



SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL STUDIES:

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

JANUARY 2011 CALENDAR:

Jan. 1 ~ New Year's Day

Legal holiday in all states and territories; also a federal holiday.

www.annieshomepage.com/newyearshistory.html

<http://www.fathertimes.net/traditions.htm>

(this site has New Year's traditions for 65 different countries)

Jan. 1 ~ Emancipation Proclamation Anniversary

On this date in 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all people held as slaves within the rebelling Confederate States "are, and henceforth shall be, free." The US Archives site includes actual copies of the original document.

www.nps.gov/anti/historyculture/freedom.htm

http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/emancipation_proclamation/

Jan. 1-3 ~ Japanese New Year Festivities

Beginning of the year Heisei Nineteenth, the 19th year of Emperor Akihito's reign. To celebrate the new year, the front doors of houses are decorated and people dress in their best clothes to visit local shrines and exchange visits and postcards with friends. 2010 is the year of the Tiger.

www.kidlink.org/KIDPROJ/MCC/

http://www.familyculture.com/holidays/japanese_new_year.htm

Jan. 2 ~ First "Outer" Space Vehicle

In 1959, the Soviet Union launched *Luna I*, the first space vehicle to escape Earth's gravitational field. It passed near the moon and entered a solar orbit.

<http://www.zarya.info/Diaries/Luna/Luna1.php>

Jan. 3 ~ Alaska becomes a state

In 1959, Alaska is granted statehood as the 49th state, and first new state to be added since Arizona in 1912.

<http://library.thinkquest.org/22550/1958.html> ;

<http://www.akhistorycourse.org/articles/article.php?artID=138>

<http://www.state.ak.us/>

Jan. 10 ~ First African American Senator

On this day, in 1967, Massachusetts Republican Edward W. Brooke took office as the first African American in the U.S. Senate.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/21/books/21broo.html>

Jan. 18 ~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
Observance

Civil rights leader, minister, and winner of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. Born in Atlanta, Ga., on January 15, 1929; assassinated April 4, 1968. A federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in January.

www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson046.shtml
www.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/MLK/
<http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Holidays/MLK/MLK.html>
<http://www.mlkonline.net/video-i-have-a-dream-speech.html>
(audio recording: "I Have a Dream" speech)

Jan. 19 ~ Robert E. Lee's Birthday

Commander of the Confederate forces during the Civil War; lived 1807 to 1870. This holiday is celebrated in some states on the third Monday in January.

<http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/About%20the%20General.htm>
<http://americancivilwar.com/south/lee.html>

Jan. 19~ Tu B'Shevat

Jewish Year 5771: sunset January 19, 2011 - nightfall January 20, 2011. *Tu B'Shevat*, the 15th of Shevat on the Jewish calendar -- celebrated this year on Shabbat, January 20, 2011 -- is the day that marks the beginning of a "New Year for Trees." This is the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle

http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/3264/jewish/Tu-BShevat.htm

Jan. 23 ~ First Native American U.S. Senator

On this date in 1907, Charles Curtis of Kansas became the first Native American U.S. Senator.

http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/generic/VP_Charles_Curtis.htm

Jan. 28 ~ Christa McAuliffe Day

Observed in Illinois to commemorate high school teacher Christa McAuliffe, who was one of seven astronauts killed on the space shuttle *Challenger* when it exploded over Cape Kennedy, Florida, 74 seconds after takeoff on this date in 1986.

www.framingham.com/history/profiles/christa.htm

January Quotes:

"The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time." --Abraham Lincoln

"History is the record of an encounter between character and circumstance." --Donald Creighton

"You miss a hundred percent of the shots you never take." --Wayne Gretzky

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit." --Harry S. Truman

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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