

October 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.

- 10-1: National Homemade Cookies Day
- 10-2: National Custodian Day
- 10-5: National Taco Day Yesterday
- 10-6: Crazy Weather
- 10-7: Palindromes
- 10-8: The Kingdom of You
- 10-9: If You Went to School on a Mountain
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- 10-30: National Checklist Day/Halloween Tomorrow

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Today Is National Homemade Cookies Day!

Did you know that the average person consumes almost 19,000 cookies in their lifetime? How many cookies do you think you eat each month? _____ Multiply that by 12 to find out how many you eat each year: _____ Now multiply that by your age: _____ That's a lot of cookies!

Which types of cookies do you like best? Rank them 1st to last.

Dough:

- ☐ Plain Sugar
- ☐ Chocolate
- ☐ Peanut Butter
- ☐ Oatmeal
- ☐ Red Velvet
- ☐ Chocolate Mint

Fillings:

- ☐ Chocolate Chips
- ☐ Candy-Covered Chocolates
- ☐ Raisins
- ☐ Cranberries
- ☐ Jam

Texture:

- ☐ Crispy
- ☐ Crumbly
- ☐ Soft
- ☐ Airy
- ☐ Cake
- ☐ Crunch

On Top:

- ☐ Sprinkles
- ☐ Chocolate Layer
- ☐ Powdered Sugar
- ☐ Sugar Crystals
- ☐ Frosting

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

Friday, October 2, 2026

Today Is National Custodian Day!

Have you ever wondered where all the trash disappears to each night? Do you think it floats away? Custodians often clean at night, so we don't usually see them doing their jobs. It takes a lot of work to keep your school clean, and the custodians deserve a big thanks for it.

Imagine the trash was never emptied, the floors were never swept or vacuumed, and the bathrooms were never cleaned. What would it be like coming to school each day? Write a short story about it:

So, what can you do?

- Write a letter thanking your custodian for all his or her hard work.
- Draw a picture for the custodian to say thank you.
- Write a note and draw a picture on the white board at the end of the day to say thank you.
- Leave a sticky note on your desk saying thank you.

Yesterday Was National Taco Day!

Tacos are a traditional Mexican food that are extremely popular in the USA. The word “taco” comes from the Nahuatl language, spoken by Native Aztecs who lived in Mexico before the Spanish arrived. It is believed the first tacos were made in the 1500s. When the Spanish arrived, they added new fillings and spices, creating the modern taco.

How often do you eat tacos? _____

Which types of tacos have you had?

Tortilla:

- ☐ Flour
- ☐ Corn (Soft)
- ☐ Corn (Hard Shell)

Fillings:

- ☐ Fish
- ☐ Pork
- ☐ Beef
- ☐ Chicken
- ☐ Grilled Vegetables

Fun Fact!

Tacos come with all kinds of fun names. Some translations include “Shepherd Tacos” and “Basket Tacos.” One type of taco is called “Gringas,” which is Mexican slang for an American. Gringa tacos are made with flour tortillas which are popular with Americans, but rarely eaten by Mexicans.

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

Crazy Weather

Sometimes weather can be pretty extreme. Other extreme events can also happen in nature that aren't weather-related. Which of these events have you experienced?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ Hurricane | ☐ Hail storm |
| ☐ Tornado | ☐ Flood |
| ☐ Blizzard | ☐ Earthquake |
| ☐ Volcano | ☐ Avalanche |

How did you feel when it happened? _____

Imagine if one day all of these things happened at once. Tell a story about a kid just like you who experiences all these crazy events in a single day. How did they survive?

On the back, draw a picture of your main character braving the crazy natural events.

Palindromes

Do you know what a palindrome is? It is a word, name, number, or sentences that is spelled the same forward and backward. The word palindrome actually means “running back.” Some palindromes you might know are:

- taco cat
- noon
- civic
- wow
- mom
- deed
- racecar
- level
- peep
- kayak
- Anna
- dad

Number palindromes:

9009

42755724

6381001836

123321

Here are some palindrome phrases and sentences:

Never odd or even. Don't nod. Step on no pets.

If you had a palindrome name, what would it be:

Write a number that is a palindrome. The longer, the better:

Try to make up your own palindrome sentence:

Can you think of a year in recent history (or in the future) that is a palindrome?

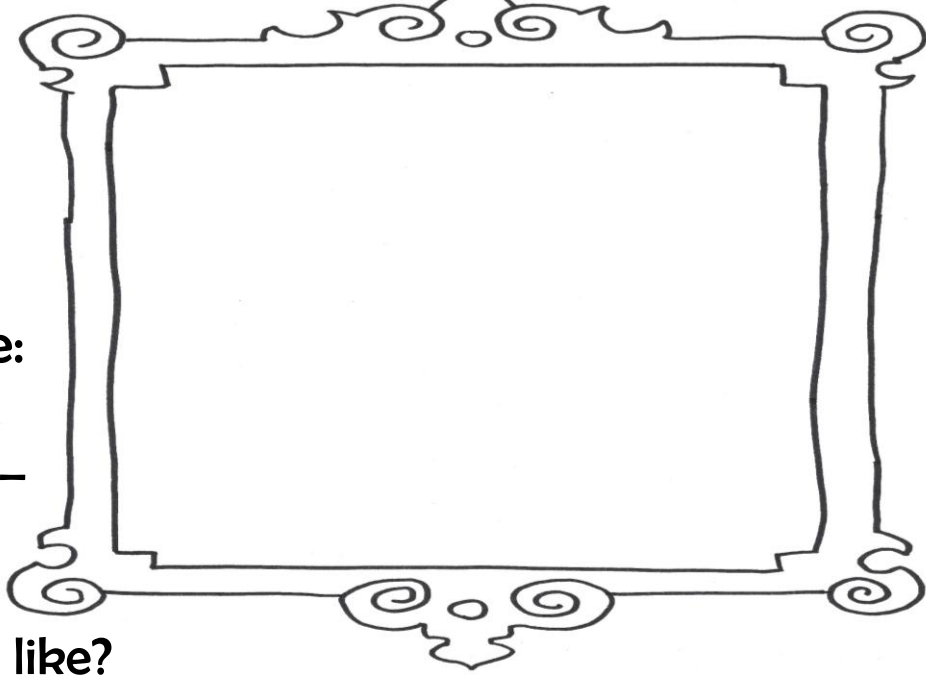
On the back, draw a picture of yourself running back.

The Kingdom of You

Imagine if you ruled your own country. What would you be called?

- ☐ King/ Queen
- ☐ Prime minister
- ☐ President
- ☐ Premier

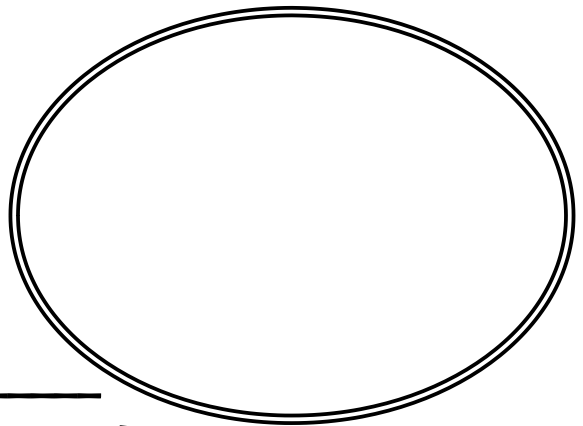
Draw a map of your country:



Your country's name:

What would your country's money look like?

National Symbol:



What are its most important laws?

Language:

On the back, draw a picture of you doing your job as leader of your country.

Friday, October 9, 2026

Imagine you went to school on the top of a mountain. How would your daily routine be different? Draw a picture of your mountain 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 mountaintop instead of here?

The Great Encounter

October 12, 1492 was one of the most important dates in history. It was the date of the Great Encounter. What do you think the word “great” means? _____

In history, the word “great” has a different meaning from how we use it in everyday life. It means “big” or “life-changing.” Many “greats” in history weren’t very good, like the Great Depression or the Great Fire. Have you ever heard the word “great” used like this for something else?

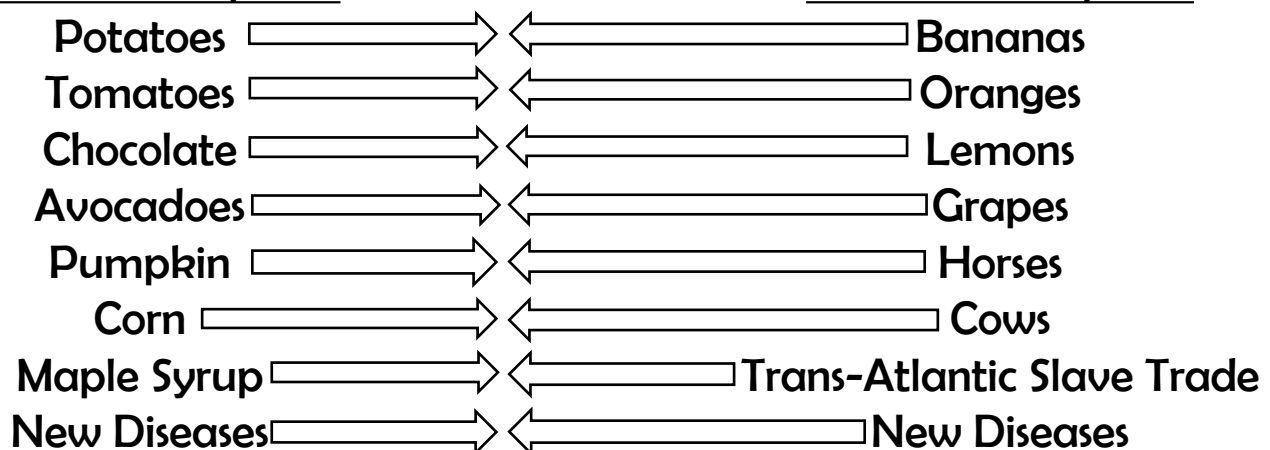
The Great Encounter was when two halves of the world met for the first time in modern history. Europe, Asia, and Africa are part of the Eastern Hemisphere. North and South America are part of the Western Hemisphere. For most of history, the two halves did not know about each other. But then, in Fourteen Hundred and Ninety-Two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue. He took the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. He sailed from Spain in search of a path to Asia.

Over the next several hundred years products and culture from each side of the globe began to spread to the other.

Color the good things green and the bad things red.

Western Hemisphere

Eastern Hemisphere



Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Today Is Ada Lovelace Day!

Have you ever heard of Ada Lovelace? Maybe not, but you have probably used a machine she helped make useful.

Ada Byron was born in England in 1815. Her father, Lord Byron, was one of the most famous English poets who has ever lived. After she married her husband, he was named the Earl of Lovelace, making her a Countess.

Ada studied mathematics and worked closely with one of the first inventors of computers. She was the first person to realize the machine could be used for more than just calculating numbers. She wrote what many consider to be the first computer program.

Which do you like more?

- ☐ Poetry
- ☐ Math
- ☐ Computer Science

The purpose of Ada Lovelace Day is to encourage women in STEM. When Ada lived, women were not encouraged to study these subjects. Which is your favorite part of STEM?

- ☐ Science
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Math



On the back draw a picture of a computer.

Your Substitute Teacher Is an Ostrich!

Imagine if when you walked into your classroom this morning, you discovered that your teacher was out sick and you would have a substitute instead. But instead of a human substitute teacher, you have an ostrich!

How does your substitute teacher take attendance?

How does your substitute teacher sit at the rug?

How does your substitute teacher move between desks?

How does your substitute teacher take you outside to recess? _____

How does your substitute teacher pass out papers?

How does your substitute teacher explain math problems?

How does your substitute teacher read aloud to you?

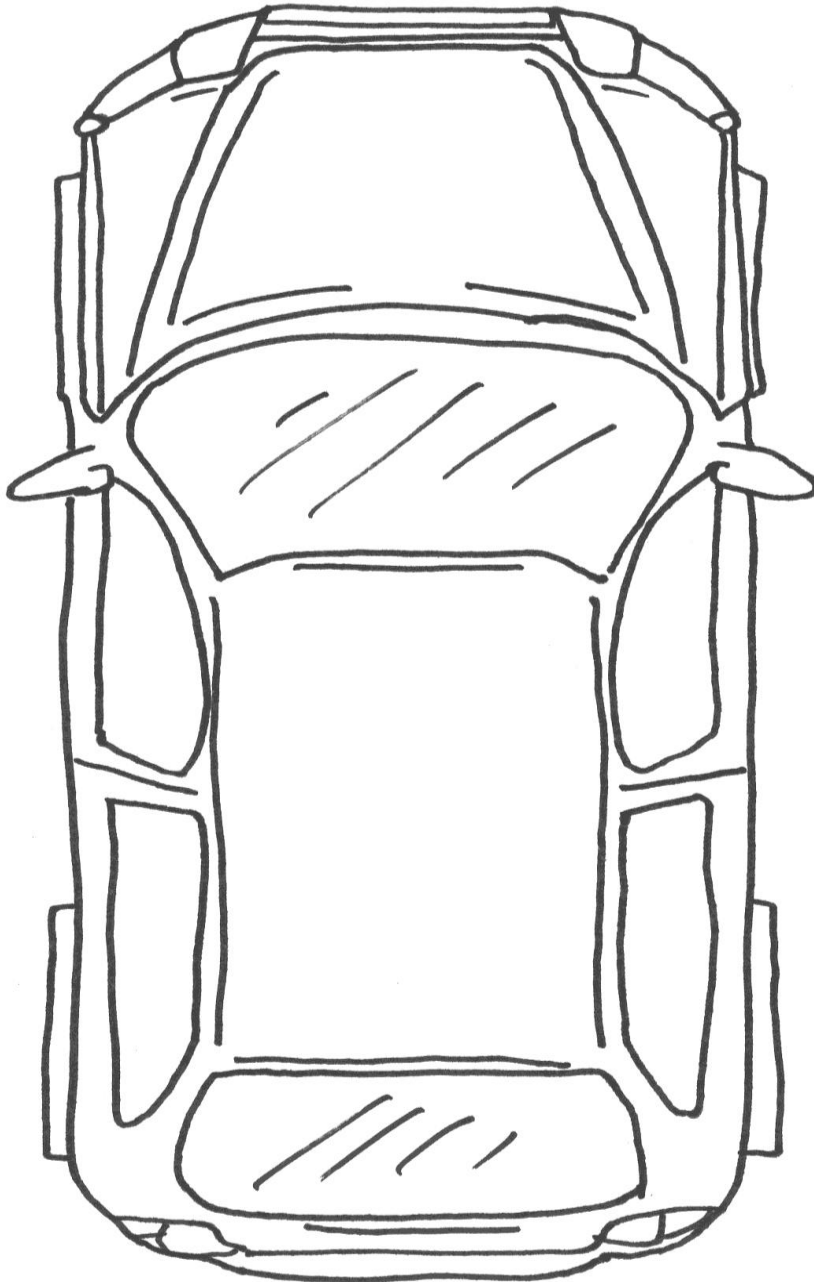
How does your substitute teacher dismiss you at the end of the day? _____

On the back, draw a picture of your ostrich substitute.

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Design Your Dream Car

Imagine you could design a car that had everything you could possibly want in it. Fun things to do, eat, watch... Create a diagram of your dream car, and draw lines to tell what cool gizmos go where.



Friday, October 16, 2026

Today Is World Food Day!

Does this name sound like a holiday to indulge in all your favorite foods? Does it sound like a day for feasting? Well, actually, it's the exact opposite.

World Food Day began in 1979 with over 150 countries participating. The goal of the holiday is to raise awareness of the many people around the world who do not have enough food, and of how many wealthier countries, like the USA, waste much of the food they have.

How can you be more mindful of what happens to your food?

- ☐ Keep a food journal. Write down everything you eat, everything that gets packed for you, and what you throw away. Use this to help you and your parents make better decisions about what food to prepare.
- ☐ Eat one food at a time. Don't open a new package of food or bite into a new fruit until you have finished the last thing you started eating.
- ☐ Put aside a portion of your allowance or money that you earn to give to an organization that helps feed people who do not have enough to eat.

On the back draw a picture of yourself sharing food with someone who needs it more than you do.

A Story of Random Things

What is your favorite color? (A) _____

What is your favorite animal? (B) _____

What is your favorite holiday? (C) _____

What is a job you think you might like to have when you grow up? (D) _____

What is your favorite subject to do in school?

(E) _____

If you had any different name than the one you have, what would you like it to be? (F) _____

Now...write a story about a (A) _____ -
colored (D) _____ (B) _____
named (F) _____ who is going to write
a book about (E) _____ for
(C) _____.

On the back, draw a picture of your story.

Tuesday, October 20, 2026



Your Weekend as a Penguin

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

Friday Night: _____

Saturday Morning: _____

Saturday Afternoon: _____

Saturday Evening: _____

Sunday Morning: _____

Sunday Afternoon: _____

Sunday Evening: _____

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

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Today Is Wednesday!

Wait! But why is it called Wednesday? And why are any of the days called what they are?

In 321 AD, Roman Emperor Constantine named the seven days of the week after the sun, moon, and the planets they were able to see. The Romans believed in many gods and named the planets after them. But in English the planets were given the names of gods from the myths of Northern Europe.

- ❖ Sunday is Sun Day.
- ❖ Monday is Moon Day.
- ❖ Tuesday is Tiw's Day (Mars to the Romans)
- ❖ Wednesday is Woden's Day (Mercury to the Romans)
- ❖ Thursday is Thor's Day (Jupiter to the Romans)
- ❖ Friday is Freya's Day (Venus to the Romans)
- ❖ Saturday is Saturn's Day

Which names do you like better, the Roman or English ones?

If you were in charge of naming each day of the week, what names would you give them?

Sunday: _____

Monday: _____

Tuesday: _____

Wednesday: _____

Thursday: _____

Friday: _____

Saturday: _____

On the back create a calendar with your new day names.

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Today Is National Nut Day!

Do you like to eat nuts? _____

Nut butter? _____

Baked into a muffin? _____

Covered in chocolate? _____

What is your favorite kind of nut? _____

Did you know that nuts are actually a type of fruit?

Also, many small, crunchy snacks that we call nuts aren't nuts at all! Peanuts are actually legumes (like peas) and many nuts are actually "seeds."

But most people prefer to call all these treats nuts. Which ones do you love, which do you hate, and which are just okay?

Do you like them alone, in a dessert, or some other way?

Love It	Hate It	It's Okay	Nut	Favorite Way to Eat It
			Peanut	
			Almond	
			Walnut	
			Chestnut	
			Brazil Nut	
			Macadamia Nut	
			Cashew	
			Hazelnut	
			Pecan	
			Pine Nut	
			Pistachio	

On the back draw your favorite type of nut.

Combination Words

Do you feel fantabulous today? Do you have a ginormous project coming up? Do you just need to chillax?

If some of those words sound made up to you...it's because they are! Blending synonyms for emphasis is a fairly recent trend in the English language. Here are their origins:

Gigantic + enormous = ginormous

Fantastic + fabulous = fantabulous

Chill + relax = chillax

Guess + estimate = guesstimate

Think of two synonyms (words that mean the same or almost the same thing):

Now combine them to create a word of your own:

Sometimes antonyms or unrelated words get combined to create new words:

Friend + enemy = frenemy

Staying at home + vacation = staycation

Hungry + angry = hangry

Think of two antonyms (opposites) or unrelated words:

Now combine them to create a word of your own:

On the back, draw a picture of what one of your new words means.

Monday, October 26, 2026

Today Is National Pumpkin Day!

Did you know that pumpkins are one of the oldest crops domesticated by humans? People began to farm them thousands of years ago in what is now Mexico. In the 15th century, Christopher Columbus and other explorers brought pumpkins from North America to Europe. Today, most Americans consider pumpkin spice to be the official flavor of fall.

Which pumpkin treats do you enjoy?

- ☐ Pumpkin pie
- ☐ Pumpkin muffins
- ☐ Pumpkin ice cream
- ☐ Pumpkin pancakes
- ☐ Pumpkin cookies
- ☐ Baked pumpkin seeds

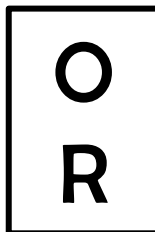
Good news! Pumpkins are very healthy. They have good amounts of fiber, Vitamin A, iron, and antioxidants. So, a pumpkin dessert is one of the better desserts you could have.

Would you rather...

Bake a pumpkin.

Carve a pumpkin.

Play pumpkin bowling.



Smash a pumpkin.

Paint a pumpkin.

Play pumpkin ring toss.

On the back draw a picture of your favorite thing to do with a pumpkin.

Today Is Theodore Roosevelt's Birthday!

Have you ever had a Teddy Bear? _____

If you have, you had your own mini-Theodore Roosevelt at home! Teddy Bears are named after President "Teddy" Roosevelt because of a famous story from a hunting trip. Theodore Roosevelt was born October 27, 1858 in Manhattan. He was often sick as a child, and spent a lot of time reading in bed. After learning how exercise and fresh air could help him become healthier, Roosevelt began a life that was highly focused on exercise and time in nature.

During his life, Roosevelt was a cowboy, soldier, explorer, and politician. He became the youngest American president in 1901 and still holds that title.

Why is Theodore Roosevelt so famous? Here are his top 5:

- He pushed the Pure Food and Drug Act which forced food and medicine labels to be honest about their ingredients
- He established the National Forest Service
- He created five National Parks
- He was the first non-European to win a Nobel Peace Prize
- He was the first president to invite an African American (Booker T. Washington) to dinner at the White House.

Of course, back in his day, and today, there are other things Roosevelt did that people disagree with. He is often considered the first "modern" American president. His style can be summed up by his most famous quote:

"Speak softly and carry a big stick."

On the back, draw a picture of what you think this means.

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

Make Up a Tongue Twister!

Do you like tongue twisters? They are fun to say and even more fun to challenge someone else to do. All you need are several words that begin with the same sound. Not all sounds are spelled the same. Here are some words that can be used in your tongue twister:

L: Larry, Lupe, Lucy, Linda, Ling, lucky, lollipop, licks, lunges, lovely, lonely, laughing, leaps, listens, likes, limbo, laryngitis,

F/PH: Fred, Frida, Frank, Felipe, Phoebe, phony, phones, flips, flowers, funny, photo, phase, fantastic, philosophy

S/C/SC: Sarah, Cecilia, Cyrus, Samantha, Sergio, sergeant, serpent, cylinder, cycle, scent, scene, sips, salad, soup, sobs

N/KN: Ned, Nellie, Nora, Naomi, Natsuki, nagging, nest, nudges, knows, knee, knot, knuckle, nothing, nobody, none

My Tongue Twister:

On the back draw a picture from your tongue twister.

Time Travel!

Do you ever wish you could time travel? _____

Would you rather time travel to the past or to the future?

What event from the past would you most like to witness?

What person from the past would you most like to meet?

What new inventions would you like to see in the future?

What event from your life would you like to witness in the future? _____

Perhaps you will be the scientist to invent the first time-travel machine. What would you call it?

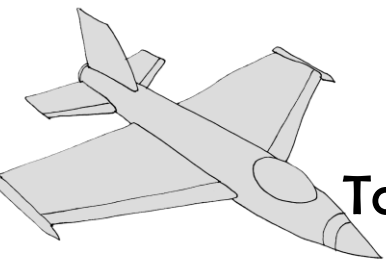
How much money would you charge people for a ride in it?

How long would each trip last? _____

Do you think there would be any dangers to time travel?

If someone time-travelled from the past, what would you most like to show them about our own time? _____

On the back, draw a picture of your time travel machine.



Friday, October 30, 2026

Today Is National Checklist Day!

Do you like checklists? _____

Do your parents make you keep a checklist? _____

For chores? _____

For homework? _____

Does your teacher give you checklists? _____

You might think checklists are pretty boring, but the word “checklist” actually came about because of a tragic accident that was the result of a pilot forgetting to check a simple button on October 30, 1935. Since then, pilots have checklists, because no human can remember everything all the time. Checklists save lives! The most famous checklist lover was Leonardo Da Vinci.

But here are some more fun ways to use checklists:

- ✓ Next time you go somewhere fun, like a theme park, make a checklist ahead of time to help focus on top priority attractions.
- ✓ Make a checklist of your favorite things to do, eat, and watch in each season.
- ✓ Make a summer checklist of every toy and game you have and make a goal to play with each one at least once.
- ✓ Make a checklist of all the books you have read and want to read.
- ✓ Make a checklist of all your friends' birthdays so you remember to make them a card.

Remember, the next time a teacher or parent tells you to double-check your work, they're not just saying that to be strict. They're preparing you to not lose your future job (or even someone's life) by developing a good habit now).

On the back, make a checklist of all the things you would like or need to do this week.

Friday, October 30, 2026

Tomorrow Is Halloween!

Do you enjoy Halloween? _____ What is your favorite costume?
_____ Do you like to trick-or-treat?
_____ What is your favorite candy? _____

Did you know that Halloween is actually from Ireland? The people who lived in ancient Ireland, the Celts, had a holiday called Samhain, which celebrated the end of the harvest season. On this day, they believed that spirits could walk among them. To keep them from staying too long, they would dress up to disguise themselves. In the 8th century, Pope Gregory named November 1st All Saints Day. The day before was called All Hallow's Eve. This is where the name Halloween came from. When Irish immigrants arrived in America, they began carving Jack-O-Lanterns out of pumpkins. In the 1800s the tradition of trick-or-treating began, and in the 1920s towns began to host Halloween parades.

Which Halloween traditions are the best? Rank them!

_____ Trick-or-Treating	_____ Halloween parties
_____ Pumpkin carving	_____ Telling scary stories around a fire
_____ Making caramel apples	_____ Watching spooky movies

Did you know that in your grandparents' time...

- Popular treats to give to trick-or-treaters were apples and homemade popcorn balls.
- Children usually collected candy into pillowcases.
- A popular Halloween party game was Bobbing for Apples, in which everyone would put their head into a giant tub of water filled with apples and try to bite into one with their mouths wide open. Yuck!

On the back draw a picture of your best Halloween ever!