



SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL STUDIES:

An ongoing collection of tidbits and
dates for Polk County Elementary
Social Studies Teachers

APRIL 2011 CALENDAR:

Apr. 1-30 ~ Keep America Beautiful Month

An annual celebration of the ongoing efforts of Americans to improve their environment through a variety of educational, clean-up, and improvement projects. Information and materials available from Keep American Beautiful, Inc. 1010 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06901. Phone (203) 323-8987. Fax: (203) 325-9199. Email: info@kab.org. Web site: www.kab.org (includes links to participate in the "Great American Cleanup," March 31-May 1, 2008)

Apr. 12 ~ Anniversary of First Man in Space

Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space on this date in 1961, when he made a one-hour, 48-minute voyage, orbiting Earth in spacecraft *Vostok I*, launched by the USSR.

Apr. 13 ~ Thomas Jefferson's Birthday

Third president; lived 1743 to 1826. Author of the Declaration of Independence and the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom. Also was the founder of the University of Virginia.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/tj3.html>
<http://www.monticello.org/>. <http://www.pbs.org/jefferson/>.
<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/jefferson/>.

Apr. 18 ~ Anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride

The "midnight ride" of Paul Revere started at about 10 p.m. on this day in 1775. Revere made his famous ride from Boston to Lexington to warn American leaders there that the British were marching toward the Patriot arsenal at Concord. <http://poetry.eserver.org/paul-revere.html>.
<http://www.paulreverehouse.org/ride/>.

Apr. 19-25 ~ Passover (Pesach), First Days

Begins at sunset, April 19th, ends at nightfall April 25th. Jewish festival marking the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt.
http://www.chabad.org/holidays/passover/pesach_cdo/aid/1723/jewish/The-Passover-2011-Calendar.htm

Apr. 19 ~ Patriot Day

Observed on this date in Florida. Commemorates the Battle of Lexington and Concord, which began the Revolutionary War in 1775. On this day, in 1775, 700 British troops confronted 77 armed American militia men on the common green of Lexington, Massachusetts. In the brief battle, eight Americans died and ten were wounded. Only one British soldier was injured, but the American Revolution had begun. Always observed on April 16 in Maine and Massachusetts. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/patriotsday/>.

Apr. 20 ~ Patriot Day

Always observed the third Monday in April in Maine and Massachusetts to commemorate the Battle of Lexington and Concord, which began the Revolutionary War in 1775. Always observed on April 19 in some states.

Apr. 22 ~ Good Friday

Observed by Christians the Friday before Easter. Commemorates Christ's crucifixion, death, and entombment.

Apr. 24 ~ Easter	Christian celebration of Christ's resurrection. Observed the first Sunday following the first full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox.
Apr. 22 ~ Earth Day	Observed on this day each year to acknowledge our responsibility for the environment and to make a stronger commitment to take action for the coming year. Information from Earth Day Network, 1616 P Street NW, Suite 340, Washington, DC 20036. Phone: (202) 518-0044. Fax: (202) 518-8794. Email: earthday@earthday.net . Web site: www.earthday.net
Apr. 22 ~ Oklahoma Territory Opens	At noon, on this day in 1886, tens of thousands of settlers stream onto a 2 million acre tract of Oklahoma Territory to claim cheap land. http://www.library.cornell.edu/Reps/DOCS/landrush.htm
Apr. 29 ~ National Arbor Day	To encourage people to plant and care for trees. Sponsored on the last Friday in April by National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410. Phone (888) 448-7337. Fax: (402) 474-0820. Email: education@arborday.org . Web site: www.arborday.org . Florida observes Arbor Day on the third Friday in January.
Apr. 30 ~ Louisiana Purchase	On this day, in 1803, terms for the Louisiana Purchase were agreed to between France and the United States. The \$15 million land deal doubled the area of the United States by adding territory between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains. http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/purchase/ (includes Primary Sources and Teacher lesson plans)
Apr. 30 ~ Vietnam War Ends	On this day, in 1975, the Vietnam War ends as North Vietnamese troops occupy the presidential palace in Saigon and the South Vietnamese general Duong Van Minh surrenders.

Quotes of the Month:

"Children's talent to endure stems from their ignorance of alternatives." ~ Maya Angelou

"Attempt the impossible in order to improve your work." ~ Bette Davis

"Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet." ~ Mahatma Ghandi

"I would rather be right than be President." ~ Henry Clay

"Things won are done, joy's soul lies in the doing." ~ William Shakespeare

Additional web sites for teacher information:

Great Sites for Kids- History Sites ~ www.kidsites.com/sites-edu/history.htm

National Archives ~ www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/

The Declaration of Independence ~ www.thedeclarationofindependence.org/

First Gov For Kids ~ www.kids.gov/k_history.htm

Through the Year Holidays and Celebrations ~ www.noblenet.org/year/

Sources: *Resources for Planning the School Calendar 2006-2007*. Educational Research Service, 2000 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201. (800) 791-9308. www.ers.org; and *Today in History*. The History Channel, DK Publishers.

"The Mission of Polk County Public Schools is to ensure rigorous, relevant learning experiences that result in high achievement for our students.