



2023 - 2024
School Year
Calendar

CELEBRATING

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN S.T.E.M.



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For the 2023-2024 school year, First Book Canada is celebrating the wide world of S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). This calendar celebrates S.T.E.M. subjects, careers and the diverse scientists, engineers, and mathematicians whose contributions have changed our world for the better. Throughout the calendar, you will find month-long observances, religious observances, and dates with cultural, historical, or inclusive significance generally and in S.T.E.M. fields specifically. Use this calendar to celebrate S.T.E.M. and teach students about people from diverse communities whose contributions are not always celebrated, but whose innovations, inventions, and ingenuity had a profound impact on our society.

The Canadian population is becoming more and more diverse, and the need to embrace the many cultures in our classrooms is more important than ever. When a student's learning environment respects their history, values, beliefs, and traditions, students and their families are better positioned to thrive. Being culturally competent—having the ability to successfully teach students who come from cultures other than one's own—is critical to the success of our increasingly diverse student population and society. Be sure to visit fbmpcanada.org/freeresources for more materials to help you celebrate culture, diversity & inclusion all year long with your students!

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AUGUST

Dr. Shirley Anne Jackson is an inventor and theoretical physicist. She was the first Black woman to receive a Ph.D. from MIT and holds more than 50 honorary degrees. Her research led to inventions such as the touch-tone phone, caller ID, and call waiting. Trailblazers like Dr. Jackson are important because students of all backgrounds and identities should see themselves represented in S.T.E.M. careers. The beginning of the school year is the ideal time to make sure your curriculum and classroom library include diverse and inclusive representation.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Explore the **Diversity & Inclusion**¹ section of the Marketplace for books that reflect our diverse society.
- ✦ Share the inspiring stories of young people with a passion for S.T.E.M. featured in the **Inspiring Young Changemakers video series**.²
- ✦ Have students research someone from an underrepresented community whose work in S.T.E.M. made a positive impact. To help them with their search, ask: What products make your life easier? What diseases were around when your grandparents were little that now have a vaccine or cure?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Emancipation Day in Canada Marks the day in 1834 that the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 came into effect across the British Empire.	2 Isabel Allende was born on this day in 1942. Allende is a Chilean writer whose stories honour the lives of women and combine myth and historical events. She has sold more than 75 million books.	3	4 Barack H. Obama, the 44th and first African American president of the United States, was born on this day in 1961.	5 Dr. Shirley Anne Jackson was born on this day in 1946. See sidebar for details & activities!
6	7	8	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People is a day to protect and promote the rights of the estimated 370 – 500 million indigenous people worldwide.	10 Frances "Poppy" Northcutt was born on this day in 1943. She worked for NASA and the moon's "Crater Poppy" is named for her.	11	12 International Youth Day An awareness day designated by the United Nations to draw attention to a given set of cultural and legal issues surrounding youth.
13 Bon Festival (Feast of Lanterns) (13th – 15th) is a Japanese Buddhist custom that honors the spirits of one's ancestors and has been celebrated for over 500 years.	14 Navajo Nation Code Talkers Day In 1942, the U.S. Marines recruited Navajo men to transmit messages in a code based on the Navajo language during WWII combat operations.	15 National Liberation Day of Korea Celebrates the end of the decades-long Japanese occupation of Korea. It is the only holiday celebrated in both North & South Korea.	16	17	18	19 National Aviation Day was established in 1939 by U.S. President Roosevelt, who chose Orville Wright's birthday for the occasion.
20	21	22	23	24	25 Suzanne E. Vanderbilt was born on this day in 1933. She was a legendary automotive designer at General Motors beginning in the 1950s.	26
27	28	29	30	31		

¹fbmpcanada.org/see-all-books/topic/see-all-stories-for-all-project ²youtu.be/n_QuYzQdD54

SEPTEMBER

Each year, September 30th marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day honours the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Canadians are encouraged to wear orange to honour the thousands of survivors and to promote the concept of “Every Child Matters”.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Visit First Book Canada's [Creating Welcoming Schools & Communities](#)¹ section to build or refresh your classroom library with vibrant titles that reflect and explore many cultures.
- ✦ Back to school can be challenging for recent immigrants and refugees. Visit the [Immigrant & Refugee Experiences](#)² section for books that highlight not only the real challenges faced by immigrants and refugees but also the joys, accomplishments, and everyday moments.
- ✦ Immigrants have always played a vital role in driving growth and progress in Canada, including in S.T.E.M. Out of the 5 Canadians who have won a Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 3 of them were immigrants. Have students research one of these Nobel prize recipients and share what they learn with the class.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 School Is In Session See sidebar for details & activities!	2
3 Eileen Feng Gu—also known by her Chinese name, Gu Ailing—was born on this day in 2003. At age 18, she became the youngest Olympic champion in freestyle skiing after winning two gold medals and one silver medal at the 2022 Winter Olympics.	4	5	6	7	8 International Literacy Day was established by UNESCO to promote literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights.	9
10	11	12 Mae C. Jemison, an engineer, physician, and astronaut, became the first Black woman to travel in space when she flew on the shuttle Endeavor in 1992.	13	14	15 Rosh Hashanah (15th – 17th) The Jewish New Year begins at sundown on September 15th. It marks the first of the Jewish High Holy Days.*	16 Mexican Independence Day honors Priest Miguel Hidalgo, who in 1810 encouraged people to revolt against the Spanish regime. Mexico's independence from Spain was secured in 1821.
17	18 National Science Literacy Week (18th – 24th) This year's theme is “E for Energy”	19 International Week of the Deaf (19th – 25th) Launched in 1958, this week highlights the cultural contributions of members of the deaf community and promotes human rights.	20	21 International Day of Peace Established in 1981 and approved by all UN countries, this day encourages all of humanity to commit to a culture of peace.	22	23 C.R. Patterson and Sons was the first African American-founded car company. On this day in 1915, their first car, a two-door coupe, was built.
24 Yom Kippur (24th – 25th) is the holiest day of the year in Judaism and is also known as the Day of Atonement.*	25	26	27 Eid Milad Un Nabi, (27th – 28th) is the Muslim holiday marking the birth of Muhammed and is celebrated from sundown to sundown.*	28	29	30 National Day For Truth and Reconciliation

*Note: Jewish and Islamic holidays follow the lunar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

OCTOBER

October 10th is World Mental Health Day. Remind students that psychologists and psychiatrists are S.T.E.M. professionals who make a positive difference in people's lives—such as Dr. Shelley Hymel, her work focuses on issues related to school bullying, children's peer relationships, and social-emotional learning.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ First Book's *[Taking Care: An Educator Guide to Healthy Habits for Student Emotional Wellness](#)*¹ offers healthy habits to support wellness and reduce stress and anxiety. Learn about types of stress (p. 7), how to practice mindfulness (p. 9), and educator self-care (pp. 13-15).
- ✦ Visit First Book Canada's [Social & Emotional Learning](#)² page to find great resources focused on promoting mental health.
- ✦ Many athletes, like Bianca Andreescu and Kelsey Mitchell, have shared their struggles with mental health. Have students choose an athlete or other public figure who has shared their mental health struggles. Discuss: How does it help everyone when famous people share their struggles? Why is it important to have mental health professionals of all backgrounds and identities?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Richard Spikes, born on this day in 1878, patented the automatic gear shift and safety break systems.	3	4 On this day in 1984, Marc Garneau became the first Canadian in space!	5	6 Entrepreneur and NASA scientist Lonnie Johnson, born on this day in 1949, invented the super soaker gun in 1989.	7
8	9 CANADIAN THANKSGIVING	10 World Mental Health Day See sidebar for details & activities!	11 National Coming Out Day encourages members of the LGBTQ+ community to be open about their sexuality with their friends, family, and the world.	12 Ada Lovelace Day celebrates women in S.T.E.M. and honours the 19th century mathematician who is known as the first computer programmer.	13 Jesse LeRoy Brown became the first African American Naval Officer in 1948, and the third African American to have a navy ship named after him.	14
15 National Chemistry Week (15th – 21st) raises public awareness of the importance of chemistry in everyday life.	16 World Food Day celebrates the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945. It shines a light on food security, world hunger, and sustainable harvesting.	17	18	19	20 Kamala Devi Harris (born on this day in 1964) was the first Black woman and woman with South Asian ancestry to be elected as U.S. Vice President (2020).	21 Celia Cruz, an Afro-Cuban singer and the most popular Latin American music artist in the 20th century, was born on this day in 1925. Known as the "Queen of Salsa," she is an iconic symbol of Latin culture worldwide.
22 Make a Difference Day is an national community service event that inspires millions to give back to their local communities.	23 Canadian School Library Day As part of Canadian Library month, celebrate the brilliant work that school libraries accomplish every day.	24 United Nations Day is devoted to raising awareness of the goals and achievements of the U.N., which was created in 1945.	25	26	27	28
29	30 Born on this day in 1922, Marie Van Britton Brown was a nurse who invented the home security system with her husband. They received a patent for this work in 1969.	31 Día de los Muertos/ Day of the Dead (31st – November 2nd) is a Mexican holiday that honours deceased friends and family members with celebrations and prayers.	LATIN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH	LGBT HISTORY MONTH	LEARNING DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH	NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

NOVEMBER

On S.T.E.M./ST.E.A.M. Day, educate students about the many S.T.E.A.M. fields and careers and encourage their interest in science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Art is a form of innovation and creativity, which is important for problem solving.

TRY THIS!

- ◆ Use the [“S.T.E.M. Defines Our Future” videos and educator guide](#)¹ to inspire students to pursue S.T.E.M. subjects and careers. This series explains how soft skills like communication and teamwork are critical in S.T.E.M. careers.
- ◆ Find engaging titles about science, technology, engineering, and the arts in the [S.T.E.A.M.](#)² section of the Marketplace.
- ◆ Two famous inventors, Hedy Lamarr and Dr. Patricia Bath, were born in November. Lamarr, also an actress, worked on technology that led to GPS, Bluetooth, and WiFi. Dr. Bath received a patent for a laser used to remove cataracts, improving the vision of millions of people. After sharing these stories, give students a writing prompt: What would they invent to change society for the better? Who would benefit? How would it change lives?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH			1 Author's Day Consider reading stories from authors of various cultural backgrounds to celebrate this day.	2 Día de los Muertos/ Day of the Dead (31st – November 2nd) is a Mexican holiday that honours deceased friends and family members with celebrations and prayers.	3	4 Dr. Patricia Bath was born on this day in 1942. See sidebar for details & activities!
5	6	7 Marie Curie (born 1867) was a Polish physicist and chemist. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person to win one twice, and the only person to win one in two scientific fields.	8 S.T.E.M./S.T.E.A.M. DAY See sidebar for details & activities!	9 Hedy Lamarr was born on this day in 1914. See sidebar for details & activities!	10 On this day in 1903, Mary Anderson was awarded a patent for a “window cleaning device” for cars. Before windshield wipers, drivers stuck their heads out the window to see during storms.	11 Remembrance Day Every year on this day, Canadians take a moment of silence to remember the men and women who have served, and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace.
12 Diwali is the Hindu, Jain, and Sikh festival of lights and celebrates the triumph of light over dark and knowledge over ignorance.*	13 World Kindness Day is a day to celebrate good deeds and commit to acts of kindness.	14 On this day in 1891, Sir Frederick Banting was born in Alliston, ON. He co-discovered Insulin and later won the Nobel prize for his work.	15	16 International Day for Tolerance is founded by the United Nations to promote respect for various religions, languages, and cultures. Children's Grief Awareness Day [§]	17	18 LGBTQ+ S.T.E.M. Day celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ people in S.T.E.M. fields.
19	20 Canada History Week (November 20th - 26th) This year's theme is the History of Black Achievement in Canada.	21	22	23	24	25
26 In 1922, Anna May Wong, the first Chinese American actress to gain international fame, starred in <i>Toll of the Sea</i> , the first colour feature film made in Hollywood.	27 Alan Emtage, a Bajan-Canadian technologist born on this day in 1964, invented ARCHIE, the first Internet search engine.	28 On this day in 1893, Margaret A. Wilcox patented her invention of the in-car heating system.	29	30		

*Note: Hindu holidays follow the lunar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

§Children's Grief Awareness Day is an opportunity to give grieving students the support they need.

¹ info.firstbook.org/stem_future ² fbmpcanada.org/catalogsearch/result/?q=stem

DECEMBER

December 21st is the winter solstice. Across Canada, winter is getting warmer and shorter because of climate change. Changes in climate impact the environment, water supply, agriculture, and public health.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Download the [*Human Impact Course Pack*](#),¹ a FREE resource that features five 45-minute sessions, with presentations, videos, polls, and quizzes. Use the course pack and the [accompanying guide](#) to teach students how human behavior impacts the Earth.
- ✦ Download [*A Future Without Waste Course Pack*](#)² and the [accompanying guide](#) with recycling tip sheets (pages 20-21).
- ✦ **Rachel Carson**³ was an environmentalist whose book *Silent Spring* influenced the global environmental movement and warned of the dangers of misusing pesticides. **Autumn Peltier**,⁴ from the Anishinabek Nation in Canada, is a world-renowned water-rights advocate. Have students research Carson, Peltier, or another environmentalist and share what they learn in a poster or presentation.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Gerald "Jerry" Lawson was born on this day in 1940. Lawson was a video game pioneer who helped develop the cartridge-based home video console system.	2
3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities is a UN holiday that promotes the integration of persons with disabilities in all areas of political, economic, and cultural life.	4	5	6	7 Hanukkah ⁵ Octaviano Ambrosio Larrazolo, the first Mexican American to serve in the U.S. Senate, was born on this day in 1859.	8 Bodhi Day is a Buddhist holy day commemorating the day that the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni), experienced enlightenment, also known as <i>bodhi</i> in Sanskrit and Pali.	9
10 Human Rights Day commemorates the United Nation's 1948 adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Yule Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year and is celebrated by Pagans and Wiccans. See sidebar for details & activities!	22	23 Madam C.J. Walker, born on this date in 1864, invented a homemade line of hair care products for Black women and became the first Black female millionaire in the U.S.
24	25 Christmas is an annual Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.	26 Kwanzaa, (26th – Jan. 1st) is a 7-day celebration of African heritage, culture, and unity. The holiday gets its name from the phrase <i>matunda ya kwanza</i> , meaning "first fruits" in Swahili.	27 Gladys Mae West, born on this day in 1930, is known for mathematical modeling that contributed to GPS technology.	28 Nichelle Nichols was born on this day in 1932. Her role as Lieutenant Uhura in <i>Star Trek</i> inspired many people of colour to pursue careers in science.	29	30
31 New Year's Eve						

*Note: Jewish holidays follow the lunar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

⁵Hanukkah (7th – 15th) is the 8-day Jewish "festival of lights," celebrating a victory over foreign rulers by sharing food, games, gifts, and lighting the menorah.

JANUARY

National Science Fiction Day is observed on the birthday of author Isaac Asimov, who is considered the godfather of Sci-Fi. Science fiction combines S.T.E.M. and the intrigue of reading about other realities.

TRY THIS!

- Find fiction for all ages in the **Fantasy & SciFi**¹ section of the Marketplace.
- Have students write a science fiction short story. Writing prompts: A science experiment went awry. What happened? A dark cloud suddenly appears. Where did it come from? What does it do?

Bell Let's Talk Day encourages Canadians to open up and talk about their mental health.

TRY THIS!

- Find books for all ages in the **Health & Wellness**² section of the Marketplace.
- Find **resources and exercises**³ provided by Bell to use in your classroom with a focus on mental health wellness.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
FIRST BOOK CANADA'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY	1 New Year's Day	2 National Science Fiction Day <small>See sidebar for details & activities!</small> <small>Florence Lawrence (born this day in 1886) invented the brake and turn signals for cars.</small>	3	4 World Braille Day <small>is observed on inventor Louis Braille's birthday to raise awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication for blind and partially sighted people.</small>	5	6 Epiphany or Día de los Reyes (Three Kings Day) <small>is a Christian holy day that recognizes the visit of the three wise men to the baby Jesus 12 days after his birth.</small>
7	8	9 National Static Electricity Day <small>is a day dedicated to the electric charge phenomenon and learning about why it happens.</small>	10 <small>Katharine Blodgett, born on this day in 1898, is known for her invention of nonreflective glass, used in windshields, eyeglasses, microscopes, and more.</small>	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 World Religion Day <small>encourages interfaith understanding and asks people worldwide to recognize that all religions have common spiritual goals.</small>	22 <small>On this day in 1992, Roberta Bondar becomes Canada's first female astronaut and the first neurologist in space.</small>	23	24	25 Bell Let's Talk Day <small>See sidebar for details & activities!</small>	26	27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day <small>Is a day to honour victims of the Holocaust and to work toward preventing future genocides.</small>
28	29 <small>On this day in 1886, Karl Benz received a patent for the first gas-fueled car.</small>	30	31			

FEBRUARY

During Black History Month, we celebrate the history and achievements of African Canadians.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Visit the **Black History**¹ and **Black Characters & Cultures**² sections for books that celebrate and explore Black experiences.
- ✦ Check out First Book Canada's **Empowering Educators**³ series to learn how to create an anti-bias, anti-racist (ABAR) classroom. See page 9 of **Challenging Conversations About Race & Racism**⁴ for prompts like, *What is your earliest memory of race?*

Peter Tsai, a material scientist, invented the N95 mask using a special fiber to trap small particles. N95 masks protect healthcare workers and first responders.

TRY THIS!

- ✦ Material science explores the properties of solid materials. Have students think of a common item that could be even more useful if made from a special material. Example: a cereal bowl that changes color if milk has gone bad.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BLACK HISTORY MONTH				1	2 The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed at the end of the Mexican-American War. The U.S. gained many of today's southwestern states. Mexican citizens living in those areas could become U.S. citizens or move within Mexico's new borders.	3
4 Rosa Parks, named one of the most influential people in the 20th century by Time Magazine and best known for her role in the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott, was born on this day in 1913.	5	6 Peter Tsai was born on this day in 1952. See sidebar for details & activities!	7 Periodic Table Day celebrates the modern periodic table, where elements are organized according to their atomic number.	8	9	10 Lunar New Year is China's most important holiday, and celebrations last 15 days. The Chinese zodiac sign for 2024 is the dragon.
11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science is a day to work for gender equity in science education and scientific fields.	12	13	14	15 Nirvana Day, the Buddhist holy day that celebrates the day Buddha achieved nirvana—the final goal of Buddhism—upon the death of his physical body.	16	17
18 National Battery Day is a day to consider this important invention by Italian Alessandro Volta and what our lives would be like without batteries. It's also a great opportunity to talk about the impact of recycling.	19	20	21 International Mother Language Day promotes awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and celebrates multilingualism.	22	23	24
25	26	27 Edward Davis (born 1911) had the first Black-owned car dealership in the U.S. and was the first Black American inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame (1996).	28	29		

MARCH

March is Women's History Month, a great time to celebrate achievements by women. Like Emmy Noether, the most important mathematician you've never heard of. Learn more about her [here](#).¹

TRY THIS!

- Explore the [Empowering Stories about Women and Girls](#)² section for books that feature women and girls who stand up for what is right, don't let others define them, and aren't afraid to make mistakes and grow.
- Use the [“S.T.E.M. Defines Our Future” videos and educator guide](#)³ to expose students to S.T.E.M. careers and hear from women who are thriving in these fields.
- Challenge students to memorize as many decimal places of pi as they can. Share this [catchy song](#)⁴ to help them!
- Explore [these lessons from NASA](#)⁵ to celebrate Pi Day.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH	NATIONAL ENGINEERING MONTH IN CANADA				1	2 In 1917, Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory, and its citizens were extended U.S. citizenship.
3 World Wildlife Day is a day to raise awareness about issues that impact wildlife.	4 Garrett Morgan was born on this day in 1877. A pioneering Black inventor, Morgan patented the three-way traffic signal system.	5	6	7 Amanda Gorman, a poet and activist, was born on this day in 1998.	8 International Women's Day is a day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, and a call for gender parity worldwide.	9
10 Ramadan (10th – April 8th) is a month-long Islamic observation celebrating the first revelation of the Quran and includes strict fasting observed from sunrise to sunset.*	11	12	13	14 Pi Day The ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. It's celebrated on March 14th as 3, 1, and 4 are the first 3 figures of Pi. See sidebar for details & activities!	15	16
17	18	19 Mario José Molina-Pasquel Henríquez was a co-recipient of the 1995 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work in discovering the Antarctic ozone hole. He was born on this day in 1943.	20	21 Nowruz/ Persian New Year (21st – 22nd) is a day of joy, celebration, and renewal. It is held annually on the spring equinox.	22	23 On this day in 1882, Amalie Emmy Noether was born. See sidebar for details & activities!
24	25 Holi (24th – 25th) is a Hindu spring festival that celebrates colours and love.*	26	27	28	29 On this day in 1993, Catherine Callbeck of PEI becomes the first woman to be elected premier of a Canadian province.	30
31 Int'l Transgender Day of Visibility Easter ⁵⁵⁺						

*Note: These Islamic, Christian, and Hindu holidays do not fall on the same dates each year.

¹fbmpcanada.org/emmy-noether-131282 ²fbmpcanada.org/see-all-books/topic/empowering-stories-about-women-and-girls ³info.firstbook.org/stem_future

⁴youtu.be/3HrkKznJoZA ⁵jpl.nasa.gov/edu/teach/tag/search/Pi+Day

⁵⁵⁺Easter is a sacred and widely observed Christian holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

APRIL

In April, we celebrate National Poetry Month and Earth Day. Whether sonnet, haiku, or spoken word, poetry has the power to inspire, transcend, and educate. Amanda Gorman's climate change-themed poem "Earthrise" reminds us that "this riddled blue marble, this little true marvel" is our only home.

TRY THIS!

- Find books for your budding environmentalists in the [Ecology and the Environment](#)¹ section on the Marketplace.
- Share Amanda Gorman's climate change inspired poem, [Earthrise](#),² with your class. Have them to write their own poems about the Earth and climate change.
- Download the FREE course pack, [Biodiversity and Climate Change](#),³ to teach students about the effects of climate change around the world and in their communities.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NATIONAL POETRY MONTH	1	2 World Autism Acceptance Day recognizes the rights of and spreads awareness of people with autism.	3 Pesticide use received public attention after <i>The Silent Spring</i> of Rachel Carson aired on CBS in 1963.	4	5 Star Trek First Contact Day has been celebrated since 1996. On this day in 2063, humanity will make first contact with the extraterrestrial Vulcan species according to Star Trek fans.	6
7	8	9 Eid al-Fitr, (9th – 10th) is one of the most significant Muslim holidays, marking the end of Ramadan.*	10	11	12	13 The Songkran Festival, (13th – 15th) marks the Thai New Year and is celebrated by a three-day water fight.
14	15	16	17	18	19 Global Youth Service Day (19th – 21st) mobilizes youth worldwide to improve their communities through service.	20
21 World Creativity and Innovation Day is a UN-designated day to focus on how creativity and innovation are vital to sustainable development.	22 Passover (22nd – 30th)* Earth Day See sidebar for details & activities!	23 World Laboratory Day celebrates where great inventions happen and those who work in these unique workspaces.	24		26	27
28	29	30	MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS AWARENESS MONTH			

*Note: These Islamic and Jewish holidays do not fall on the same dates each year.

¹Children's Day/Book Day, also known as El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Día) is an annual celebration of children, families, and reading that emphasizes literacy for every child regardless of their language(s) and culture(s).

MAY

We celebrate Asian Heritage Month to commemorate the achievements and contributions of members of the Asian community in Canadian history. They have made great strides and contributions to many parts of society including law, sports, journalism and S.T.E.M.

TRY THIS!

- ♦ Shop the **Asian Canadian Islander Characters & Cultures**¹ section for books featuring Asian characters and authors.
- ♦ Have students research Asian Canadians who have or are making a contribution in S.T.E.M. Suggest lesser known S.T.E.M. fields like architecture, psychology, and economics.

Yom HaShoah commemorates the Warsaw Ghetto uprising (1943) and is the day the Jewish community honors the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust.

TRY THIS!

- ♦ **Getting Started Guide: Teaching About the Holocaust**² (7th-12th grades) offers guidelines, lessons, survivor testimony, and more.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JEWISH CANADIAN HERITAGE MONTH			1 Dr. Emily Stowe was born in Norwich Township, ON on this day in 1831. She went on to become the first female public school principal in Ontario, and the first female physician to practice medicine in Canada.	2	3 Bertha Benz was born on this day in 1849. She took the first road trip in a gas-fueled car and invented brake lining.	4 May the Fourth Be with You is the unofficial holiday celebrating the epic Star Wars franchise.
5 Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Mexican defeat of the French army at the Battle of Puebla in 1862.	6 Holocaust Remembrance Day See sidebar for details & activities!	7 National Child & Youth Mental Health Day links positive mental health to a child's healthy development.	8	9	10 Ellen Ochoa, the first Latinx woman to travel into space (1993), was born on this day in 1958.	11 On this day in 1916, Albert Einstein presented the groundbreaking Theory of General Relativity to the Prussian Academy of Sciences.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Global Accessibility Awareness Day brings attention to the more than one billion people living with disabilities worldwide.
19 James Gosling from Calgary, AB was born on this day in 1955. A Canadian computer scientist best known as the founder and lead designer behind the Java programming language and a member of the National Academy of Engineering.	20 Victoria Day is a federal Canadian holiday to honour Queen Victoria's birthday. Queen Victoria is also known as the "Mother of Confederation".	21	22	23	24 Women get the right to vote! In 1918, Women are granted the right to vote in Canadian federal elections in select provinces. Other provinces follow suit at different times between 1916 and 1940.	25
26 National Paper Airplane Day is a day to celebrate the dreams a piece of paper with simple folds can inspire.	27	28	29	30	31	ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH See sidebar for details & activities!

JUNE

National Indigenous History Month is an opportunity to learn about the vibrant cultures and traditions of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, their stories and achievements that have helped to shape our country and continue to do so for future generations.

TRY THIS!

- Find excellent books by and about **Indigenous Characters & Cultures**¹ to share with your students as windows and mirrors.

World Oceans Day, June 8, is a day to think about how oceans impact our world and what we can do to protect them. Marine biology is a popular introduction to S.T.E.M. for many kids.

TRY THIS!

- Have students choose a marine animal to research. Have them answer these questions: What is the animal's habitat? What does the animal eat? Does it have predators? Is climate change affecting this animal's habitat?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH						1
2	3	4 On this day in 1946, Eva Perón became First Lady of Argentina. She founded the first all-female political party, the Female Peronist Party. Known as Evita, she died of cancer at age 33.	5 World Environment Day is an important United Nations observance that encourages people to take care of the Earth and raise awareness about its need for protection.	6 On this day in 1994, Dr. Lori Arviso Alvord became the first Diné (Navajo) woman to be certified in surgery.	7 On this day in 1917, Roberta MacAdams Price of Alberta becomes the first woman elected to sit in a Canadian provincial parliament.	8 World Oceans Day See sidebar for details & activities!
9	10	11	12 Anne Frank, author of <i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> , the most widely read personal account of the Holocaust, was born on this day in 1929.	13	14	15 Day of Arafat (15th – 16th) is a Muslim holy day of repentance and forgiveness marked by fasting.*
16 Eid al-Adha [§] Anniversary of the first woman in space: Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman to fly to space on this day in 1963.	17	18	19	20 World Refugee Day is a day to honor people forced to flee their home country to escape conflict and persecution.	21 National Indigenous Peoples Day See sidebar for details & activities!	22 Octavia Butler, renowned science fiction author and recipient of Hugo and Nebula awards and a MacArthur Fellowship, was born on this day in 1947.
23 International Women in Engineering Day ^{§§}	24 Johannes Gutenberg (b. 1400) is credited as the inventor of the printing press, but the oldest printed text is from China (first millennium AD).	25	26	27	28 Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, a series of demonstrations by the LGBTQ community in response to a police raid in 1969.	29
30				Canadian Multicultural Day		

*Note: These Islamic holidays do not fall on the same dates each year.

[§]Eid al-Adha (16th – 17th) the Muslim day of sacrifice and one of the most significant Islamic holidays is usually marked with a large meal.

^{§§}International Women in Engineering Day is a day to celebrate the accomplishments of women in engineering.

¹ fbmpcanada.org/see-all-books/topic/see-all-stories-for-all-project/native-american-interest

JULY

On July 1st, we celebrate Canada Day. This year marks the 157th anniversary of Confederation. The day is a celebration of the people, cultures and achievements that make Canada a great nation.

TRY THIS!

- Ask your students what makes them proud to be Canadian. Encourage them to share how they celebrate the day in their own homes. Check out the [Canadian themed books](#)¹ from our Marketplace for inspiration.

TRY THIS!

- It's Summer! Be sure to encourage your students to keep reading over the summer holidays. It's a great way to avoid the summer slide and help set them up for success in their upcoming new school year. See the fun [summer reading selections](#)² available on our Marketplace for suggestions.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Canada Day <small>See sidebar for details & activities!</small>	2	3	4	5	6
7 Islamic New Year ^{SS*} <small>On this day in 1912, Jim Thorpe became the first Native American to win an Olympic gold medal, in the pentathlon. In the same games, he also won a gold medal for the decathlon.</small>	8	9 Nunavut Day <small>commemorates the passing of the Nunavut Act and the official beginnings of the territory as we know it today.</small>	10	11 Naadam (11th – 15th) <small>is a 3-day festival marking Mongolia's independence from China. The holiday blends traditional arts and sports with competitions in archery, horse racing, and wrestling.</small>	12 <small>Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist for the education of girls was born on this day in 1997. She was 17 when she became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.</small>	13
14 <small>Born into slavery in 1864, George Washington Carver was one of the most prominent Black scientists of the early 20th century.</small>	15	16 National Ice Cream Day <small>details & activities!</small>	17	18	19	20 <small>Apollo 11 landed on the moon on this day in 1969. Neil Armstrong was the first person to walk on the moon.</small>
21 <small>On this day in 1958, Terry Fox was born in Winnipeg, MB. He is celebrated as an athlete, humanitarian, and cancer research activist.</small>	22	23	24	25	26	27 <small>On this day in 1921, Canadian Dr. Frederick Banting and Charles Best successfully isolated the hormone insulin for the first time at the University of Toronto.</small>
28 Great Upheaval Day <small>To commemorate the day in 1755, when British authorities ordered the deportation of French settlers in Atlantic Canada.</small>	29	30	31			

*Note: Islamic holidays follow the lunar calendar and therefore do not fall on the same dates each year.

¹fbmpcanada.org/catalogsearch/result/index/?q=canada ²fbmpcanada.org/catalogsearch/result/?q=summer+fun

For more resources to support you and your students, please visit:
fbmpcanada.org/free-resources