

August 2026 Morning Work

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Morning Work

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.

8-3: Write a Short Story Without the Letter E

8-4: Ship School

8-5: National Work Like a Dog Day

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8-14: National Relaxation Day Tomorrow

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8-28: 63rd Anniversary of MLK's "I Have a Dream" Speech

8-31: National Beach Day Yesterday

Monday, August 3, 2026

Write a short story without the letter E.

To help you out, here are some words that do not use the letter E:

I	a	is/am	has/had
do/did	pitch	yawn	will/would
floor	roll	grown	world
miss	unicorn	thrill	spill
canvas	crib	comb	dog
cat	fly	turn	up
down	bad	good	saw
and	all	air	culprit

On the back, draw a picture from your story.

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

Imagine you went to school on a ship. How would your daily routine be different? Draw a picture of your ship school on the back of this paper.

Arrival: _____

Morning Meeting: _____

Math: _____

Reading: _____

Science: _____

Social Studies: _____

Lunch: _____

Recess: _____

Dismissal: _____

Homework: _____

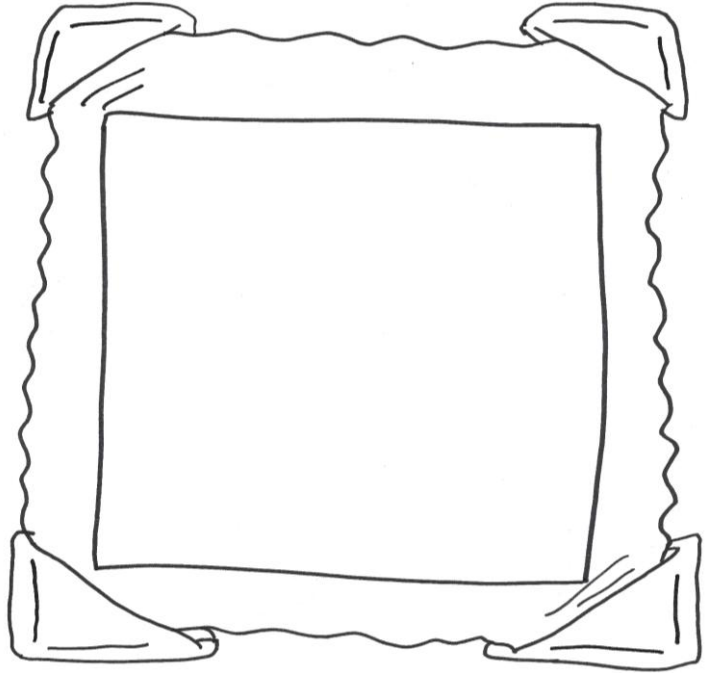
Would you like to go to school on a ship instead of here?

Today Is National Work Like a Dog Day!

The phrase, "Work like a dog," means to work very hard. It is a day to appreciate people who work very hard.

What are some jobs dogs do?

- ✓ Police Dog
- ✓ Fire Dog
- ✓ Airport Dog
- ✓ Seeing-Eye Dog
- ✓ Sheep Dog
- ✓ Guard Dog
- ✓ _____



If you were a working dog, which of these jobs would you like the most? _____

Why? _____

Draw a picture of yourself as this dog in the frame above.

Think of a dog you know or have seen. Do you think it works harder than you? _____

What is the hardest work you have ever done? _____

Thursday, August 6, 2026

Tomorrow Is National Lighthouse Day!

Have you ever visited a lighthouse? _____ Where was it?

Before modern guidance systems, lighthouses were crucial to preventing ships from crashing into rocky coastlines and small islands. How else would life be different before GPS?

Lighthouse Fun Facts

- The first lighthouse built in North America was in St. Augustine, Florida.
- The oldest existing (and still used) lighthouse in the USA is the Sandy Hook Lighthouse in New Jersey, built in 1764.
- At the end of the 19th Century, the USA had more lighthouses than any other country.
- On August 7, 1789, Congress placed lighthouses under federal control. In 1939, the Coast Guard took over operation of lighthouses.
- Today, many lighthouses are closing because they are no longer needed and are too expensive to maintain.

Would you enjoy being a lighthouse keeper? _____

Why or why not? _____

On the back of this page, draw a picture of a lighthouse.

Friday, August 7, 2026

Today Is Purple Heart Day!

The Purple Heart is a medal given to American soldiers who have been injured or died in battle. It shows great courage.

What is the most courageous thing you have ever done or seen?

The Purple Heart was established by George Washington in 1782. It was originally called the Badge of Military Merit and was only given to three soldiers.

Look up the word “merit” in the dictionary and copy its meaning here:

The badge was forgotten until after World War I. Chief of Staff General Douglas MacArthur led a group that created the modern Purple Heart for the two-hundredth anniversary of George Washington’s birth on February 22, 1932.

Why do you think Americans were celebrating the two-hundredth anniversary of George Washington’s birth? _____

Can you think of any other American whose birthday is celebrated each year? _____

Nearly two million Purple Hearts have been awarded to soldiers (or their families if they were killed in action) since World War II.

On the back, choose a color and shape combination to create your own Badge of Merit for any kind of deed.

Saturday Was International Cat Day!

Do you have a cat? _____ Would you like to have one (or more)? _____

Unlike dogs, most house cats come in pretty similar sizes. There are around 50 different breeds of cats.

Here are some fun cat facts:

- ❖ Cats were worshipped by the ancient Egyptians.
- ❖ Cats make over 20 sounds, each with a different meaning.
- ❖ Cats are lactose intolerant, so shouldn't be given milk.
- ❖ A group of cats is called a "Clowder."

Have you met a cat with a cool name? It can be fun to name cats based on how they look. What names would you give to these cats?

All White: _____

All Black: _____

All Gray: _____

Orange Stripes: _____

Black & Grey Stripes: _____

Black with White Paws, Nose, and Chest:

Black, White, & Orange Splotches: _____

On the back, draw a picture of your favorite kind of cat.

Today Is National Sons and Daughters Day!

You know about Mother's Day and Father's Day. Do you ever feel jealous that there isn't a day for you, too? Well, guess what, there is! The holiday was first suggested in 1944 and gained attention in 1972 when a Congressman from Florida suggested it be added to the National Calendar. It has never become more than an unofficial holiday, but it can't hurt to try!

So, how do you think you should be celebrated?

Describe your wildest, most ridiculous requests:

I would like to eat: _____

I would like to go: _____

What I would like to do: _____

I would like to watch: _____

I don't want to have to: _____

On the back, draw a poster to advertise National Sons and Daughters Day.

The Dog Days of Summer Ended Yesterday!

In the Northern Hemisphere the Dog Days of Summer refer to a time between July and early August when the weather is particularly hot and humid.

Which do you like less, weather that is too cold, or weather that is too hot?

Why?

The Dog Days begin when Sirius, called the Dog Star, part of the constellation Canis Majoris (the Greater Dog) is visible at sunrise. After our Sun, Sirius is the brightest star in our sky. Ancient people believed the position of Sirius affected the weather, human and animal behavior, and the flooding of the Nile River in Egypt.

What other constellations do you know? _____

If you were to name a weather pattern after a constellation, what would it be called?

What would people believe about it?

Friend Wanted!

Write a wanted ad for a friend. Think about what qualities you most value in a friend. What would you want a future friend to know about you?

I'm looking for a friend that loves to _____.

This person also enjoys _____.

I would like a friend who _____

when we disagree with each other and is considerate about _____.

I want a friend who would be willing to _____

_____ for me. I would

hope my friend will _____ even when _____.

If this description sounds like you, you should know that I

am the kind of friend who always _____.

Sometimes I might seem _____,

but I am actually very _____.

You can definitely count on me to be _____,

_____, and _____.

Sincerely,

Your Future Friend

On the back, draw a picture of you being a good friend.

Tomorrow Is National Relaxation Day!

Rank these popular relaxing activities in order of your personal preference:

- _____ going for a walk in nature
- _____ stretching
- _____ listening to soothing music
- _____ reading
- _____ taking a nap

What is your favorite way to relax? _____

What makes it hardest for you to relax? _____

If you had no schoolwork or chores, what percentage of your day would you want to spend relaxing? _____%

What is the most relaxing place near where you live?

What is the most relaxing place you have ever been to or would like to visit one day? _____

On the back, draw a picture of yourself doing something to relax.

Monday, August 17, 2026

Yesterday Was Rollercoaster Day!

Do you like going on rollercoasters? _____ What is your favorite rollercoaster? _____ What do you like about it?

Would you believe the first early rollercoaster was invented in the 15th century! Russians built giant wooden slides covered in ice that they rode on large ice blocks covered in straw, sliding up to 50 miles per hour. In the 18th century, Czarina Catherine the Great made a wooden version she could ride all year long. Would you rather ride a wooden rollercoaster, or an ice rollercoaster? _____ Why?

In 1827, people in Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania used to ride downhill at speeds of up to 50 miles per hour in railway cars that were used for mining coal. Do you think this was a safe trip? _____

The first official rollercoaster was invented in 1884 by LaMarcus Adna Thompson. It was called Switchback Gravity Railway and operated at Coney Island in Brooklyn, New York. It was powered by gravity and only moved 6 miles per hour. What do you think the first rollercoaster riders thought of this new invention? _____

In 1898 Edwin Prescott of Massachusetts invented the first vertical loop. Do you prefer rollercoasters that go upside down? _____ Why? _____

The oldest wooden rollercoaster still in operation was built in 1902!
On the back, design your own rollercoaster. Label its parts.

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

What Are Your Favorite Foods?

Imagine that for the rest of your life, you could only eat one item for each of the following categories. What would you choose as your favorite:

Breakfast: _____

Fruit: _____

Salty Snack: _____

Sandwich: _____

Vegetable: _____

Main Dish: _____

Drink: _____

Dessert: _____

If you ate these foods every day for a year, how do you think you would feel about them at the end of the year?

On the back, draw a picture of your daily menu.

You Have Been Stranded on a Desert Island!

You must quickly decide which three fictional characters from books you have read you would want to have as your companions.

_____ from _____

Because: _____

_____ from _____

Because: _____

_____ from _____

Because: _____

Who would be in charge of building a fire? _____

Why? _____

Who would be in charge of building shelter? _____

Why? _____

Who would be in charge of finding food? _____

Why? _____

Who would be in charge of signaling for help? _____

Why? _____

Who would be in charge of protecting everyone from wild animals? _____

Why? _____

On the back, draw a map of your island and what you have built on it.

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Today Is National Radio Day!

Do you like to listen to the radio? _____

What is your favorite channel? _____

Most radio stations focus on:

- ✓ Music
- ✓ Talk shows
- ✓ News
- ✓ Sports

Which of these is your favorite to listen to? _____

What type of music/sport/etc. do you like the most?

-
- Guglielmo Marconi transmitted the first radio signal in 1901.
 - The first commercial radio broadcasts began in 1920.
 - The 1930s and 1940s were the “Golden Age” of radio, before television took over as the most popular form of home entertainment.

If you were to invent something that changed the way people communicate, what would it be? _____

Fun Fact:

Radio stations that begin with a K are usually west of the Mississippi, while those that begin with a W are usually east of the Mississippi.

If you had your own radio station, what letters would you give it?

What would its nickname be? _____

What kind of station would it be? _____

Friday, August 21, 2026

Write a How-To Book

How-To books are very popular. They vary greatly in subjects, but all have one thing in common: the author is an expert on the subject and is explaining it step-by-step to the reader. Have you ever read a how-to book? _____

What was it called? _____

The most popular how-to book topics are:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| ➤ Eating healthy | ➤ Being organized |
| ➤ Cooking | ➤ Home improvement |
| ➤ Exercising | ➤ Taking care of money |

If you wrote a how-to book, what would it be about?

Write your synopsis for an editor here:

How to _____

By _____

Ch. 1 _____

Ch. 2 _____

Ch. 3 _____

Ch. 4 _____

Ch. 5 _____

Ch. 6 _____

On the back, draw a picture of the cover of your book.

Monday, August 24, 2026

Today Is National Waffle Day!

Cornelius Swarthout of Troy, New York received the first patent for a waffle iron on August 24, 1869. This was the first modern waffle maker, but not the first time anyone made waffles. Waffles have been made and enjoyed since the 14th century. In 1911 the first electric waffle iron was invented and in 1953 frozen waffles began to be sold. Belgian waffles, which have deeper honeycomb pockets were first introduced at the 1964 World's Fair in New York.

Design your perfect waffle:

Fruit:

- ☐ Cinnamon apples
- ☐ Bananas
- ☐ Blueberries
- ☐ Strawberries
- ☐ Raspberries
- ☐ Peaches
- ☐ Cherries
- ☐ Pears
- ☐ Pineapple

Toppings:

- ☐ Maple syrup
- ☐ Whipped cream
- ☐ Chocolate sauce
- ☐ Vanilla syrup
- ☐ Chocolate chips
- ☐ Marshmallows
- ☐ Peanut butter
- ☐ Ice cream
- ☐ Pecans

On the back, draw a picture of your waffle and color it.

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

A Very Backwards Day

Imagine if you lived an entire day backwards. Everything would happen in reverse. The last thing you do each day should be what you begin with. Tell about your day:

6am: _____

7am: _____

8am: _____

9am: _____

10am: _____

11am: _____

12am: _____

1pm: _____

2pm: _____

3pm: _____

4pm: _____

5pm: _____

6pm: _____

7pm: _____

8pm: _____

9pm: _____

On the back, draw a picture of yourself doing something backwards.

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Today Is National Dog Day!

This holiday was founded by Colleen Paige in order to bring attention to how many shelter dogs need to be rescued and to acknowledge the hard work that dogs do for humans.

There are more than 400 breeds of dogs. Do you know what your favorite breed is (or do you like mutts)?

It is said that dogs are as smart as a two-year-old human, but they can do many things humans can't. Do you think dogs are being fairly graded? _____

Dogs have 40 times as many smell receptors as humans, but humans have five times more taste buds. Have you ever seen a dog eat something you would not? ____ What was it?

Foods that are poisonous to dogs:

- Chocolate
- Onions
- Garlic
- Grapes/raisins

On the back, draw a picture of your favorite dog.

Alien Tour Guide

Imagine aliens came to visit your school. You have been assigned by the principal to give them a guided tour. These aliens have never seen an earth school before, so they will need everything explained to them in very fine detail.

Drop-off: _____

Morning work: _____

Social studies: _____

Science: _____

Math: _____

Reading: _____

Lunch: _____

Recess: _____

On the back, draw a picture of yourself giving the aliens a tour.

Today is the 63rd anniversary of MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech!

In 1941 civil rights leader A. Philip Randolph planned a march in Washington DC to protest unfair employment opportunities for African-Americans during WWII, but it was cancelled the day before it was supposed to take place after an agreement was made with President Roosevelt.

During the 1950s, Martin Luther King, Jr. was able to successfully lead a series of nonviolent protests against segregation in various forms. In 1963 a march was planned again, one hundred years after the Emancipation Proclamation. The event leaders met with President Kennedy the day before. Kennedy agreed to endorse the march and the leaders agreed to end it at the Lincoln Memorial instead of the Capitol, to ensure their peaceful intentions were clear. The official name of the march was The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. A quarter of a million people attended the event. King spoke last after many speeches and musical numbers. He had planned a four-minute speech, but then went off from his notes to speak for 16 minutes.

What modern injustice do you dream of changing?

I have a dream that one day _____

Why do you want this? _____

How can people make this happen? _____

What needs to stop in order for your dream to come true? _____

On the back, draw a poster for your cause.

Yesterday Was National Beach Day!

What is your favorite thing to do at the beach?

Where do you prefer to swim?

Rank them first to last:

_____ ocean

_____ pool

_____ lake

_____ river

What makes a good beach?

Rank them first to last:

_____ white sand

_____ big waves

_____ warm water

_____ a boardwalk

But the most important thing for any beach is to be clean!

How can you help keep beaches clean?

- ✓ Leave nothing behind after a day at the beach
- ✓ Always clip six-pack soda plastic rings
- ✓ Don't dump liquids into storm drains
- ✓ Put a roll of compostable doggie bags in your beach bag and fill it with garbage each time you go to the beach

Don't forget your sunscreen!

Did you know that the sun hits you twice at the beach? Once from above, and once when it reflects off the water. So, you need SPF protection even more at the beach than other times you are in the sun.

On the back, draw a picture of a perfect beach day.