

September 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.

- 9-1: Write your fall bucket list
- 9-2: History of Writing
- 9-3: Create a newspaper front page
- 9-4: Labor Day History
- 9-7: Labor Day Word Search
- 9-8: Design a map for a new state
- 9-9: Teddy Bear Day
- 9-10: If you controlled the weather
- 9-11: Patriot Day
- 9-14: International Chocolate Day yesterday
- 9-15: Dot Day
- 9-16: Design your dream playground
- 9-17: Constitution Day
- 9-18: Talk Like a Pirate Day tomorrow
- 9-21: World Gratitude Day
- 9-22: First Day of Fall
- 9-23: Write a short story without a, an, or the
- 9-24: World Gorilla Day
- 9-25: Johnny Appleseed Day Tomorrow
- 9-28: Create your own shop
- 9-29: Pet Peeves
- 9-30: International Translation Day

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Fall is right around the corner! Create your fall bucket list:

**Holidays and Special Events
I Will Celebrate this Fall:**

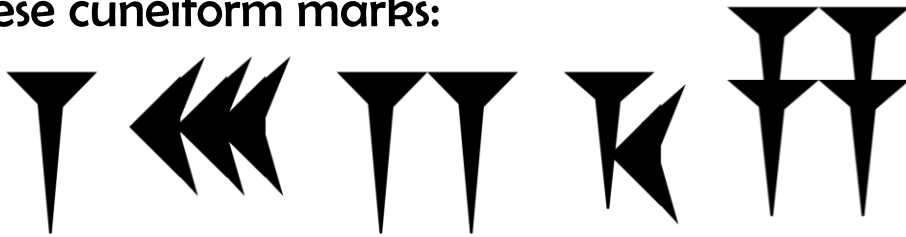
**My Favorite Foods to
Eat in Fall:**

**My Favorite Movies to
Watch in Fall:**

**This Fall I Want to
Learn How to:**

Writing Books

Writing has been used since 3,000 BC by the ancient Mesopotamians. The first book ever written (as far as historians know) is the Epic of Gilgamesh, from Sumer, around 2,000 BC. They used a form of writing called cuneiform that was made by pressing into a clay tablet. Press your pencil sideways to try copying these cuneiform marks:



The Egyptians developed a form of writing called hieroglyphics which they wrote on papyrus scrolls. Try tracing these hieroglyphs.



For centuries, books were written by hand. Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press in Germany in 1440. The first book ever printed was a copy of the Bible. In 1801 Pellegrino Turri invented the first typewriter and in 1977 the first home computer was sold.

Circle how you would prefer to write a book:

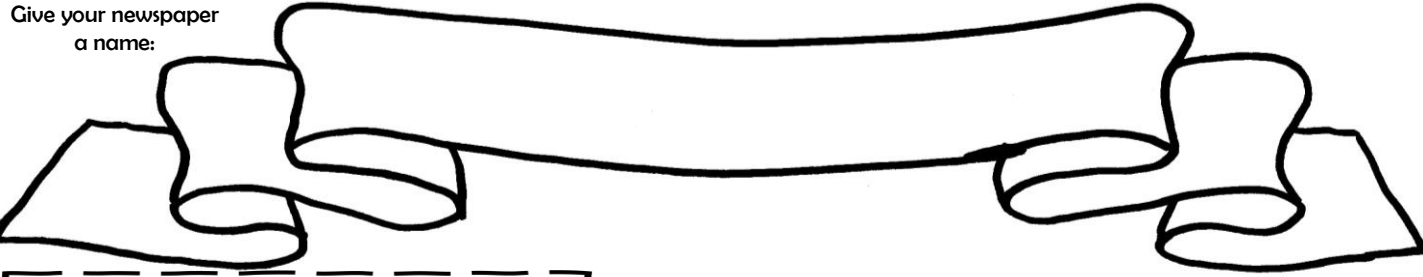
cuneiform hieroglyphs by hand typewriter computer

On the back, draw a cover for your own book and give it a title.

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Create a Newspaper Front Page

Give your newspaper
a name:



Draw a picture of your lead story here:

Write about the most interesting thing that happened this week here:

What has the weather been lately?

Tell about a movie you have recently seen here:

Weather:

Mon:

Tues:

Wed:

Thurs:

Fri:

Sat:

Sun:

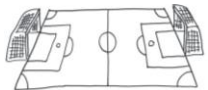


Movie Review:

Tell about a game you watched or played in here::



SPORTS UPDATE:



Friday, September 4, 2026



Monday Will Be Labor Day!

Do you know why Labor Day is celebrated? For most of history, people worked on farms or made things out of their homes, or they lived in the home of their employer. In the 1820s, new technology allowed for the creation of factories.

Where would you rather work: __farm __factory __employer's home

People (many of them children your age) who worked in factories were paid very little, treated roughly, and often had to work in dangerous conditions. The workweek was six and-a-half days, and the workday was about twelve hours.

What sounds more difficult? How children work in school today, or how many of them worked in old times? _____ Why?

In the 1880s, labor activists created unions and began petitioning the government to create laws that would protect workers. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on September 5th, 1882 in New York City. 10,000 workers took an unpaid day off, and marched in a parade from City Hall to Union Square. Speeches were given and people had picnics in the park to enjoy their day of rest.

How was this similar to how you celebrated Labor Day? _____

How was it different? _____

Today, many Americans enjoy Labor Day as a day off of work and consider it the unofficial "end of summer." Do you feel like summer is over? _____ How so? _____

Monday, September 7, 2026 Labor Day Word Search

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

DOCTOR
NURSE
AMBULANCE DRIVER
FIRE FIGHTER
SOLDIER
MECHANIC
VETERINARIAN
BUS DRIVER

REPAIR PERSON
SALESPERSON
JANITOR
GARBAGE COLLECTOR
POLICE OFFICER
TEACHER
DENTIST
FARMER



Tuesday, September 8, 2026

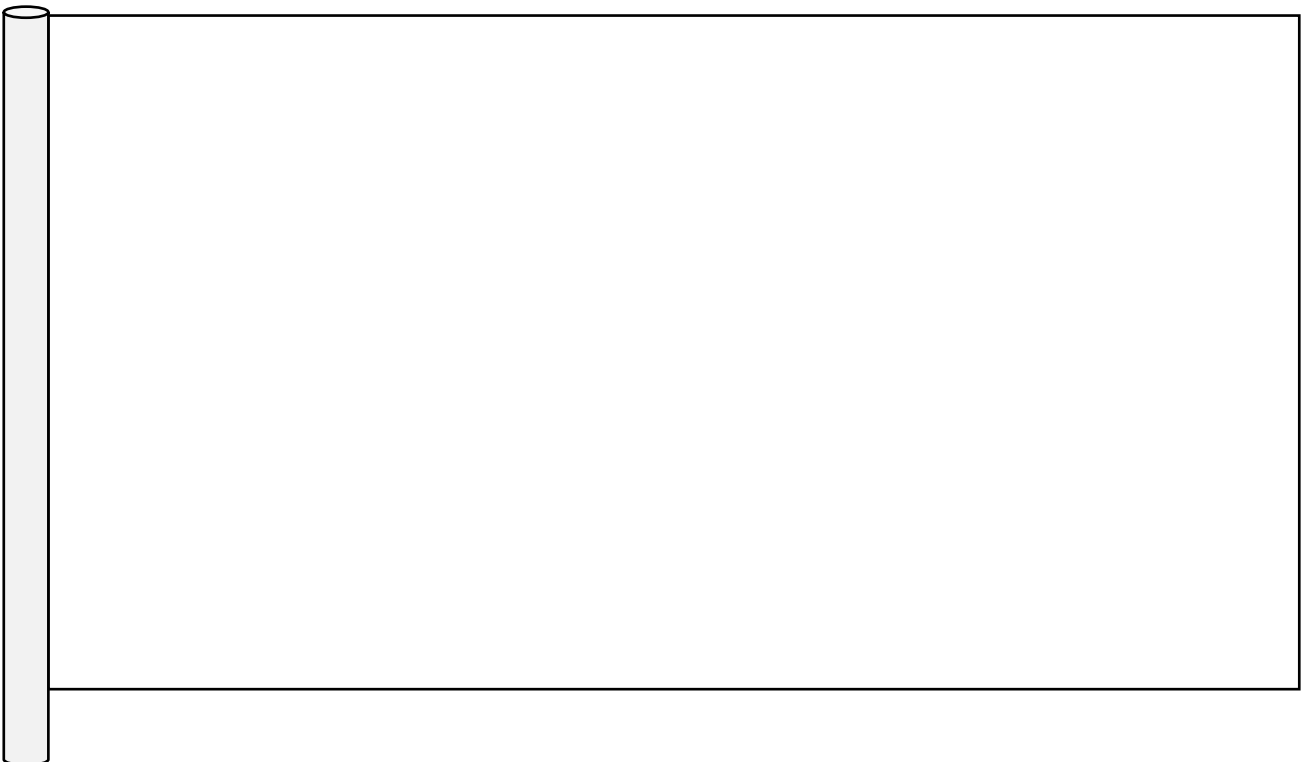
Imagine you get to choose the 51st state.

My state's name: _____

State Bird	State Flower:	State Tree:

My state's song: _____

My state's flag:

A large rectangular area for drawing a flag, with a vertical pole on the left side.

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Today is National Teddy Bear Day!

Do you have a teddy bear at home? _____ Did you have one when you were younger? _____ What is/was your favorite stuffed toy? _____

Did you know that Teddy bears are named after one of America's most famous presidents? In 1902 President Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt was out bear hunting. When he saw a bear cub he refused to shoot it. The story made the news and people began selling stuffed toy bears with round glasses and a "slouch" hat that looked like the ones President Roosevelt would wear.

Imagine someone created a stuffed animal toy named after you. What animal would it be? _____

What accessories would it have to show that it represents you? _____

Have you ever chosen to do something noble or selfless that others would consider an admirable act? What was it?

If you were famous, how might this act be remembered in toy form? _____

On the back, draw a picture of the toy named after you.

Imagine If You Controlled the Weather

Think about the different types of weather.

Temperatures in much of the USA generally range from 0-100° Fahrenheit.

Precipitation:	Rain	Snow	Hail	Sleet	
Cloud Cover:	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Overcast	Fog

Imagine you controlled the weather. What would it be like each month of the year?

Month	Temperature	Precipitation	Cloud Cover
January	___ ° to ___ °		
February	___ ° to ___ °		
March	___ ° to ___ °		
April	___ ° to ___ °		
May	___ ° to ___ °		
June	___ ° to ___ °		
July	___ ° to ___ °		
August	___ ° to ___ °		
September	___ ° to ___ °		
October	___ ° to ___ °		
November	___ ° to ___ °		
December	___ ° to ___ °		

On the back draw a picture of your favorite weather.

Today Is Patriot Day

Today is a special, but sad day in America's history. It is the anniversary of when the Twin Towers were attacked in 2001. The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center were constructed in 1973 and at 110 stories each, were briefly the tallest buildings in the world. Of the 2,753 people who died that day, 343 were firefighters who rushed into the buildings to try and rescue others. The firefighters were considered by many to be the heroes of the 9-11 attacks.

Do you know any firefighters? _____ Have you met firefighters on a field trip or other event? _____

Many firefighters begin as volunteers. Volunteers might help at the station or represent it at a community event.

Have you ever volunteered at a community event? _____ What was it? _____

Volunteers who have special emergency training may go on ride-alongs with the firefighters. Have you ever been inside a fire truck? _____ When and where was it? _____

Lastly, to become a firefighter, a person must get a degree in fire science and take entrance exams.

Do you think being a firefighter sounds scary? _____ Why? _____

Do you think being a firefighter sounds exciting? _____ Why? _____

On the back, draw a picture of a firefighter being brave.

Yesterday Was International Chocolate Day!

What is your favorite kind of chocolate?

___dark

___milk

___white

What do you like in your chocolate?

___raisins

___caramel

___nuts

___raspberry

___mint

___orange

___peanut butter

___strawberry

___other

The Olmecs of ancient Mexico began refining cocoa beans into chocolate about 4,000 years ago. It was used as medicine and for rituals, but it had no sugar added, so it tasted bitter. The Aztecs, who ruled Mexico when Europeans arrived, used cocoa beans for money.

Would you like it if we used chocolate as money today? ___

Why or why not? _____

They also made a chocolate water that they called “xocoatl,” which means, “bitter water.”

What do you call this drink?

___hot cocoa

___hot chocolate

On the back, design your own chocolate bar.

Tuesday, September 15, 2026



Today Is International Dot Day!

Have you read the book, *The Dot*, by Peter H. Reynolds?
It's the story of a student who thinks she can't draw anything, until her art teacher insists she draw just a dot. From there, she begins to see the many possibilities of what she can accomplish, if she makes just the smallest start. Think of something you have learned how to do (skating, playing a sport, riding a bike, etc.): _____
On a scale of 1-10, how confident were you that you would learn it when you first started? _____
What was the very first step in learning this skill? _____

What did you do next? _____
How do you feel about this skill now? _____

The ancient Greek philosopher Plato said, "The beginning is the most important part of the work." This means that the hardest part of doing anything is just getting started. Think about something you would like to accomplish: _____

Maybe you haven't started yet because it seems like it will be so hard to master it. Don't think about the end goal. Just think about the very first step. What will it be? _____

On the back, draw a dot. Then let your imagination turn it into something much more.

Design Your Dream Playground

Imagine your school was about to get a new playground and you were chosen to design it.

What type of flooring would it have?

- ☐ Sand
- ☐ Mulch
- ☐ Rubber
- ☐ Cement

On the back draw a picture of your playground.

Which and how many of these playground favorites would you include? Imagine the playground only has space for 15 total items.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| _____ # of swings | _____ # Tire swings |
| _____ # of slides | _____ # Climbing poles |
| _____ # Tunnel slides | _____ # Climbing walls |
| _____ # Spiral slides | _____ # Spinning chairs |
| _____ # Lookout stations | _____ # Arched bridges |
| _____ # Hideout stations | _____ # Seesaws |
| _____ # Hanging bridges | _____ # Merry-Go-Rounds |
| _____ # Monkey bars | _____ # Drums |
| _____ # Curved tunnels | _____ # Xylophones |
| _____ # Talking tubes | _____ # Turning bars |
| _____ # Rope climbing spiderwebs | |
| | _____ # _____ |

Today Is Constitution Day!

What is the American Constitution? It is the supreme law of the United States. After America won its independence from Great Britain, it had to start a brand-new government from scratch. This wasn't easy. The Constitution begins with the words, "We the people," and lays out the framework for how the government will be set up and what the rights of the people are. The first ten amendments (or changes) to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights.

Imagine you had to start a whole school from scratch. What rights would students have?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What things would the school not be allowed to tell students to do or not do?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What obligations would the students have to the school?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

On the back draw a picture of your new school.

Friday, September 18, 2026

Tomorrow Is Talk Like a Pirate Day!

Have you ever dressed up as a pirate? _____ Have you ever imagined being a pirate? _____ What do you think would be the best part of being a pirate?

What would be the worst part of being a pirate?

In 1995 two friends, Jack Baur and Mark Summers, were playing racquetball. In his frustration, one of them started speaking like a pirate. They thought it was so fun they decided to make it an annual tradition. At first it was just a local tradition, but then a newspaper columnist heard about it and wrote about how funny it was. People liked the idea and decided to play along.

What exactly is a pirate? A pirate is someone who trades illegally. But most pirates in history also stole and killed. While pirates might make fun movie characters, they did some pretty terrible things. One of the day's creators reminds fans, "It's Talk Like a Pirate Day, not commit felonies like a pirate day."

Write a sentence where you are talking like a pirate:

On the back draw a picture of yourself dressed as a pirate.

Monday, September 21, 2026

Today Is World Gratitude Day!

Gratitude means thankfulness. You have probably been told many times by adults that it is polite to say thank you. Maybe this frustrates you. But did you know scientists have found that being grateful can actually help your emotional and physical health?

World Gratitude Day began in Hawaii in 1965 with a group of people from all over the world who felt they should be more intentional about showing gratitude for all the good things in life. So what are you grateful for?

People

Places

Things

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Today Is the First Day of Fall

The first day of Fall, also known as the Autumnal Equinox, is always September 22 or 23. It is the day when the Sun is directly hitting the equator. Earth has two equinoxes each year: one in spring and one in fall.

What is your favorite season?

- ☐ Winter
- ☐ Spring
- ☐ Summer
- ☐ Fall

On the back draw a picture of yourself doing your favorite fall activity.

An easy way to remember the difference between a solstice and an equinox, is that equinox sounds like the word equal. On the autumnal equinox, the earth gets about 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness. What do you like more, longer days, or longer nights? _____

How do you feel about the days getting shorter?

What if fall lasted all year? What would you like most?

What would you like the least if fall lasted all year?

“A,” “the,” and “an” are called articles. We use them a lot. Can you get away with replacing them?

my	some	several
many	their	your
our	one	his
her	somebody's	any number

[illegible]

Today Is Johnny Appleseed Day!

John Chapman was born September 26, 1774 in Massachusetts. He traveled westward by foot as a Christian missionary, and planted apple seeds everywhere he stopped in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana. This earned him the nickname Johnny Appleseed. He taught people how to take care of apple trees and wanted to see the new country filled with them. Apples are native to Europe, so America did not have apple trees naturally growing at that time. Apples were once used for bartering, and in some places a farmer needed an orchard to claim ownership of land. Thanks to Johnny Appleseed, apples are now one of the most popular fruits in America.

What is your favorite type of apple?

- ☐ Red
- ☐ Golden
- ☐ Green
- ☐ Gala
- ☐ Honeycrisp
- ☐ Fuji
- ☐ Roma
- ☐ Other: _____

What is your favorite apple treat?

- ☐ Apple pie
- ☐ Caramel apple
- ☐ Dried apple
- ☐ Apple turnover
- ☐ Apple fritter
- ☐ Apple crumble
- ☐ Hot apple cider
- ☐ Other: _____

On the back draw a picture of an apple tree.

Create Your Own Shop

Have you ever thought of opening your own shop? What things might be interesting to sell?

☐ Clothes

☐ Flowers

☐ Baked goods

☐ Art

☐ Candy

☐ Decorations

☐ Books

☐ Accessories

☐ Toys

☐ Other: _____

Give your shop a name: _____

From the category you chose give specific examples of items for sale in your shop. Describe what they are and how much they cost.

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

On the back, draw a picture of the front window of your store.

Pet Peeves

Do you know what a pet peeve is? A pet peeve is a small behavior that someone does that you find particularly annoying (chewing loudly, cracking knuckles, saying 'um').

What is your pet peeve? _____

Imagine if your pet peeve actually became your pet. What animal would best represent your pet peeve?

Why? _____

Imagine if your pet pet peeve followed you around all day. On a scale of 1-10, how annoyed would you get with your pet pet peeve? _____ Write a paragraph describing your day with your pet pet peeve and what happens.

On the back, draw a picture of your pet pet peeve.

Today Is International Translation Day!

International Translation Day is a day to honor the work of translators around the world. A translator is a person who understands more than one language and helps people who only understand one of those languages, by changing it into the other one. How many languages do you speak? _____

The holiday was created by the United Nations, which employs hundreds of translators, because they have people from almost every country on earth working there.

Would you like to work as a translator one day? _____

What do you think might be fun about it? _____

What do you think might be boring about it? _____

International Translation Day is celebrated on the feast day of Jerome, a man who translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek to Latin in the 4th and 5th centuries. He is considered an inspiration to modern translators.

What language would you most like to learn? _____

What countries speak this language? _____

On the back, write as many words as you can think of that are from other languages.