



**2023 - 2024**  
School Year  
Calendar

# CELEBRATING

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN STEM



For the 2023-2024 school year, First Book is celebrating the wide world of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). This calendar celebrates STEM subjects and careers and the diverse scientists, engineers, and mathematicians whose contributions have changed our world for the better. Throughout the calendar, you will find month-long observances, religious observances, and dates with cultural, historical, or inclusive significance generally and in STEM fields specifically. Use this calendar to celebrate STEM and teach students about people from diverse communities whose contributions are not always celebrated but whose innovations, inventions, and ingenuity had a profound impact on our society.

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. 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](http://www.fbmarketplace.org/free-resources) for more materials to help you celebrate culture, diversity & inclusion all year long with your students!

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# AUGUST

Dr. Shirley Anne Jackson is an inventor and theoretical physicist. She was the first Black woman to receive a Ph.D. from MIT and holds more than 50 honorary degrees. Her research led to inventions such as the touch-tone phone, caller ID, and call waiting. Trailblazers like Dr. Jackson are important because students of all backgrounds and identities should see themselves represented in STEM careers. The beginning of the school year is the ideal time to make sure your curriculum and classroom library include diverse and inclusive representation.

## TRY THIS!

- Explore the **Diversity & Inclusion**<sup>1</sup> section of the Marketplace for books that reflect our diverse society.
- Share the inspiring stories of young people with a passion for STEM featured in the **Inspiring Young Changemakers video series**.<sup>2</sup>
- Have students research someone from an underrepresented community whose work in STEM made a positive impact. To help them with their search, ask: What products make your life easier? What diseases were around when your grandparents were young that now have a vaccine or cure?

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 Dr. Shirley Anne Jackson was born on this day in 1946.  See sidebar for details & activities!
6 Sonia Sotomayor was confirmed as the first Supreme Court Justice of Hispanic descent on this day in 2009.	7 José M. Hernández, a Mexican American astronaut and engineer, was born on this day in 1962. In 2009, he spent 14 days in space.	8	9 <b>International Day of the World's Indigenous People</b> is a day to protect and promote the rights of the estimated 370 – 500 million indigenous people worldwide.	10 Frances "Poppy" Northcutt was born on this day in 1943. She worked for NASA and the moon's "Crater Poppy" is named for her.	11	12
13 <b>Bon Festival (Feast of Lanterns) (13th – 15th)</b> is a Japanese Buddhist custom that honors the spirits of one's ancestors and has been celebrated for over 500 years.	14 <b>Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day</b> 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 <b>National Liberation Day of Korea</b> celebrates the end of the decades-long Japanese occupation of Korea. It is the only holiday celebrated in both North & South Korea.	16	17 <b>Marcus Garvey Day</b> 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 <b>National Aviation Day</b> was established in 1939 by President Roosevelt, who chose Orville Wright's birthday for the occasion.
20	21	22	23	24	25 Suzanne E. Vanderbilt was born on this day in 1933. She was a legendary automotive designer at General Motors beginning in the 1950s.	26 <b>Women's Equality Day</b> commemorates the 1920 adoption of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.
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 Otis Boykin was born on this day in 1920. He was an engineer whose inventions include electrical resistors used in computing.	30	31		

# SEPTEMBER

Welcoming Week (September 8 – 17) is an opportunity to ensure all students feel valued in your classroom and school community. The beginning of the year is the ideal time to collaboratively create classroom contracts and establish rules and routines needed for a safe and inclusive learning environment.

## TRY THIS!

- Visit First Book's [Creating Welcoming Schools & Communities](#)<sup>1</sup> section to build or refresh your classroom library with vibrant titles that reflect and explore many cultures.
- Back to school can be challenging for recent immigrants and refugees. Visit the [Immigrant & Refugee Experiences](#)<sup>2</sup> section for books that highlight not only the real challenges faced by immigrants and refugees but also the joys, accomplishments, and everyday moments.
- Immigrants have always played a vital role in driving growth and progress in the U.S., including in STEM. Since 2000, 40 percent of Nobel Prizes won by Americans in chemistry, medicine, and physics were earned by immigrants. Have students research one of these Nobel prize recipients and share what they learn with the class.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH</b>	<b>HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH</b> (September 15 – October 15)	<b>KINSHIP CARE AWARENESS MONTH</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Eileen Feng Gu—also known by her Chinese name, Gu Ailing—was born on this day in 2003. At age 18, she became the youngest Olympic champion in freestyle skiing after winning two gold medals and one silver medal at the 2022 Winter Olympics.	<b>4</b> <b>Labor Day</b> <sup>§</sup> 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.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>International Literacy Day</b> was established by UNESCO to promote literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights.	<b>9</b> <b>Welcoming Week (8th – 17th)</b> See sidebar for details & activities!
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Mae C. Jemison, an engineer, physician, and astronaut, became the first Black woman to travel in space when she flew on the shuttle Endeavor in 1992.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Rosh Hashanah (15th – 17th)</b> The Jewish New Year begins at sundown on September 15th. It marks the first of the Jewish High Holy Days.*	<b>16</b> <b>Mexican Independence Day</b> honors Priest Miguel Hidalgo, who in 1810 encouraged people to revolt against the Spanish regime. Mexico's independence from Spain was secured in 1821.
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>National Pollution Prevention Week (18th – 24th)</b> is a week to think about what we can do to prevent pollution.	<b>19</b> <b>International Week of the Deaf (19th – 25th)</b> Launched in 1958, this week highlights the cultural contributions of members of the deaf community and promotes human rights.	<b>20</b> <b>National Voter Registration Day</b> This day encourages voter registration across all communities and promotes awareness of upcoming local, state, and national elections.	<b>21</b> <b>International Day of Peace</b> Established in 1981 and approved by all UN countries, this day encourages all of humanity to commit to a culture of peace.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> C.R. Patterson and Sons was the first African American-founded car company. On this day in 1915, their first car, a two-door coupe, was built.
<b>24</b> <b>Yom Kippur (24th – 25th)</b> is the holiest day of the year in Judaism and is also known as the Day of Atonement.*	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Serena Williams, one of the greatest tennis players of all time, was born on this day in 1981.	<b>27</b> <b>Eid Milad Un Nabi, (27th – 28th)</b> is the Muslim holiday marking the birth of Muhammed and is celebrated from sundown to sundown.*	<b>28</b> Ruby Bridges, born on this day in 1954, was the first Black child to attend an all White elementary school in New Orleans (1960), two years after Brown v. Board of Education.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 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.

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

§Labor Day is an annual tribute to the contributions of all workers toward the strength and prosperity of the U.S.

<sup>1</sup> [https://info.firstbook.org/welcoming\\_schools](https://info.firstbook.org/welcoming_schools) <sup>2</sup> [https://info.firstbook.org/immigrant\\_refugee](https://info.firstbook.org/immigrant_refugee)

# OCTOBER

October 10th is World Mental Health Day. Remind students that psychologists and psychiatrists are STEM professionals who make a positive difference in people's lives—such as Dr. Aggrey Washington Burke, a Jamaican-born psychiatrist whose work focused on the effects of race, class, and trauma on mental health in Black families.

## TRY THIS!

- First Book's *[Taking Care: An Educator Guide to Healthy Habits for Student Emotional Wellness](#)*<sup>1</sup> offers healthy habits to support wellness and reduce stress and anxiety. Learn about types of stress (p. 7), how to practice mindfulness (p. 9), and educator self-care (pp. 13-15).
- Visit First Book's *[Social & Emotional Learning](#)*<sup>2</sup> page to find great resources focused on promoting mental health.
- Many athletes, like Simone Biles and Naomi Osaka, have shared their struggles with mental health. Have students choose an athlete or other public figure who has shared their mental health struggles. Discuss: How does it help everyone when famous people share their struggles? Why is it important to have mental health professionals of all backgrounds and identities?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Banned Books Week</b> is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read and free access to information.	<b>2</b> Richard Spikes, born on this day in 1878, patented the automatic gear shift and safety break systems.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Beverly Loraine Greene, born on this day in 1915, became the first Black woman in the U.S. to become a licensed architect in 1942.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Entrepreneur and NASA scientist Lonnie Johnson, born on this day in 1949, invented the super soaker gun in 1989.	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Indigenous Peoples' Day</b> is a day to celebrate the contributions, traditions, and cultures of indigenous people.	<b>10</b> <b>World Mental Health Day</b> See sidebar for details & activities!	<b>11</b> <b>National Coming Out Day</b> encourages members of the LGBTQ+ community to be open about their sexuality with their friends, family, and the world.	<b>12</b> <b>Ada Lovelace Day</b> celebrates women in STEM and honors the 19th century mathematician who is known as the first computer programmer.	<b>13</b> 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.	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>National Chemistry Week (15th – 21st)</b> raises public awareness of the importance of chemistry in everyday life.	<b>16</b> <b>World Food Day</b> 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.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Kamala Devi Harris (born on this day in 1964) was the first Black woman and woman with South Asian ancestry to be elected as U.S. Vice President (2020).	<b>21</b> 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.
<b>22</b> <b>Make a Difference Day</b> is an national community service event that inspires millions to give back to their local communities.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>United Nations Day</b> is devoted to raising awareness of the goals and achievements of the U.N., which was created in 1945.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Gladys Mae West, born on this day in 1930, is known for mathematical modeling that contributed to GPS technology.	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Born on this day in 1922, Marie Van Britton Brown was a nurse who invented the home security system with her husband. They received a patent for this work in 1969.	<b>31</b> <b>Día de los Muertos/ Day of the Dead (31st – November 2nd)</b> is a Mexican holiday that honors deceased friends and family members with celebrations and prayers.	<b>HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH (SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15)</b>	<b>LGBT HISTORY MONTH</b>	<b>LEARNING DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH</b>	<b>NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH</b>

<sup>1</sup> <https://bit.ly/FBTakingCare> <sup>2</sup> [https://info.firstbook.org/sel\\_page](https://info.firstbook.org/sel_page)

# NOVEMBER

On STEM/STEAM Day, educate students about the many STEM fields and careers and encourage their interest in science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

## TRY THIS!

- Use the “[STEM Defines Our Future](#)” [videos and educator guide](#)<sup>1</sup> to inspire students to pursue STEM subjects and careers. This series explains how soft skills like communication and teamwork are critical in STEM careers.
- Find engaging titles about science, technology, engineering, and the arts in the [STEAM](#)<sup>2</sup> section of the Marketplace.
- Two famous inventors, Dr. Patricia Bath and Hedy Lamarr, were born in November. Dr. Bath received a patent for a laser used to remove cataracts, improving the vision of millions of people. Lamarr, also an actress, worked on technology that led to GPS, Bluetooth, and WiFi. After sharing these stories, give students a writing prompt: What would they invent to change society for the better? Who would benefit? How would it change lives?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>PUERTO RICAN HERITAGE MONTH</b>			<b>1</b> <b>Author's Day</b> Consider reading stories from authors of various cultural backgrounds to celebrate this day.	<b>2</b> <b>Día de los Muertos/ Day of the Dead (31st – November 2nd)</b> is a Mexican holiday that honors deceased friends and family members with celebrations and prayers.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Dr. Patricia Bath was born on this day in 1942.  See sidebar for details & activities!
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 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.	<b>7</b> Marie Curie (born 1867) was a Polish physicist and chemist. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person to win one twice, and the only person to win one in two scientific fields.	<b>8</b> <b>STEM/STEAM DAY</b>  See sidebar for details & activities!	<b>9</b> Hedy Lamarr was born on this day in 1914.  See sidebar for details & activities!	<b>10</b> On this day in 1903, Mary Anderson was awarded a patent for a “window cleaning device” for cars. Before windshield wipers, drivers stuck their heads out the window to see during storms.	<b>11</b> <b>Veterans Day</b> 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.
<b>12</b> <b>Diwali</b> is the Hindu, Jain, and Sikh festival of lights and celebrates the triumph of light over dark and knowledge over ignorance.*	<b>13</b> <b>World Kindness Day</b> is a day to celebrate good deeds and commit to acts of kindness.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>International Day for Tolerance</b> was founded by the United Nations to promote respect for various religions, languages, and cultures.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Children's Grief Awareness Day<sup>§</sup></b>  <b>LGBTQ+ STEM Day</b> celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ people in STEM fields.
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Transgender Day of Remembrance</b> memorializes those who have been killed as a result of transphobia and raises awareness of the continued violence endured by the transgender community.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 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.	<b>27</b> Alan Emtage, a Bajan-Canadian technologist born on this day in 1964, invented ARCHIE, the first Internet search engine.	<b>28</b> On this day in 1893, Margaret A. Wilcox patented her invention of the in-car heating system.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>AMERICAN INDIAN &amp; ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH</b>	

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

<sup>§</sup>Children's Grief Awareness Day is an opportunity to give grieving students the support they need.

<sup>1</sup> [https://info.firstbook.org/stem\\_future](https://info.firstbook.org/stem_future) <sup>2</sup> [https://info.firstbook.org/steam\\_category](https://info.firstbook.org/steam_category)



# DECEMBER

December 21st is the winter solstice. Across the U.S., winter is getting warmer and shorter because of climate change. Changes in climate impact the environment, water supply, agriculture, and public health.

## TRY THIS!

- Download the [Human Impact Course Pack](#),<sup>1</sup> a FREE resource that features five 45-minute sessions, with presentations, videos, polls, and quizzes. Use the course pack and the [accompanying guide](#)<sup>2</sup> to teach students how human behavior impacts the Earth.
- Download [A Future Without Waste Course Pack](#)<sup>3</sup> and the [accompanying guide](#)<sup>4</sup> with recycling tip sheets (pages 20-21).
- [Rachel Carson](#)<sup>5</sup> was an environmentalist whose book *Silent Spring* influenced the global environmental movement and warned of the dangers of misusing pesticides. [Autumn Peltier](#),<sup>6</sup> from the Anishinabek Nation in Canada, is a world-renowned water-rights advocate. Have students research Carson, Peltier, or another environmentalist and share what they learn in a poster or presentation.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>  Gerald "Jerry" Lawson was born on this day in 1940. Lawson was a video game pioneer who helped develop the cartridge-based home video console system.	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <b>International Day of Persons with Disabilities</b> is a UN holiday that promotes the integration of persons with disabilities in all areas of political, economic, and cultural life.	<b>4</b> <b>Computer Science Education Week (4th – 10th)</b> raises awareness of the educational and career opportunities available in computer science.	<b>5</b> 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.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> <sup>8</sup>  Octaviano Ambrosio Larrazolo, the first Mexican American to serve in the U.S. Senate, was born on this day in 1859.	<b>8</b> <b>Bodhi Day</b> 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.	<b>9</b>  Dr. Grace Hopper was born on this day in 1906. She was a computer scientist, mathematician, and Navy rear admiral.
<b>10</b> <b>Human Rights Day</b> commemorates the United Nation's 1948 adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  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.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Yule Winter Solstice</b> is the shortest day of the year and is celebrated by Pagans and Wiccans.  See sidebar for details & activities!	<b>22</b>  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.	<b>23</b>  Madam C.J. Walker, born on this date in 1864, invented a homemade line of hair care products for Black women and became the first Black female millionaire in the U.S.
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas</b> is an annual Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.	<b>26</b> <b>Kwanzaa, (26th – Jan. 1st)</b> 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.	<b>27</b>  Gladys Mae West, born on this day in 1930, is known for mathematical modeling that contributed to GPS technology.	<b>28</b>  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.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b>						

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

<sup>8</sup>Hanukkah (7th – 15th) is the 8-day Jewish "festival of lights," celebrating a victory over foreign rulers by sharing food, games, gifts, and lighting the menorah.

<sup>1</sup> [www.fbmarketplace.org/lego-build-the-change-human-impact-138267](http://www.fbmarketplace.org/lego-build-the-change-human-impact-138267) <sup>2</sup> [info.firstbook.org/HumanImpact](http://info.firstbook.org/HumanImpact) <sup>3</sup> <https://www.fbmarketplace.org/lego-future-without-waste-134767> <sup>4</sup> <https://bit.ly/FutureWithoutWaste> <sup>5</sup> <https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/enh10.sci.life.eco.silent-spring/rachel-carsons-silent-spring/> <sup>6</sup> [https://youtu.be/xqdE\\_7OZaqE](https://youtu.be/xqdE_7OZaqE)

# JANUARY

This month we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of service and changemaking action.

## TRY THIS!

- After exploring the [Intro to Changemaking Guide](#),<sup>1</sup> share [inspiring videos](#)<sup>2</sup> of young changemakers with students and explore tips and activities in the [accompanying guide](#)<sup>3</sup>.
- Find books that celebrate famous and fictional changemakers in the [Making a Difference](#)<sup>4</sup> section.

National Science Fiction Day is observed on the birthday of author Isaac Asimov. Science fiction combines STEM and the intrigue of reading about other realities.

## TRY THIS!

- Find fiction for all ages in the [Fantasy & SciFi](#)<sup>5</sup> section of the Marketplace.
- Have students write a science fiction short story. Writing prompts: A science experiment went awry. What happened? A dark cloud suddenly appears. Where did it come from? What does it do?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by Abraham Lincoln on this day in 1863, freeing enslaved people held in Confederate states. Ellis Island opened in 1892.	<b>2</b> <b>National Science Fiction Day</b> See sidebar for details & activities! Florence Lawrence (born this day in 1886) invented the brake and turn signals for cars.	<b>3</b> In 2023, the 118th Congress became the most diverse in the history of the United States. It was the sixth to break the record set by the one before it.	<b>4</b> <b>World Braille Day</b> 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.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Epiphany or Día de los Reyes (Three Kings Day)</b> is a Christian holy day that recognizes the visit of the three wise men to the baby Jesus 12 days after his birth.
<b>7</b> 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> .	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>National Static Electricity Day</b> is a day dedicated to the electric charge phenomenon and learning about why it happens.	<b>10</b> Katharine Blodgett, born on this day in 1898, is known for her invention of nonreflective glass, used in windshields, eyeglasses, microscopes, and more.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>MLK Jr. Day of Service</b> See sidebar for details & activities!	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>World Religion Day</b> encourages interfaith understanding and asks people worldwide to recognize that all religions have common spiritual goals.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to earn a medical degree in the U.S. in 1849.	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Bessie Coleman, born on this day in 1892, was the first African American woman to earn a pilot's license (1921).	<b>27</b> <b>International Holocaust Remembrance Day</b> Is a day to honor victims of the Holocaust and to work toward preventing future genocides.
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> On this day in 1886, Karl Benz received a patent for the first gas-fueled car.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

<sup>1</sup> [bit.ly/changemakingintro](https://info.firstbook.org/making_difference) <sup>2</sup> [www.fbmarketplace.org/time-for-change](https://info.firstbook.org/making_difference) <sup>3</sup> [bit.ly/changemakinginspire](https://info.firstbook.org/making_difference) <sup>4</sup> [https://info.firstbook.org/making\\_difference](https://info.firstbook.org/making_difference) <sup>5</sup> [https://info.firstbook.org/fantasy\\_sci](https://info.firstbook.org/fantasy_sci)



# FEBRUARY

During Black History Month, we celebrate the history and achievements of African Americans.

## TRY THIS!

- ✦ Visit the **Black History**<sup>1</sup> and **Black Characters & Cultures**<sup>2</sup> sections for books that celebrate and explore Black experiences.
- ✦ Check out First Book's **Empowering Educators**<sup>3</sup> series to learn how to create an anti-bias, anti-racist (ABAR) classroom. See page 9 of **Challenging Conversations About Race & Racism**<sup>4</sup> for prompts like, *What is your earliest memory of race?*

Peter Tsai, a material scientist, invented the N95 mask using a special fiber to trap small particles. N95 masks protect healthcare workers and first responders.

## TRY THIS!

- ✦ Material science explores the properties of solid materials. Have students think of a common item that could be even more useful if made from a special material. Example: a cereal bowl that changes color if milk has gone bad.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>BLACK HISTORY MONTH</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 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.	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 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.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Peter Tsai was born on this day in 1952.  See sidebar for details & activities!	<b>7</b> <b>National Periodic Table Day</b> celebrates the modern periodic table, where elements are organized according to their atomic number.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Lunar New Year</b> is China's most important holiday, and celebrations last 15 days. The Chinese zodiac sign for 2024 is the dragon.
<b>11</b> <b>International Day of Women and Girls in Science</b> is a day to work for gender equity in science education and scientific fields.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> On this day, we celebrate the legacy of abolitionist, orator, and writer Frederick Douglass, who was born in 1818.	<b>15</b> <b>Nirvana Day,</b> the Buddhist holy day that celebrates the day Buddha achieved nirvana—the final goal of Buddhism—upon the death of his physical body.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>National Engineers Week (18th – 24th)</b> is a time to celebrate the difference engineers make in our lives.
<b>18</b> <b>National Battery Day</b> is a day to consider this important invention by Italian Alessandro Volta and what our lives would be like without batteries.	<b>19</b> 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.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>International Mother Language Day</b> promotes awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and celebrates multilingualism.	<b>22</b> George Washington was born on this day in 1732. National Engineers Week is celebrated around this day because many consider him the first U.S. engineer.	<b>23</b> W.E.B. DuBois, the first African American to hold a PhD from Harvard, was born on this day in 1868.	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Edward Davis (born 1911) had the first Black-owned car dealership in the U.S. and was the first Black American inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame (1996).	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>		

# MARCH

March is Women's History Month and March 14 is Pi Day. Pi ( $\pi$ ) is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. NASA scientists use pi to determine a spacecrafts' trajectory. March is the perfect month to celebrate diverse NASA pioneers and innovators. Learn about many of them [here](#).<sup>1</sup>

## TRY THIS!

- Explore the [Empowering Stories about Women and Girls](#)<sup>2</sup> section for books that feature women and girls who stand up for what is right, don't let others define them, and aren't afraid to make mistakes and grow.
- Use the ["STEM Defines Our Future" videos and educator guide](#)<sup>3</sup> to expose students to STEM careers and hear from women who are thriving in these fields.
- Challenge students to memorize as many decimal places of pi as they can. Share this [catchy song](#)<sup>4</sup> to help them!
- Explore [these lessons from NASA](#)<sup>5</sup> to celebrate Pi Day.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH</b>	<b>MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  In 1917, Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory, and its citizens were extended U.S. citizenship.
<b>3</b>  <b>World Wildlife Day</b> is a day to raise awareness about issues that impact wildlife.	<b>4</b>  Garrett Morgan was born on this day in 1877. A pioneering Black inventor, Morgan patented the three-way traffic signal system.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  Amanda Gorman, a poet and activist, was born on this day in 1998.	<b>8</b>  <b>International Women's Day</b> is a day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, and a call for gender parity worldwide.	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>  <b>Ramadan (10th – April 8th)</b> is a month-long Islamic observation celebrating the first revelation of the Quran and includes strict fasting observed from sunrise to sunset.*	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  Tammy Duckworth was born on this day in 1968. In 2017, she became the first Thai American woman, and the first woman with a disability, to be elected to Congress.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>Pi Day</b>  See sidebar for details & activities!	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  <i>Freedom's Journal</i> , the first African American newspaper in the U.S., was first published on this day in 1827.
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Mario José Molina-Pasquel Henríquez was a co-recipient of the 1995 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work in discovering the Antarctic ozone hole. He was born on this day in 1943.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>Nowruz/ Persian New Year (21st – 22nd)</b> is a day of joy, celebration, and renewal. It is held annually on the spring equinox.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>  The Philippines was granted independence by President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1934).	<b>25</b>  <b>Holi (24th – 25th)</b> is a Hindu spring festival that celebrates colors and love.*	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>  <b>Int'l Transgender Day of Visibility</b>  <b>Easter</b> <sup>5*</sup>						

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

<sup>1</sup>International Transgender Day of Visibility celebrates the contributions and lives of transgender people worldwide.

<sup>5</sup>Easter is a sacred and widely observed Christian holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/women\\_of\\_color.pdf](https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/women_of_color.pdf) <sup>2</sup> [https://info.firstbook.org/empowering\\_stories](https://info.firstbook.org/empowering_stories) <sup>3</sup> <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/teach/tag/search/Pi+Day> <sup>4</sup> <https://youtu.be/3HRkznJoZA>

# APRIL

In April, we celebrate National Poetry Month, Diversity Month, and Earth Day. Whether sonnet, haiku, or spoken word, poetry has the power to inspire, transcend, and educate. Amanda Gorman's climate change-themed poem "Earthrise" reminds us that "this riddled blue marble, this little true marvel" is our only home.

## TRY THIS!

- Find books for your budding environmentalists in the [Ecology and the Environment](#)<sup>1</sup> section on the Marketplace.
- Share Amanda Gorman's climate change inspired poem, [Earthrise](#),<sup>2</sup> with your class. Have them to write their own poems about the Earth and climate change.
- Download a FREE course pack, [Biodiversity and Climate Change](#),<sup>3</sup> and [Climate Change in the U.S.](#)<sup>4</sup> to teach students about the effects of climate change around the world and in their communities.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>NATIONAL POETRY MONTH</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>World Autism Acceptance Day</b> recognizes the rights of and spreads awareness of people with autism.	<b>3</b> Pesticide use received public attention after <i>The Silent Spring</i> of Rachel Carson aired on CBS in 1963.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Star Trek First Contact Day</b> has been celebrated since 1996. On this day in 2063, humanity will make first contact with the extraterrestrial Vulcan species according to Star Trek fans.	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>National Library Week (7th - 13th)</b> celebrates the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Eid al-Fitr, (9th - 10th)</b> is one of the most significant Muslim holidays, marking the end of Ramadan.*	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>The Songkran Festival, (13th - 15th)</b> marks the Thai New Year and is celebrated by a three-day water fight.
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>National Robotics Week (15th - 23rd)</b> is a week to celebrate how exciting and useful robots can be.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>World Creativity and Innovation Day</b> is a UN-designated day to focus on how creativity and innovation are vital to sustainable development.	<b>22</b> <b>Passover (22nd - 30th)*</b> <b>Earth Day</b> See sidebar for details & activities!	<b>23</b> <b>World Laboratory Day</b> celebrates where great inventions happen and those who work in these unique workspaces.	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Gathering of Nations (25th - 27th)</b> is the largest Native American Powwow in North America, with 500+ nations celebrating Native American culture.	<b>26</b> <b>Global Youth Service Day (26th - 28th)</b> mobilizes youth worldwide to improve their communities through service.	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Children's Day/Book Day<sup>55</sup></b>	<b>MATHEMATICS AWARENESS MONTH</b>	<b>AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH</b>	<b>DIVERSITY MONTH</b>	

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

<sup>55</sup>Children's Day/Book Day, also known as El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Día) is an annual celebration of children, families, and reading that emphasizes literacy for every child regardless of their language(s) and culture(s).

<sup>1</sup> [https://info.firstbook.org/ecology\\_category](https://info.firstbook.org/ecology_category) <sup>2</sup> <https://youtu.be/xwOvBv8RLmo> <sup>3</sup> [fbmarketplace.org/lego-build-the-change-biodiversity-and-climate-change-course-132983](https://fbmarketplace.org/lego-build-the-change-biodiversity-and-climate-change-course-132983) <sup>4</sup> <https://bit.ly/ClimateChangeFB>

# MAY

We celebrate Asian American & Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May to commemorate the first Japanese immigrants (May 1843) and the completion of the transcontinental railroad (May 1869), constructed primarily by Chinese workers. AANHPI communities contribute to society in many ways, including in STEM.

## TRY THIS!

- ✦ Shop the **Asian & Pacific Islander Characters & Cultures**<sup>1</sup> section for books featuring Asian characters and authors.
- ✦ Have students research a member of the AANHPI community making a contribution in STEM. Suggest lesser known STEM fields like architecture, psychology, and economics.

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

## TRY THIS!

- ✦ **Getting Started Guide: Teaching About the Holocaust**<sup>2</sup> (7th-12th grades) offers guidelines, lessons, survivor testimony, and more.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>ASIAN AMERICAN &amp; NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH</b> See sidebar for details & activities!		<b>JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH</b>	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>Cinco de Mayo</b> commemorates the Mexican defeat of the French army at the Battle of Puebla in 1862.	<b>Holocaust Remembrance Day</b> See sidebar for details & activities! The Chinese Exclusion Act was signed into law on this day in 1882. It was repealed in 1943.	<b>Teacher Appreciation Day</b> honors and celebrates the lasting contributions teachers make in the lives of students and society.	<b>National School Nurse Day</b> celebrates the more than 45,000 school nurses in the U.S. Hug a nurse today!	<b>National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day</b> links positive mental health to a child's healthy development.	Bertha Benz was born on this day in 1849. She took the first road trip in a gas-fueled car and invented brake lining.	<b>May the Fourth Be with You</b> is the unofficial holiday celebrating the epic Star Wars franchise.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			<b>Turn Beauty Inside Out Day</b> is a day for girls and women to appreciate their unique qualities and not to be swayed by the media's beauty standards.		Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the historic Supreme Court ruling whose goal was to desegregate American public schools (1954).	<b>Global Accessibility Awareness Day</b> brings attention to the more than one billion people living with disabilities worldwide.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Malcolm X, an African American Muslim minister and human rights activist, was born on this day in 1925.	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.		<b>Harvey Milk Day</b> celebrates one of the first openly gay politicians in the U.S. and a gay rights activist on his birthday (1930).			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
<b>National Paper Airplane Day</b> is a day to celebrate the dreams a piece of paper with simple folds can inspire.					Chien-Shiung Wu, a famous Chinese American nuclear physicist, was born on this day in 1912.	<b>NATIONAL INVENTORS MONTH</b>

<sup>1</sup>[https://info.firstbook.org/asian\\_characters](https://info.firstbook.org/asian_characters) <sup>2</sup> [info.firstbook.org/holocausteducation/gettingstarted](http://info.firstbook.org/holocausteducation/gettingstarted)

# JUNE

The Pura Belpré Award is given each June to a Latine writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latine cultural experience in a work of literature for children and youth. Pura Belpré was the first Latina librarian at the New York Public Library, and she enriched the lives of many through her work to preserve and share Puerto Rican folklore.

## TRY THIS!

- Find **Pura Belpré Award winners**<sup>1</sup> and other excellent books by **Latine Characters & Cultures**<sup>2</sup> to share with your students as windows and mirrors.

World Oceans Day, June 8, is a day to think about how oceans impact our world and what we can do to protect them. Marine biology is a popular introduction to STEM for many kids.

## TRY THIS!

- Have students choose a marine animal to research. Have them answer these questions: What is the animal's habitat? What does the animal eat? Does it have predators? Is climate change affecting this animal's habitat?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH</b>						<b>1</b>  The Tulsa Race Riot took place on this day in 1921. Mobs of White people attacked Black residents and businesses, killing hundreds.
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  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.	<b>5</b>  <b>World Environment Day</b> is an important United Nations observance that encourages people to take care of the Earth and raise awareness about its need for protection.	<b>6</b>  On this day in 1994, Dr. Lori Arviso Alvord became the first Diné (Navajo) woman to be certified in surgery.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  <b>World Oceans Day</b>  See sidebar for details & activities!
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>Puerto Rican Day</b> is marked by parades across the U.S. in several major cities.  See sidebar for details & activities!	<b>12</b>  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.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>Day of Arafat (15th – 16th)</b> is a Muslim holy day of repentance and forgiveness marked by fasting.*
<b>16</b>  <b>Eid al-Adha</b> <sup>§</sup>  Anniversary of the first woman in space: Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman to fly to space on this day in 1963.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  On this day in 1983, Sally Ride made history when she became the first American woman to fly into space.	<b>19</b>  <b>Juneteenth</b> is a holiday commemorating emancipation and the end of slavery in the U.S. It became a federal holiday in 2021.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  Octavia Butler, renowned science fiction author and recipient of Hugo and Nebula awards and a MacArthur Fellowship, was born on this day in 1947.
<b>23</b>  <b>International Women in Engineering Day</b> <sup>§§</sup>	<b>24</b>  Johannes Gutenberg (b. 1400) is credited as the inventor of the printing press, but the oldest printed text is from China (first millennium AD).	<b>25</b>  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.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, a series of demonstrations by the LGBTQ community in response to a police raid in 1969.	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>						

\*Note: These Islamic holidays do not fall on the same dates each year.

<sup>§</sup>Eid al-Adha (16th – 17th) the Muslim day of sacrifice and one of the most significant Islamic holidays is usually marked with a large meal.

<sup>§§</sup>International Women in Engineering Day is a day to celebrate the accomplishments of women in engineering.

<sup>1</sup> [www.fbmarketplace.org/pura-belpre-award-winners](http://www.fbmarketplace.org/pura-belpre-award-winners) <sup>2</sup> [https://info.firstbook.org/latine\\_characters](https://info.firstbook.org/latine_characters)

# JULY

On July 26, we celebrate National Disability Independence Day, which commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. There are many well-known and successful scientists who have disabilities, including [Dr. Temple Grandin<sup>1</sup>](#) and [Dr. Jazmin Scarlett<sup>2</sup>](#). Dr. Grandin, who has autism, is an American animal scientist who has devoted her career to the humane treatment of animals. Dr. Scarlett, who has Juvenile Arthritis, is a British-Caribbean volcanologist.

## TRY THIS!

- ✦ Provide windows and mirrors for all students by sharing stories from our [Neurodivergent & Disabled Characters & Cultures<sup>3</sup>](#) section on the Marketplace.
- ✦ See First Book's [Quick Start Guide: Free Literacy Tools to Support K-12 Students<sup>4</sup>](#). These tools help students with learning and vision differences, as well as learners in general.
- ✦ Have students work in small groups to research someone with a disability who improved society through their work in STEM and then share what they learned with the class.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH MONTH</b>	<b>1</b> 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.	<b>2</b> 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.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 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.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Dalai Lama's Birthday<sup>§</sup></b> Ann Tsukamoto was born on this day in 1952. She co-patented the process to isolate a human stem cell, a discovery relevant to cancer research.
<b>Islamic New Year<sup>§§</sup> 7</b> 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.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Naadam (11th – 15th)</b> 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.	<b>12</b> 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.	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Born into slavery in 1864, George Washington Carver was one of the most prominent Black scientists of the early 20th century.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Apollo 11 landed on the moon on this day in 1969. Neil Armstrong was the first person to walk on the moon.
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>National Disability Independence Day</b> commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.  See sidebar for details & activities!	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 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.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH</b>		

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

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

<sup>§§</sup>Islamic New Year (6th – 7th) Celebrated on the first day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar. Islam is the world's second-largest religious group with over 1.8 billion devotees.

<sup>1</sup> <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Temple-Grandin/544739> <sup>2</sup> <https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/diversity-in-science/scientists-with-disabilities/jazmin-scarlett/> <sup>3</sup> [https://info.firstbook.org/neurodivergent\\_characters](https://info.firstbook.org/neurodivergent_characters) <sup>4</sup> <https://bit.ly/literacytoolsguide>



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

