



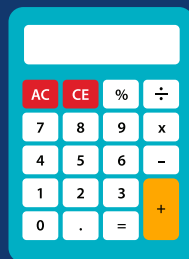
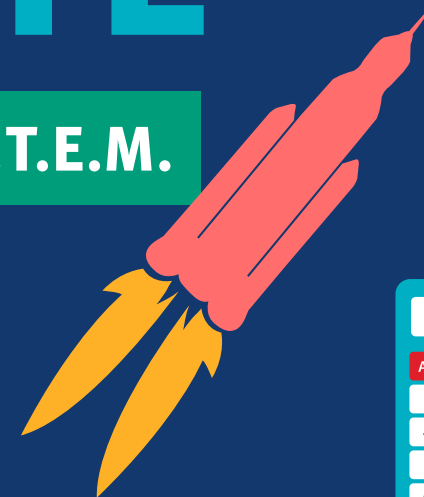
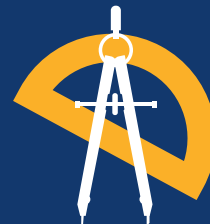
2024 - 2025
School Year
Calendar

CELEBRATE

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN S.T.E.M.

CELEBRATE

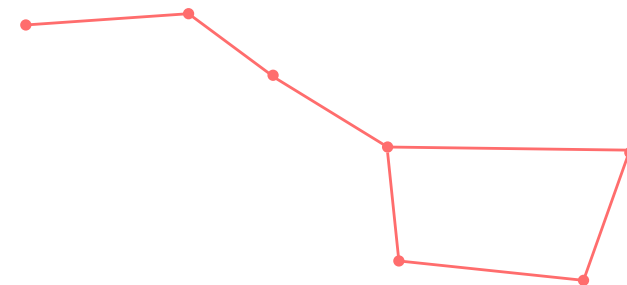
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN S.T.E.M.



For the 2024-2025 school year, First Book Canada is celebrating the wide world of S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). This calendar celebrates S.T.E.M. subjects and careers and the diverse scientists, engineers, and mathematicians whose contributions have changed our world for the better. Throughout the calendar, you will find themed months, religious observances, dates with cultural and historical significance, and S.T.E.M. related events and celebrations.

The Canadian population is becoming more and more diverse, and the need to embrace the many cultures in our classrooms is more important than ever. When a student's learning environment respects their history, values, beliefs, and traditions, students and their families are better positioned to thrive. Be sure to visit fbmpcanada.org/freeresources for more materials to help you celebrate culture, diversity & inclusion all year long with your students!

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FIRST BOOK CANADA
Eliminating Barriers. Inspiring Young Minds.

AUGUST

In August, we recognize International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples! In order to raise awareness of the needs of these population groups, every August 9th commemorates the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, chosen in recognition of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations held in Geneva in 1982.

TRY THIS!

- ◆ Help students manage feelings of stress and anxiety and support their social and emotional competency with [Taking Care: An Educator Guide to Healthy Habits for Student Emotional Wellness](#). The guide provides strategies and activities to support young people’s wellbeing and tips for educator self-care.
- ◆ Explore the [Social and Emotional Learning page](#) on the First Book Canada Marketplace, searchable by topics and age range.
- ◆ Ease stress and anxiety by making students laugh with First Book Canada’s [Funny Books](#) category.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Emancipation Day in Canada marks the day in 1834 when the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 came into effect across the British Empire.	2	3 Jennifer “Jenni” Anne MacKinnon Gibbons, a Canadian astronaut and engineer, was born on this day in 1988. After completing her astronaut training, she became Canada’s third female astronaut.
4	5 Civic Holiday is an important and unique holiday across Canada that allows us to celebrate local heroes, culture and history.	6	7 José M. Hernández, a Mexican American astronaut and engineer, was born on this day in 1962. In 2009, he spent 14 days in space.	8	9 International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples this day marks the date of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva in 1982.	10 Frances “Poppy” Northcutt was born on this day in 1943. She worked for NASA and the moon’s “Crater Poppy” is named for her.
11	12 The Perseid meteor shower is active yearly from mid-July to late August. Watch for this year’s peak shooting star display tonight.	13 Bon Festival (Feast of Lanterns) (13th – 15th) is a Japanese Buddhist custom that honors the spirits of one’s ancestors and has been celebrated for over 500 years.	14 Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day In 1942, the U.S. Marines recruited Navajo men to transmit messages in a code based on the Navajo language during WWII combat operations.	15 National Acadian Day is an opportunity to celebrate Acadian cultural vitality in Canada.	16	17
18	19	20 National Radio Day In Canada, Montréal’s XWA was the first station to produce programs. It began broadcasting experimentally in December 1919.	21	22	23	24 Pluto Demoted Day recognizes when Pluto’s status was downgraded from a full sized planet to a dwarf planet.
25	26 Chris Austin Hadfield, a Canadian astronaut and engineer, was born on this day in 1959. He is the first Canadian to perform extravehicular activity in outer space, and has flown two Space Shuttle missions	27	28	29	30 National Grief Awareness Day is an opportunity to educate people about grief and make space for loss.	31

SEPTEMBER

Back to School is not just about leaving summer behind — it also means meeting new teachers, getting to know a new classroom, and making new friends. For some students, this transition can cause stress and anxiety. With International Literacy Day on the 8th and National Day For Truth and Reconciliation on the 30th, September is also a time to celebrate books as windows and mirrors.*

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Visit the [Welcoming Schools & Communities](#) and [Immigrant and Refugee Experiences](#) sections on the First Book Canada Marketplace for books to help you build inclusive and representative libraries.
- ✦ Use the [Literacy Rich Classroom Library Checklist](#) to assess your classroom library and advocate for the resources you need to create an equitable environment.
- ✦ Find engaging nonfiction and fiction science books in the [Science](#) section of the Marketplace.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labour Day is an annual tribute to the contributions of all workers toward the strength and prosperity of Canada.	3	4	5	6	7
8 International Literacy Day was established by UNESCO to promote literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights.	9 Ed Dwight, is the first Black American astronaut candidate born on this day in 1933. In May 2024, at age 90, he became the oldest person to go to space.	10	11	12 Mae C. Jemison, an engineer, physician, and astronaut, became the first Black woman to travel in space when she flew on the shuttle Endeavor in 1992.	13	14
15 National Pollution Prevention Week (16th – 22th) is a week to think about what we can do to prevent pollution.	16 Eid Milad Un Nabi (16th – 17th) is the Muslim holiday marking the birth of Muhammed and is celebrated from sundown to sundown.*	17	18 Science Literacy Week (18th – 24th)	19 Dr. Juliet Daniel, was a biologist and researcher born on this day. Her research has contributed greatly towards developing a treatment for malignant tumours.	20 International Week of the Deaf (20th – 26th) Launched in 1958, this week highlights the cultural contributions of members of the deaf community and promotes human rights.	21 International Day of Peace Established in 1981 and approved by all UN countries, this day encourages all of humanity to commit to a culture of peace.
22	23 International Day of Sign Languages is the time to celebrate the language and culture of deaf people and sign language users.	24	25 Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed officially opened the \$30-million Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology at Drumheller in 1985.	26 Marisse Scott Louisy was a nurse born on this day. She is the first Black graduate of the St. Joseph Hospital's Nursing School in Guelph in 1950.	27 Michaëlle Jean was sworn in as the first Governor General becoming Canada's first Black Governor General in 2005.	28
29 Canada's first orbiting satellite, Alouette-1, was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation the day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, families, and communities.					

* Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop introduced these concepts in her groundbreaking article "Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors" (Bishop, 1990).

* Note: Islamic holidays follow the lunar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

OCTOBER

With Energy Efficiency Day on the 4th and International Day of Climate Action on the 24th, October is a great time for students to learn about energy efficiency and sustainability.

TRY THIS!

- Use First Book Canada's [Climate Change & Human Impact](#) resources to teach kids about the importance of biodiversity and how human behavior affects the environment and climate.

Introduce the concept of changemaking into your lesson plans and learn how changemakers from around the world build sustainable solutions to problems in their communities through the initiative.

TRY THIS!

- Mary Ann Shadd is a **changemaker!** Someone who imagines a better reality, takes action, and collaborates with others to bring that new reality into being for the good of others. If you have a budding changemaker in your community, tell us about them by emailing timeforchangeCanada@firstbook.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH	LEARNING DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH	1	2 Rosh Hashanah (2nd – 4th) The Jewish New Year begins at sundown on October 2nd. It marks the first of the Jewish High Holy Days.*	3	4 Energy Efficiency Day is a day to consider how energy efficiency can save money, reduce pollution, and create jobs.	5 World Teachers' Day honors and celebrates the lasting contributions teachers make in the lives of students and society.
6 Arthur B. McDonald, a physicist at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, was awarded the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics for discovering that neutrinos — one of the smallest particles of matter — have mass.	7 Mental Illness Awareness Week (6th-12th)	8	9 Mary Ann Shadd, an educator, and lawyer was born on this day in 1823. She became the first Black woman in North America to publish and edit a newspaper, <i>The Provincial Freeman</i> .	10 World Mental Health Day is a day to raise awareness about mental health issues.	11 National Coming Out Day is a day to celebrate coming out as LGBTQ+ and discuss the challenges and triumphs experienced in different cultural settings.	12 Yom Kippur (11th –12th) is the holiest day of the year in Judaism and is also known as the Day of Atonement.*
13	14 Canadian Thanksgiving an official statutory holiday in all provinces and territories except Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia.	15	16 International Pronouns Day seeks to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace.	17	18 Canadian Library Workers Day to recognize the valuable contributions made by all those who work in and for the public, academic, school, government, academic, corporate and private libraries.	19 National Chemistry Week (20th – 26th) raises public awareness of the importance of chemistry in everyday life.
20 National Day of Writing is a day to celebrate all forms of writing and recognize the importance of the written word.	21 On this day, Ursula Martius Franklin, was named Officer of the Order of Canada in 1981. She is known for her investigation into the presence of strontium-90 in children's teeth, which led to the ban of nuclear weapons testing.	22 International Stuttering Awareness Day was designated to raise awareness about an issue that affects millions of people worldwide.	23 Dr. Wilfred Bigelow, Dr. John Carter Callaghan, and Dr. John A. Hopps of the National Research Council of Canada delivered their findings on a portable artificial external pacemaker.	24 International Day of Climate Action is dedicated to addressing climate change through biodiversity and reducing carbon emissions.	25 Banting and Macleod win Nobel Prize for Medicine was awarded jointly to Frederick Banting and J.J.R. Macleod for the discovery of insulin.	26 Make a Difference Day is an national community service event that inspires millions to give back to their local communities.
27 Dr. Gladys Mae West, born on this day in 1930, is known for mathematical modeling that contributed to GPS technology.	28 Canadian School Library Day is a day to celebrate the central role that school libraries play in the education and development of young people.	29	30	31 Día de los Muertos/ Day of the Dead (31st – November 2nd) is a Mexican holiday that honors deceased friends and family members with celebrations and prayers.	LGBT HISTORY MONTH	CANADIAN LIBRARY MONTH

* Note: Jewish holidays follow the lunisolar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

NOVEMBER

With World Kindness Day on the 13th and Children’s Grief Awareness Day on the 21st, November is a time to consider the profound impact grief can have on a child and the role kindness plays in supporting healing.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Help children think about actions they can take with these books on [kindness and compassion](#).
- ✦ Support grieving children with [free downloadable resources](#).
- ✦ Find books that help students build resilience and learn coping techniques in First Book Canada’s [Grief, Loss, & Healing collection](#).
- ✦ Challenge students to perform random acts of kindness, and ask volunteers to share what they did and how they felt
- ✦ Explore [LGBTQIA+](#) books to embrace concepts of acceptance, truth, love, and identity through thoughtful storytelling. They offer readers a chance to connect deeply, and cultivate empathy.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH	1 Author’s Day consider reading stories from authors of various cultural backgrounds to celebrate this day. Diwali [§]	2 Día de los Muertos/ Day of the Dead (31st – November 2nd) is a Mexican holiday that honors deceased friends and family members with celebrations and prayers.
3	4	5	6 National Stress Awareness Day is an opportunity to reflect on the sources of physical and mental stress and how we can manage them.	7 Marie Curie (born 1867) was a Polish physicist and chemist. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person to win twice, and the only person to win in two scientific fields.	8 S.T.E.A.M. DAY is a day to inspire kids to explore their interests in science, technology, engineering, and math.	9 Hedy Lamarr, an award-winning actress, was born on this day in 1914. She invented frequency hopping, a type of wireless technology used in WiFi, Bluetooth, and GPS.
10	11 Remembrance Day is a Canadian holiday honoring to remember the individuals who have served, and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace.	12	13 World Kindness Day is a day to celebrate good deeds and commit to acts of kindness.	14 On this day in 1891, Sir Frederick Banting was born in Alliston, ON. He co-discovered Insulin and later won the Nobel prize for his work.	15	16 International Day for Tolerance was founded by the UN to promote respect for various religions, languages, and cultures.
17 National Take a Hike Day encourages everyone to enjoy their local hiking trails.	18 LGBTQ+ S.T.E.M. Day celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ people in S.T.E.M. fields.	19	20 Canadian History Week (20th-26th)	21 Children’s Grief Awareness Day is an opportunity to give grieving students the support they need.	22 In 2023, Canadian astronaut Joshua Kutryk was assigned to Starliner-1, a Commercial Crew mission to the ISS, where he will live and work for approximately six months	23
24	25	26	27 Alliston, Alan Emtage, a Bajan-Canadian technologist born on this day in 1964, invented ARCHIE, the first Internet search engine.	28 Red Planet Day commemorates the launch of Spacecraft Mariner 4 to explore Mars.	29	30 On this day in 1618, the first sighting of a comet by Europeans in Canada was recorded.

* Note: Hindu holidays follow the lunisolar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

§ Diwali is the Hindu, Jain, and Sikh festival of lights and celebrates the triumph of light over dark and knowledge over ignorance.

DECEMBER

December kicks off with International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Take time this month to promote inclusivity and accessibility in your classroom or program, and make sure all students have the tools they need to succeed.

TRY THIS!

- Explore the resources in First Book Canada's [Quick Start Guide: Free Literacy Tools to Support K-12 Students](#). These digital tools support students with vision, learning, and other differences and disabilities.
- Provide windows and mirrors for all students by sharing stories from the [Neurodivergent & Disabled Characters & Culture](#) section on the Marketplace.
- Have students work in small groups to research someone with a disability whose S.T.E.M. innovation or invention has contributed to society. Have each group share what they learned with the class.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 World AIDS Day is an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the prevention, care, and treatment of HIV and AIDS, and mourning those who have died of the disease.	2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is a yearly event was organized by the UN General Assembly and has been in effect since 1986.	3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities is a holiday that promotes the integration of persons with disabilities in all areas of political, economic, and cultural life.	4 World Wildlife Conservation Day raises awareness about species that are endangered or under threat of extinction because of poaching, trafficking and other environmental factors.	5 International Volunteer Day volunteerism is an enormous renewable resource for social, economic and environmental problem-solving throughout the world.	6	7
8 Bodhi Day is a Buddhist holy day commemorating the day that the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni), experienced enlightenment, also known as <i>bodhi</i> in Sanskrit and Pali.	9 Computer Science Education Week (9th – 15th) raises awareness of the educational and career opportunities available in computer science.	10 Human Rights Day the day on which the UN General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Yule Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year and is celebrated by Pagans and Wiccans. A solstice is an astronomical event that happens twice each year.
22 Jean Michel-Basquiat, an influential artist of Haitian and Puerto Rican descent was born on this day in 1960. The children's book <i>Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat</i> , by Javaka Steptoe, is about his life.	23	24	25 Christmas is an annual Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Hanukkah ^{§*} (25th – Jan. 2nd)	26 Kwanzaa (26th – Jan. 1st) is a 7-day celebration of African heritage, culture, and unity. The holiday gets its name from the phrase <i>matunda ya kwanza</i> , meaning "first fruits" in Swahili.	27	28 Nichelle Nichols was born on this day in 1932. Her role as Lieutenant Uhura in <i>Star Trek</i> inspired many people of color to pursue careers in science.
29	30 The Royal Society of Canada was founded by the governor general, the Marquis of Lorne.	31 New Year's Eve	ARCTIC SCIENCE MONTH			

* Note: Jewish holidays follow the lunisolar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

§ Hanukkah (25th – January 2nd) is the 8-day Jewish "festival of lights," celebrating a victory over foreign rulers by sharing food, games, gifts, and lighting the menorah.

JANUARY

January marks the beginning of a new year, brimming with possibilities and celebrations. It kicks off with National Science Fiction Day on January 2nd, commemorating the birthday of famed author Isaac Asimov, whose works have profoundly shaped the genre. This day celebrates not only the imaginative realms of science fiction but also honors the creative visionaries who have propelled this genre forward. One such luminary is J.R.R. Tolkien, who wrote *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings*, and has been called one of the most influential authors of all time. He is considered the father of modern fantasy literature.

TRY THIS!

- ◆ Shop First Book Canada's **Fantasy & SciFi** section for more stories in this genre.
- ◆ *The Hobbit* has been translated into more than 60 languages and has received two awards. Check out First Book Canada's selection of **award-winning titles**, as well as books in many **world languages**.
- ◆ Looking to start the conversation about mental health in the classroom? Explore **resources and exercises** provided by Bell to use with your students.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day is an official statutory holiday in all provinces and territories.	2 National Science Fiction Day is celebrated on the birthdate of science fiction writer Isaac Asimov.	3 J.R.R. Tolkien, philologist and author of <i>The Hobbit</i> and <i>Lord of the Rings</i> , was born on this day in 1892.	4 World Braille Day is observed on inventor Louis Braille's birthday to raise awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication for blind and partially sighted people.
5	6 Epiphany or Día de los Reyes (Three Kings Day) is a Christian holy day that recognizes the visit of the three wise men to the baby Jesus 12 days after his birth.	7 Zora Neale Hurston, author, anthropologist, and key figure of the Harlem Renaissance was born on this day in 1891. Her most famous book is <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> .	8	9 National Static Electricity Day is a day dedicated to the electric charge phenomenon and learning about why it happens.	10 Katharine Blodgett, born on this day in 1898, is known for her invention of nonreflective glass used in windshields, eyeglasses, microscopes, and more.	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 World Religion Day encourages interfaith understanding and asks people worldwide to recognize that all religions have common spiritual goals.	20	21	22 On this day in 1992, Dr. Roberta Bondar becomes Canada's first female astronaut and the first neurologist in space by flying on Discovery during Mission STS-42.	23 Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to earn a medical degree in the U.S. in 1849.	24 Bell Let's Talk Day is an annual campaign that encourages a national conversation about mental health and promotes awareness.	25
26 International Environmental Education Day is a chance to educate students about environmental issues.	27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day is a day to honor victims of the Holocaust and to work toward preventing future genocides.	28	29 Lunar New Year is China's most important holiday, and celebrations last 15 days. The Chinese zodiac sign for 2025 is the snake.	30	31 National Backward Day (YAD DRAWK CAB LANOITAN) is a day to use our imagination to reverse our ways. Dessert for breakfast?	

FEBRUARY

Black History Month is a time to celebrate the history, achievements, and contributions of Black people in Canada and their communities.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Explore the [Black History](#) and [Black Characters & Cultures](#) sections for books that feature diverse Black experiences.
- ✦ Use the [Empowering Educators](#) and [Colourful Conversations](#) resources to help students develop respect for racial differences and positive racial identity.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science is time to celebrate the contributions of women in science and inspire girls to pursue S.T.E.M. careers.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ In honor of International Day of Women and Girls in S.T.E.M., discover inspiring stories that celebrate the accomplishments of women scientists and inspire young readers to delve into the marvels of science. Discover [Empowering Stories about Women & Girls](#) from the Marketplace.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BLACK HISTORY MONTH						1 World Hijab Day recognizes the millions of Muslim girls and women who choose to wear the hijab and promotes religious freedom for all.
2 World Wetlands Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet.	3	4 Rosa Parks, named one of the most influential people in the 20th century by Time Magazine and best known for her role in the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott, was born on this day in 1913.	5	6	7 National Periodic Table Day celebrates the modern periodic table, where elements are organized according to their atomic number.	8
9	10	11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science is a day to work for gender equity in science education and scientific fields.	12	13	14 National Book Giving Day is a day to celebrate reading by gifting someone a book. Shop the First Book Canada Marketplace!	15 Nirvana Day is the Buddhist holy day that celebrates the day Buddha achieved nirvana—the final goal of Buddhism—upon the death of his physical body.
16	17 Family Day is an official statutory holiday observed in New Brunswick, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan and in British Columbia.	18 National Engineers Week (18th – 24th) is a time to celebrate the difference engineers make in our lives.	19	20 In 1962, astronaut John Glenn was the first American to orbit the Earth when he circled it three times in the space capsule Friendship 7.	21 International Mother Language Day promotes awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and celebrates multilingualism.	22
23 National Aviation Day Canadians celebrate Canada's air transportation safety, strength and success.	24	25	26 Tell a Fairy Tale Day is a time to honor the history and power of fairy tales from cultures around the world.	27	28	

MARCH

March brings the springtime awakening of flowers and animals. With Global Recycling Day on the 18th, International Day of Forests on the 21st, and International World Water Day on the 22nd, take time this month to talk to students about how we can protect the natural world.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Download [A Future Without Waste](#) for information, videos, and activities on recycling, and the benefits of a circular economy.
- ✦ Challenge students to brainstorm ways to save water at home.
- ✦ Inspire students to take action with stories from First Book Canada's [Activism and Civic Engagement](#) section.
- ✦ Invite students to celebrate their favorite tree by creating a poster or writing a poem or story about it.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH	1 Ramadan (1st – 30th) is a month-long Islamic observation celebrating the first revelation of the Quran and includes strict fasting observed from sunrise to sunset.*
2 World Teen Mental Wellness Day aims to raise awareness about the mental health issues that teenagers deal with.	3 World Wildlife Day is a day to raise awareness about issues that impact wildlife.	4 Garrett Morgan was born on this day in 1877. A pioneering Black inventor, Morgan patented the three-way traffic signal system.	5 In 1979, the space probe Voyager 1 made its closest encounter with Jupiter before moving on to Saturn.	6	7 Amanda Gorman, a poet and activist, was born on this day in 1998.	8 International Women's Day is a day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, and a call for gender parity worldwide.
9	10	11 NASA approves a Canadian proposal, submitted by the Defence Research Board, to build the Alouette I satellite for the study of the ionosphere. NASA agrees to launch this first Canadian satellite.	12	13 Astronaut Chris Hadfield became the first Canadian commander of the International Space Station (ISS), succeeding astronaut Kevin Ford. A brief ceremony aboard the ISS included a broadcast of O Canada.	14 World Sleep Day Is a day to learn about the importance of sleep and adjust our nighttime routines to improve our well-being.	15 Holi (14th – 15th) is a Hindu spring festival that celebrates colors and love.*
16	17	18 Global Recycling Day is a day to think about what we throw out, recycle, and reuse.	19 Mario José Molina-Pasquel Henríquez was a co-recipient of the 1995 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work in discovering the Antarctic ozone hole. He was born on this day in 1943.	20 Nowruz/ Persian New Year (21st – 22nd) is a day of joy, celebration, and renewal. It is held annually on the spring equinox.	21 International Day of Forests is time to celebrate and raise awareness about the importance of forests.	22 World Water Day is a UN observance day that highlights the importance of fresh water.
23	24	25 International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade honors the victims of the slave trade.	26	27	28	29 Good Friday
30 Eid al-Fitr[§] (30th – 31st)	31 International Transgender Day of Visibility^{§§}					

* Note: These Muslim and Hindu holidays follow the lunar and lunisolar calendars and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

§ Eid al-Fitr (30th-31st) is one of the most significant Muslim holidays, marking the end of Ramadan.

§§ International Transgender Day of Visibility celebrates the contributions and lives of transgender people worldwide.

APRIL

Yom HaShoah commemorates the Warsaw Ghetto uprising (1943) and is the day the Jewish community honors the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ **Getting Started Guide: Teaching About the Holocaust** (7th-12th grades) was created with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and offers guidelines, lessons, survivor testimony, and more.

World Creativity and Innovation Day on the 21st is a UN-designated day to focus on how creativity and innovation are vital to sustainable development.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Interested in celebrating Canadian literature? Get drawn into outstanding books by Canadian authors by exploring winning titles from our [Canadian Award Winners](#).
- ✦ Changemaking is the idea that, in collaboration with others, every person can apply creative solutions to address problems in their communities. Use our [Time for Change resources](#) to learn more about Changemaking.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NATIONAL POETRY MONTH	NATIONAL CANADIAN ARAB MONTH	1 Easter Monday	2 World Autism Acceptance Day recognizes the rights of people with autism.	3 In 2023, Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen is assigned to fly around the Moon as part of NASA's Artemis II mission.	4 National School Librarian Day recognizes the professionals who curate books and programming in school libraries.	5 Star Trek First Contact Day has been celebrated since 1997. On this day in 2063, humanity will make first contact with the extraterrestrial Vulcan species according to Star Trek fans.
6 Global Good Deeds Day is a day when individuals and organizations worldwide unite to volunteer and #DoGood.	7 On this day Anderson Abbott is born. Abbott was the first Canadian-born Black person to graduate from medical school.	8	9	10	11 Passover (12th – 20th) is a Jewish holiday that celebrates the liberation from slavery in ancient Egypt.*	12 Drop Everything and Read Day
13 The Songkran Festival (13th – 15th) marks the Thai New Year and is celebrated by a three-day water fight.	14 National Dolphin Day is a day to learn more about dolphins, their habitats, and their intelligence.	15 On this day in 1999, astronomers announced that they had discovered another solar system of multiple planets orbiting a star, some 44 light years away	16	17	18	19
20 Easter is a sacred and widely observed Christian holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*	21 World Creativity and Innovation Day is a UN-designated day to focus on how creativity and innovation are vital to sustainable development.	22 Earth Day is an annual celebration to promote environmental protection across the world.	23 Canada Book Day the day promotes reading, books, and literacy. It is a nationwide celebration of literacy that also tries to promote education among young citizens.	24 Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoa) (23rd – 24th)	25 Gathering of Nations (24th – 26th) is the largest Native American Powwow in North America, with 500+ nations celebrating Indigenous culture.	26 Global Youth Service Day (25th – 27th) mobilizes youth worldwide to improve their communities through service.
27 National Tell a Story Day is a time to share stories passed down in your family or to write your own.	28	29	30	MATHEMATICS AWARENESS MONTH	AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH	DIVERSITY MONTH

* Note: These Jewish and Christian holidays do not fall on the same dates each year.

MAY

May, a month heralded by the vibrant bloom of spring, holds significance in celebrating our planet's biodiversity and raising awareness about endangered species. Moreover, it marks a poignant moment with National Child and Youth Mental Health Day, highlighting the importance of mental well-being in our younger generations.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Explore our free [First Book Canada Accelerator resources](#) for tools and resources to support you throughout the year.
- ✦ Prepare for National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day by discovering engaging [mindfulness](#) books tailored for young readers, designed to nurture calm and self-awareness through accessible stories and exercises.
- ✦ Highlight the amazing diversity of our planet's wildlife by exploring the free [Build the Change: Biodiversity and Climate Change Course Pack](#) with 10 lesson plans.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH		CANADIAN JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH		NATIONAL INVENTORS MONTH		1 School Principal's Day is a day to appreciate and recognize the nation's hard-working school principals.
2	3 Free Comic Book Day is when participating comic book stores give away comic books for free to anyone who visits their store.	4 May the Fourth Be with You is the unofficial holiday celebrating the epic Star Wars franchise.	5 Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Mexican defeat of the French army at the Battle of Puebla in 1862.	6 National Child and Youth Mental Health Day links positive mental health to a child's healthy development	7	8 Ellen Ochoa, the first Latinx woman to travel into space (1993), was born on this day in 1958.
9	10	11 On this day in 1916, Albert Einstein presented the groundbreaking Theory of General Relativity to the Prussian Academy of Sciences.	12 National Limerick Day recognizes these five-line poems and their unique rhyming style, made famous by poet Edward Lear, who was born on this day in 1812.	13	14 Global Accessibility Awareness Day brings attention to the more than one billion people living with disabilities worldwide.	15 Endangered Species Day is a day to focus on wildlife conversation and the progress made since the Endangered Species Act (1973).
16	17	18 In 1988, Canada signed a formal agreement with the United States, member states of the European Space Agency, and Japan to participate in the International Space Station program.	19 Victoria Day a Canadian statutory holiday celebrated in every province and territory. It honours Queen Victoria's birthday.	20 In 2016, paleontologists at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa announced the discovery of a dinosaur related to the triceratops, <i>Spiclypeus shipporum</i> .	21 International Day for Biological Diversity is a day to educate about and promote biodiversity.	22 National Scavenger Hunt Day challenges teams to find a list of items for fun and prizes.
23	24	25	26 Sally Ride, a physicist, astronaut, and the first American woman to fly in space, was born on this day in 1951.	27 On this day in 1999, Julie Payette, a physicist boards the Space Shuttle Discovery to the International Space Station (ISS). She became the first Canadian to board the ISS.	28 National Creativity Day is a day to celebrate creative people of all kinds and explore your own creativity.	29
30	31					

JUNE

June's placement at the end of the school year allows for both commemoration of diversity and reflection on educational achievements, making June a time of festivity and transition in Canada.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Celebrate Canada's Multiculturalism by exploring the **Stories for All Project™**, a rich selection of diverse stories reflecting the vibrant tapestry of cultures that make up Canada.
- ✦ Explore **LGBTQIA+** books to embrace concepts of acceptance, truth, love, and identity through thoughtful storytelling. They offer readers a chance to connect deeply, and cultivate empathy.

In 2024, the UN designated June 11 as International Day of Play. Every child can reach their full potential with the time, space, and access to play.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Shop the **Activities section** of the Marketplace for games and activities that encourage learning through play.
- ✦ Explore free **Build the Change "learning through play"** designed to engage students around environmental issues.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Day of Arafat (5th – 6th) is a Muslim holy day of repentance and forgiveness marked by fasting.*	6 Eid al-Adha (6th – 7th) the Muslim day of sacrifice and one of the most significant Muslim holidays is usually marked with a large meal.*	7
8 World Oceans Day is a day to think about how oceans impact our world and what we can do to protect them.	9	10	11 International Day of Play a time to celebrate the power of play.	12 Anne Frank, author of <i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> , the most widely read personal account of the Holocaust, was born on this day in 1929.	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 World Refugee Day is a day to honor people forced to flee their home country to escape conflict and persecution.	21 National Indigenous Peoples Day recognizes and celebrate the history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis across Canada.
22 Octavia Butler, renowned science fiction author and recipient of Hugo and Nebula awards and a MacArthur Fellowship, was born on this day in 1947.	23 International Women in Engineering Day is a day to celebrate the accomplishments of women in engineering.	24 Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day is a statutory holiday in Quebec marking the start of summer and celebrates Francophone culture in Canada.	25 In 2019, David Saint-Jacques returned to Earth from the International Space Station. On December 3, 2018, David flew to the ISS for a 204-day mission, the longest Canadian space mission to date.	26 Islamic New Year (26th – 27th) Celebrated on the first day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar. Islam is the world's second-largest religious group with over 1.8 billion devotees.*	27 Canadian Multiculturalism Day honours the many cultural communities that help build a strong and vibrant Canadian society.	28 Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, a series of demonstrations by the LGBTQ community in response to a police raid in 1969.
29 Biochemist Annette Herscovics, known for her pioneering work on glycoproteins, was born on this day in 1938. She discovered where and how these modifications occur in our cells — a key development in the field of glycobiology.	30				AUDIOBOOK APPRECIATION MONTH	LGBTQIA+ PRIDE MONTH

* Note: Islamic holidays follow the lunar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

JULY

It's clear that Canada has a lot to celebrate. The International Day of Friendship reminds us that developing friendships with people from other cultures and backgrounds can build bridges between communities.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ For **Canada Day**, take a journey coast-to-coast-to-coast through an unforgettable list of books by authors with ties to each province and territory.
- ✦ Help build bridges in your own community with books about **Immigrant & Refugee Experiences**.

Children who don't read over the summer lose at least two months of reading development. Support summer reading through reading challenges, library and park programs, and books!

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Explore First Book Canada's **Summer Reading section** for titles for all ages.
- ✦ Provide stories in popular formats, such as **Graphic Novels & Comics**.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH MONTH		1 Canada Day	2	3	4	5
6 Dalai Lama's Birthday[§] Ann Tsukamoto was born on this day in 1952. She co-patented the process to isolate a human S.T.E.M. cell, a discovery relevant to cancer research.	7	8 Math 2.0 Day celebrates the powerful combination of math and technology.	9	10	11 Naadam (11th – 15th) is a 3-day festival marking Mongolia's independence from China. The holiday blends traditional arts and sports with competitions in archery, horse racing, and wrestling.	12 Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist for the education of girls was born on this day in 1997. She was 17 when she became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.
13 On this day in 1836, patents were first numbered, changing the way the system of patents and trademarks was organized.	14 In 1885, Sarah Goode became the first African American woman to receive a U.S. patent for her invention of a folding cabinet bed.	15 In 2019, Canadian Space Agency astronaut Julie Payette launches successfully aboard Space Shuttle Endeavour and returns to the International Space Station.	16 Orville Redenbacher was born on this day in 1907. He invented and sold Orville Redenbacher's Gourmet Popcorn.	17	18	19
20 On this day in 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon as part of the historic <i>Appollo 11</i> mission.	21	22	23	24 Canadian doctor Frances Kelsey was born on this day in 1914. Hailed as a hero for withholding approval of the drug thalidomide.	25	26 National Disability Independence Day commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
27	28 Beatrix Potter was born on this day in 1866. An English writer, illustrator, and conservationist, she wrote <i>The Tale of Peter Rabbit</i> .	29	30 International Day of Friendship encourages making friends with people outside of your own culture, country, or background.	31		DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

* Note: Islamic holidays follow the lunar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

§The current Dalai Llama was born on this day in 1935. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

For more resources to support you and your students, please visit:
fbmpcanada.org/freeresources