Teach Grow Sow

December 2026 Morning Work

December 2026
Morning Work

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 them with work.

12-1: Rosa Parks Day
12-2: Tour Guide
12-3: World Wildlife Conservation Day
12-4: When I Grow Up
12-7: Person of the Year
12-8: Pretend to Be a Time-Traveler
12-9: Gingerbread Houses
12-10: Human Rights Day
12-11: Poinsettia Day Tomorrow
12-14: National Cocoa Day Yesterday
12-15: Bill of Rights Day
12-16: Maple Syrup Day Tomorrow
12-17: Wright Brothers Day
12-18: Polar Bear Substitute Teacher
12-21: Winter Solstice
12-22: Best Holiday Movie
12-23: Favorite Holiday Tradition
12-24: Holiday Wishlist
12-25 : 12 Days of Christmas Math Challenge
12-28: Holiday Adlib
12-29: 2027 Math
12-30: New Year's Resolutions
12-31: New Year's Eve

Tuesday, December 1, 2026

Teach Grow Sow

Today Is Rosa Parks Day!

Rosa Parks was a seamstress at a department store in Montgomery, Alabama. She served as the secretary of the Montgomery chapter of the NAACP, where she received training in how to stand up for her individual civil rights. In the South at this time, buses had separate sections with white people riding in the front. African Americans sitting in the back of a bus could be told to give up their seats for a white person if the white section was full. What do you think about this law?_____

_____

In 1955, Rosa Parks was sitting in the back of the bus. When it became full and a white man boarded with no place to sit, the bus driver ordered Parks to get out of her seat. She refused and was arrested. Inspired by this courageous act, African Americans in Montgomery boycotted all buses for over a year until bus segregation was declared illegal.
Has anyone ever inspired you with their courage?

_____

Have you ever done something brave because it was the right thing to do? _____

_____

Rosa Parks became a symbol of civil disobedience and was nicknamed "The First Lady of Civil Rights."

On the back color in the picture of Rosa Parks



Rosa Parks

1913-2005

Wednesday, December 2, 2026

Tour Guide

What is your favorite place you have ever traveled to visit?

_____

Imagine you are a tour guide at that place. How do you give your tours?

- Bus
- Walking
- Helicopter
- Boat
- Trolley
- Bicycle

What information would you share with the tourists?

_____

_____

_____

What are people most interested in doing there?

_____

What are people most interested in eating there?

_____

What is the most popular thing to take a picture of there?

_____

On the back draw a picture of yourself as a tour guide there.

Thursday, December 3, 2026

Teach Grow Sow

Today Is World Wildlife Conservation Day!

Do you love wildlife? What is your favorite wild animal?

_____

In what part of the world does this animal live? (You may need an adult to help you find some of these answers.)

_____

What is something that threatens the safety of this animal?

_____

_____

The word *conservation* means to maintain, or protect from destruction. You may have heard people talking about conserving water, or conserving electricity. Conservation is about conserving, or protecting, wild animals.

Many wild animals are in danger of extinction. That means that there would be no more of a particular animal. Lots of things can cause extinction, but humans are often the biggest factor. Humans need many things from their environment, but also have a very long list of wants.

Do some research on ways to help wild animals and see if one of your wants is something that can be given up in order to help keep the balance of the earth's animals.

On the back draw a picture of your favorite wild animal.

Friday, December 4, 2026
When I Grow Up

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When I grow up, I would like to be _____.
I plan to get this job by studying _____.
I would like to drive a _____ that is _____ (color).
I would like to live in:

- ❑ A big city
- ❑ A small city
- ❑ The suburbs
- ❑ A small town
- ❑ The country
- ❑ A Highrise apartment building
- ❑ A townhouse
- ❑ A cute cottage
- ❑ A house
- ❑ A farm

I think I will have _____ kids and #_____ pet _____.
When I grow up my new hobby will be _____
_____.
The accomplishment I'll be most proud of is that I
_____.
The 3 words my friends will use to describe me are:
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
The best part of being an adult will be: _____
_____
The worst part of being an adult will be: _____
_____

On the back draw a picture of yourself as an adult.

Monday, December 7, 2026

Teach Grow Sow

You've Just Been Named Person of the Year!

Have you heard the term, "Person of the Year?" It comes from Time Magazine, which has been giving this title to the person they consider to be the most influential on our society each year since 1927 (whether good or bad). It used to be called "Man of the Year," and "Woman of the Year," and first featured Charles Lindbergh, the first person to fly across the Atlantic Ocean alone.

So....what did you do to earn this title? Hopefully something good! (Being Person of the Year doesn't always go to those who have improved society.) Did you:

- ❑ Write a book
- ❑ End a conflict
- ❑ Invent something
- ❑ Fight for rights
- ❑ Run a company
- ❑ Run a country
- ❑ Cure a disease
- ❑ Lead an organization

What would the article about you say?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

On the back draw your cover picture.

Tuesday, December 8, 2026

Teach Grow Sow

Today Is Pretend to Be a Time-Traveler Day!

Since the 1990s people have been dressing up on December 8th as if they were from another time in the past or future. They pretend to be time-travelers on this silly and quirky holiday.

If you were going to pretend to be from another time, when would it be? _____

How would you dress to make people believe you are from this time? _____

What things would you tell them to try to make them believe you had really time-traveled? _____

_____

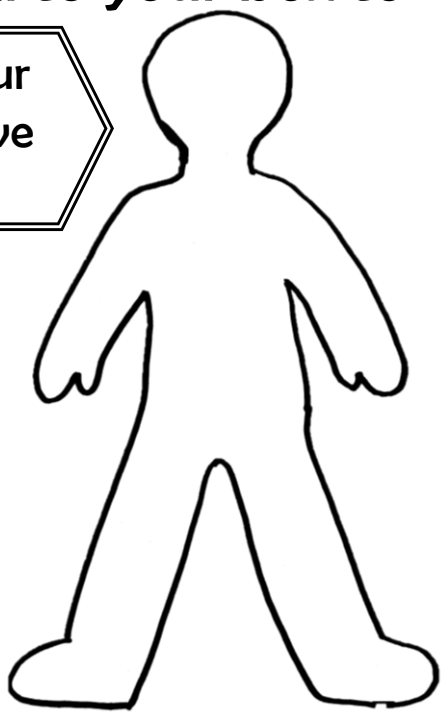
Have you ever tried to make a time machine from a big cardboard box? _____

What other items from home could you add to your box to make it look like a time machine?

- ❑ Milk/juice carton caps
- ❑ Toilet paper rolls
- ❑ Paper towel rolls
- ❑ Egg cartons
- ❑ Shoe boxes
- ❑ Aluminum foil
- ❑ Yarn
- ❑ Tissue boxes

Fill in your time-trave suit.

On the back draw a picture of your time machine.



Wednesday, December 9, 2026

Teach Grow Sow

Gingerbread Houses

Do you like making gingerbread houses? Well, you can thank the Brothers Grimm for them! It is believed that the idea for making gingerbread houses came from their story about Hansel and Gretel. The two children come across a house made of gingerbread and candy. Because of the popularity of the Grimm Brothers fairy tales, people began making their own gingerbread houses.

How would you decorate your gingerbread house?

Roof: _____

Door: _____

Windows: _____

Path: _____

Trees: _____

Do you prefer to use graham crackers or actual gingerbread for your house? _____

Gingerbread gets its name because it is spiced with ginger, along with nutmeg, cloves, and cinnamon.

Which do you enjoy decorating more, a gingerbread house or a gingerbread man? _____

While gingerbread houses come from Germany, gingerbread men are an American invention!

On the back draw a picture of your gingerbread house.

Thursday, December 10, 2026

Teach Grow Sow

Today Is International Human Rights Day!

Human Rights Day is a holiday created by the United Nations to honor a proclamation they made in 1948. This proclamation is called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is meant to give a list of the rights that every human being on the planet ought to have. Documents from the past that have a common theme are the American Bill of Rights, ratified in 1791, and the Magna Carta, written in 815AD.

Some examples of human rights are the right to be free, the right to express your opinion, and the right to vote.

What rights do you believe all humans ought to have?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

On the back draw the human right you think is most important.

Friday, December 11, 2026

Teach Grow Sow

Tomorrow Is National Poinsettia Day!

Do you like poinsettia flowers in December? _____

Here are some fun poinsettia facts:

- Poinsettias are NOT spelled with a T in the middle!
- Poinsettias come in a variety of colors!
- Poinsettias are originally from Mexico.
- Poinsettias were a favorite of the Aztec King Montezuma.
- The Aztec name for poinsettias is cuitlaxochitl.
- Your pets can get a bad stomachache if they eat them, so remind your family to keep them out of their reach!
- Poinsettias can be planted and re-bloom each year.
- Unpotted poinsettias can grow to the size of large bushes.
- Joel Roberts Poinsett was the US ambassador to Mexico. In 1828 he sent cuttings to study at home in Charleston. He's the person they are named after.

Imagine if a flower were named after you. It could be based on your first, middle, or last name. What would the name of your flower be? _____

What part of the world would your flower be from?

_____

What would be the story of how you introduced this flower to your own country? _____

_____

_____

On the back draw a picture of your flower.

Monday, December 14, 2026

Teach Grow Sow

Hot Chocolate or Hot Cocoa?

Do you usually call this drink hot cocoa or hot chocolate? _____ They're actually not the same drink! Hot cocoa is made by mixing warm milk or water with cocoa powder and sugar. Hot chocolate is made with ground chocolate that has milk or cream added. Only hot chocolate has cocoa butter in it, and it is much thicker than hot cocoa. Now that you know this, which one sounds better to you? _____ Did you know that chocolate drink is older than solid chocolate? It was originally a bitter drink. The Maya people of ancient Mexico (and possibly the Olmecs before them) used cacao beans to make chocolate drinks that were important for their religious ceremonies. But regular Maya people drank it at home, too. Later, the Aztecs reserved chocolate only for the rich. Do you drink hot cocoa or chocolate all the time, or is it usually brought out for special occasions? _____ The Aztecs called chocolate xocolatl and used the beans as money. When the Spanish arrived, they took it back to Europe where the Dutch invented a process for turning it into the chocolate we know today.

Some people say hot cocoa should only be drunk in months that have an R in them. Which months are these?

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

What do you like to put in your hot cocoa or chocolate?

- ❑ Cinnamon
- ❑ Candy cane
- ❑ Marshmallows
- ❑ Almond flavor
- ❑ Whipped cream

On the back draw a picture of your ideal cup of hot cocoa.

Tuesday, December 15, 2026

Today Is Bill of Rights Day!

The first ten amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. They were ratified (meaning agreed on) on December 15, 1791. Even though we celebrate 1776 as America's birthday, it took several years to gain independence and for the American government to form.

Timeline

- 1774: First Continental Congress forms in response to the Intolerable Acts
- 1775: The Revolutionary War begins and the Second Continental Congress forms
- 1776: The Second Continental Congress signs the Declaration of Independence
- 1781: The Second Continental Congress writes the Articles of the Confederation
- 1783: The war ends and America is officially independent
- 1789: George Washington is inaugurated as the first president
- 1787-1790: The Constitution is slowly ratified by the new states
- 1791: The Bill of Rights are ratified

The Bill of Rights

1st: Freedom of speech, religion, & the press
2nd: Right to bear arms
3rd: Citizens don't have to let soldiers live in their homes
4th: Your home can't be searched without a reason
5th: Right to a fair trial by your peers
6th: Rights if you are charged with a crime
7th: Rights in a civil case
8th: Punishments must be reasonable
9th: Americans have other rights not listed
10th: The states can make laws, too

On the back draw a picture of your favorite amendment.

The _____ Amendment

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By: _____

What it Says:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Why It's Important to Me:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

My Drawing:

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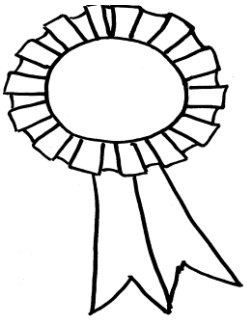
Wednesday, December 16, 2026

Tomorrow Is Maple Syrup Day!

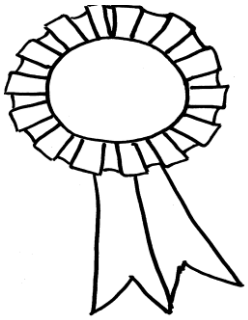
Do you love maple syrup? _____

Rank your favorite foods to put it on top of, from 1st to 3rd place:

Pancakes



Waffles



French toast



The next time it snows, gather some fresh snow and pour maple syrup on top to make your own maple snow cone!

Which other maple treats would you like to try?

- ❑ Maple hard candies
- ❑ Maple sugar chewy candies
- ❑ Maple cookies
- ❑ Maple ice cream
- ❑ Maple fudge
- ❑ Maple donuts

Maple Syrup Fun Facts

- Maple syrup is collected from maple trees by inserting a tap that looks like a faucet into the side of a maple tree. It pours into a bucket as a thick sap.
- Maple sap was extracted by Native Americans, but European colonists developed new ways to turn it into syrup.
- A sugar shack is the term for the place where maple sap is boiled down to become syrup.
- Canada produces 70% of the world's maple syrup.
- Maple syrup was used extra during World War II because sugar was rationed.
- Fenugreek smells similar to maple syrup. In 2005 a factory in New Jersey processing fenugreek unintentionally sent a "maple" smell across the water to New York City. New Yorkers were puzzled at first.

On the back draw a picture of someone extracting maple syrup from a tree.

Thursday, December 17, 2026

Today Is Wright Brothers Day!

Today is the anniversary of the first flight in an airplane.
On December 17, 1903 Wilbur and Orville Wright successfully became the first humans to fly. Of course, other people had come very close. They had glided and flown in balloons. But the Wright Brothers airplane was the first one to use a motor to control where it went.
How many times do you think you have flown in an airplane?

_____
Have you ever been in a hot air balloon? _____
Have you ever gone gliding? _____

What do you think the next innovation in travel will be?

_____

_____

The Wright Brothers are often admired for their curiosity, determination, and innovation. Wilbur and Orville had five siblings. They moved a lot growing up because their father was a pastor and would get sent to different churches.
When they were young, their father brought home a toy that flies when wound up. That began their fascination with flight. If you were to invent something based on one of your toys, which one would it be? _____

Why didn't any of Wilbur and Orville's siblings help make the airplane? Because they were the Wrong Brothers!

On the back draw a picture of something you might invent.

Friday, December 18, 2026

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Your Substitute Teacher Is a Polar Bear!

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 a polar bear!

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 polar bear substitute.

Monday, December 21, 2026

Teach Grow Sow

Today Is the Winter Solstice!

For people living in the Northern Hemisphere, December 21st is the shortest day of the year. But how can one day be shorter than another? Aren't all days 24 hours long?
Yes, but if we count a "day" as meaning daytime, or sunlit, hours, the winter solstice is the shortest 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 will have months with no sunlight at all.
How long of a day will you have tomorrow? Check the weather forecast.
Sunrise: _____ Sunset: _____
Hours of Daylight: _____

The Northern Hemisphere has shorter winters than the Southern Hemisphere! In the Northern Hemisphere, the winter lasts an average of 89 days, but in the Southern Hemisphere it lasts an average of 93.6 days. 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, December 22, 2026

Teach Grow Sow

Write an opinion arguing why your favorite holiday movie is the best holiday movie ever. Be sure to include:

- ❑ The name of the movie
- ❑ Your opinion
- ❑ The plot of the movie
- ❑ How it relates to a holiday
- ❑ Why it is the best



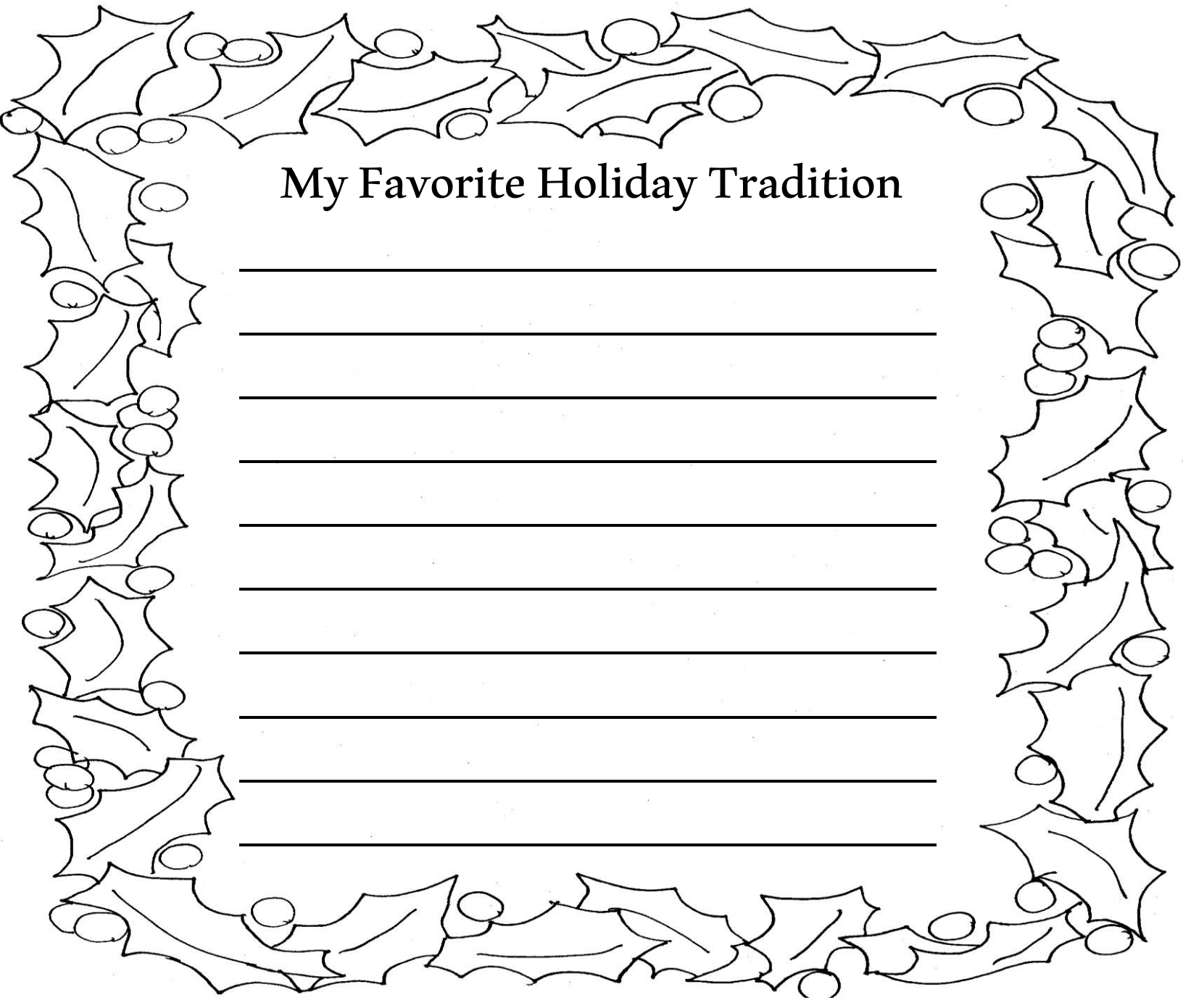
The Best Holiday Movie Ever

Wednesday, December 23, 2026

Teach Grow Sow

Write about your favorite holiday tradition that you do with your family, school, or another group. Be sure to include:

- ❑ The name of the tradition
- ❑ A description of the tradition
- ❑ With whom you do this tradition
- ❑ How this tradition started
- ❑ Whether you will continue it as an adult



My Favorite Holiday Tradition

Thursday, December 24, 2026

Teach Grow Sow

My Holiday Wish List

My wish for myself:

My wish for my family:

My wish for my friends:

My wish for my community:

My wish for my country:

My wish for the world:

Friday, December 25, 2026

Teach Grow Sow

Twelve Days of Christmas Math Challenge

In the song, The Twelve Days of Christmas, the singer's true love gives different gifts each day, while continuing to give all the previous day's gifts as well. Calculate how many of each gift the recipient will get, as well as the total number per day and of all gifts combined.

What are the Twelve Days of Christmas? Christmas Day marks the first day of Christmas. The twelfth day is January 6th, also known as the Epiphany, or Three King's Day in Latin America.

Gift / Day	Partridge in a Pair Tree	Two Turtle Doves	Three French Hens	Four Calling Birds	Five Gold Rings	Six Geese a-Laying	Seven Swans a-Swimming	Eight Maids a-Milking	Nine Ladies Dancing	Ten Lords a-Leaping	Eleven Pipers Piping	Twelve Drummers Drumming	Total:
Day 1													
Day 2													
Day 3													
Day 4													
Day 5													
Day 6													
Day 7													
Day 8													
Day 9													
Day 10													
Day 11													
Day 12													
Total:													

Monday, December 28, 2026

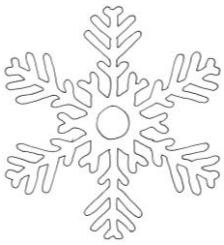
Holiday Adlibs

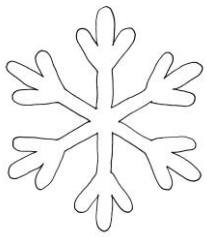
1. Write your own Holiday Adlib story. Begin by writing a regular holiday story. It can be about what you do on a holiday, how you prepare for that holiday, the plot of your favorite holiday movie or book, or it can be based on a holiday or winter song. Read the sample Holiday Adlib to get ideas on how this will flow.

2. Highlight all the parts of speech that you have learned so far. Use a different color for nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.

3. Rewrite the story in your best handwriting, replacing the highlighted words with a blank line, with the name of the part of speech underneath.

4. Share with a friend and see how silly the story becomes!





HOLIDAY ADLIB



Teach Grow Sow

This year for _____ we decided to skip going to
holiday

_____ like we always do. Instead, we
area/location

_____ for _____ _____ to _____.
past-tense verb | number | unit of time | area/location

When we got there, we found the _____
plural noun

were no longer there. We decided to cook our own

meal of _____, _____,
food | food

_____, and a _____ for dessert. After
food | food

the meal, we decided to _____
present-tense verb

_____ by the _____. Now
type of music | area of a home

that _____ is over, we should probably start to
holiday

think about making _____ for
plural noun





_____.
holiday

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My Holiday Adlib

Happy 2027!

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Write 2027 in expanded form

Write 2027 in word form

Is 2027

even odd

_____ < 2027 < _____

Write a word problem with 2027 as the answer.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Round 2027 to the nearest:

10 _____

100_____

1,000_____

Estimate what would be 2,027:

pounds _____

inches_____

miles_____

Wednesday, December 30, 2026

Teach Grow Sow

New Year's Resolution

Tomorrow many people will make a New Year's Resolution. Think about how you would like to improve yourself. If you would like to learn a new skill this year, here are some ideas to help you get started.

- ✓ Learn how to ride a bike
- ✓ Learn how to snap
- ✓ Learn how to whistle
- ✓ Learn how to tie your shoes
- ✓ Learn how to jump rope
- ✓ Learn how to tell time
- ✓ Learn how to swim
- ✓ Learn how make a meal for yourself
- ✓ Learn how to use the washer and dryer
- ✓ Learn how to wash dishes
- ✓ Learn how to sew
- ✓ Learn how to garden
- ✓ Learn how to create a schedule
- ✓ Learn how to create a budget
- ✓ Learn etiquette rules for fancy dinners
- ✓ Learn how to separate recycling
- ✓ Learn to recognize poisonous plants & animals

My New Year's Resolution:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

On the back draw a picture of your resolution.

Thursday, December 31, 2026

Teach Grow Sow

2026 in Review



My favorite book this year was:

My favorite movie this year was:

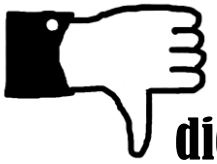


My favorite song this year was:

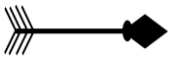


My best idea this year was:

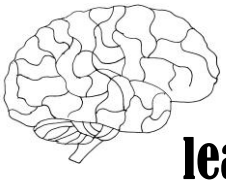




A plan that didn't work out this year was:



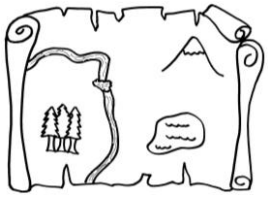
Something new I tried this year was:



This year I learned how to:



My favorite place I visited this year was:



The coolest adventure I had this year was: