



Spotlight on Social Studies:

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

September 2010 Calendar:

Sept. 1 ~ National Good Neighbor Day

Always observed the fourth Sunday in September to help create a greater understanding and concern for others and develop values in children giving them a tradition of caring. For information, visit the National Good Neighbor Day Foundation Web site at www.natgoodneighborday.org.

Sept. 3 ~ Treaty of Paris Anniversary

Treaty between Britain and the United States ending the Revolutionary War; signed in Paris on this day in 1783.

Sept. 5 ~ First Continental Congress

Fifty-six delegates representing 11 colonies assembled in Philadelphia on this date in 1774. They protested British measures and called for civil disobedience.

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

Sept. 6 ~ Labor Day

Legal holiday in all states and Canada to honor working people. Observed on the first Monday in September. Peter J. McGuire, a carpenter and labor union leader, was the person who came up with the idea for Labor Day. He thought American workers should be honored with their own day.

<http://travelwithkids.about.com/od/holidays/a/laborday.htm>

Sept. 9-10 ~ Rosh Hashanah

Begins at sundown, September 9th. Jewish New Year and holy days. Days of Renewed Responsibility. The first of the High Holy Days marked by solemn religious observance.

Sept. 11 ~ Patriot Day

A day to honor the victims who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. On this date, terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners, crashing the first two into the World Trade Center in New York City, the third into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and the fourth (Flight 93) into Somerset County, Penn. Approximately 3,000 people were killed.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/search/site/patriot%20day>

Sept. 12 ~ Grandparents' Day

A day for showing appreciation to grandparents. Always observed on the first Sunday after Labor Day. Information and materials available from the National Grandparents' Day Council. www.grandparents-day.com

Sept. 14 ~ Anniversary of the Writing of the National Anthem

On the night of September 13, 1814, Francis Scott Key watched as our country was attacked at Ft. McHenry. After watching the rockets' red glare and bombs bursting in air through the night, dawn broke. Key was so inspired to see a battered but still flying American flag (showing the success of our troops) that he wrote the poem, "The Star Spangled Banner." It became our national anthem in 1931.

www.thenationalanthemproject.org/aboutthesong.html

Sept. 15-Oct. 15 ~ Hispanic Heritage Month

Designated by presidential proclamation as the month to celebrate the rich heritage of Hispanic Americans and the many contributions they have made to American culture.

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson023.shtml

Sept. 15-16 ~ Mexican Independence Days

National holiday to celebrate Mexico's independence from Spain. In ceremonies held at 11 p.m. on September 15 throughout Mexico, the president, state governors, and mayors deliver a "Cry for Independence," and then sound a bell to symbolize the tolling that announced the beginning of the struggle for independence in 1810.

<http://www.teacherlink.usu.edu/tlresources/units/Byrnescelebrations/mid.html>

Sept. 16 ~ Mayflower Day

Anniversary of the departure of the ship *Mayflower* from Plymouth, England, in 1620.

<http://www.holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/September/mayflowerday.htm>

Sept. 17~Constitution Day

Sept. 20-24~Celebrate Freedom Week

After framing the Constitution, the Constitutional convention adjourned on September 17, 1787, from Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The 12 states represented had voted unanimously to approve the proposed document, which was sent to Congress and the states for ratification. Presidential proclamation sets aside September 17 (Citizenship Day) and September 17-23 (Constitution Week) for observance each year. Information available from:

** In response to Public Law 108-447 which designated September 17 as “Constitution Day”, the Florida Legislature designated the last full week in September as “Celebrate Freedom Week.” This week of celebration is intended to allow for appropriate instruction and activities that will help to reinforce the principles and ideals on which our nation was founded. The provisions of the Statute include:

- The last full week of classes in September shall be recognized in public schools as “Celebrate Freedom Week.”
- Celebrate Freedom Week must include at least three hours of appropriate instruction in each social studies class as determined by the school district, which shall include an in-depth study of the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence.
- During the last full week of September, at the beginning of each school day or homeroom, public school principals and teachers shall conduct an oral recitation by students of the following words from the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the

pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed.”

- Upon written request by a student’s parent the student must be excused from recitation of the Declaration of Independence excerpt.

School districts are encouraged to schedule appropriate instructional and celebratory activities for this week. The Department has compiled the Governor’s Proclamation, online resources, and a recommended reading list at <http://www.fl DOE.org/BII/Humanities/celebratefreedom.asp>

Sept. 21 ~ International Day of Peace

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Peace is annually held on September 21 to recognize the efforts of individuals, organizations and governments to end conflict and promote peace.

http://www.themiracletimes.com/IDP/International_Day_of_Peace.htm

Sept. 23 ~ First Day of Autumn

Autumnal equinox occurs at 3:09 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time

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

Sept. 27 – 28

Yom Kippur Jewish day of atonement. Probably the most important holiday of the Jewish year. “Yom Kippur” means day of atonement.

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/holiday4.html>

Sept. 30 ~ First Nuclear Submarine

On this date in 1954, the world’s first nuclear-powered submarine, the USS *Nautilus*, was commissioned by the U.S. Navy. Representing an enormous technological leap, the sub

was much larger than its diesel electric predecessors, boasted a submerged speed of more than 20 knots, and could remain submerged almost indefinitely.

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/subs/history/subsbeforenuc/revolution/nautilus.html>

Additional web sites for teacher information:

This Day In History ~ www.historychannel.com/tdih/tdih.jsp?category=leadstory

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

MSN Encarta ~ [Http://encarta.msn.com/media_461524452/Florida_Historical_Events.html](http://encarta.msn.com/media_461524452/Florida_Historical_Events.html)

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

KUMC Diversity Calendar ~ www.3.kumc.edu/diversity/

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

Source: *Resources for Planning the School Calendar 2007-2008*. Educational Research Service. 2000 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA

22201. (800) 791-9308. www.ers.org

"I not only use all the brains I have, but all that I can borrow." ~ Woodrow Wilson

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