

Children's Book Week May 2–8, 2011

Since 1919, National Children's Book Week has been an annual tradition dedicated to spreading the joy of reading. Introduce children and parents to the pleasure of reading and the worlds that exist between the covers of great books. Here are some ideas for bringing the celebration into your classroom.

- Hold a book exchange day.
- Create a class or group story that is dictated and illustrated by children. Use one of these story starter suggestions or create your own.
 - I'm going to try something new today. I'm . . .
 - If I was a bird and could fly anywhere, I would go to . . .
 - If I could have any animal in the world for a pet, I would have a _____ because . . .
- Read several new books and have children vote for their favorite. Discuss graph results. What was it about this book that made it your favorite?

[Click here to learn more about Children's Book Week.](#)

Make a Mother's Day Quilt

Material and Preparations:

- Assorted colors of construction paper cut into 6" squares
- Assorted art materials (crayons, markers, tape, glitter, etc.)
- Hole punch
- Assorted colors of yarn and masking tape

Learning Experiences:

- Invite children to draw a picture that shows how they feel about their moms or special moments they share together. Ideas may include bedtime rituals, shopping trips, vacations, holidays, favorite times of day with mom, how mom helps, etc. Children may illustrate as many squares as they wish.
- Children may wish to dictate words or a sentence for you to write on each square.
- Stack the completed squares for each child and punch holes around the edges.
- Place a piece of masking tape around one end of the yarn. Invite children to loosely lace their squares together using the yarn. Holes that aren't used to connect squares may be laced with yarn for decoration.



National Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month was created to honor the achievements of people from Asia and the Pacific islands and to recognize their contributions to the United States. Below are some notable history-makers.

- Jerry Yang, a native of Taiwan, came to America at the age of 10 knowing only one English word – shoe. As a graduate student at Stanford, Jerry Yang and his classmate David Filo created the Yahoo! Internet directory to help their friends track down cool Web sites.
- Elected in 1964, Patsy Takemoto Mink became the first Asian-American congresswoman.
- Eugene Chung was the first player of Asian descent to be selected in the first round of the NFL draft in 1992. He was selected by New England from Virginia Tech.
- Known for her stunning wedding dresses, fashion designer Vera Wang competed in the 1968 National Figure Skating Finals.
- In 1997, Kalpana Chawla became the first Indian-American woman to go into space.

Cinco de Mayo

Explain to children that the fifth of May is called Cinco de Mayo in Mexico. Show children where North America is on a globe or map. Point out where you live, then show them where Mexico is located. Explain that Cinco de Mayo is a holiday celebrated in Mexico and marks the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the Battle of Puebla. Although the Mexican army was eventually defeated, the "Batalla de Puebla" came to symbolize Mexican unity and patriotism. Cinco de Mayo is a day that celebrates freedom and liberty. Do children know anyone who lives in Mexico? Do they know anyone who celebrates this holiday? How do they celebrate?

Giant Grasses

(Taken from [Curriculum for Twos, In the Grass](#))

Materials and Preparations:

- Tall stalk of bamboo or river cane
- Canned bamboo shoots
- Toy panda

Learning Experiences:

- Children may be amazed to learn that bamboo is a type of grass. Show a stalk of bamboo or river cane. Explain that this plant is a type of grass that grows very big and tall. Has anyone seen bamboo or river cane growing? Where?
- Share that some types of bamboo provide food for people and animals. (You may want to mention that only young tender shoots of bamboo are used as food for people). If you have a toy panda, show it and share that pandas eat bamboo. Children might enjoy pretending to feed some bamboo to the panda.
- Open a can of bamboo shoots and show them to children. Explain that people can eat the young, tender shoots. Offer the shoots for children to taste if they wish.

I Would Find . . .

(Taken from [Curriculum for Threes, Digging in the Dirt](#))

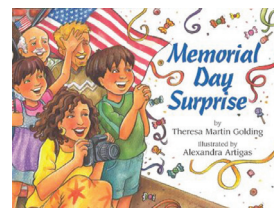
Materials and Preparations:

- Markers, crayons, pencils
- Brown construction paper, white paper

Learning Experiences:

- Have children close their eyes. Can they think what they might find if they could dig deep, deep down into the dirt? Both real and silly ideas are welcome!
- Encourage children to write (or dictate) and draw on white paper about what they think would find if they dug deep in the dirt.
- Place completed stories in folded brown construction paper covers to make small books. Can children decide on titles for their books? Where would they like to print their names on the covers? Do they want to add any other writing?

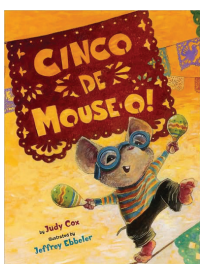
Books to Share



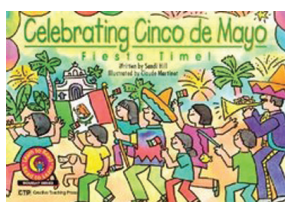
Memorial Day Surprise by Theresa Golding



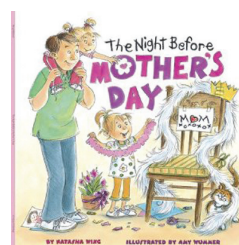
Memorial Day by Trudi Strain Trueit



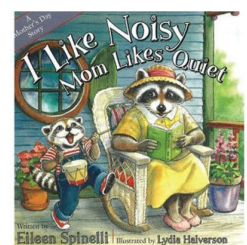
Cinco de Mouse-O! by Judy Cox



Celebrating Cinco de Mayo: Fiesta Time! by Sandi Hill



The Night Before Mother's Day by Natasha Wing



I Like Noisy Mom Likes Quiet: A Mother's Day Story by Eileen Spinelli