



SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL STUDIES:

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

DECEMBER 2010 CALENDAR:

Dec. 1 ~ Montgomery Bus Boycott

Rosa Mae Parks refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama bus on this date in 1955. Her arrest marked the beginning of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which brought Martin Luther King, Jr. to national prominence. Parks became known as the “mother of the civil rights movement.

--Background information: www.holidays.net/mlk/rosa.htm
--Video clips and biographies of the Civil Rights Movement:
<http://www.montgomeryboycott.com/>

Dec. 1 ~ First Telephone in the White House

U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes has the first telephone installed in the White House. Its inventor, Alexander Graham Bell, personally installed it.

--Biography: <http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/bltelephone2.htm>
--Primary Sources: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/bellhtml/bellsp.html>

Dec. 1 ~ Basketball Invented

Canadian doctor James B. Naismith invents the game of basketball at the YMCA in Springfield, Massachusetts.

--Original rules and photos:
<http://www.kansasheritage.org/people/naismith.html>

Dec.1~Hanukkah begins at sundown

Hanukkah is the Jewish Feast of Lights or Feast of Dedication. The Hebrew word *Hanukkah* means *dedication*. *Hanukkah* is also written *Hannuka* or *Chanukah*. The holiday begins on the eve of the 25th day of the Hebrew Month of Kislev and lasts eight days. Hanukkah usually falls in the month of December, but occasionally can start in November.

History and traditions -
www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/hanukkah/about.html
www.history.com/minisites/hanukkah/

Dec. 7 ~ Pearl Harbor Day

At 7:55 a.m. on this date in 1941, Japanese warplanes bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, killing 2,300 people and sinking or damaging 19 ships. The U.S. declared war on Japan the following day. .”

--Maps, Photos, Journals: www.nationalgeographic.com/pearlharbor/
--Photos and historical account:
www.historylearningsite.co.uk/pearl_harbour.htm

Dec. 15 ~ Bill of Rights Day

Anniversary of the adoption of the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution in 1791. Often denoted by presidential proclamation.

--Lesson Plan: <http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/TLRESOURCES/units/Byrnes-celebrations/billrigh.html>

--Child-friendly wording:

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/northamerica/after1500/government/billofrights.htm>

Dec. 16 ~ Boston Tea Party Anniversary

The British Parliament passed the Tea Act which secured a monopoly on colonists' tea by the East India Company. In response, a group of colonists dressed as Native Americans and threw a cargo of the company's tea into the Boston Harbor on this date in 1773.

--Children's page with videos and historical links:

www.kidport.com/RefLib/UsaHistory/AmericanRevolution/TeaParty.htm

Dec. 17 ~ Anniversary of the Wright Bros. Flight

In 1903 brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright achieved the first piloted, powered airplane flight near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Their airplane remained aloft for 12 seconds and traveled 120 feet.

--Photos, drawings, history:

http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/bl_wright_brothers.htm

Dec. 21 ~ First Day of Winter

Winter solstice (shortest day/longest night of the year) occurs at 6:38 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

--Teacher background information:

www.infoplease.com/spot/wintersolstice1.html

--Activities and trivia for kids:

<http://fun.familyeducation.com/holidays/childrens-science-activities/32939.html>

Dec. 25 ~ Christmas

Celebration of the birth of Christ. A federal holiday celebrated in all states and territories.

International Customs: <http://www.the-north-pole.com/around/>

History of Christmas: <http://www.history.com/content/christmas>

Dec. 26-Jan. 1 ~ Kwanzaa

African American seven-day spiritual festival dedicated to seven principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. The American celebration is related to the spirit and rituals of the harvest festivals of Africa.

-History and activities:

http://www.amazingmoms.com/htm/holiday_kwanzaa_home.htm

Dec. 29 ~ Wounded Knee Anniversary

On this date in 1890, the 7th Cavalry killed 300 Hunkpapa Sioux at Wounded Knee, South Dakota. It was the final "battle" that brought to an end more than three centuries of warfare between Native Americans and Western pioneers.

--Photos, multimedia, history:

<http://www.woundedkneemuseum.org/index.htm>

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

KIDPROJ's MultiCultural Calendar ~ www.kidlink.org/KIDPROJ/MCC/

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.

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