What's Happening in May? A Salute to Women Educators in Connecticut.

Brief information is given on May events celebrated by Puerto Ricans: May Day; Mother's Day; World Red Cross Day; Armed Forces Day; Memorial Day; and the birthdays of Horace Mann ("Father of the Common Schools"), Harry S. Truman, Luis Llorens Torres (poet), Ralph Waldo Emerson (poet), and Patrick Henry (statesman and orator).

Designed as a teacher resource, the booklet provides brief information on the contributions of 14 famous Black women to American history: Lorraine Hansberry, playwright; Florence Mills, actress; Mary Church Terrell, fighter for equal rights for women and Blacks; Billie Holiday and Sissimetta Jones, singers; Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, leaders against slavery; Mary E. P. Mahoney, first professional Black nurse; Maggie L. Walker; Augusta Savage, among the first professional Black sculptors; Laura Wheeling Waring, painter; Mary McLeod Bethune, advisor to President Roosevelt in the 1930's and 1940's; Shirley Chisholm, first Black woman in Congress; and Phillis Wheatley, poet. Other famous women discussed include Felisa Rincon de Gautier (Mayor of San Juan, 1946-1968), Lola Rodriguez de Tio (writer), Antonia Bonilla (Sister Carmelita—civic-religious leader), and Clara Barton (founder of the American Red Cross). The booklet includes a list of 29 historical May happenings, several Mother's Day poems, instructions for making 8 gifts and 3 cards for mom, a short essay on kite flying—including instructions for making an octagonal kite, and several word game and math activities. (NQA)
What's Happening

in May?

"A Salute to Women Educators in Connecticut"
CONNECTICUT MIGRATORY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM
ETHNIC/ARTS COMPONENT

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAY?

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"What's Happening?" is designed as a resource for teachers' use only.
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What's Happening in May?

1. May Day - traditional spring holiday.
3. Rhode Island declared its independence from Great Britain (1776). Educator Horace Mann, born 1796.
5. Nazis surrendered to General Eisenhower (effective the next day), marking end of World War II in Europe - 1945.
6. World Red Cross Day.
8. Mississippi River discovered by Hernando de Soto - 1541.
9. President Harry Truman, born 1884.
15. Luis Lloréns Torres, born 1876.
16. By only one vote, Senate failed to impeach President Andrew Jackson - 1868.
20 Charles A. Lindbergh began first solo flight across Atlantic - 1927.
21 American National Red Cross founded by Clara Barton - 1881.
24 Samuel F.B. Morse sent first telegraph message from Washington to Baltimore - 1844.
25 Poet Ralph Waldo Emerson, born 1803.
29 Wisconsin became 30th state - 1848.
Patrick Henry, born 1736.
President John F. Kennedy, born 1917.
30 Memorial Day.
31 Poet Walt Whitman, born 1819.
In many parts of the United States, May is truly the "merry" month. By now, spring is in full swing. The winter snows have melted. The temperature is comfortably warm (especially when compared to the intense heat of the summer sun still to come). The trees are blooming. The grass is green. The first crops have started to grow. Many animals are busy finding mates. And the birds are building their nests.

 Appropriately, May, the fifth month of the year, was probably named for Maia, the ancient Roman goddess of spring and fertility. The early Romans made frequent sacrifices to the goddess to guarantee a good harvest.

 Interesting quotes for thought from this month come from two ex-presidents. On May 27, 1788, Thomas Jefferson said, "The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground." Similarly, on May 9, 1912, Woodrow Wilson said, "The history of liberty is a history of the limitations of governmental power, not the increase of it."

 May's birthstone is the emerald. The flowers of the month are the hawthorn and the lily of the valley.

Sources: Encyclopedia Americana, Grolier, Inc., 1982
The World Book Encyclopedia
The "Instant Almanac of Events, Anniversaries, Observances, Quotations, and Birthdays for Every Day of the Year"
by Leonard and Thelma Spinrad
Parker Publishing Co., Inc. 1972
May Day - May 1

On the first day of May, many people around the world celebrate the return of spring. This celebration is known as May Day. Experts believe May Day has its roots in the early Roman Floralia (about 258 B.C.). This festival honored Flora, the Roman goddess of flowers and spring.

Traditional May Day festivities include setting up a Maypole and decorating it with wreaths, garlands, and ribbons. Dances around the Maypole to celebrate spring's return are customary. Frequently, May Day Queens are picked from the fairest young girls present. In another popular custom, children hang baskets filled with flowers or small gifts on the doors of friends or neighbors. In many parts of the world, however, spring isn't the only reason for celebrating May Day.

In fact, in many countries, workers consider May Day a serious political holiday. Labor unions and other workers' organizations set aside this day as the workingman's international day of solidarity. For these countries, May Day is the time for parades, protests, and labor demonstrations.

In the Soviet Union, Moscow has often celebrated this day with a tremendous military parade. In the United States, the American Bar Association has sponsored a May 1st "Law Day." On Law Day, Americans are asked to rededicate themselves to the ideals of personal freedom and liberty under the laws of the land.


May Day Creative Activity
Have your students set up a Maypole. Then ask each student to bring in one ribbon or other colorful item to help decorate the Maypole.
"Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity."
-Horace Mann, his commencement speech at Antioch College, 1859.

Almost every state's public school system has benefited from the efforts of Horace Mann. Called the "Father of the Common Schools", Mann was a leader in bringing about much needed educational reforms. He played a large role in setting up America's modern elementary school system. In his home state of Massachusetts, he stirred up sufficient interest in educational problems to have laws passed increasing financial aid to education.

With his vast knowledge of sound educational methods, including Europe's educational techniques, he helped raise the overall quality and standards of teachers in the public school system.

Horace Mann was born on May 4, 1796, in Franklin, Massachusetts. He died in 1859.

Sources: The World Book Encyclopedia
Bartlett's Familiar Quotations
Little Brown & Co., Boston

Horace Mann Word Game
Find the things that are a part of school:
classroom
kitchen
blackboard
chalk
bedroom
pencils
students
dining room
bicycle
E.T.
vacuum cleaner
teacher
text books
shampoo
looseleaf paper
maple leaf
fish
alphabet
homework
dinner
eraser

Answers: classroom, blackboard, eraser, pencils, chalk
Mother's Day - Second Sunday in May

Both ancient and modern societies have always honored and revered mothers. So naturally, it would be expected that a special day would be set aside to honor motherhood.

In early Christianity, the fourth Sunday before Easter was a day to honor Mary, the Mother of Christ. The ancient Romans and Greeks dedicated a special day to Thea, the mother of their gods (including Jupiter, Neptune, and Pluto). In America, many people petitioned for a special day to honor America's mothers. In 1872, Julia Ward Howe suggested observing Mother's Day on June 2. In 1887, Mary Towles Saseen, a Kentucky schoolteacher, began celebrating an "unofficial" Mother's Day. In 1904, Frank E. Hering of Indiana, campaigned for Mother's Day. And again in 1907, Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia, petitioned for a national holiday honoring motherhood. Anna Jarvis picked the second Sunday in May. And it was she who started the custom of wearing a carnation. Then in 1912, delegates from a Minneapolis church, started a resolution to recognize Anna Jarvis as the founder of Mother's Day. Finally, on May 8, 1914, Woodrow Wilson (with Congressional approval), proclaimed Mother's Day an official national holiday. Ever since, people all across America have been honoring mothers.

Today, families and churches have special celebrations to honor motherhood. In one popular custom (started by Anna Jarvis), people wear a white colored carnation on Mother's Day. A red carnation means the wearer's mother is living; a pink carnation represents that she is living far away; a white carnation means she is dead.

Also popular is the giving of Mother's Day cards and gifts.

Sources: All About American Holidays by M.R. Krythe
The World Book Encyclopedia

Pages 1-6 were prepared by:
Ron Weissman, Curriculum Specialist
Felisa Rincón de Gautier was born in Ceiba, Puerto Rico on January 9, 1897. Her father, Don Enrique Rincón Plumey, was a lawyer; and her mother, Doña Rita Marrero, was a schoolteacher.

The eldest daughter in a large family, Felisa Rincón lost her parents when she was eleven years old. To keep the family of seven little brothers and sisters together, she worked as a seamstress. Felisa perfected herself in that trade to the point where she, eventually, became an accomplished seamstress and a designer of exclusive models. In 1932, Felisa Rincón was encouraged to register and vote on the very last day for registration of electors. While casting her vote, incidents occurred in which the voting rights of certain other women were not respected. Felisa came to their assistance. As a result, she was appointed polling booth observer, on the spot. Consequentially, she entered politics.

When Muñoz Marín left the Liberal Party to form the Popular Democratic Party, Felisa followed him into the new group. With the victory of the Popular Democratic Party, in 1940, Felisa became an important political leader. That year, she married Attorney Jenaro A. Gautier, aide to the Attorney General.

In 1946, Felisa accepted the post of Mayoress of San Juan and was re-elected until she retired in 1968.

Her work as Mayoress was outstanding. It won her the love and respect of the people. Every Wednesday morning during the year, people visited City Hall to tell her about their troubles.

President Kennedy sent her on a goodwill trip to visit all Central and South American countries, where she was well received.

In 1954, Felisa was proclaimed Woman of the Americas! She has received medals and honors from many countries. Although Felisa never had any children of her own, she is a mother figure to many of our people and a role model for our women.

Source: The Puerto Rican Woman by Federico Ribes Tovar
Plus Ultra Educational Publishers, Inc.
Lola Rodríguez de Tió was born on September 14, 1843, in San Germán, Puerto Rico. Private teachers provided her education. In her youth, she traveled all over the island making friends with some of the best writers of her time. In 1863, Lola married Benicio Tió Segarra, a famous journalist who encouraged her to write.

She wrote the first "Borinqueña" (national anthem), a call to arms and revolution. The song created political problems with the government of the island.

In 1876, she published her first book of poems, "Mis Canfares". The 2500 copies of the book sold immediately. By 1877, General Segundo de la Portil gave the couple two hours to leave the island. They went to Caracas, Venezuela.

The couple was allowed to return in 1878. They continued to write and work with other writers. In 1877, Lola started working for the release of sixteen political prisoners. When the prisoners were set free, she wrote a poem, "Nochebuena 1877" (Christmas Eve 1877).

In 1889, the government exiled the family again. They went to Havana, Cuba. There, they became involved in the independence movement, until the government forced them to leave in 1892.

From Cuba, they went to New York, where she worked with José Martí, Sotero Figueroa, Pachín Marín, and others that, like her, were sent out of their countries because of their political beliefs.

During her lifetime, Lola participated in three revolutionary movements and was exiled three times. She died on November 10, 1924.

(See "Símbolos Nacionales" for the anthem.)

Source: 100 Biografías de Puertorriqueños Ilustres by Federico Ribes Tovar
Plus Ultra Educational Publishers, Inc.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE
Antonia Bonilla was born in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, in 1910. In 1924, she entered the Congregation of Missionaries of the Sacred Trinity of Holy Trinity Convent, in Alabama.

When her novitiate was complete and she had taken her vows, Sister Carmelita was assigned to the Mission of the Congregation in Gold Street, Brooklyn. She was only nineteen years old when she arrived in New York to take care of the spiritual and material welfare of 30,000 Puerto Ricans.

At that time, there were neither public nor private agencies in the city to concern themselves with social needs. Sister Carmelita became a one-woman super agency.

She helped find jobs for the unemployed, find apartments for the homeless, visit the sick in hospitals, was a court translator, and every Monday she met the ship which disembarked more Puerto Ricans in Brooklyn - to mention a few of her duties.

In the summertime, she recruited groups of girls from the district, and took them to enjoy the sea and sun at Coney Island.

Sister Carmelita was transferred to Puerto Rico, in 1940. Even today, Puerto Ricans of Brooklyn consider her the most outstanding civic-religious leader of the past four decades. When asked about serving again in the United States, she said: "We are like soldiers; we go where we are sent."

Source: The Puerto Rican Woman by Federico Ribes Tovar
Plus Ultra Educational Publishers, Inc.
NOTABLE BLACK WOMEN AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN HISTORY

With each generation, the Black Woman is renewed with the strength and bold determination of their courageous forebearers.

One outstanding quality in Black pioneer women was their spirit. Their task around the house kept them home for many years but, eventually, they learned their lives need not be limited to the household just because they were women.

When one examines the lives and works of leading Black women, both past and present, it is an eye opener to discover the incredibly rich gifts these women have bestowed on our history and our every day lives.

Today, after many years of struggle, they have positions of importance in almost every area formerly reserved for men.

Here we salute a few Black Women who have distinguished themselves as notable contributors to American History. We also salute mothers for their important contributions of rearing their children and helping them become novelists, teachers, musicians, athletes, artists, politicians, and good parents themselves.

Now for a look at:

MY PEOPLE

The night is beautiful,
So are the faces of my people,
The stars are beautiful,
So are the eyes of my people.
Beautiful, also, is the sun
Beautiful, also, are the souls of my people.

by Langston Hughes
Her name must rank high on the list of Black literary greats. With the Broadway Opening of her play, "A Raisin In The Sun," came immediate critical acclaim. The world regrets that she died too young and too soon.

Florence Mills introduced the "Cake-Walk" and became the rage of Broadway, in 1925, as the star of "Blackbirds." An untimely death at 32, cut short her promising career.
Her entire life was devoted to the fight for equal rights for women, and for all members of her race. The Supreme Court ruling, in 1954, that segregation was unconstitutional was a fitting climax to her work.

A singing immortal; "Lady Day" as she was known to her millions of fans, brought joy and sadness with her voice. Her remarkable jazz renditions proved to the world that Black Music Was Indeed Beautiful.
She began life as Isabella but lived it as Sojourner Truth, the first Black woman to speak out against slavery. Her proclamations of liberty throughout the land, gave courage and hope to her people.

During the period when racial bars were at their highest and educational opportunities for Blacks were at their lowest, Miss Mahoney graduated, in 1879, to become the first professional Black nurse.
Her great natural soprano voice brought international renown to "Black Patti" as she was popularly called in the 1890's. Even in those days, she sang at the White House.

Thanks to the genius of Maggie L. Walker, the Order of St. Luke, a dues-paying, self-help organization, membership grew to 100,000, with a $7 million fund, a $100 million building, and ownership of the St. Luke Herald newspaper.
Augusta Savage was among the first of the professional Black sculptors. Many of her carvings, including "The Abstract Madonna," are considered masterpieces today.

Laura Wheeling Waring was recognized as a superb painter by art connoisseurs and collectors at the turn of the century. Her finest works were done in oils.
A cotton plantation field hand in her youth, Mary McLeod Bethune became a forceful spokesperson for Black education and integration and an adviser to President Roosevelt in the 1930's and 1940's. Mrs. Bethune was educated at Scotia Seminary and Moody Bible Institute. In 1904, with very little money, she started a school for girls in Daytona Beach, Florida. Beginning with only five girls, her school later combined with Cookman Institute and graduated thousands.

In 1968, Shirley Chisholm became the first Black woman to sit in Congress. Two years later, she was re-elected to represent the Brooklyn section where she was born. This hard-working, resourceful and determined woman, became nationally known, in 1972, when she ran for the presidential nomination on the Democratic ticket.
A courageous leader of the antislavery struggle before the Civil War, escaped slave Harriet Tubman, guided more than 300 slaves to freedom through the Underground Railroad, the network of escape routes from South to North and Canada. She was credited for never losing a man, woman or child. After the war, she worked for women's rights.

One of the better known poets of the colonial period in American history, Phyllis Wheatley was kidnapped from Africa at the age of nine and brought to America as a slave. She served as a maid for a family which gave her its name. She wrote a poem to George Washington: "His Excellency, George Washington." Washington invited her to visit him at his Cambridge headquarters.
AN ARGUMENT SETTLED  (For three children)

First
I've got the smartest Mother
That anyone could know;
She can draw as well as cook,
Clean the house and sew.

Second
My Mother's just as smart, I'm sure;
No better could you find;
And she is just the sweetest thing,-
So loving, good and kind.

Third
There's nothing in the house at all
My Mother cannot do;
And when it comes to sweetness,-say-
She's honey - right straight through!

First
Of course we never could agree;
We'll let the matter go;
To every one their Mother's best;-n
And it's right to have it so.

MOTHER'S LITTLE GIRL
Mother knows a little girl-
Mother won't tell who-
Helps with all the many things
Mother has to do;
Sings to baby when he cries,
Builds his shaky blocks,
Trons' Grandma's handkerchiefs,
Folds up Father's socks,
Picks the berries, dusts the hall
Neat as neat can be,
Draws out Grandpa's easy chair,
Sets the plates for tea.

Mother knows a little girl-
Don't you wish you knew
Which it is who helps her so?
Mother won't tell who.

-Carolyn S. Bailey

THE STORY HOUR
The hour to me that is best of all
Comes in the twilight gloom
Before the shadows of evening fall
And darken my play time room;
Some footsteps I love will then come near,
Softly treading the old broad stair;
I call out quickly, "O, who comes here?
The password you must declare!"

Then Mother dear, in the open door,
Laughingly says, "A kiss!
I've heard the password often before,-
O could I come in, sweet Miss?"
We sit together till time for bed;
Stories so grand she'll tell,
And then a prayer, with her hand on my head,
And I sleep-knowing all is well!
MOTHER
I'll give my Mother a great big kiss
And tell her that I love her,
No one else in all the world
Can take the place of Mother.

MOTHER'S DAY
Every May on Mother's Day
I'll tell my Mother dear
How much I really love her
Every minute of the year.

HELPING MOTHER
Today is the day that I can show Mother
Just how much I really love her.
I'll set the table and sweep the floor,
And I'm sure by nighttime I'll do much more.

TO MOM
My Mom's the greatest in the world
To me there is no other
She spends lots of time loving and caring
For me, my sisters and brothers.
I don't know how she does it all
Working, cooking, washing and mending
Worrying that I'm alright
Never minding the time she's spending.
I know I hardly say it to her
Not as often as I should
But I love and care about her too
And I try to be so good.
I want to thank her for all her time.
For me, my sisters and brothers
My Mom's the greatest in the world
To me there could be no other!

BROADCASTING (For two small children)
FIRST
Station L-O-V-E, folks,
Is on the air today;
O listen! "Help your mothers dear
In every loving way."

SECOND
Station H-O-M-E, folks,
Is also on the air;
O listen! You must have a part
And make home bright and fair.
MOTHERS

by Bette Killion

Mothers are important every month of the year.
Baby chickens have their mothers,
who keep them huddled near.
Little rabbits have their mothers,
who fluff their cotton tails.
Even butterflies have mothers;
so do snakes and snails.
Birds' mothers come and feed them when their mouths are open wide.

Mother kangaroos have built-in car seats where their babies ride.
Mother squirrels teach little squirrels to scurry high in trees.
Mother deer teach little fawns to hide where no one sees.
Each creature has a mother.
I'm sure each loves her well.
But mine is special, and I love her more than I can tell.

GIFTS FOR MOM

Handkerchief Holder:

Materials:
Construction paper hearts, pictures of flowers, paper doilies, paste, handkerchief, glitter.

Procedure:
1. Cut large hearts out of the construction paper.
Make one heart slightly smaller than the other heart.
2. Glue the small heart to the large heart, leaving the top and center open to insert the handkerchief.
3. Decorate the small heart with pictures of flowers, paper doilies, glitter, or other materials.
4. Insert the handkerchief into the holder.

(Suggestion: you might use your school photograph!)
Eggshell Garden:

Materials:
Empty eggshells, cotton, grass or bird seed, water, watercolors, Play-Doh, felt-tip pens, white glue.

Procedure:
1. Decorate the outside of the eggshell with watercolors or felt-tip pens.
2. Soften a piece of Play-Doh and make a circle with an indentation in it sufficient to hold the eggshell. Glue the eggshell into a hold.
3. Place a piece of dampened cotton inside the eggshell. Sprinkle with seed.
4. Keep the cotton moist and watch the seeds sprout and grow.

Trinket Tray:

Materials:
2 pieces of lightweight cardboard (approximately 3 in. by 4 and 1/8 in.), 4 small empty match boxes, 4 paper fasteners, white glue, 2 pieces of construction paper (same as cardboard), paper punch, decorative materials, pictures, foil, flowers.

Procedure:
1. Punch a hole in one end of each match box and insert a paper fastener for a handle.
2. Glue the 4 boxes to 1 of the pieces of cardboard so that all 4 trays can be pulled out by the paper fastener handles. (See sketch)
3. Glue the second piece of cardboard on top of the boxes.
4. Glue construction paper or foil on the top and bottom cardboard pieces and decorate with pictures, paints, crayons, flowers, or glitter.
5. This gift is useful for holding paper clips and other small trinkets.
Note Pad Hanger:

Materials:

- Construction paper (approximately 6 in. by 12 in.);
- Construction paper (approximately 3 in. by 5½ in.);
- Small note pad;
- Pieces of contrasting colors of construction paper;
- 12-in. length of yard colored string, or ribbon;
- Paste or white glue.

Procedure:

1. As each child arrives, have an assistant trace around his hand on the 3-in. by 5½-in. paper. Cut out the hand prints and write the correct name on the back of each one.

2. Punch a hole at the top center of the 6-in. by 12-in. paper.

3. Cut yarn, string, or ribbon or 12-in. lengths.

4. Cut or tear small jewels from scraps of construction paper. The colors of these should contrast but not clash with the large paper.

5. Make a pocket on each hanger by folding up the construction paper sheet about 2½ in. and stapling the sides.

6. Paste the hand print to the hanger. Paste the jewels on the outside of the stapled pocket.

7. Place the note pad in the pocket.

8. Put the yarn or ribbon through the hole at the top to make the hanger.

Button Cards:

"BUTTON, button, who's got the buttons?"

Children have them to make Mother's Day greetings. All sorts of intriguing cards can be made with drawings built around buttons. Primary and intermediate grades can make exciting arrangements, gluing on buttons for heads of people, faces in portraits, flowers, and animals. The rest of the figure is drawn in with crayon.

Suggest children look through Mother's button boxes for buttons with unusual shapes, sizes, and colors. The various shapes will give interesting 3-D effects.
Pen and Pencil Holder:

**Material:**
Cardboard tissue tubes, yarn or ribbon, decorative adhesive-backed paper or tissue, Play-Doh or cork, white glue, scissors.

**Procedure:**

1. Cover the outside of a cardboard tissue tube with decorative paper or tissue paper. Place a 1 in. deep strip of the paper around the inside top.
2. Mold the Play-Doh into a circle about 1 in. thick. Flatten the circle until it is slightly larger than the hole in the tube. Or: make a cork circle the same size as the hole in the tube.
3. Place some white glue around the inside edge of the tube. Use the tube as a cookie cutter to cut the Play-Doh. Take off the excess from the outside. Or: glue in the cork circle.
4. Decorate the tube with yarn or ribbon bows.
5. Allow the Play-Doh to harden and glue to set, and then use the container for your pencils and pens.

Carnation Card for Mother:

You will need two-inch circles of both red and pink crepe paper. (Two circles for each flower may be used.) Fold in halves, then in quarters. Snip edges irregularly to resemble a carnation. On a pale-green card draw calyx, stem, and leaves for the two carnations. Color these green. Slit top of calyx as shown and tuck in flower. Fasten on back with cellophane tape. Print MOTHER vertically between the carnations.
Needle Case:

Materials:

- Construction paper
- Flannel
- Pinking shears
- Scissors
- Paper punch
- Yarn or ribbon
- Decorative materials

Procedure:

1. Cut covers for your needle cases from construction paper. A good size is 3 and 3/4 in. by 5 and 3/4 in. Choose a color that will harmonize with your decorations.

2. Fold the cover for the needle case in half. Decorate the front and back with pictures of flowers, seals, gummed stars, glitter, or crayon.

3. Cut the inside of the needle case from flannel. Make the inside about 3 1/2 in. by 5 1/2 in.

4. Put the piece of flannel inside the cover and punch 2 holes along the center fold.

5. Tie a piece of yarn or ribbon through the 2 holes to hold the case together.

6. Put some needles into the case and use it for a gift.

Suggested Sources on Women:

- All About Health and Beauty for the Black Woman by Sims
- Beautiful, Also, Are the Souls of My Black Sisters by Noble
- Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman by Wallace
- The Black Woman: An Anthology by Cade
- How To Be a Top Model by Sims
- Sturdy Black Bridges: Visions of Black Women in Literature by Bell
- Tomorrow's Tomorrow by Ibadner

Pages 10-24 were prepared by:
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Curriculum Specialist
Bridgeport Board of Education
World War II was still raging when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt suddenly died. Was there anybody who could replace him and be as great a leader? Some say Harry S. Truman met the challenge.

At a critical time in American and World History, Vice-President Truman was thrust into leadership as the 33rd President of the United States (1945-1954). He would soon have to make some of the most difficult and important decisions any president ever had to make. (e.g., The decision to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and then Nagasaki to defeat the Japanese.) Could he handle the responsibility? The pressure? Did he have what it takes to be a good leader?

History proves Harry S. Truman had what it takes to be not only a good leader, but a great one. He was eager and ready to learn. He was honest. People trusted him. And he had a fighter’s spirit for a challenge. He was willing to work as hard and as long as necessary to get a job done. And he did, frequently working long sixteen-hour days.

Truman was straight and to-the-point in his language. He didn’t mince words. Some criticized him for his blunt, often strong, language. But others appreciated his honesty and knack for seeing through the small, insignificant details and complexities of a problem to the real heart of an issue.

Among his many achievements as President, Truman saw the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico established on July 25, 1952. He helped create the Department of Defense, unifying the Navy, Army, and Air Force. He saw the United Nations organized. To protect Western Europe from the aggressions of Communist Russia, he established the Truman Doctrine, which offered economic aid to our allies to help them rebuild their economic and military strength. Under the Truman Doctrine, the United States also promised to intervene against communist aggression. Soon after, Truman saw the Marshall Plan initiated, which provided the massive funds needed for the total economic recovery of Europe’s nations. Literally, billions upon billions of dollars were poured into European countries to help them get back on
their feet after the ravages of World War II. And in 1949, Truman helped to create the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. An organization of nations cooperating in the defense of North America's and Europe's free nations.

All told, President Truman accomplished many good things for America and the world. In Harry S. Truman, America had seen a modest man rise to greatness.

Harry S. Truman was born on May 8, 1884. He died on December 26, 1972.

Sources: The World Book Encyclopedia
The Hammond Almanac, 1983
Chambers Biographical Dictionary

Truman Word Game

Each of the following words is missing one or more letters. Add the missing letter or letters to complete each word. Answers can be found in the Truman article.

1. atomi-
2. econo---
3. recov---
4. d--trine
5. depa--ment
6. stren-th
7. commonw---th
8. hist--y
9. b-mb
10. tre--y

(Prepared by Ron Weissman)
Luis Lloréns Torres was born on May 14, 1876, in Barrió Collores on the outskirts of the town of Juana Diaz. He grew up in the environment of the coffee plantation surrounded by the people that till the land. That environment helped him develop a great love for the countryside and its people.

Lloréns Torres studied for a Law Degree in Granada, Spain. He started a close friendship with the Spanish poet, Francisco Villaespesa, and in that city (Granada), he wrote his first book, *Al Pie de la Alhambra*.

In 1940, he wrote his last book, *Alturas de América*. Most of his poetry is dedicated to the island of Puerto Rico, the "jibaro" (man of the mountains) in Puerto Rico, and women. He wrote many "Decimas" (Spanish verse metre).

EXAMPLE:

```
Ya está el lucero del alba
encimita del palmar,
como horquilla de cristal
en el moño de una palma
hacia el vuelo mi alma
buscandote en el vacío;
si también de tu bohío
lo estuvieras contemplando
ahora se estarán besando
 tu pensamiento y el mío.
```

TRANSLATION:

The morning star shines over the palm trees,
like a glass pin
over the crown of the palm.
Toward you my soul will fly
searching for you in the open space.
If you are looking from the bohío
you will see it too,
because your thoughts and mine
will meet and kiss.
Clara Barton dedicated her life to the service of people. Her most important contribution was the establishment of the American Red Cross. She served as president from 1882 to 1904.

During the Civil War, Clara was called the "Angel on the Battle Field." She provided services to the wounded and distributed provisions to the soldiers.

In the beginning, the government refused to give her help or support, but in 1864, she was appointed supervisor of nurses.

After the Civil War ended, she created an agency to find those missing in action. The agency was able to mark over 12,000 graves in the National Cemetery in Andersonville, Georgia.

In 1869, during the Franco-Prussian War, Clara Barton served as a nurse at the battlefront. It was there, she had the opportunity to see the work of the International Red Cross.

When she returned home in 1873, Clara worked to establish the American branch of the Red Cross. Realizing the great help such an organization could give during a civil disaster, she introduced a clause in the Red Cross constitution that provides for such relief.

Clara Barton provided her services during the yellow fever epidemic in Florida in 1877 and in the flood at Johnstown, Pa in 1889. In 1900, Clara was in charge of emergency services after the flood in Galveston, Texas.

Clara Barton was the author of several books including an autobiographical sketch titled, "The Story of My Childhood" (1907). After her official retirement, she continued her work with charitable and patriotic organizations.

She was born on December 25, 1821, in Oxford, Massachusetts and died in 1912.

Source: World Book Encyclopedia

(Prepared by Leonor Toro)
The Red Cross

Jean Henri Dunant, a Swiss philanthropist, founded the International Red Cross. In 1859, while in Italy, he visited a battlefield in Solferino where over 40,000 men lay dead or wounded. He was so upset, he decided to create a group of volunteers that could provide help to the victims of war.

In 1862, Jean Henri Dunant published a booklet called, "Remember Solferino". At the end he asked, "Would it be possible to create among civilized nations, a permanent volunteer corps that, during war, will help the wounded of all nationalities?"

Some nations heard his plea. On October 26, 1863, sixteen countries and several charitable organizations sent delegates to Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss Dunant's idea. Out of this conference a new organization was created. The Red Cross was named using a red cross as its symbol.

In August of 1864, the Federal Council of Switzerland, invited twelve European nations and two observers from the United States of America to participate in the organization's first convention.

Later as the organization grew, other treaties and amendments were added to improve the Red Cross.

The Modern Red Cross

Today, over 120 nations have Red Cross Societies that develop and maintain their own programs. All Red Cross workers are dedicated to prevent and alleviate suffering and misery in times of peace or war and to serve everyone, regardless of race, religion or national origin.
The Name of the Red Cross

The name of the Red Cross is taken from their symbol of a red cross on a white background. The flag honors Switzerland where the organization was founded in 1863.

The Red Cross in the U.S.A.

The Red Cross offers many services during times of need. Some of the services are for the armed forces and veterans. Other services are: blood banks, help during fires and disasters, safety programs, training to help save lives, health programs for young people, etc.

Volunteers serve at all levels of the organization. In some chapters, only one person is paid for their services.

Source: The World Book Encyclopedia

(Prepared by Leonor Toro)
Armed Forces Day

In the United States, this commemorative holiday was created to honor all branches of our nation's military forces. Prior to Armed Forces Day, there was a Navy Day, an Army Day, and an Air Force Day. But in 1949, the Department of Defense eliminated these separate celebrations and designated a single period to honor all branches of the armed forces.

James V. Forrestal, the first Secretary of Defense, was probably the man most responsible for unifying the military branches under the Department of Defense.

Military exhibitions on land, sea, and air are a popular part of the celebration. Many military and naval installations are opened for public display. The week-long event ends on the third Saturday in May, the official Armed Forces Day.

Sources: Encyclopedia Americana
The World Book Encyclopedia

Armed Forces Creative Activity

Choose students (or volunteers) to act out a day in the Army. Roles for the students to choose from and their order of rank are: General, Colonel, Major, Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant, Corporal, Private, and Recruit.

Armed Forces Word Game

Match a word from Column A with a phrase or sentence from Column B that is similar in meaning.

Column A
1. Air Force
2. Navy
3. Army
4. Marines
5. Armed Forces
6. Airman
7. Soldier
8. Sailor
9. branch
10. aviator

Column B
a. A body of soldiers who fight on land.
b. Soldiers trained for sea, air, and land battles.
c. The Armed Forces branch that fights air battles.
d. The branch of the Armed Forces that fights sea battles.
e. A part or division of a main body.
f. A person serving in the Navy.
g. An airplane pilot.
h. A person serving in the Army.
i. A person serving in the Air Force.
j. All the army, navy, and air forces of a country.

ANSWERS: 1-c, 2-d, 3-a, 4-b, 5-f, 6-j, 7-h, 8-j, 9-e, 10-g
Do you have a philosophy of life? What do you believe is the best way to lead an active and fulfilling life? If you asked Ralph Waldo Emerson, one of America's first great poets and thinkers, he might have told you to not be afraid to be yourself; to be self-reliant; to think for yourself; to be independent—an individualist; to trust your best instincts and intuition, and to act on them; to learn from life; and finally, to understand the past by reading books.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, with his simple yet wise philosophy of life, inspired many future American writers and poets. He influenced Walt Whitman, Henry David Thoreau, and the American philosopher and psychologist, William James (brother of Henry James, one of America's greatest novelists). In Germany, Emerson influenced the famous philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche. In Great Britain, he influenced the writer and poet, Matthew Arnold.

Oliver Wendell Holmes described Emerson's philosophical ideas (as they applied to scholarship) as an "intellectual Declaration of Independence."

Emerson was born on May 25, 1803 in Boston. He died in 1882.

Sources:  
The World Book Encyclopedia  
Chamber's Biographical Dictionary, St. Martin's Press, Inc. NY 1962  
Immortal Poems of the English Language by Oscar Williams  
Washington Square Press, Inc. NY 1965
He was one of America's most famous statesmen and orators during the Revolutionary War. A gifted and persuasive speaker, when Patrick Henry spoke, people listened.

Soon after starting his law practice, Patrick Henry became widely known for his eloquent orations. In 1765, one of his most-quoted speeches (arguing against Britain's Stamp Act), he said, "Caesar had his Brutus; Charles the First, his Cromwell; and George the Third, may profit by their example. If this be treason, make the most of it."

Later, after becoming governor of Virginia, he started using the expression "fellow citizens" when speaking to voters. It's been a popular expression with American politicians ever since.

Patrick Henry also takes the lion's share of credit for getting the first 10 amendments to the Constitution adopted (the first eight are the Bill of Rights). His persuasive speech-making abilities, no doubt, helped him to achieve his goals.

The words Patrick Henry is best remembered for were spoken at the Virginia Provincial Convention (1775), exhorting the Virginia militia to take arms to protect the colony against England. Who will ever forget the immortal words: "Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

Sources: The World Book Encyclopedia
- Familiar Quotations by John Bartlett
  Little, Brown & Co., Boston
Patrick Henry Creative Activity
Organize a speech-making contest. Pick a topic. Then have each student (or volunteers) make a speech discussing the chosen topic. Let the students choose the speaker that they enjoyed listening to the most. Then ask what they liked about that student's speech.

Patrick Henry Word Game
Using the following list of words and phrases, fill in the blanks.

Virginia Constitution fellow citizens Stamp Act liberty orator death amendments make the most of it May 29, 1736

Patrick Henry was a great statesman and ______. He once said, "Give me ______ or give me ______." He was governor of ______. In large measure, the credit goes to Henry for getting the First ten ______ to the 6. ______ adopted. He was the first American politician to use the expression ______. In 1765, he argued, forcefully, against Britain's ______. He was born on ______. In one of his most-quoted speeches, he said, "If this be treason, ______."

Memorial Day - May 30

Through the years, American servicemen have fought and died in many wars to defend our country. Memorial Day honors those brave men. A patriotic holiday, Memorial Day was originally created to honor the men who died during the Civil War.

Today, however, Memorial Day is a national holiday honoring all of America's war dead from virtually every war that the United States has fought. That includes those who died in the Spanish-American War, the World Wars (I & II), the Korean War, as well as the courageous servicemen who gave their lives in Vietnam.

Northern States celebrate Memorial Day on May 30. Some Southern States have their own separate days to celebrate Memorial Day. For example, Georgia and Florida observe Confederate Memorial Day on April 26. And South and North Carolina celebrate May 10th.

But, whatever day Americans celebrate, almost everywhere, they honor the dead on Memorial Day by placing flowers and flags on the graves of servicemen. Flags are flown at half-mast. Cannons are fired in salute. Flags are flown at marches, and jets flying overhead are often all part of the day.

In many states, magnificent monuments have been erected to pay tribute to our dead soldiers. Of particular interest is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Here, unknown soldiers from several wars have been buried alongside each other.

For a time, Memorial Day was known as Decoration Day. Decoration Day seemed an appropriate name for this day since the primary purpose of the day was to decorate the graves of our nation's dead. But, eventually, Memorial Day became the more popular name. However, Decoration Day is still the preferred appellation in some places.

The origin of Memorial Day is often credited to Cassandra Oliver Moncure, a Virginia woman of French extraction. It is believed that it was she who chose May 30th as the day to decorate servicemen's graves. This was the same day that her ancestral country (France)
celebrated the return of Napoleon Bonaparte's remains to France from the island of St. Helena.

Today, Memorial Day is observed in all parts of the world where American servicemen have died giving their lives for their country.

Sources: The World Book Encyclopedia
All About American Holidays by Maytie R. Krythe

Memorial Day Creative Activity

Ask each student to write a paragraph or two explaining why he or she thinks our nation has a special holiday to honor the people who died while serving their country.

Memorial Day Word Game

Indicate TRUE or FALSE for each of the following statements. If FALSE, give the correct answer.

1. Memorial Day is also known as Decathlon Day.
2. Cassandra Moncure refused to celebrate Memorial Day.
3. Memorial Day honors people with good memories.
4. At Arlington National Cemetery is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
5. Not all the states of the union celebrate Memorial Day on May 30th.
6. Memorial Day was originally created to honor the soldiers who died in the Civil War.
7. Memorial Day is an unpatriotic holiday.
8. Americans honor the war dead by placing weapons on their graves.
9. Flags are flown at half-mast on this day.
10. Jets often fly overhead; and cannons are fired in salute.

Pages 31-36 were prepared by:
Ron Weissman, Curriculum Specialist
Spring: Kite Flying Time!

No one really knows how the first kite actually developed. From a desire to make a banner fly in the wind? Perhaps. From a severed boat sail that flapped in the breeze? The first written account of what appears to have been a kite dates back 2,000 years ago, in China. According to legend, the Chinese philosopher, Mo Tzu, attempted, in vain, to make a wooden model of a bird fly. From China, variations of the first kite spread throughout the Orient to Japan, Korea, Malaya, Indonesia, India, and then to Arabia and Europe. The kite may have gotten its name from the Greek Archytas (ar-KITE-as) who experimented with a sky-sailing device about 400 to 300 B.C., in the town of Tarentum.

The first kites, in China, were used not only as toys for amusement but as tools for war. Kites were used to measure the distance of tunnels to be dug between the army and the walls of the castles to be attacked. They were used, also, to scare the enemy in battle and as a signal to regroup the troops after an attack. Marco Polo, in his visit to China, witnessed how kites were used in punishment for civil offenses. Transgressers were strapped to kites that were suspended in mid-air. The Emperor, Wen Hsuan Ti of the Kao Yang Dynasty, forced his prisoners to fly from towers, often at their peril.

In China today, the ninth day of the ninth month designates Kites' Day. Kites in the shapes of dragons, insects, birds, and demons are flown to ward off evil spirits. Musical instruments are attached to make them clang and wail in the night to frighten away thieves and bandits.

May is kite season in Japan. Dating back to 300 B.C., kites were used for practical purposes, as well as for amusement. Japanese architects used kite-power to lift heavy bricks to high places on construction sites. In 1689, the roof of the Temple Zojo-ji was built with the help of powerful kites. Japanese fishermen and explorers have long used kites for predicting the weather before going on long expeditions.
The final days of the New Year mark the kite flying season in Korea where it is still part of the national celebration. During the period of the Three Kingdoms, according to Sang-Su Choe, kites were displayed in front of the altar as part of a religious service of thanksgiving. In Polynesia, kites are used to carry man's ideas up to the gods for blessing. Kites fashioned into the shapes of birds symbolize the communication of the human soul with the gods.

Marco Polo may have been responsible for the spread of the kite from China to Europe. Arabs, who traveled extensively into the East and then to Moslem Spain, provide another plausible source. Kites appeared in Europe around the 14th and 15th centuries. The winged draco kite, in Europe, bears a striking resemblance to the flags Moslem children flew in the 8th and 9th century and to the kites Cambodian children fly today. The earliest known illustration of a European kite, appearing in a work, De Nobilitatibus in 1346, is an old draco/wind sock with large wings on either side that flew like a kite when the wind passed through. Other variations of the kite appeared in the 16th and 17th centuries, after further contact with the Near and Far East.

Today, kites of all shapes, colors, and sizes can be seen all over the world. In Guatemala, on All Saints Day, large circular cross-stick kites made of bamboo and paper are flown, annually, by the Indians of Santiago de Sacatepequez, to celebrate the end of the rainy season.

Benjamin Franklin's famous experiments with the kite in 1751, popularized its use in the American colonies. Risking electrocution, Franklin proved with a common diamond-shaped kite that electricity and lightning were the same. Later, an Australian, Lawrence Hargrave, in 1892, developed a box kite that was to be used by the U.S. Weather Bureau to measure wind velocity, air current, barometric pressure, and humidity. In the 1900's, the Wright Brothers pre-tested the famous Kitty Hawk as a glider kite.
During World War I and II, kites were used for espionage, targeting, and radar reflection.

Despite their extensive use as scientific and military devices, we still think of kites as toys, and this is perhaps their best use. Kite flying is one of the most relaxing ways to spend a breezy Spring day. March, the windy month, traditionally begins the kite-flying season. But, New England winds, at this time of year, would rip to shreds even the sturdiest of sky sailors. For this reason, April and May are more suitable months for kite flying in Connecticut.

Following is a simple kite that you can make. Remember, however, to obey these simple rules:

1. NEVER fly your kite near overhead power cables!
2. NEVER fly your kite during a thunder storm!
3. NEVER fly your kite near roads or railways!

Find a pleasant, open spot to enjoy your creation. Most of all: HAVE FUN!

Source: Kites and Kite Flying, Ambrose Lloyd and Niccollette Thomas

Pages 37-41 were prepared by:
Robert J. Moore
Teacher of English
Hamden-New Haven Cooperative Education Center
Making a Traditional Octagon Kite:

(Materials required)

1. Four spars of either hard or softwood, 30 in. (75 cm) long by 0.24 in. (6 mm) square
2. Tissue or crepe paper for cover, 31½ in. x 31½ in. (80 cm x 80 cm)
3. One paper streamer tail, 118 in. x 2 in. (300 cm x 5 cm)
4. Glue
5. Line
6. A towing ring

Instructions:

Cut the four 30 in. (75 cm) spars with a fine-toothed saw (1), and notch their ends with a sharp penknife as shown (2). With kite-line, tie the four spars firmly together at their center points (3). Attach a second piece of line to the outer end of one spar, and run it round in the slots at the ends of the other spars (4), keeping the ends of the spars equidistant from each other (5) to form the basic frame. Secure the free end of the line.

Using the frame as a pattern, and allowing 1 in. (3 cm) extra all round to form a hem, cut out the cover from the tissue or crepe paper (6). Place the frame centrally on the paper on a flat surface, and nick the corners of the paper to allow for turning the hem. Turn the hem, one section at a time, and glue down (7), taking care to keep the paper taut as you glue the hem round the frame.

Untie the knot holding the spars together at the center, as the cover will now hold them in place. Measure and mark the bridle points on canes, 6 in. (15 cm) in from two corners (8). Cut line for the bridle to the lengths shown (9), allowing sufficient extra for the knots at each end. Attach the three-legged bridle, the lines coming together at the towing ring. Finally, add a bridle at the bottom to attach the tail to the kite.
HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Directions: Find the amount each person spent.

1. Juan bought a container of milk and two apples. How much did he spend? _____

2. Marie has 75¢. Can she buy two bags of potato chips, an apple and a container of ice cream? _____

3. Sue bought an ice cream, three apples and two containers of milk. How much did she spend? _____

4. Monica bought an apple, three containers of ice cream, a bag of potato chips and two milks. How much did she spend? _____

ANSWERS: 1. $3.94 2. $0.49 3. $1.51 4. $9.14
BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL

Directions: You are the scorekeeper, use the chart below to answer the questions.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yankees</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Dodgers</td>
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1. What team was winning at the end of the fourth inning?
2. In which inning were the most runs made?
3. In which inning were the least runs scored?
4. At the end of what inning were the scores tied?
5. Who won the game?

Answers: 1. Yankees 2. 7, 8, and 9 3. Dodgers
INSIDE OUTSIDE: Use the diagram below to find the answers to the problems.

1. List the numbers inside the square
2. List the numbers inside the circle
3. List the numbers inside the rectangle
4. List the numbers in the circle but not in the square
5. List the numbers that are in both the circle and the rectangle
6. List the numbers outside the square

ANSWERS: 1. 9, 3, 2, 12, 14; 12, 3, 15, 2, 8, 6, 7, 3, 14, 16, 13, 16, 15, 8, 7

96
**THESE ARE - THESE AREN'T**

Directions: Study the "These are" column and determine what each number has in common. Do the same with "These Aren't" column. Once you have determined the characteristics of the "These Are" numbers, circle the numbers that belong to the "These Are" set that are found in the "Which of These Are" column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THESE ARE</th>
<th>THESE AREN'T</th>
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<td>47</td>
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**Answers:** These are: odd numbers, These aren't: even numbers.

*Which of These Are: 3, 9, 1, 63, 75, 81, 85*
FIND THE PATTERNS

Directions: Study the numbers to determine the pattern and then place the proper numbers in the space provided.

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ANSWERS: 1. 16, 20, 24, 28
          2. 32, 36, 38
          3. 28, 28, 24
          4. 32, 64, 128
          5. 32, 28, 24
          6. 32, 34, 36
          7. 11, 16, 22
**LET'S MULTIPLY**

Directions: Fill in the multiplication chart.

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ALL ABOUT ME

Directions: Use your ruler to find your measurements.

1. My arm is about ______ inches long.
2. My leg is about ______ inches long.
3. My hand is about ______ inches long.
4. My shoe is about ______ inches long.
5. My leg is about ______ inches long.
6. My thumb is about ______ inches long.
7. I am about ______ inches tall.

Pages 42-49 were prepared by:
Leroy Dupee, Math Director
Bridgeport, Connecticut