



**November Days To Celebrate  
A Kit for All Grade Levels**

## November Days To Celebrate

November 7 is...

### International Tongue Twister Day

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. A quick witted cricket critic. If you haven't already guessed it, today is International Tongue Twister Day!

People have been fascinated with tongue twisters since language was practically invented. Combinations of alliteration and rhyme cause people to stumble over their words, and the result is often quite humorous. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the most difficult tongue twister in the English language is: "The sixth sick sheikh's sixth sheep's sick."

To celebrate today, read a rhyming book, practice some tongue twisters with your friends, or attend the 10th annual International Tongue Twister Contest in Wisconsin!

### **Activity:**

**First**, pique the children's interest by introducing them to some of the more well-known tongue twisters. Challenge the children to say each phrase five times fast. "Toy Boat" is a great one because it sounds easy, but it's actually quite difficult to repeat it fast. Try it yourself and see!

**Next**, read a tongue-twisting book such as [Twimericks](#), Dr. Seuss' [Oh Say Can You Say?](#), or [World's Toughest Tongue Twisters](#). The kids will love watching you struggle through the tongue-tickling phrases from these books. You will probably have to stop every so often to give the kids a chance to practice the twisters. It's simply too irresistible to them if they have to wait!

**After the book**, introduce the concept of [alliteration](#). If you teach students in second grade or older, they will probably be able to handle this big word. In fact, it is a third grade academic standard in my district that all students know alliteration and begin to apply it in their writing. Alliteration simply means the repetition of the beginning sound in two or more words together.

Younger students can build on the letter decoding skills included in tongue twisters by reading phonics poems in books such as the [Phonics Through Poetry](#) series. These poems are a little different than traditional tongue twisters, but they are a fun way to practice certain beginning sounds, rhymes, digraphs, and more. You may also want to discuss what makes these sentences and phrases so difficult to pronounce quickly.

**To build in writing practice**, the students will have a blast building their own tongue twisters. To start, you can have the kids make four columns on their papers: one for adjectives, one for nouns, one for verbs, and one for other parts of speech. To determine the letter for their twisters, I usually just have them pick one of their initials. This gives them a little bit of free choice, but also ensures that you don't get 20 twisters of the same letter.

**After the children brainstorm** approximately 10-15 words for each column that begin with their chosen letters, they can start putting together their twisters. I stipulate that they have to write complete sentences, not simple phrases. My students got so carried away that many of them asked if they could make more than one. I even had one child who made 12!

**To culminate the tongue twisting lesson,** I have the kids write one twister on the bottom of a page and illustrate it above. These make a great project to post on a bulletin board because the children will love reading each other's sentences and trying to say them five times fast.<sup>ii</sup>

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November 13 is...

## **National Indian Pudding Day**

American Indian pudding is a delicious custard made from molasses, cornmeal, milk, butter, spices, eggs, and sometimes apples. Once baked, Indian pudding looks like an inedible mush of all the ingredients, but after one bite you will definitely be craving more!

This scrumptious recipe has been around for centuries, first created by the colonists. When they arrived in the New World, they dreamed of the plum puddings of England but did not have the correct ingredients to make it. Using what they had available to them, they substituted Indian cornmeal for wheat flour, thus creating the first Indian pudding.

Indian pudding is still a popular dessert around New England and other parts of the country. Celebrate your American heritage today and enjoy some on National Indian Pudding Day!

### **Activity:**

#### **Colonial Cooking - Indian Pudding**

Indian "pudding" is not a pudding as we think of them today. It was a popular dish, primarily used as a dessert, in the American colonies in the 1700's. Indian pudding was a recipe similar to a Native American dish called supawn, the colonists just added some traditionally English ingredients to the Native American cornmeal.

#### **Ingredients:**

1 T. margarine  
2 ½ cups milk  
¾ cup cornmeal  
2 eggs

½ cup molasses  
¼ t. salt

**Directions:**

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees Fahrenheit. (A toaster oven can be used).
2. Use the margarine to lightly grease a baking dish.
3. In a saucepan, mix the milk and cornmeal together over medium heat, stirring often.
4. Cook about 15 minutes or until thickened.
5. In a bowl, lightly beat the eggs.
6. Gradually add the eggs to the cornmeal mixture, stirring constantly.
7. Add the molasses and salt. Stir.
8. Remove cornmeal mixture from heat and pour into the baking dish.
9. Bake, uncovered, for about 45 minutes and then serve warm.

This will have the consistency of a bread pudding if lightly cooked and of a moist spice bread if cooked longer. You may have to try this more than once to get it the way you prefer.<sup>iii</sup>

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November 15 is...

## **America Recycles Day**

Did you know that recycling 1 ton of paper saves 17 trees, 2 barrels of oil, 4100 kilowatts of energy, 3.2 cubic yards of landfill space, and 60 pounds of air pollution?

These environmental benefits should be enough incentive for everyone to take part in the simple activity of recycling. Americans throw away enough aluminum to rebuild the entire United States commercial fleet of airplanes every three months. By reusing Earth's natural resources, we reduce green house gas emissions and the need to build landfills. We also ensure that these natural resources will be around for future generations to use.

America Recycles Day celebrates all of the benefits associated with recycling and encourages people to do their part

### **Activity:**

\*Visit [www.americarecycles.org](http://www.americarecycles.org) for more information on America Recycles Day

## **Milk Carton Bird Houses<sup>iv</sup>**

### **Objectives:**

A lovely one-season birdhouse made from recycled household materials.

### What You Need:

- Milk carton
- Stapler and staples
- Masking tape
- A soft cloth, rag or chamois
- Brown paint (acrylic is best)
- Scissors or a knife (and adult assistance)
- Twine

### What You Do:

1. Clean and dry the milk carton thoroughly.
2. Staple the top of the carton shut.
3. Tear off small pieces of masking tape and cover the entire carton with the pieces of tape.
4. Using a soft cloth, rub brown paint polish all over the tape-covered carton. This will give the carton a rough, bark-like finish.
5. Cut a hole (WITH ADULT ASSISTANCE) about 4" above the bottom of the carton. The hole should be approximately 1" to 1 1/2" in diameter. This hole is for the birds to get in and out of the house.
6. Poke a few drainage holes in the bottom of the carton and two ventilation holes in the top of the carton.
7. Poke a hole through the top of the feeder, string a piece of twine through the hole and hang your feeder on a tree.

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November 18 is...

### Great American Smokeout

The Great American Smokeout challenges people to lead healthier lives by quitting smoking. The concept was first created in the early 1970s by Lynn Smith, the publisher of a Minnesota newspaper, when she announced its first observance and called it "D Day." The idea quickly spread throughout the nation and in 1977 it went under the sponsorship of the American Cancer Society.

Each year, the American Cancer Society promotes the benefits of not smoking and encourages people to quit. A national sandwich shop company even gives out free "cold turkey" sandwiches and cookies to smokers who turn in at least half of their pack of cigarettes!

### **Activity:**

\*Visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) for more information on the Great American Smokeout

**Math.** How much does a pack of cigarettes cost in your state? Let students calculate the cost of a pack-a-day habit!

**More math.** The typical smoker spends about \$700 a year on cigarettes. "Think of what you could do with all that dough," challenges the Surgeon General in [Up in Smoke!](#), on one page on the SGR4Kids (short for the Surgeon General's Report for Kids) Web site. The site lists several things that a kid might do with \$700. She might play 2,800 arcade games! He might take his 40 best friends to the movies and then order 19 pizzas with the works to munch on while they read 162 new comic books! Challenge your students to be creative. Invite them to work individually or in pairs to come up with other things they might do with \$700. Provide store catalogs and other advertisements; let them provide costs of other things they might wish to include.✓

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November 24 is...

## **Celebrate Your Unique Talent Day**

Everyone has a unique talent, skill, or quirk at which they truly excel. Today is the day embrace those skills and show them off to everyone else!

Your unique and special talent could involve writing, sports, art, poetry, communication, you name it! Or maybe you are double jointed, can talk in a cartoon voice, or can do a one handed pull up like no other. No matter what your special skills are, today you should be flaunting them to all your friends and family.

### **Activity:**

#### **Begin Early**

□ Always begin organizing a talent show as early as possible. Never rush, Give yourself at least two months to allow interested people to sign up for the show and practice their talents. You also need time to get any supplies, such as mikes, and lighting that your show may need.

#### **Decide on the Content**

□ Make sure that you have a clear idea of what you consider talent for your show. A person who models [clothing](#), claps to the rhythm of Happy Birthday, or can stand on his or her head may or may not be considered as serious talent by you and your audience. Ask yourself whether you want the show to be more funny, such as a gong show, or serious. Consider screening the talent if you want a more serious show.

#### **Practice**

□ You can also hold practice sessions at the performance facility so you can get a feel for the talent that will be on display during your show. Watching the various acts early will help you to plan the lineup for the acts that you plan to use. For example, if someone is singing a slow-paced [song](#), you can follow that performance with lively one. Keep in mind that descriptions of performances written on paper may be very different than what you expected when you see it live.

### **Time Limits**

□ To keep your show within a certain amount of time, and to keep your audience's attention, give each act a specific number of minutes to perform. This number may depend on the number of acts you have. If the show is also a competition, contestants should be penalized for going over their time.

### **Have Backup Plans**

□ Make sure that you have backup plans, and be flexible. For example, have your own wireless mikes just in case the sound doesn't work. Have a couple of standby acts in case someone doesn't show up, and finally, have a sense of humor. Talent shows are about having fun, and even if everything doesn't work exactly how you envisioned it, chances are no one will know. <sup>vi</sup>



For more information, contact  
Consult 4 Kids at

[www.consultfourkids.com](http://www.consultfourkids.com)



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<sup>i</sup> All written summaries of November Days To Celebrate are from:

<http://www.punchbowl.com/holidays/2010/11/7/international-tongue-twister-day>

<sup>ii</sup> Activity taken from: <http://k6educators.about.com/cs/languagearts/a/tonguetwisters.htm>

<sup>iii</sup> Recipe and text taken from: <http://www.easyfunschool.com/article1096.html>

<sup>iv</sup> Found on kinderart.com; written by Andrea Mulder-Slater

<sup>v</sup> Activity found at [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/lesson/lesson034.shtml#activities](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson034.shtml#activities)

<sup>vi</sup> Tips found at [http://www.ehow.com/way\\_5791232\\_talent-show-tips.html](http://www.ehow.com/way_5791232_talent-show-tips.html)