



SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL STUDIES:

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

OCTOBER 2010 CALENDAR:

Oct. 1-31 ~ Czech Heritage Month

Month set aside to celebrate the rich ethnic heritage of Czech Americans and their many contributions to our American cultural diversity.

Czech cultural information:

http://www.aupairinamerica.com/resources/kids/culture_corner/czechrepublic.asp

Daily life and culture:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/149085/Czech-Republic/261799/Daily-life-and-social-customs>

Oct. 1-31 ~ Italian American Heritage Month

Month set aside by some states to celebrate the rich ethnic heritage of Italian Americans and their many contributions to our American cultural diversity. Designated by presidential proclamation in 1989.

Brief history and cultural links:

<http://italian.about.com/library/blniahmspecial.htm>

Activities/games: <http://home.earthlink.net/~31italians/id4.html>

Oct. 1-31 ~ Polish American Heritage Month

Month set aside by some states to celebrate the rich ethnic heritage of Polish Americans and their many contributions to our American cultural diversity. Designated by presidential proclamation.

History and interesting Polish contributions:

http://www.polishnews.com/index.php?view=article&catid=90:polish-tradition&id=447:october-polish-american-heritage-month&option=com_content&Itemid=322

Oct. 2 ~ Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday

Indian leader who demonstrated nonviolent protest in leading the Indian people to independence from British rule. Born 1869; assassinated 1948.

Brief history and quotes: <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/mahatma-gandhi-and-his-profound-sayings.html>

Oct. 6 ~ German American Heritage Day

Recognition of the celebration of the rich ethnic heritage of German Americans and their many contributions to our American cultural diversity. Designated by presidential proclamation.

Information:

<http://gahfusa.org/index.html> ;

<http://german.about.com/od/teaching/a/geramday.htm>

Oct. 3-9 ~ Fire Prevention Week

National Fire Protection Association sponsored. Address: 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471. Email: education@nfpa.org. Web site: www.nfpa.org/FPW/.

Oct. 11 ~ Columbus Day-Discoverers' Day	A day set aside to honor explorers and to remember the sighting of the New World by Christopher Columbus on October 12, 1492. Also a federal holiday designated for the second Monday in October. Web information: www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/oct12.html . Also: www.theholidayzone.com/columbus .
Oct. 11 ~ Canadian Thanksgiving	Observed in Canada, the second Monday in October, as a day for giving thanks for a good harvest. Web site for information: http://www.kids-fun-and-games.com/canadian-thanksgiving-date.html
Oct. 23-31 ~ Red Ribbon Week	Recognition of our commitment to help move toward a Drug-Free America. Emphasis on creating awareness of the problems related to the use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs. Information: Informed Families Education Center, 2490 Coral Way, Suite 501, Miami, FL 33145. Web site: www.nfp.org . Also see the Polk County Schools web site for more information on local events. History of Red Ribbon Week: http://www.nfp.org/default.asp?PageNum=618
Oct. 24 ~ United Nations Day	Recognition of the establishment of the United Nations in 1945. Designated by presidential proclamation. Web site: www.un.org .
Oct. 18-22 ~ Nat. School Bus Safety Week	Poster contest: "Be Aware-Know the Danger Zone": Sponsor: National Assoc. for Pupil Transportation, 1840 Western Ave., Albany, NY 12203. Web site: https://netforum.avectra.com/eWeb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=NAPT&WebCode=SBSW
Oct. 23 ~ Make a Difference Day	October 23, 2010 marks the 20th anniversary of Make A Difference Day, the largest national day of community service. Held annually the fourth Saturday of October, Make A Difference Day is sponsored by USA WEEKEND and HandsOn Network, a business unit of Points of Light Institute. http://www.handsonnetwork.org/nationalprograms/signatureevents/MakeADifferenceDay
Oct. 25 ~ Anniversary of Benjamin Banneker's death	Banneker, known as the "first Black man of science," was an American surveyor, astronomer, and mathematician. He assisted with the original survey of Washington D.C. 1731-1806. Web site for information: www.inventors.about.com/library/inventors/blbanneker.htm .

Additional web sites for teacher information:

National Archives ~ www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/
The Declaration of Independence ~ www.thedeclarationofindependence.org/
This Day In History ~ <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history>
First Gov For Kids ~ www.kids.gov/k_history.htm
Florida Historical Society ~ <http://www.myfloridahistory.org/>
KIDPROJ's MultiCultural Calendar ~ www.kidlink.org/KIDPROJ/MCC/
Through the Year Holidays and Celebrations ~ www.noblenet.org/year/

Source: *Resources for Planning the School Calendar 2006-2007*. Educational Research Service. 2000 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201. (800) 791-9308. www.ers.org

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