



# SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL STUDIES:

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

## MARCH 2011 CALENDAR:

Mar. 1-31 ~ Irish American Heritage Month

By presidential proclamation each year, this month is set aside to recognize the contributions made in American society and culture by the Irish and Irish Americans.

<http://www.irishamericanheritage.com/webpageirish1.htm>

Mar. 1-31 ~ Women's History Month

Proclaimed by congress and many governors and state legislatures as a month to celebrate the rich and inspiring heritage of women's contributions to the United States. Information: National Women's History Project, 3343 Industrial Drive, Suite 4, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. Phone: (707) 636-2888. Fax: (707) 636-2909. Email: [nwhp@aol.com](mailto:nwhp@aol.com). Web site: [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org).

Mar. 1 ~ Korean Independence Movement Day

Annual anniversary of the independence movement against colonial Japanese rule in 1919. The Korean Proclamation of Independence is read.

[http://www.asianinfo.org/asianinfo/korea/history/march\\_1st\\_independence\\_struggle.htm](http://www.asianinfo.org/asianinfo/korea/history/march_1st_independence_struggle.htm)

Mar. 2 ~ Birthday of Dr. Seuss

On this day in 1904, Dr. Seuss (Theodor Geisel) was born. He is the American children's book author and has written many books including: *The Cat in the Hat*; *Green Eggs and Ham*; *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Dr. Seuss was awarded an Academy Award in 1945 and the Pulitzer Prize in 1984.

<http://www.seussville.com/>

<http://who2.com/drseuss.html>

<http://www.catinthehat.org/>

Mar. 3 ~ Adoption of U.S. National Anthem

On this date in 1931, "The Star Spangled Banner" was adopted as the national anthem. It was written in 1814 by Francis Scott Key.

<http://www.usflag.org/thenationalanthem.html>

Mar. 3 ~ Florida Becomes a State

On this date in, 1845 Florida became a state.

<http://www.floridamemory.com/FloridaHighlights/AdmitUnion/admitunion1.cfm>

Mar. 4 ~ Casimir Pulaski's Birthday

Born in Warka, Poland, in 1747, he was a brigadier general and chief of cavalry in the American Revolution; died 1779.

<http://www.newbedford.k12.ma.us/elementary/casimir.htm>

Mar. 4 ~ First Woman to Serve in Congress

On March 4, 1917, Jeannette Rankin began her term as a congresswoman from Montana. She was the first female member of Congress, elected four years before the Nineteenth Amendment guaranteed women the right to vote.

[http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio\\_jeannette\\_rankin.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio_jeannette_rankin.htm)

Mar. 5 ~ Anniversary of the Boston Massacre	<p>On this day, in 1770, the Boston Massacre occurred. Tensions between the American colonists and the British had been running high in the early spring of 1770. Late in the afternoon, on March 5, a crowd of jeering Bostonians slinging snowballs gathered around a small group of British soldiers guarding the Boston Customs House. The soldiers became enraged after one of them had been hit, and they fired into the crowd, even though they were under orders not to fire. The soldiers shot into a crowd of civilians killing three and injuring eight others, two of them mortally. The first person who was hit when the British soldiers began firing was an African American sailor named Crispus Attucks. The event in Boston helped to unite the colonies against Britain. What started as a minor fight became a turning point in the beginnings of the American Revolution.</p> <p><a href="http://cghs.dade.k12.fl.us/african-american/precivil/boston.htm">http://cghs.dade.k12.fl.us/african-american/precivil/boston.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/revolut/boston_1">http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/revolut/boston_1</a></p>
Mar. 7~Eastern Orthodox Lent Begins	<p>Lent, is the 40 day period of fasting and prayer before Easter. The 40 days represents the time Jesus spent in the desert overcoming temptation by Satan. The period of Lent is preparation for the annual commemoration of the death and resurrection of Jesus, celebrated during Holy Week.</p> <p><a href="http://www.whenis.co.uk/when-is/lent-date.php">http://www.whenis.co.uk/when-is/lent-date.php</a></p>
Mar. 10 ~ Anniversary of Harriet Tubman’s Death	<p>American abolitionist, Underground Railroad leader; born into slavery in Buckton, Md., about 1820; died March 10, 1913; in Auburn, N.Y. She escaped from a Maryland plantation and helped more than 300 slaves reach freedom. <a href="http://www.nyhistory.com/harriettubman/life.htm">http://www.nyhistory.com/harriettubman/life.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.pocanticohills.org/tubman/tubman.html">http://www.pocanticohills.org/tubman/tubman.html</a></p>
Mar. 11 ~ Johnny Appleseed Day	<p>John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed, was a planter of orchards and a friend of wild animals. Born 1774; died March 11, 1847.</p> <p><a href="http://www.applejuice.org/johnnyappleseed.html">http://www.applejuice.org/johnnyappleseed.html</a></p>
Mar. 13~Daylight Savings Time Begins	<p>Daylight Savings Time (DST) begins on the second Sunday in March at 2:00 am local time in the U.S., which in 2011 is March 13. Turn clocks ahead by one hour, ideally at bedtime on the Saturday night before. The purpose of DST— also known as Summer Time— is to extend daylight by an hour in the afternoons during spring, summer, and much of the fall.</p> <p><a href="http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/2714043/usa_daylight_savings_2011_when_to_set.html">http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/2714043/usa_daylight_savings_2011_when_to_set.html</a></p>
Mar. 14 ~ Albert Einstein’s Birthday	<p>Award winning physicist who was known for developing the theory of relativity. He won a Nobel Prize in physics in 1921; lived 1879 to 1955. After World War II, he was a leader in seeking international government control of nuclear energy. <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aso/databank/entries/bpeins.html">http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aso/databank/entries/bpeins.html</a></p>
Mar. 16 ~ First Black Newspaper in U.S.	<p>On this date in 1827 the nation’s first Black newspaper, <i>Freedom’s Journal</i>, was published in New York City, NY.</p> <p><a href="http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/aanp/freedom/">http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/aanp/freedom/</a>  <a href="http://www.pbs.org/blackpress/news_bios/newbios/nwsprr/freedom/freedom.html">http://www.pbs.org/blackpress/news_bios/newbios/nwsprr/freedom/freedom.html</a></p>
Mar. 17 ~ St. Patrick’s Day	<p>Commemorates the patron saint of Ireland. Always observed on this date.</p> <p><a href="http://www.history.com/minisites/stpatricksday/">http://www.history.com/minisites/stpatricksday/</a></p>
Mar. 15~ National Agriculture Day	<p>Students learn about America’s largest industry as part of this program. Sponsored by Agriculture Council of America, 11020 King Street, Suite 205, Overland Park, KS 66210. Phone: (913) 491-1895. Fax: (913) 491-6502. Email: <a href="mailto:info@agday.org">info@agday.org</a>. Web site: <a href="http://www.agday.org">www.agday.org</a></p>

Mar. 20 ~ First Day of Spring

Vernal equinox occurs on this day, and Spring begins. At exactly 11:24am, Eastern Daylight Time, the sun passes directly over the equator. The term "equinox" means equal night. On this day (vernal equinox) each year, the length of the day and night are equal.

<http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/march-equinox.html>

Mar. 21~ Birthday of Benito Juarez

Mexican president and resistance leader. Despite prejudice against him as a full-blooded Indian, he was appointed justice minister after the Liberal revolution of 1856 and abolished clerical and military legal privileges (*fueros*).

<http://www.answers.com/topic/benito-juarez>

Mar. 23 ~ Anniversary of Patrick Henry's Speech

On this date in 1775, in a speech at Virginia's second revolutionary convention, American Revolution leader and orator Patrick Henry stated, "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

<http://libertyonline.hypermall.com/henry-liberty.html>

<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/henry.htm>

### Quotes of the Month:

"We could never learn to be brave and patient if there were only joy in the world." ~ Helen Keller

"Repetition does not transform a lie into a truth." ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

"My brain is the key that sets me free." ~ Harry Houdini

### Additional web sites for teacher information:

Great Sites for Kids- History Sites ~ [www.kidsites.com/sites-edu/history.htm](http://www.kidsites.com/sites-edu/history.htm)

National Archives ~ [www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/](http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/)

The Declaration of Independence ~ [www.thedeclarationofindependence.org/](http://www.thedeclarationofindependence.org/)

First Gov For Kids ~ [www.kids.gov/k\\_history.htm](http://www.kids.gov/k_history.htm)

KIDPROJ's Multi-Cultural Calendar ~ [www.kidlink.org/KIDPROJ/MCC/](http://www.kidlink.org/KIDPROJ/MCC/)

Through the Year Holidays and Celebrations ~ [www.noblenet.org/year/](http://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](http://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."*