

October

Day-by-Day Calendar

1 **World Vegetarian Day** Have your students plan a balanced vegetarian meal. Celebrate with a meatless lunch which might include macaroni and cheese or bean burritos.

2 The comedian **Julius "Groucho" Marx** was born on this day in 1895. Invite each student to tell a joke in his honor.

3 **National Caramel Month** Bring in caramel squares, caramel-coated apples, candy bars, etc., and have a party in honor of this sweet treat.

4 **Sputnik I** was the first successful artificial Earth satellite launched, marking the beginning of the Space Age in 1957. Have students write journals as if they were on Sputnik I.

5 **National Storytelling Festival Day** Have students write stories for a classroom book. Discuss what makes a good storyteller (gestures, props, etc.). After the stories are complete, have students present their stories.

6 **German-American Day** Teach students common German phrases such as *Guten Morgen* (Good Morning) or *Danke* (Thank You). Play a German tape and encourage students to try a few German words during free time.

7 **Rose is National Flower** In 1985, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill making the rose the United States' national flower. Ask students if they think the rose was a good choice. Why or why not?

8 **National Chili Week** takes place the first full week in October. Bring in a crock pot and have students provide the ingredients to make chili.

9 **Adopt-A-Shelter-Animal Month** Invite students to make posters encouraging people to adopt an animal from a shelter.

10 **National Dental Hygiene Month** Ask a dentist to come in and talk to the class about dental hygiene.

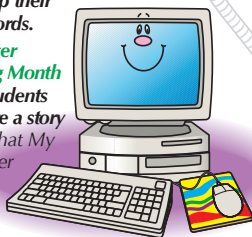
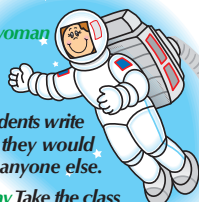
11 **Kathryn Sullivan** became the first woman to walk in space aboard the sixth Challenger flight in 1984. Have students write or tell something they would like to do before anyone else.

12 **Global Scream Day** Take the class outside and have the students see if they can scream for 15 seconds.

13 **National Train Your Brain Day** Pass out brainteasers for students to figure out. Have older students write their own.

14 **e.e. cummings'** (he wrote his name in lowercase letters) **birthday.** In his poetry, cummings makes up words by combining existing words. (everything, for example.) Read a poem to the class and ask students to make up their own words.

15 **Computer Learning Month** Have students complete a story titled *What My Computer Taught Me!*



16 **World Rainforest Week** Introduce students to rainforest animals and plants such as jaguars, toucans, orchids, etc. Ask students to draw a rainforest scene including their favorites.

17 **Hunger Awareness Month** If possible, have students bring in food to donate to a local shelter.

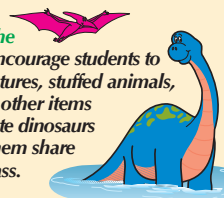
18 **Alaska Day** The transfer of Alaska from Russia to the U.S. was official on this day in 1867. Have students practice research skills to find out facts about Alaska, such as the state flower, exports, etc. Organize the information the students find out into a web or an outline.

19 **Month of the Dinosaur** Encourage students to bring in pictures, stuffed animals, books, and other items that celebrate dinosaurs and have them share with the class.

20 **P.T. Barnum** opened the Hippodrome in New York, home of the "Greatest Show On Earth." Have children draw or tell their favorite circus memory. If they have never been, have them draw what they think it might be like and tell why they would or would not like to go.

21 **National Stamp Collecting Month** Invite students to bring in stamp collections to share with the class.

22 The first **Society of Whale Watchers** was established in 1951 to save these animals from extinction. Have students design posters promoting the Society of Whale Watchers.



23 **Book Fair Month** Organize a book fair with the class to be held at your school library.

24 Commemorate the last ride of the **Pony Express** in 1861 by delivering a letter to another teacher pony-express style. Line students up between the classroom and the letter's destination. Hand off the letter until it is delivered.

25 **Make a Difference Day** Make a class list of ways to make a difference. Then, as a class, complete one of them.

26 **Steven Kellogg's Birthday** Share one of his tall tales, such as Paul Bunyan, with your class.

27 **James Cook**, the English sea captain who discovered the Hawaiian Islands, was born in 1728. Have students make leis with tissues paper flowers in his honor.

28 The **Statue of Liberty** was dedicated in 1886. Teach the class about the famous statue and the freedom for which it stands.

29 **National Basketball Coaches Day** Make thank-you cards for the school or local league basketball coach.

30 **Healthy Lung Month** Have students make posters listing the dangers of smoking. Hang the posters around the classroom or school.

31 **Mt. Rushmore** was completed on October 31. Have students draw a Mt. (Last Name) with family members "carved" into a mountain.

