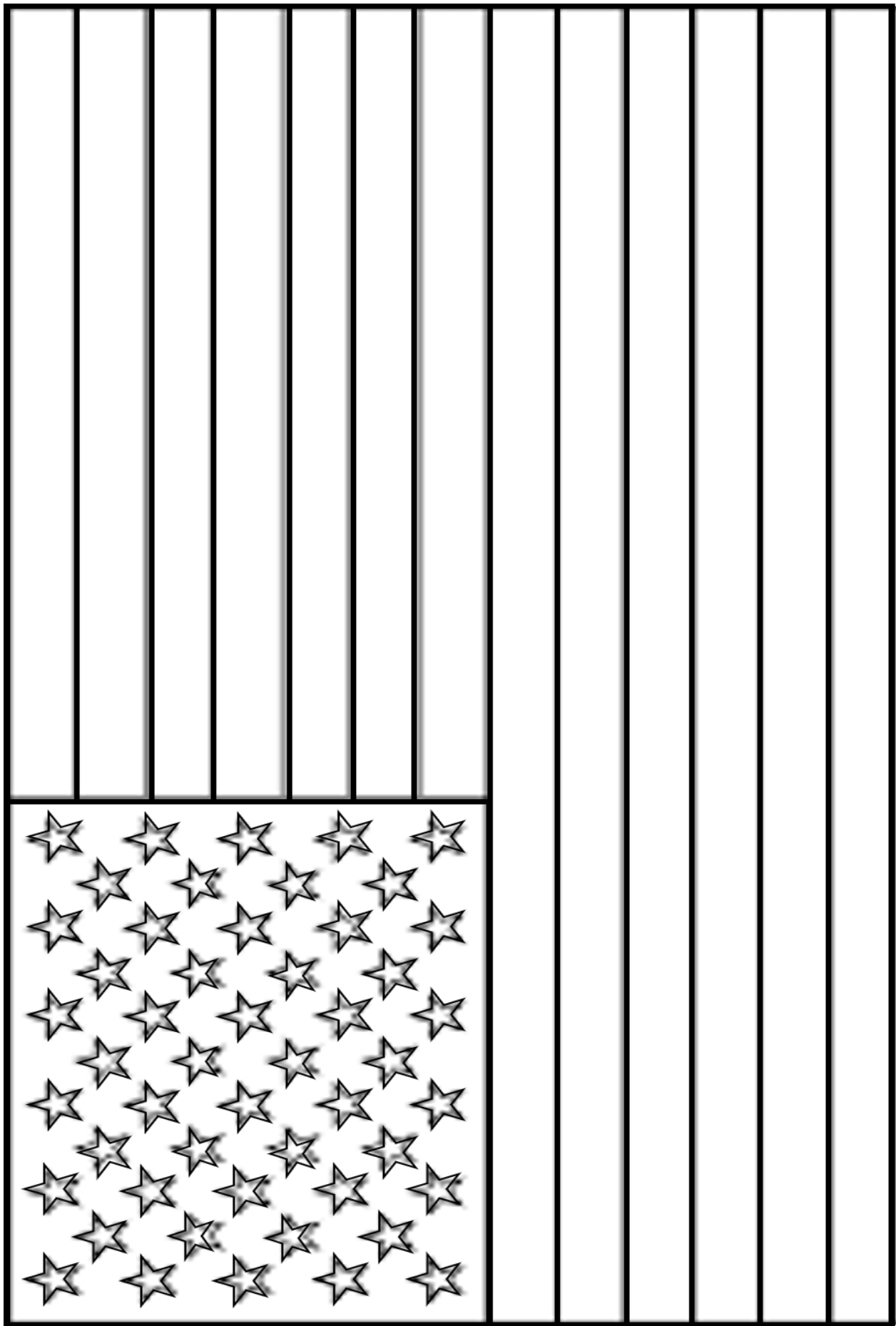
VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON

WEST VIRGINIA

WISCONSIN

WYOMING



Wednesday, June 17, 2026



Sunday Will Be Father's Day!

This year for Father's Day we decided to

_____ **Dad. We** _____ **him a** _____
present-tense verb past-tense verb adjective

_____ **breakfast. We decorated the house**
food

with _____, _____, **and a** _____
color plural noun color plural noun adjective

_____ **. We** _____ **a** _____ **for him.**
color singular noun past-tense verb singular noun

We told him we think he is the _____ **Dad in**
superlative adjective

the whole _____ **. We went to the** _____ **to**
area/location area/location

play a game of _____ **with him. Then, for**
game

dinner, we went out to _____ **at his favorite**
present-tense verb

restaurant, _____ **.**
possessive noun food

Yesterday Was National Flip-Flop Day!

Do you like to wear flip-flops in summer? _____

This style of sandals has been around for thousands of years. There are even drawings of Egyptians wearing them around 1500 BC! They were popular in Japan, and after World War II many American soldiers brought a pair home. But the word “flip-flop” wasn’t used to describe them until the 1960s. Why do you think they are called flip-flops?

The word describes both the motion of the shoe as you walk in it (it flips up and then flops down), as well as the sound you hear. This is called onomatopoeia. FLIP...FLOP
What other onomatopoeia words do you know?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

The word “flip-flop” can also describe when a person changes their mind frequently. Do you think that you flip-flop a lot? _____ What is something many people might flip-flop about? _____

On the back, color in the flip-flops with your own style.



Friday, June 19, 2026



Today Is Juneteenth!

In August, 1619, the first written record of slavery in the American colonies tells of about 20 people from Angola, who had been kidnapped by Portuguese sailors and sold to British colonists in Virginia. This likely followed countless undocumented kidnappings throughout the 16th century as well. Slavery continued to grow, and although it was a heavily debated topic prior to signing the Declaration of Independence in 1776, the country's founders chose to leave the issue for future politicians to handle, in order to convince the southern states to join in fighting Great Britain.

By the 1850s, the topic of slavery was driving the nation apart. When Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860, South Carolina seceded in protest. It was followed by ten other southern states. On January 1st, 1863 President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring slaves living in Confederate states to be free. This meant that as southern land was captured, the slaves living there no longer belonged to their owners; however, slaves living in land that had not rebelled against the Union were not freed, nor did free African Americans have the right to vote.

Nearing the end of the Civil War, and without the southern congressmen to oppose it, Lincoln could now push forward with the Thirteenth Amendment, which made slavery illegal throughout the United States. This passed on January 31st, 1865 and began to take effect in the South when the Civil War ended on April 9, 1865. However, news did not travel quickly in those days. It was not until June 19th, 1865 that Union soldiers arrived in the westernmost town of the Confederacy: Galveston, Texas; announcing the ban on slavery. One year later, on June 19th, 1866; African Americans in Texas celebrated the one-year anniversary of learning about their new freedom. This was the first Juneteenth celebration. Celebrations continued to be held each year, despite attempts by former slave owners to stop them, often with violence.

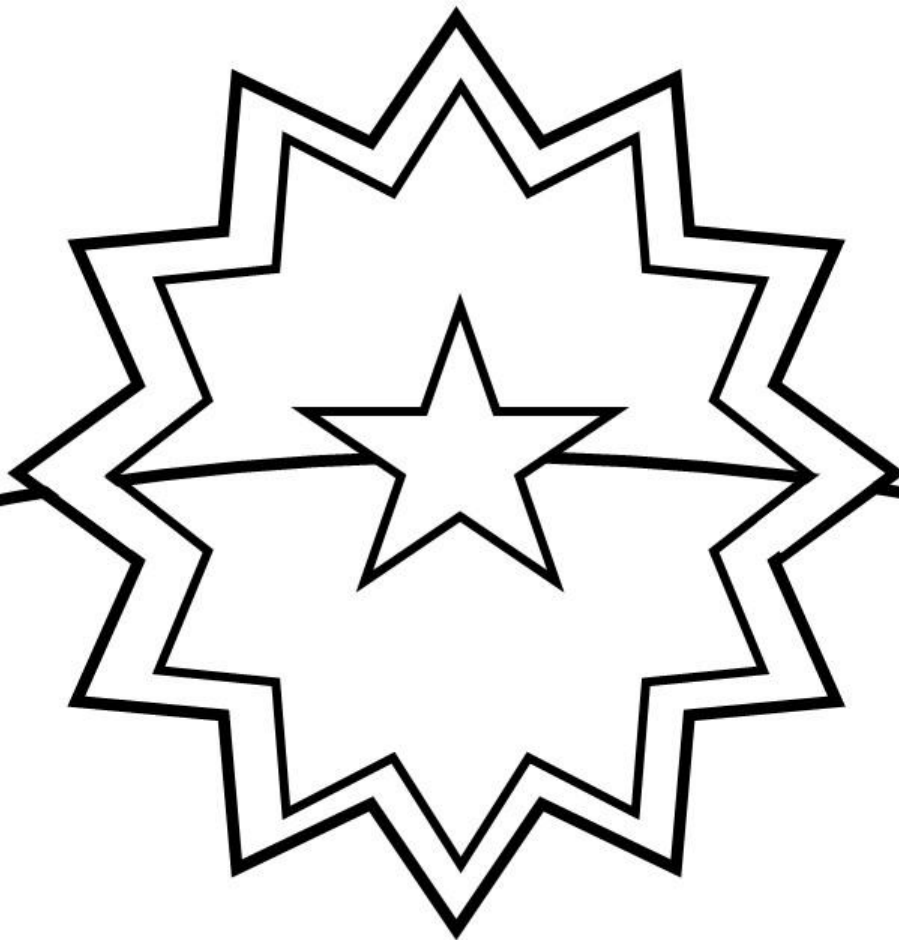
The Juneteenth flag was created in 1977 by Ben Haith and Lisa Jeanna Graf. The colors are red, white, and blue; to show that freed slaves were true Americans. The white star in the center is from the Texas flag. The twelve-pointed star outline is a nova, representing a new beginning for African Americans, and the arc represents a new horizon. On January 1st, 1980, Juneteenth became a state holiday in Texas, and on June 17th, 2021, it became a federal holiday.

Thursday, June 19, 2025



Today Is Juneteenth! Color in the Juneteenth Flag!

- It was created in 1977 by Ben Haith and Lisa Jeanna Graf.
- The colors are red, white and Blue, to show that freed slaves were true Americans.
- The white star in the center is from the Texas flag
- The twelve-pointed star outline is a nova, representing a new beginning for African Americans in the United States.
- The arc represents a new horizon.
- Color the Juneteenth flag dark blue on the top half, and red on the bottom half. Leave the 5-pointed star and the outline of the 12-pointed star white.



Yesterday Was the Summer Solstice!

For people living in the Northern Hemisphere, this is the longest day of the year. But how can one day be longer than another? Aren't all days 24 hours long?

Yes, but if we count a "day" as meaning daytime, or sunlit hours, the summer solstice is the longest day.

Because earth rotates around the sun at an angle, the sun is aimed more toward the Southern or Northern Hemispheres at different times of the year. Places closer to the equator see little to no difference in sunlit hours during the year. Places near the North Pole are often called the "Land of the Midnight Sun." In summer they may have sunlight from 4am till after midnight! What would you do if it were sunny after midnight where you live? _____

How long of a day will you have tomorrow? Check the weather forecast.

Sunrise: _____ Sunset: _____

Hours of Daylight: _____

The Northern Hemisphere has hotter summers than the Southern Hemisphere! This is because the earth spins around the sun in an ellipsis (long oval), so the seasons are not all equal.

On the back, draw a picture of the earth rotating at a tilt around the sun on an ellipsis. Show the sun angled at the Southern Hemisphere.

Tuesday, June 23, 2026



An Island of Talking Animals

Have you ever watched a movie where there were talking animals? _____

Did these animals also walk on their hind (back) legs and use their front legs like arms? _____

This is called anthropomorphism...That's a long word! Try: an-thro-po-mor-phism (an, throw, Poe, more, fizz'm)
It means to imagine an animal (or something else that's not human) as if it were like a human.

Imagine if you visited an island where all the animals could talk, walk upright, and grab things with their paws.

Which animals would be the teachers?

Which animals would be the cooks?

Which animals would be the entertainers?

Which animals would be the construction workers?

Which animals would be the doctors?

On the back, draw a picture your animal island.

Today Is Upcycling Day!

Do you know what upcycling is?

Does it sound like riding a bike uphill?

Well, it's nothing like that! Upcycling is related to the word recycling. Do you remember the Three Rs? Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Upcycling is actually a new term for reusing things.

Here are some ways people upcycle:

- Taking fabric from worn-out clothes and making something new with it, like a quilt, or a bag
- Using bottles, cans, boxes, and toilet paper/paper towel rolls for makerspace projects
- Using car tires for flower beds in gardens
- Using glass food jars as drinking cups
- Using the box from your latest delivery to create a play space

When you go home, make a list of the things your family throws in the garbage. Next to it, write down an idea for a way you could upcycle it.

On the back, draw a picture of yourself upcycling something.

Colors

How many red things
can you name?

How many blue things
can you name?

How many yellow things
can you name?

How many orange
things can you name?

How many purple
things can you name?

How many green things
can you name?

Sunday Is Paul Bunyan Day!

Have you ever heard stories of Paul Bunyan? _____
When European Americans began moving further west, they had a goal of clearing large forests to create more farmland. This would allow them to feed more people, with less work. These men were called lumberjacks. They led difficult and lonely lives, far from their families. To help pass the time and lift their spirits, they would tell tall tales: make-believe stories that have exaggerated features. Tall tales about Paul Bunyan, an imaginary, and very over-sized folk hero, claimed that just wandering around America, his footsteps and ax formed:

- ❖ The Great Lakes
- ❖ The Grand Canyon
- ❖ The Finger Lakes
- ❖ Niagara Falls
- ❖ The Mississippi River
- ❖ The Missouri River

Think about a famous natural feature (Old Faithful geyser, the Hawaiian Islands, the Florida peninsula). Imagine Paul Bunyan created it. Tell how he did it:

On the back, draw a picture of your story.

Today is National Camera Day!

When is the last time someone took your picture?

Nowadays, it might feel completely normal for some people to have their pictures taken every single day. But when cameras were first invented, a person might only have their photograph taken once in a lifetime! And that was only if they were considered important enough to have their photograph taken at all.

Pinhole cameras have been around since 400BC. But it wasn't until 1825 when a French scientist first printed an image from a camera. It only took eight hours of light exposure to work! In 1839 the Daguerreotype was invented. This printed an image onto a metal plate. In 1888 the Kodak roll allowed photographs to be printed on a flexible material. By 1900 cameras that could be kept at home were sold. In the 1990s, digital cameras were invented, and in 2000 the first phone with a camera came out.

If you had to sit still for hours to take one photo, how often do you think you would do it?

What is your favorite thing to take photos of?

On the back, draw a picture of it.

Midnight Tonight Will Be the Middle of the Year!

June 30 marks the very end of the first six months of the year. Tomorrow will begin the second six months.

How old are you? _____ years, _____ months

How old were you when you were exactly half as old?

_____ years, _____ months

At what age will you graduate high school?

_____ years, _____ months

What age is exactly half of that?

_____ years, _____ months

I have passed that age already.

I have not reached that age yet.

When does your school year begin? _____

When does it end? _____

What day will be exactly halfway through the school year?

Ask an adult to help you look up these other halfway marks:

Halfway between your home and school: _____

Halfway between you and your farthest relative or friend:

Halfway between the birth of the oldest relative you know about and when you were born: _____

On the back, draw a picture of yourself halfway to achieving an important goal. What is it?