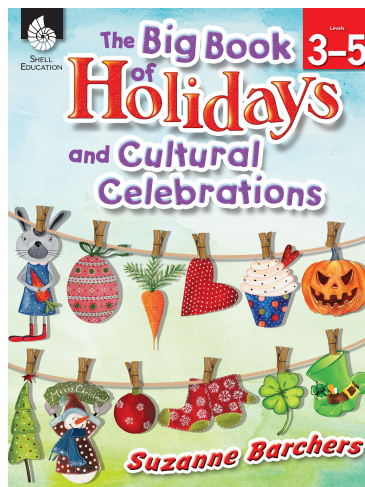


## Sample Pages from

# The Big Book of Holidays and Cultural Celebrations 3-5



The following sample pages are included in this download:  
(List as applicable:)

- Table of Contents
- Introduction excerpt
- Holiday unit

(Where applicable, include this:)

For correlations to Common Core and State Standards, please visit  
<http://www.teachercreatedmaterials.com/correlations>.



# The Big Book of Holidays and Cultural Celebrations



**Suzanne Barchers**



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# How to Use This Book

Each observance has one page of background information for the teacher, one page of facts for the student (except for 100th Day), and six pages of student activities. The activity sheets, which vary from unit to unit, are designed for independent work and may require the student facts page for support.

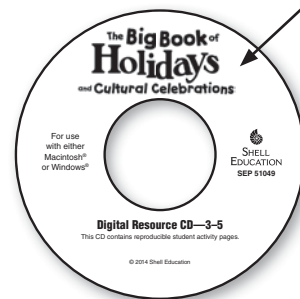
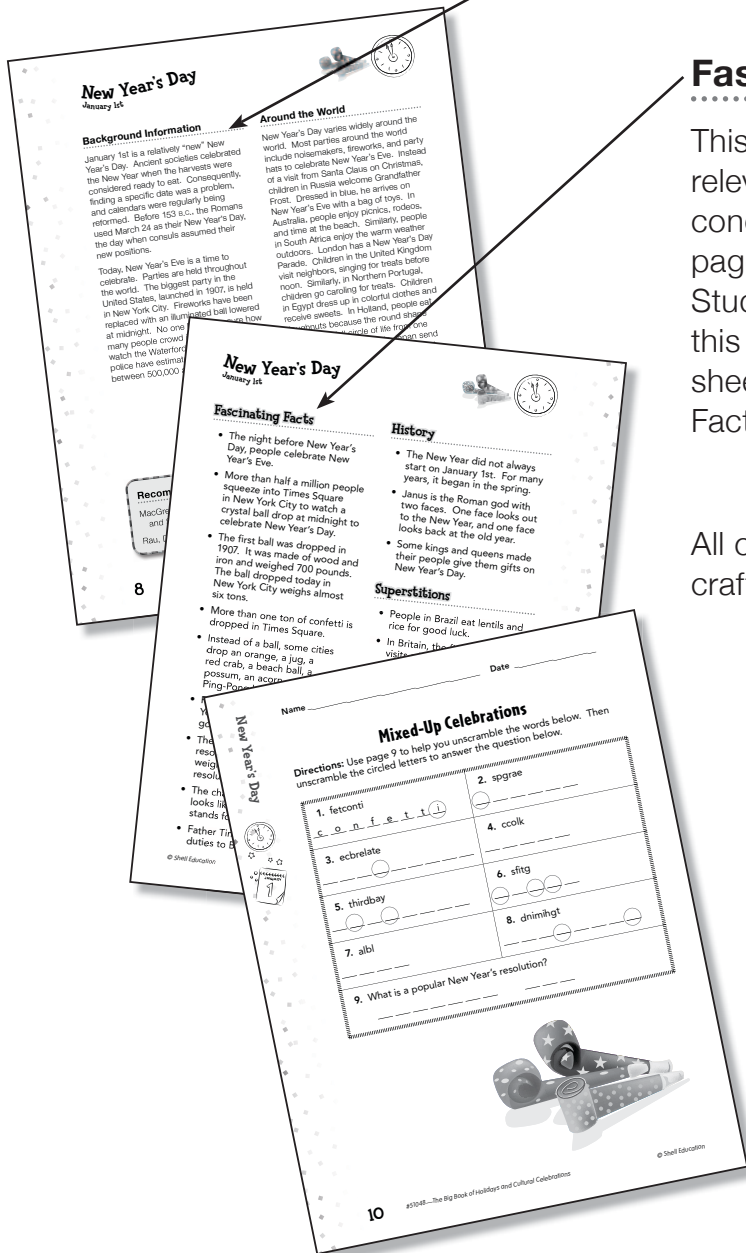
## Background Information

This page provides details about the observance. You may want to share some of the information with students before using some of the activities. This page also includes a list of recommended books to help further the learning experience.

## Fascinating Facts Student Page

This page provides a collection of facts relevant to the unit. The vocabulary and concepts that are used in subsequent pages are drawn from this overview. Students should be encouraged to review this page as they complete the activity sheets. **Note:** There is no Fascinating Facts page for the 100th Day Unit.

All of the activity pages and pictures of crafts are on the **Digital Resource CD**.





# How to Use This Book (cont.)

Although there are various activities, the following activities are most often repeated throughout the units:

## Mixed-Up Words

This word-jumble activity allows students to use word-analysis skills while practicing vocabulary connected to the holiday or celebration.

## Crossword Puzzle

This puzzle is built on vocabulary thematically linked to the holiday or celebration.

## Cryptogram Puzzle

This puzzle may be based on solving math problems, identifying number patterns, or using symbols related to letters of the alphabet. The message or saying that is revealed relates to the holiday or celebration.

## Word Puzzles

This puzzle page includes different types of puzzles. **Note:** These puzzles are for the outside-of-the-box thinkers and may be difficult for some. You may wish to have students work in groups.

## Sentence Search

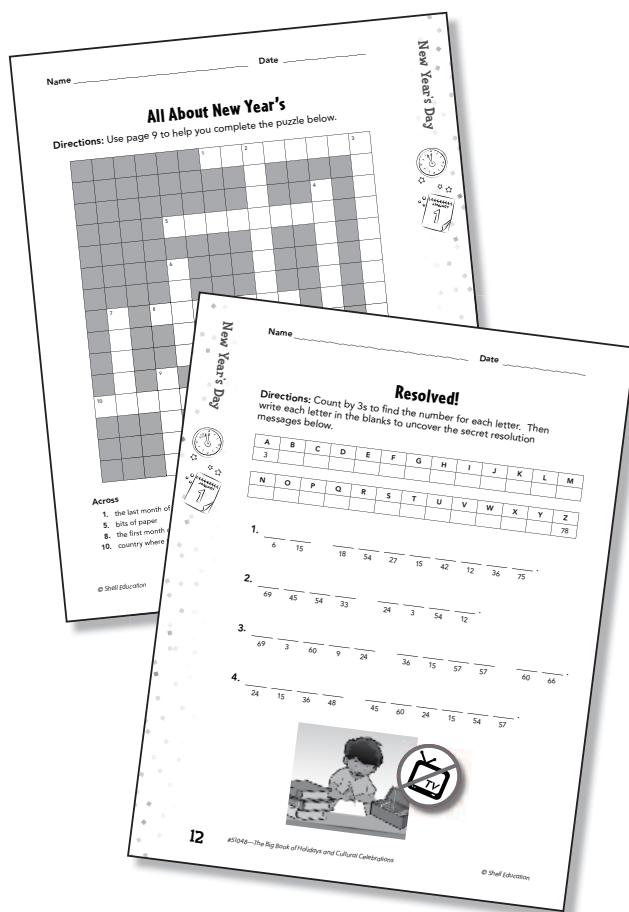
This variation on a word search requires that students find a sentence related to the unit.

## Writing and Word Play

Some pages include activities such as writing acrostic poems, palindromes, brain twisters, riddles, or other forms of word play.

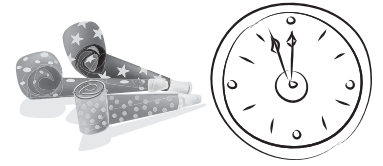
## Craft Activity

Each holiday or celebration includes one craft activity. Most of the crafts use routinely available materials. You may wish to look through these activities and have students begin collecting materials such as shoeboxes and milk cartons.



# New Year's Day

January 1st



## Background Information

January 1st is a relatively “new” New Year’s Day. Ancient societies celebrated the New Year when the harvests were considered ready to eat. Consequently, finding a specific date was a problem, and calendars were regularly being reformed. Before 153 B.C., the Romans used March 24 as their New Year’s Day, the day when consuls assumed their new positions.

Today, New Year’s Eve is a time to celebrate. Parties are held throughout the world. The biggest party in the United States, launched in 1907, is held in New York City. Fireworks have been replaced with an illuminated ball lowered at midnight. No one knows for sure how many people crowd into Times Square to watch the Waterford crystal ball drop, but police have estimated in the past that it is between 500,000 and a million.

## Around the World

New Year’s Day varies widely around the world. Most parties around the world include noisemakers, fireworks, and party hats to celebrate New Year’s Eve. Instead of a visit from Santa Claus on Christmas, children in Russia welcome Grandfather Frost. Dressed in blue, he arrives on New Year’s Eve with a bag of toys. In Australia, people enjoy picnics, rodeos, and time at the beach. Similarly, people in South Africa enjoy the warm weather outdoors. London has a New Year’s Day Parade. Children in the United Kingdom visit neighbors, singing for treats before noon. Similarly, in Northern Portugal, children go caroling for treats. Children in Egypt dress up in colorful clothes and receive sweets. In Holland, people eat doughnuts because the round shape stands for a full circle of life from one year to the next. People in Japan send postcards to friends and family so that they arrive on January 1, and children receive gifts of money. People in Korea visit their families and play traditional games. Even though New Year’s Day is celebrated in different ways, people from all over the world get excited for the new year ahead.

## Recommended Books

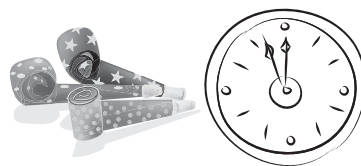
MacGregor, Roy. 2000. *Sudden Death in New York City*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart.

Rau, Dana Meachen. 2000. *New Year's Day*. Danbury, CT: Children’s Press.



# New Year's Day

January 1st



## Fascinating Facts

- The night before New Year's Day, people celebrate New Year's Eve.
- More than half a million people squeeze into Times Square in New York City to watch a crystal ball drop at midnight to celebrate New Year's Day.
- The first ball was dropped in 1907. It was made of wood and iron and weighed 700 pounds. The ball dropped today in New York City weighs almost six tons.
- More than one ton of confetti is dropped in Times Square.
- Instead of a ball, some cities drop an orange, a jug, a red crab, a beach ball, a possum, an acorn, a carp, or Ping-Pong balls.
- People like to start the New Year by making resolutions, or goals, for the upcoming year.
- The most common New Year's resolution is to get fit and lose weight. It's the most broken resolution, too.
- The character of Father Time looks like an old man. He stands for the past year.
- Father Time hands over his duties to Baby New Year.

## History

- The New Year did not always start on January 1st. For many years, it began in the spring.
- Janus is the Roman god with two faces. One face looks out to the New Year, and one face looks back at the old year.
- Some kings and queens made their people give them gifts on New Year's Day.

## Superstitions

- People in Brazil eat lentils and rice for good luck.
- In Britain, the first man who visits a house after midnight brings good luck.
- In Japan, temple bells ring 108 times. That frees the year from evil.
- In Portugal and Spain, people eat 12 grapes as the clock strikes 12. That brings 12 happy months.
- In some parts of the United States, people eat black-eyed peas for good luck.
- In Korea, everyone celebrates a birthday on New Year's Day.
- People in Italy wear red underwear for good luck.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Mixed-Up Celebrations

**Directions:** Use page 9 to help you unscramble the words below. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.

<p>1. fetconti c o n f e t t <u>i</u></p>	<p>2. spgrae <u>o</u> _ _ _ _ _</p>
<p>3. ecbrelate _ _ _ _ <u>e</u> _ _ _ _</p>	<p>4. ccolk _ _ _ _ _</p>
<p>5. thirdbay <u>h</u> _ _ <u>r</u> _ _ _ _</p>	<p>6. sfitg <u>s</u> _ <u>f</u> <u>t</u> _ _</p>
<p>7. abl _ _ _ _ _</p>	<p>8. dnimihgt _ _ _ <u>n</u> _ _ _ _ <u>i</u> _ _</p>
<p>9. What is a popular New Year's resolution? _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _</p>	





# All About New Year's

Directions: Use page 9 to help you complete the puzzle below.

						1		2					3
										4			
				5									
				6									
	7		8										
			9										
10													



**Across**

- 1. the last month of the year
- 5. bits of paper
- 8. the first month of the year
- 10. country where temple bells ring

**Down**

- 2. used to keep track of days and months
- 3. a promise to one's self
- 4. when the ball drops
- 6. where people wear red underwear
- 7. where everyone has a New Year's birthday
- 9. a Roman god

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Resolved!

**Directions:** Count by 3s to find the number for each letter. Then write each letter in the blanks to uncover the secret resolution messages below.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
3												

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
												78

1.  $\frac{\quad}{6}$   $\frac{\quad}{15}$   $\frac{\quad}{18}$   $\frac{\quad}{54}$   $\frac{\quad}{27}$   $\frac{\quad}{15}$   $\frac{\quad}{42}$   $\frac{\quad}{12}$   $\frac{\quad}{36}$   $\frac{\quad}{75}$  .

2.  $\frac{\quad}{69}$   $\frac{\quad}{45}$   $\frac{\quad}{54}$   $\frac{\quad}{33}$   $\frac{\quad}{24}$   $\frac{\quad}{3}$   $\frac{\quad}{54}$   $\frac{\quad}{12}$  .

3.  $\frac{\quad}{69}$   $\frac{\quad}{3}$   $\frac{\quad}{60}$   $\frac{\quad}{9}$   $\frac{\quad}{24}$   $\frac{\quad}{36}$   $\frac{\quad}{15}$   $\frac{\quad}{57}$   $\frac{\quad}{57}$   $\frac{\quad}{60}$   $\frac{\quad}{66}$  .

4.  $\frac{\quad}{24}$   $\frac{\quad}{15}$   $\frac{\quad}{36}$   $\frac{\quad}{48}$   $\frac{\quad}{45}$   $\frac{\quad}{60}$   $\frac{\quad}{24}$   $\frac{\quad}{15}$   $\frac{\quad}{54}$   $\frac{\quad}{57}$  .







# New Year's Day Word Puzzles

**Directions:** Each puzzle has something to do with the New Year. Write the saying under each puzzle.

<p>ye12monthsar</p>	<p>T I M E S T I M E S T I M E S T I M E S T I M E S T I M E S</p>
<p>1. _____ _____</p>	<p>2. _____ _____</p>



3.  in the new y + 

\_\_\_\_\_

4. No  like the 

\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Each word can be scrambled into a new word that has to do with winter weather. The first letter is given to you. Write the new word.

5. owns s \_\_\_\_\_

6. clod c \_\_\_\_\_

7. forts f \_\_\_\_\_

8. steel s \_\_\_\_\_

# Resolution Charades

**Directions:** Cut apart the resolution cards below and place them in a bag. Have one student draw a resolution from the bag and mime it for the class to guess. Remind players that they cannot speak in this game.

set the table

eat breakfast

brush my teeth

wear a bike helmet

play fewer video  
games

eat my vegetables

clean my room

sweep the floor

read a book

wash my hands

exercise

fold my clothes

wash the dishes

set the table

vacuum and dust



# Memory Boxes

**Directions:** Make a box filled with memories from the last year.

## Materials

- memorabilia (e.g., postcards, photographs, seashells)
- shoe box
- construction paper
- tape
- markers
- glue or tape



## Steps

1. Collect objects that remind you of the past year. Things may include rocks found on a walk, brochures or postcards from vacations, birthday cards, or even a photograph.
2. Using tape, cover the shoebox with construction paper. Decorate the outside of the box with markers.
3. Set the box on its side so the inside is facing you. Arrange your special things in the box. Be sure all items can be seen.
4. When you are happy with the arrangement, glue or tape the items into place.
5. Share your memories with a friend.

# Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Third Monday of January



## Background Information

Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, into a family of three generations of Baptist ministers. He lived in Atlanta for his first 12 years. He attended Atlanta's Morehouse College from 1944 to 1948, where he began his journey of blending Christianity with the movement of progressive social change. He studied at Crozer Theological Seminary and completed his doctorate at Boston University's School of Theology.

During his first pastorate, at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, Dr. King became the spokesman for the yearlong Montgomery bus boycott. In 1957, he joined with other leaders to form the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, assuming the role of president.

Throughout his years of leadership, he blended his deep understanding of ideas gleaned from Mohandas Gandhi's precepts of nonviolence with those of Christian values. He was politically astute, able to bring together diverse leaders to continue the move toward improved rights for African Americans.

His accomplishments from late 1955 to his death on April 4, 1968, are unparalleled. His efforts continued beyond the desegregation laws following the Montgomery bus boycott to the Voting Rights Act in 1965. On April 3, 1968, he delivered these unforgettable words: "I've been to the mountaintop, [and] I've seen the Promised Land." He continued, "I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land." The following evening, he was assassinated by James Earl Ray.

## Around the World

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is the only person who was not a president to have a national holiday named for him. Dr. King is recognized around the world for his work as a civil-rights leader. Memorials can be seen in Sweden and England. He was the youngest person at the time to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. He worked to end apartheid in South Africa, and his efforts were continued by his wife, Coretta Scott King, after his death.

## Recommended Books

Rice, Dona Herweck. 2012. *Martin Luther King Jr.* Huntington Beach: Teacher Created Materials.

Levine, Ellen. 1994. *...If You Lived at the Time of Martin Luther King.* New York: Scholastic.

Pastan, Amy and Levi Primo. 2004. *DK Biography: Martin Luther King Jr.* New York City: DK Children.