

Name _____

My
Journal
for
December

(year)

Name _____



December is "Read a New Book" Month

Over 300 books are published every day in the United States. What type of books do you like?

Read a new book this month! Write a short summary of the book.

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of a scene from the book.

Name _____

December is "Hi, Neighbor" Month

Do you live in a friendly neighborhood? How often do you greet your neighbors? How many of your neighbors do you know by name? Say "Hi!" to one today.

On the other side of this page, draw a picture to go with your neighborly experience.

Name _____



December is the month for Hanukkah

Hanukkah is celebrated according to the Jewish calendar, so the date on which Hanukkah is celebrated changes every year.

Do you know what Hanukkah means? Do you know what it celebrates? How is it celebrated? Write about what you know, or use your research skills to answer one of these questions.

On the other side of this page, draw a picture to go along with what you learned.

If you'd like to learn more about Hanukkah, see:
http://members.abcteach.com/members/holiday/hanukkah/chanukah_rc.pdf

Name _____



December 1st - Eat a Red Apple Day

"An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Why do you think people say that? Do you think it's true? What is good about apples? Are there any reasons that you shouldn't eat apples?

Apple Chips

You will need a sharp knife, apple corer, string or ribbon, and apples.

Ask an adult to core the apples (cut out the center) and slice the apples into $\frac{1}{4}$ inch slices (slice through the middle of the apple to make "rings").

Put the rings onto the string. Don't pack the rings together, but leave "breathing room" between the rings. That way they will dry out evenly.

Hang the string of apples somewhere cool and dry.

When the apples are wrinkled and dried (it usually takes 2-3 weeks), you can eat them! Store the ones you won't eat right away in a covered container, out of direct sunlight.

Name _____



December 2nd - Fritters Day

Your name is Fran. You are the owner of *Fran's Fritter Critters*. You love turning ordinary apple fritters into extraordinary critters! What do you like best about your talent?

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of one of your critter fritters!

Apple Fritters

This is a parent participating project!

Make 4 cups of your favorite pancake batter.

Add 1 cup of shredded apples, and 2 teaspoons of cinnamon.

Mix well.

Ask a parent to preheat a deep fryer or deep oil fry pan.

Ask a parent to carefully place 1-tablespoon servings of batter into oil.

Cook until golden.

Drain and serve.

Name _____



December 3rd - National Roof Over Your Head Day

The three basic needs are food, clothing, and shelter. A "roof over your head" means "shelter" or "home". How often do you stop to think about the roof over your head? What would it be like if you didn't have a home?

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of your "dream house".

Tin Roof Sunday

Place one scoop of vanilla ice cream into a dish.
Sprinkle peanuts over the ice cream.
Drizzle with hot fudge and caramel topping.
Top it off with whipped cream and a maraschino cherry!
Enjoy!

Name _____

December 3rd - International Day of Disabled Persons

Some of the best success stories you will ever hear are about people who overcame difficulties to reach their goals. Many people with disabilities learn to overcome challenges others would never even attempt.

Are you, or is someone you know, disabled? How can a disability make life more difficult? Is there any way that a disability can make life better? Write about a disabled person, or about disability in general.

Name _____



December 5th - Walt Disney's Birthday

Walt Disney was born on December 5th, 1901. He created Mickey Mouse. He made the first movie-length cartoon (*Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*). He opened Disneyland.

Clearly, Disney was a man with a sense of fun. If you could plan a party for Walt Disney, what would you do?

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of the party.

Name _____

December 6th - St. Nicholas's Feast Day

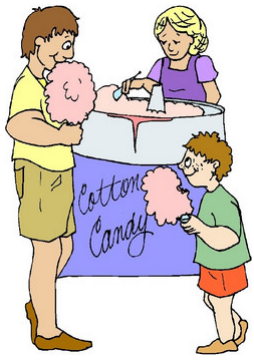
The story of St. Nicholas probably started in the 4th century. St. Nicholas is still known today in different countries by different names: in England he is called Father Christmas, in France he is Pere Noël, in Germany he is Weihnachtsman, and he is called Sinterklass in Holland. In the 1600s, Sinterklass came to America (with Dutch colonists), where he became Santa Claus.

What do you know about St. Nicholas? Write a report about what you know.

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of how you think St. Nicholas really looked.

To read a story about how this day is celebrated in the Czech Republic, see:
http://members.abcteach.com/members/holiday/mikulas_rc.pdf

Name _____



December 7th - National Cotton Candy Day

Cotton candy used to be called "fairy floss". It was changed to "cotton candy" in the 1920s. Cotton candy is made by melting and spinning sugar. Different people, including a dentist, have been credited with inventing cotton candy.

If you had to describe cotton candy to someone who had never seen or tasted it, how would you describe it?

Use the other side of this page, and ask someone to draw a picture of what you just described.

Name _____



December 7th - Pearl Harbor Day

On December 7th, 1941, Japanese planes killed over 2000 Americans in an attack on Pearl Harbor. President Roosevelt called this day "a date which will live in infamy". Congress declared war against Japan, and the United States joined World War II.

What do you know about Pearl Harbor? What would you like to know? Write a question about Pearl Harbor (or about World War II in general) that you would like answered:

Now, using your research skills, find the answer to your question, and write the answer in your own words.

Name _____

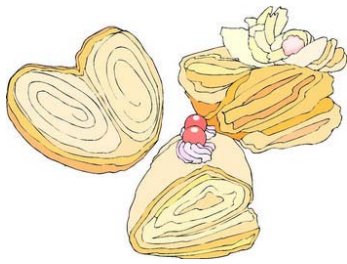


December 8th - John Lennon was shot

John Lennon was a member of the Beatles, the most famous music band of all time. He sang and wrote and talked about love and peace. He was shot to death just outside his home.

Write a song about love and peace.

Name _____



December 9th - Pastry Day

Do you have a favorite pastry? What is it, and why is it your favorite?

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of your favorite pastry.

Cherry Turnovers

This is a parent-participating project

Cut pastry dough into 6-inch squares.

Place a square on a baking sheet.

Place a spoonful of cherry pie filling in the middle of the square.

Fold one corner over to meet the opposite corner.

(You will make a triangle!)

Press corner down to seal shut.

Repeat with the rest of dough and cherry filling.

Ask a parent to bake in the oven at 350° for 8-10 minutes, or until golden brown.

In a cup, mix 2 cups of powder sugar with 2 teaspoons of vanilla and 2 teaspoons of milk.

Drizzle over hot turnovers.

Let cool for 10 minutes before serving.

(It is okay to serve warm, but you will need to let the pie filling cool to prevent serious burns.)

Enjoy!

Name _____



December 10th - Human Rights Day

In 1948, the United Nations made the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It says, "All human beings are born with equal and inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms."

What rights and freedoms do you think all people share? Choose at least one, and explain why you think this right should be for everyone.

Name _____

December 11th - UNICEF founded

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund was founded after World War II, to help children who were left starving and homeless after the war.

UNICEF works for children and children's rights. Should children have special rights? If so, what are they? If not, why do you think as you do?

On the other side of this page, draw a suggestion for a UNICEF seal.

Name _____



December 12th - Poinsettia Day

Poinsettias were introduced from Mexico to the United States by Joel Roberts Poinsett, the US Ambassador to Mexico.

Your name is Rosetta. You are the owner of *Rosetta's Poinsettias*. December is your busiest month. You have received an order for 500 poinsettia baskets. When you went to the flower room to retrieve the poinsettias, you discovered that they were missing large pieces!

Someone or something has been eating your flowers. What are you going to do?

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of a poinsettia basket.

Name _____



December 13th - Cocoa Day

You are a judge for the National Cocoa Day Parade. There are 200 floats in the parade this year. Each float is advertising its own special flavor of cocoa! How will you choose a winner?

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of the winning float.

Candy Cane Cocoa

Basic Cocoa Mix:

Thoroughly mix 2 cups of powdered milk with 1 cup of sugar and 1 cup of powdered cocoa.

Store unused portion in a tight container or "zip" bag.

Heat a cup of milk on the stove (or in the microwave for 90 seconds) until it is hot but not boiling.

Add 2 heaping spoonfuls of cocoa mix to your warm milk.

Stir with a candy cane.

Top with whipped cream.

Enjoy!

Name _____

December 13th - Drake started off to circle the globe

In 1577, Sir Francis Drake left for a historic journey. Over a period of 13 years, he traveled around the globe.

Can you imagine what it must have been like to take such a journey? Pretend you are Sir Francis Drake. Write about a day of your travels (for example, the day your ship circled the Cape of Good Hope or the day you saw England again for the first time after 13 years).

On the other side of this page, draw a picture to go along with your story.

Name _____

December 14th Roald Amundsen neared the South Pole

In 1911, a Norwegian man was the first person to reach the South Pole. Imagine that you are one of the four companions traveling via dog sleds with Mr. Amundsen.

Write about it.

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of the South Pole.

Name _____



Bill of Rights Day

December 15th On this day in 1791, the United States government signed the first ten amendments to the Constitution. These rights include freedom of speech, private property, and fair trial.

What are the rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights? Which one is the most important? Why do you think so?

Name _____



December 16th - Chocolate Covered Anything Day

In some countries, people serve chocolate covered crickets and grasshoppers as treats. Does that sound like something you would try, or not? What would you like to cover with chocolate and serve?

On the other side of this page, draw your favorite chocolate covered treat.

Chocolate Covered Worms

In a microwavable bowl, melt 1 bag of milk chocolate chips with 1 tablespoon of shortening.

Cook 1 minute at a time just till melted.

Add 1 pound of gummy worms to the melted chocolate.

Quickly mix and remove each worm from the bowl.

Place the worms individually on waxed paper to set.

Wait about 5-10 minutes and your worms will be ready to eat!

(This is NOT recommended for real worms!)

Name _____



December 17th - Maple Syrup Day

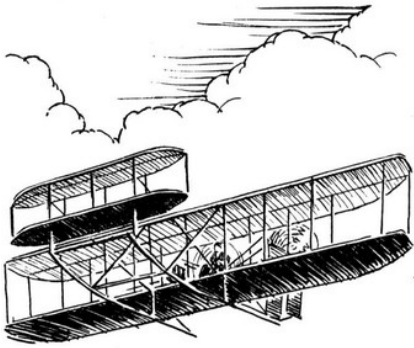
Here is a list of things that taste good with a little maple syrup on top.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1.) Cottage Cheese | 2.) Sausage |
| 3.) Ice cream | 4.) Peanut butter |
| 5.) Oatmeal | 6.) Iced tea |
| 7.) Chocolate | 8.) Cake |
| 9.) Doughnuts | 10.) Popcorn |

Choose one and write a description of how it tastes. Imagine that you are writing for someone who has absolutely no idea what maple syrup tastes like.

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of what you put maple syrup on.

Name _____



December 17th - Wright Brothers Day

On December 17th, 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright had the first flight with their plane.

Since then, people have crossed oceans in planes, traveled to the moon in rockets, and even visited other planets via satellite.

Imagine you are one of the brothers, writing to a friend about that day near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. What will you tell your friend?

Name _____



December 18th Japan was admitted into the United Nations in 1956.

Japan is a country composed of four islands. It is famous for many things.

What do you know about Japan? If you could go to Japan, what would you most like to see? Why?

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of something from Japan.

Simple Sushi

Ask a parent to steam 2 cups of rice.

Mix cooked rice with 2 tablespoons of rice vinegar.

Ask parent to make a scrambled egg.

Cool the egg and cut it into thin strips.

Clean and dry several leaves of lettuce.

Spread mayonnaise onto lettuce leaf.

Place a little scoop of rice onto lettuce.

Place a small scoop of drained tuna fish onto rice.

Place a strip of scrambled egg onto tuna fish.

Roll the lettuce leaf tightly, folding all the ingredients inside of the roll

Secure with a toothpick.

Enjoy!

Name _____



December 19th - Oatmeal Muffin Day

You are the Muffin Man. You keep trying to hire people to help you make muffins. Everyone you hire eats the muffins before you call sell them! What are you going to do?

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of yourself as a muffin man.

Oatmeal Banana Nut Muffins

Mix 1 cup of oatmeal with 1 cup of self-rising flour, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of walnuts, a dash of nutmeg and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of sugar.

Mash 1 whole ripe banana with a fork with 1 cup of vanilla flavored or plain yogurt and add to the oatmeal mixture.

Add 1 egg, and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of oil.

Mix slightly with a fork just till well blended.

Pour batter into a greased baking loaf pan.

Ask a parent to place the loaf on the middle rack in a preheated oven at 325° for 35-45 minutes.

Use a toothpick to test middle for doneness.

If top seems to brown too fast, cover with aluminum foil.

Let cool for 10 minutes before serving.

Enjoy!

Name _____



December 20th Games Day

Do you have a favorite game? If you were the champion of a game, which game would it be?

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of yourself as a champion.

Name _____



December 21st - Apollo 8 launched

On December 21st, 1968, the first manned space mission to the moon was launched. Apollo 8 circled the moon 10 times, taking pictures.

The three astronauts on board were the first humans to see the moon up close. How do you think they felt?

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of what you think the dark side of the moon looks like.

Name _____



December 21st -First basketball game played.

On December 21st, 1891, in Springfield, Massachusetts, a group of young students played the first game of basketball, using a soccer ball, with peach baskets as their goal.

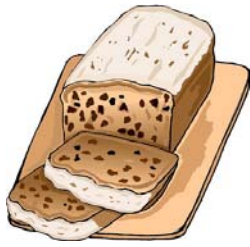
Basketball was invented by a man who was working for the YMCA. He needed to find something to keep a group of rather bored troublemakers busy during the long winter months. He invented a game that would channel their energy in a healthy way—and that

would prove to be a lot of fun!

Imagine that you are a teacher with a group of restless students on your hands. You can't play outdoors, but you do have a gym. Could you invent a game as creative as basketball? Try it! Write the basic rules for your game and explain how it is played.

On the other side of this page, draw the uniform that would be worn to play your game.

Name _____



December 22nd - Date-Nut Bread Day

You are making dinner for friends tonight. Unfortunately, the bakery is out of bread. Luckily, it's date-nut bread day and you have a great recipe. What else will you serve to go with your date-nut bread?

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of you and your friends having dinner.

Nutty Double Date Bread

Mix 2 cups of self-rise flour with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of sugar, 2 tablespoons of brown sugar, 1 teaspoon of nutmeg, 1 teaspoon of cinnamon, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chopped walnuts, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of chopped pecans, 1 tablespoon shredded lemon peel, 1 tablespoon shredded orange peel and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of dates.

Add 2 eggs, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup or soften butter, 1 cup of vanilla or plain yogurt, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of oil, and 2 teaspoons of vanilla extract.

Mix with a fork just till well blended.

Pour batter into a greased baking loaf pan.

Sprinkle dates and pecans on top of batter.

Ask a parent to place the loaf on the middle rack in a preheated oven at 325° for 35-45 minutes.

Use a toothpick to test middle for doneness.

If top seems to brown too fast, cover with aluminum foil.

Let cool for 10 minutes before serving.

Enjoy!

Name _____



WINTER December 22nd -Winter Solstice

The

Every year, December 21st or 22nd is the winter solstice. winter solstice has the shortest day and the longest night of the year. Countries throughout the world observe the winter solstice in different ways. Research a country's solstice celebration and write about it here.

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of a solstice celebration.

Name _____



December 24th Egg Nog Day

Your name is Crinch. You have just invented a new flavor of egg nog. It has a unique crunchy texture to it from the eggshells (your secret ingredient). No one is buying your drink! What will you do to persuade them to buy it?

On the other side of this page, draw a picture to go with your story.

Instant Egnog

- With a mixer: blend 6 cups of hot milk with 1 cup of sugar.
- Add 3 teaspoons of nutmeg.
- Add 2 whole eggs and blend well.
- Add 1 packet of instant French vanilla pudding.
- Add 1 8oz container of whipped cream.
- Cool in refrigerator.
- Enjoy.

Name _____



December 25th Christmas

Write a journal entry about your day.

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of something you remember about your day.

Name _____



December 25th - Pumpkin Pie Day

Pumpkins are a squash, a kind of fruit. Pumpkins originally come from America. There are documents about early Pilgrims making pumpkin pie by filling a hollowed out shell with milk, honey and spices, and then baking it. They may have learned this recipe from the Native Americans.

Do you like pumpkin pie? Why or why not?

Pumpkin Pie Milk Shakes

In a blender: pour 1 cup of milk, 1 scoop of vanilla ice cream, 1 slice of pumpkin pie, 4 gingersnap cookies.

Blend on medium high for 10 seconds or until smooth.

Pour into a glass and top with whipped cream.

Enjoy!

Name _____



December 26th Kwanzaa Begins

Kwanzaa is a holiday that was created to teach us about African heritage and customs. Why do you think it is important for us to learn about different cultures and customs?

On the other side of this page, draw a Kwanzaa themed picture.

for more Kwanzaa information and activities, see
<http://members.abcteach.com/members/2001/december/Kwanzaa%20%20%20Activities.pdf>

Name _____

December 27th - National Fruitcake Day

Have you ever tried fruitcake? Write about how you feel about fruitcake.

On the other side of this page, draw a picture of yourself enjoying a large slice of fruitcake.

New & Improved Fruitcake

Ask a parent to bake or purchase a sponge or angel food cake.

Ask a parent to cut a large hole in the cake. (You only need a 3-inch outside border)

Place the cake ring on a plate.

In a bowl, mix: 2 cups of drained fruit cocktail, 1 cup of banana slices, 1 cup of sliced strawberries, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of mandarin oranges, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of walnut, 2 cups of miniature marshmallows, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of shredded coconut, and one 8oz container of whipped cream.

Pour your fruit mixture into the middle of your cake.

Enjoy!

This can be eaten two different ways. You can use the cake as a bowl, and spoon out the fruit salad. Or you can cut the cake and top it with the fruit salad.

Name _____

December 28th Chocolate Day

This is the last chocolate day of the year!

Do you know how many chocolate holidays are in one year? Including all the unofficial holidays, there are at least three per month!

After celebrating every chocolate holiday there was this past year, you have decided to start a chocoholic club.

Give your club a name and describe what you plan to do.

Draw a t-shirt design for your club members!

Name _____

December 31st New Year's Eve/ {Reflection}

Think about the last month. Write about all the things you enjoyed learning. Think about a few little things that you would like to keep as memories and write them down now, so that even years later you can look back and remember.

On the other side of this page, glue or attach an article of any kind. Maybe you have a picture you would like to save. Maybe you had a really funny haircut this month and would like to save a piece of your hair. What about a really good piece of candy? Here is a great place to save the wrapper. Did you get any awards this month? Think of any simple thing you would like to keep, to remember later.