

2021 - 2022
School Year
Calendar

CELEBRATE

CULTURE, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

WITH YOUR STUDENTS!





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The U.S. 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 in school.

This calendar was designed in response to First Book member feedback that revealed the challenges many educators face in finding time or resources to regularly celebrate culture, diversity & inclusion with their students. Each month, you'll find a suggested day to celebrate that includes recommended resources from First Book and suggestions for a class, group, or family focused activity. You will also see month long observances, religious observances, and added dates of cultural, historical, or inclusive significance that have been included for 2021-2022.

Being culturally competent—having the ability to successfully teach students who come from cultures other than one's own—is critical to the success of our increasingly diverse student population and society. Be sure to visit www.fbmarketplace.org/free-resources for more resources to help you celebrate culture, diversity & inclusion all year long with your students!

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AUGUST

On August 9th, we celebrate the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, a day to protect and promote the rights of the world's estimated 370 – 500 million indigenous people. Living across 90 countries, indigenous people worldwide have sought recognition of their identities, traditional lands, and natural resources. Historically, their rights have always been violated. On this day we celebrate indigenous people and share in their mission for acceptance and recognition within the world.

TRY THIS!

- ◆ First Book is home to thousands of books and resources focused on diverse cultures. Learn more about indigenous cultures and people in the United States in our [Native American & Indigenous Characters and Cultures](#)¹ section.
- ◆ Have students research the indigenous presence in the U.S. or worldwide and answer the following questions: Who were the original people who lived in this area? What are 3 components of their culture (beliefs, customs, practices)? Where are they today? Why? Let students share their findings and brainstorm what can be done to support indigenous people and their cultures.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Isabel Allende was born on this day in 1942. Allende is a Chilean writer whose stories honor the lives of women and combine myth and historical events. She has sold more than 75 million books.	3	4 Barack H. Obama, the 44th and first African American president of the United States, was born on this day in 1961.	5	6 Sonia Sotomayor was confirmed as the first Supreme Court Justice of Hispanic descent on this day in 2009.	7
8	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People See sidebar for details & activities!	10 Islamic New Year (9th – 10th) 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 1.9 billion devotees*	11	12	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 Liberation Day of Korea celebrates the end of the decades-long Japanese occupation of Korea. It is the only holiday celebrated in both North & South Korea.	16	17 Marcus Garvey Day celebrates the birthday of the Jamaican politician and activist credited with starting the Back to Africa movement.	18 Roberto Clemente, the first Latino in professional U.S. baseball to reach 3,000 hits, was born on this day in 1934.	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 In 1955, 14-year-old African American Emmett Till was lynched in Mississippi after being falsely accused of whistling at a White woman. His death was a catalyst for the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott and other Civil Rights efforts.
29	30	31				

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

¹ www.fbmarketplace.org/native-american-interest

For this calendar and more resources visit www.fbmarketplace.org/free-resources.



SEPTEMBER

Welcoming Week (September 10 – 19) is an opportunity to ensure all students feel valued and an important part of your classroom and school community. The beginning of the year is the ideal time to collaboratively create classroom contracts and establish the rules and routines needed for a safe and brave learning environment.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Visit First Book's [*Creating Welcoming Schools & Communities*](#)¹ section to build or refresh your classroom library with vibrant titles that reflect and explore many cultural experiences.
- ✦ Check out First Book's [*Empowering Educators*](#)² resources to learn about best practices for creating a welcoming and antiracist environment. Watch First Book members and experts share their tips for creating brave spaces: [*Let's Create a Brave Space*](#)³ and [*Two Lessons on Creating Brave Space*](#).⁴
- ✦ Have students collaborate to create a classroom contract that ensures everyone feels welcome, safe, respected, and heard. Download [*Best Practices for Building an ABAR Environment*](#)⁵ for tips and resources.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH	HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH (September 15 – October 15)		1	2	3	4 Los Angeles was founded in 1781 by Spaniards, Latinos, Afro Latinos, and indigenous people. L.A. currently has one of the largest Latinx populations in the U.S.
5	6 Labor Day An annual tribute to the contributions of all workers toward the strength and prosperity of the U.S.	7 Rosh Hashanah (6th – 8th) The Jewish New Year begins at sundown on September 6. It marks the first of the Jewish High Holy Days.*	8	9	10 Welcoming Week (10th – 19th) See sidebar for details & activities!	11
12 Mae C. Jemison, an engineer, physician, and astronaut, became the first Black woman to travel in space, aboard the shuttle Endeavor in 1992.	13	14	15 Yom Kippur (15th – 16th) is the holiest day of the year in Judaism and is also known as the Day of Atonement.*	16 Mexican Independence Day Honoring Priest Miguel Hidalgo, who in 1810 encouraged people to revolt against the Spanish regime. Mexico's independence from Spain was secured in 1821.	17	18
19	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	24	25
26 Serena Williams, one of the greatest tennis players of all time, was born on this day in 1981.	27	28 National Voter Registration Day This day encourages voter registration across all communities and promotes awareness of upcoming local, state, and national elections.	29	30 Elie Wiesel, a Romanian-born American writer was born this day in 1928. His most famous book, <i>Night</i> , is based on his experiences as a Jewish prisoner in concentration camps in Nazi Germany. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986.		KINSHIP CARE AWARENESS MONTH

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

¹ www.fbmarketplace.org/welcoming-week ² www.fbmarketplace.org/empowering-educators ³ <https://youtu.be/xwXXWweWZ9iw> ⁴ <https://youtu.be/Hgoe6B42Wss> ⁵ <https://bit.ly/EEBestPractices>

For this calendar and more resources visit www.fbmarketplace.org/free-resources.



OCTOBER

October 10th is World Mental Health Day. While societies often focus on physical health, mental health is equally important. This month take time to discuss the importance of mental health with your students. From sharing strategies to calm down to seeking support from a professional for more complex needs, let's remove the stigma and nurture, preserve, and promote mental health.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Visit First Book's [Social & Emotional Learning](#)¹ section to find great books focused on how to promote positive mental health.
- ✦ Download First Book's [Trauma Toolkit](#)² to learn how trauma affects a child's ability to learn and how you can support their development.
- ✦ Research shows that having positive relationships benefits one's mental health. Help students and their families strengthen their relationship with this activity. Have students ask their caregivers "If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?" Then, have students create an art piece that reflects the answers of their loved ones to share with the class.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LGBT HISTORY MONTH	LEARNING DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH	NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH			1 Nigeria achieved independence from Britain in 1960.	2 International Day of Nonviolence & Gandhi's Birthday Mahatma Gandhi was an Indian citizen who used nonviolent resistance as a method to gain India's independence from Britain in 1947.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 World Mental Health Day <small>See sidebar for details & activities!</small>	11 National Coming Out Day encourages members of the LGBTQ community to be open about their sexuality with their friends, family, and the world.	12 Ada Lovelace Day celebrates women in STEM and honors the 19th century mathematician who is known as the first computer programmer.	13 Jesse LeRoy Brown became the first African American Naval Officer in 1948, and the third African American to have a navy ship named after him.	14	15	16 World Food Day celebrates the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945. It shines a light on food security, world hunger, and sustainable harvesting.
17	18 Eid Milad Un Nabi, (18th – 19th) is the Muslim holiday marking the birth of Muhammed and is celebrated from sundown to sundown.*	19	20	21 Celia Cruz, an Afro-Cuban singer and the most popular Latin American music artist in the 20th century, was born on this day in 1925. Known as the "Queen of Salsa," she is an iconic symbol of Latin culture worldwide.	22	23 Make a Difference Day is a national community service event that inspires millions to give back to their local communities.
24 United Nations Day The U.N. was created in 1945.	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Día de los Muertos/ Day of the Dead (31st – November 2nd)						

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

¹ www.fbmarketplace.org/SEL-hub ² https://bit.ly/TraumaToolkit

NOVEMBER

On November 13th, we celebrate World Kindness Day.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Explore the [*Kindness & Compassion*](#)¹ section of the First Book Marketplace.
- ✦ Download [*Promoting Respect and Empathy: A Toolkit for Educators of All Grades*](#)² and use lessons and tips from First Book members to teach and encourage respect and empathy.

Children's Grief Awareness Day, November 18th, is an opportunity to give grieving students the support they need.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ See the [*Grief, Loss, and Healing*](#)³ section of the First Book Marketplace for books to build resiliency, offer comfort, and introduce coping techniques.
- ✦ Use First Book's [*Grief, Loss & Healing Guide*](#)⁴ to understand what grieving students need and how to use books to support children dealing with grief and loss.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Author's Day Consider reading stories from authors of various cultural backgrounds to celebrate this day.	2 Día de los Muertos/ Day of the Dead (October 31st - 2nd) is a Mexican holiday that honors deceased friends and family members with celebrations and prayers.	3	4 Diwali is the Hindu, Jain, and Sikh festival of lights and celebrates the triumph of light over dark and knowledge over ignorance.*	5	6 Dalip Singh Saund was elected to represent California in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1956, becoming the first Asian American to serve in Congress.
7	8 STEM/STEAM Day is meant to inspire kids to explore and pursue their interests in science, technology, engineering, art, and math.	9	10	11 Veterans Day is a U.S. holiday honoring military veterans and is also celebrated internationally as Armistice Day, or Remembrance Day, commemorating the end of World War I in 1918.	12	13 World Kindness Day See sidebar for details & activities!
14	15	16	17	18 Children's Grief Awareness Day See sidebar for details & activities!	19	20 Transgender Day of Remembrance memorializes those who have been killed as a result of transphobia and raises awareness of the continued violence endured by the transgender community.
21	22	23	24	25	26 In 1922, Anna May Wong, the first Chinese American actress to gain international fame, starred in <i>Toll of the Sea</i> , the first color feature film made in Hollywood.	27
28 Hanukkah (28th - December 6th) is the 8-day Jewish "festival of lights," celebrating a victory over foreign rulers by sharing food, games, gifts, and lighting the menorah.*	29	30			AMERICAN INDIAN & ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH	

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

1 <https://bit.ly/NYLFDD> 2 <https://bit.ly/RE Toolkit> 3 [www.fbmarketplace.org/grief-loss-and-healing](https://bit.ly/RE Toolkit) 4 <https://bit.ly/NYLFDD>

DECEMBER

With careers in STEM/STEAM expected to grow 70% faster than other professions, it's important to expose students to the contributions of leaders in these fields and to ensure the inventors, scientists, and other STEM/STEAM pioneers studied in class are diverse in terms of nationality, ethnicity, and gender.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Visit the **Space**¹ section on First Book's Marketplace to help students learn more about the exciting field of aerospace and the universe beyond our planet.
- ✦ Check out the activities in the **STEAM**² section on First Book's Marketplace to give students hands-on experiences with coding, robots, astronomy, and more.
- ✦ Ask students to imagine an invention or scientific innovation they think could help combat climate change. Have them draw or describe their idea and then share 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	3	4
5	6 Dr. Gladys Mae West is an African American mathematician known for work that made the accuracy of today's GPS possible. On this day in 2018, she was inducted into the Air Force Space and Missiles Pioneers Hall of Fame.	7 Octaviano Ambrosio Larrazolo, the first Mexican American to serve in the U.S. Senate, was born on this day in 1859.	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	10 Human Rights Day commemorates the UN's 1948 adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 In 1865, the 13th Amendment outlawing slavery in the U.S. was officially adopted into the Constitution, 246 years after the first Africans were brought to Jamestown, Virginia in 1619.
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 when the sun reaches its highest position in the sky.	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.
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	31 New Year's Eve	

¹www.fbmarketplace.org/space ²www.fbmarketplace.org/steam

JANUARY

Happy New Year! This month, we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday as a day of service. Observed on January 17th, this day is a time to reflect on how we can each be leaders in our schools and communities. Young people have been transforming their communities and standing up for their rights throughout history. Their activism and engagement are more important than ever.

TRY THIS!

- ◆ Visit the [Activism and Civic Engagement](#)¹ section of First Book's Marketplace for inspiring and engaging books that teach readers about the bravery and persistence of activists and civic leaders such as Ibram X. Kendi and Sonia Sotomayor.
- ◆ Have students choose an area of focus, such as the environment or social justice. Help them share their opinions and research with a larger audience by creating posters to display at school or writing to elected officials.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by Abraham Lincoln on this day in 1863, freeing slaves held in Confederate states. Ellis Island opened in 1892.
2	3 In 2021, the 117th Congress became the most diverse in the history of the United States. The current Congress is the sixth to break the record set by the one before it.	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 Rigoberta Menchú, a K'iche' human rights activist from Guatemala and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for her work promoting indigenous & women's rights in Guatemala was born on this day in 1959.	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 World Religion Day encourages interfaith understanding and asks people worldwide to recognize that all religions have common spiritual goals.	17 MLK Jr. Day of Service See sidebar for details & activities!	18	19	20	21	22
23 Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to earn a medical degree in the U.S. in 1849.	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

¹ www.fbmarketplace.org/activism-and-civic-engagement

FEBRUARY

We observe Black History Month by celebrating African American history and achievements. In addition to teaching about civil rights milestones and the contributions of Black leaders, use this month to expand your teaching to include current political and social issues affecting the Black community, Black mental health, and the science behind bias, stereotypes, and microaggressions.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Visit the [Black History](#)¹ and [Diversity & Inclusion](#)² sections of the First Book Marketplace for books written and/or illustrated by African Americans and books featuring diversity that encourage empathy and self-confidence.
- ✦ Use the resources in the [Empowering Educators Toolkit](#)³ to help you engage students in productive conversations about race. Resources include an [Educator's Self-Assessment](#)⁴ to help you learn about unconscious bias and a series of new guides that feature topics such as creating brave spaces, microaggressions, teaching current events, facilitating challenging conversations, and more.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BLACK HISTORY MONTH	Black Lives Matter at School A Week of Action (1st – 5th) is a nationwide effort to affirm and empower all Black students.* #BlackLivesMatterAtSchool	1 Chinese New Year is China's most important holiday, and celebrations last 15 days. According to tradition, 2022 is the Year of the Tiger.	2 The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed at the end of the Mexican-American War. The U.S. gained many of today's southwestern states. Mexican citizens living in those areas could become U.S. citizens or move within Mexico's new borders.	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	8	9	10	11 Inventor's Day celebrates the contributions of inventors and honors Thomas Edison, born on this day in 1847.	12
13	14	15 Nirvana Day, 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	18 Toni Morrison, the first African American woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, was born on this day in 1931.	19 In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt authorized the incarceration or deportation of over 110,000 Japanese Americans by issuing Executive Order 9066 during World War II.
20	21	22	23 W.E.B. DuBois, the first African American to hold a PhD from Harvard, was born on this day in 1868.	24	25	26
27	28					

*Note: The dates for Black Lives Matter at School: A Week of Action were tentative when this calendar was published.

¹ www.fbmarketplace.org/us-black-history ² www.fbmarketplace.org/stories-for-all-project
³ www.fbmarketplace.org/empowering-educators ⁴ https://bit.ly/BiasSelfAssessment

For this calendar and more resources visit www.fbmarketplace.org/free-resources.



MARCH

The island of Puerto Rico has a rich heritage and culture. Following the Spanish-American War, the United States acquired Puerto Rico as part of the Treaty of Paris. Its citizens were extended U.S. citizenship in 1917, and since then millions of Puerto Ricans have come to the U.S. mainland. Lin Manuel Miranda, creator of the Broadway musical *Hamilton*, is a Puerto Rican American whose first Broadway show, *In the Heights*, tells the story of Latinx characters in the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York City. We all have stories to tell that can reflect our culture and heritage. This month, explore and share the stories of students within your class.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Visit First Book's [Latinx Characters & Cultures](#)¹ section for a mix of Spanish and Latinx resources that reflect and celebrate Latinx culture and heritage.
- ✦ A popular line in the play *Hamilton* is "I'm not throwing away my shot." Put another way, the character (Alexander Hamilton) is not throwing away his opportunity to achieve his highest potential. Use this statement as a journal or discussion prompt for students to share their thoughts on how it relates to their lives today.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH		1	2 In 1917, Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory, and its citizens were extended U.S. citizenship. See sidebar for details & activities!	3	4	5
	6	7	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
12	13		14 Jewish American inventor and physicist Albert Einstein was born on this day in 1879.	15	16 <i>Freedom's Journal</i> , the first African American newspaper in the U.S., was first published on this day in 1827.	17
18	19	20	21 Nowruz/ Persian New Year is a day of joy, celebration, and renewal. It is held annually on the spring equinox.	22	23	24 In 1934, the Philippine Islands in the South Pacific were granted independence by President Franklin D. Roosevelt after nearly 50 years of American control.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 César Chávez Day is a U.S. holiday celebrating the birth and legacy of the Mexican American civil rights and labor movement activist.
						MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

¹ www.fbmarketplace.org/latino-culture

APRIL

April is National Poetry Month. It's time to celebrate the power of words—whether they are combined to make a sonnet, haiku, narrative, free verse, or other style of poem. This month, encourage students to discover poetry through the lens of poets from different backgrounds. Antjie Krog is a female poet from South Africa. Joumana Haddad is a female poet from Lebanon who also founded *Jasad*, an Arabic-language magazine. Our favorite poet to highlight is Rita Dove, an African American poet who wrote the poem “First Book,” after which our organization was named.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Visit First Book's [Poetry](#)¹ section for a great selection of stories written in verse and for various books of poetry by diverse authors.
- ✦ Create a class anthology of poems about celebrating culture, diversity, and inclusion. Ask students to write a poem on a topic of their own creation, or assign a theme; for example, acceptance. Have students read their poems aloud as part of a poetry slam, and/or have all poems printed and compiled into a “book” that can be distributed and/or sold as part of a class fundraiser.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NATIONAL POETRY MONTH					1	2 Ramadan (2nd – May 2nd) is a month-long Islamic observation celebrating the first revelation of the Quran and includes strict fasting observed from sunrise to sunset.*
3 National Library Week (3rd – 9th) celebrates the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians.	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 The Songkran Festival, (13th – 15th) marks the Thai New Year and is celebrated by a three-day water fight.	14	15 Passover (15th – 23rd) is a sacred Jewish holy day that celebrates Jewish liberation from slavery in ancient Egypt.*	16
17 Easter is a sacred and widely observed Christian holy day that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*	18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day is an annual celebration to promote environmental protection across the world.	23
24	25	26	27 Holocaust Remembrance Day (27th – 28th) honors the millions of Jewish people who died in the Holocaust and the heroism of the survivors and rescuers.	28 Gathering of Nations (28th – 30th) the largest Native American Powwow in North America, with 500+ nations celebrating Native American culture.	29 Global Youth Service Day (29th – May 1st) mobilizes youth worldwide to improve their communities through service.	30 Children's Day/ Book Day, also known as El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Día) is a celebration of reading that emphasizes literacy for every child regardless of their language(s) and culture(s).

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

For this calendar and more resources visit www.fbmarketplace.org/free-resources.



MAY

In the United States, May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks on the project were Chinese immigrants. It's a good time to highlight the stories and cultures of the 24.5 million U.S. residents of AAPI heritage.

TRY THIS!

- ◆ You can shop the full [*Asian & Pacific Islander Characters & Cultures*](#)¹ collection on First Book's Marketplace and share stories of diverse cultural heritage with First Book's [*Stories for All Project*](#)^{TM2}. With thousands of inclusive, representative titles, you'll find engaging stories that offer windows into different cultures, or mirrors to reflect your own experience.
- ◆ Turn your classroom or program into an art exhibit highlighting diverse backgrounds. Art can take many forms and is often a medium to reflect one's cultural experience, heritage, and beliefs. Have students identify a culture to research. Ask each student to identify an artist or piece of art from that culture to share with your class or group.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Eid al-Fitr, (2nd – 3rd) is one of the most significant Muslim holidays, marking the end of Ramadan.*	3 Teacher Appreciation Day honors and celebrates the lasting contributions teachers make in the lives of students and society.	4	5 Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Mexican defeat of the French army at the Battle of Puebla in 1862.	6 The Chinese Exclusion Act is signed into law on this day in 1882, prohibiting immigration of Chinese laborers into the U.S. The act was repealed in 1943.	7 National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day links positive mental health to a child's healthy development.
8	9	10 Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first democratically elected president and the first Black head of state on this day in 1994. He had spent 27 years as a political prisoner.	11 National School Nurse Day celebrates the more than 45,000 school nurses in the U.S. Hug a nurse today!	12	13	14
15	16	17 Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the historic Supreme Court ruling whose goal was to desegregate American public schools (1954)	18	19	20 Toussaint Louverture, the leader of the Haitian Revolution was born on this day in 1743. The revolution was the only slave revolt that led to the elimination of slavery and the founding of a country—Haiti.	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Chien-Shiung Wu, a famous Chinese American nuclear physicist was born on this day in 1912.		JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH	ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH	

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

For this calendar and more resources visit www.fbmarketplace.org/free-resources.



JUNE

On June 20th, the world honors refugees—people who have fled their home country because of conflict or natural disaster. Refugees often escape with nothing more than the clothes they are wearing, and face hunger, violence, disease, trauma, and loss as they try to survive. World Refugee Day brings awareness to their plight. This month, take time to learn about their stories, challenges, and triumphs.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Explore the [*Immigrant & Refugee Experiences*](#)¹ section of the First Book Marketplace for diverse stories to help students learn about the challenges refugees experience and develop empathy and compassion for their experiences.
- ✦ Help students develop their understanding of the refugee experience by asking the following four questions: What is a refugee? Why do refugees leave their own country? What is life like in a refugee camp? What is it like to be a newly settled refugee in a new country? Give students time to research their responses and share aloud with the class.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH			1 The Tulsa Race Riot took place on this day in 1921. Mobs of White people attacked Black residents and businesses, killing hundreds.	2	3	4 On this day in 1946, Eva Perón became First Lady of Argentina. She founded the first all-female political party, the Female Peronist Party. Known as Evita, she died of cancer at age 33.
5 World Environment Day is an important UN observance that encourages people to take care of the earth and raise awareness about its need for protection.	6	7	8	9	10	11
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 Anniversary of the first woman in space: Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman to fly to space on this day in 1963.	17	18
19 Juneteenth, is a holiday commemorating emancipation and the end of slavery in the U.S. It became a federal holiday in 2021.	20 World Refugee Day See sidebar for details & activities!	21	22	23	24	25 In 1876, the Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho tribes fought and defeated the 7th Cavalry Regiment of the U.S. Army in The Battle of Little Bighorn, as the U.S. government sought to gain ownership of indigenous lands.
26	27	28 Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, a series of demonstrations by the LGBTQ community in response to a police raid in 1969.	29	30		

1 www.firstbookmarketplace.org/immigrant-and-refugee-experience



JULY

On July 26, we celebrate National Disability Independence Day, which commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This act provides individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities protection from employment discrimination, equal opportunity to access buildings and public transportation, and more. This month, help students learn the importance of inclusion with great titles from First Book.

TRY THIS!

- ◆ Boost compassion and give students insight into the life experiences of others with titles from our [***Disabled Characters & Disability Cultures***](#)¹ section.
- ◆ Have students research various types of disabilities including hearing and vision impairments, physical and learning disabilities, and autism. Have students answer and discuss the questions with the class or group: What part(s) of the body or mind does this disability affect? How is a person impacted if they have this disability? What is something someone with this disability may need to overcome? How can you show sensitivity and compassion to someone with this disability?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Kalpana Chawla (born on this day in 1961) was an engineer and astronaut and the first woman of Indian descent to go into space. She died in 2003 aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia and is recognized as a national hero in India.	2 Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that outlawed discrimination based on race, sex, or national origin. This law outlawed segregation in public spaces and banned employment discrimination.
3	4 On this day in 1946, the Philippines gained independence from the U.S. Filipinos were the 4th largest immigrant group to the U.S. between 1960 and 2019.	5	6 Dalai Lama's Birthday The current Dalai Llama was born on this day in 1935. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.	7 On this day in 1912, Jim Thorpe became the first Native American to win an Olympic gold medal, in the pentathlon. In the same games, he also won a gold medal for the decathlon.	8 Day of Arafat (8th - 9th) is a Muslim holy day of repentance and forgiveness marked by fasting.*	9 Eid al-Adha (9th - 10th) the Muslim day of sacrifice and one of the most significant Muslim holy days is usually marked with a large meal.*
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	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 National Disability Independence Day commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. See sidebar for details & activities!	27	28 Anniversary of the 1917 Negro Silent Protest Parade in New York City, in which 10,000 African Americans marched to demand civil rights and protest lynchings and violence.	29 Islamic New Year (29th - 30th) 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 1.9 billion devotees*	30
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*Note: Islamic holidays follow the lunar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

1. www.fbmarketplace.org/special-needs-and-abilities

For more resources to support you and your students, please visit:
www.fbmarketplace.org/free-resources

