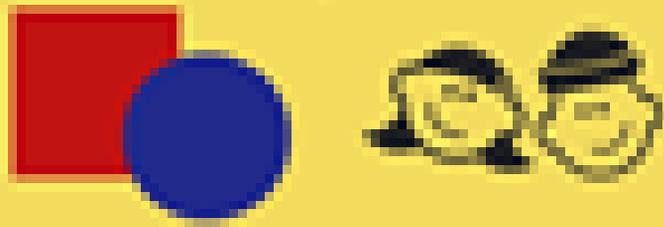


Why Play

Learning at Home



MAY

Activities Booklet

1st May

MAY DAY

May Day Superstitions

- Never buy a broom in May
- Never wash blankets in May
- Children born in May were said to be 'sickly children'

Weather-lore, sayings and beliefs

A wet May makes loads of hay.

A cold May is kindly and fills the barn finely

If you wash a blanket in May;

You will wash one of the family away.

Mist in May, Heat in June

Makes harvest come right soon

Although summer does not officially begin until June, May Day marks its beginning. May Day celebrations have been carried out in England for over 2000 years.

The Romans celebrated the **festival of Flora**, goddess of fruit and flowers, which marked the beginning of summer. It was held annually from April 28th to May 3rd.

Traditional English May Day celebrations include

Morris dancing,
crowning a May Queen
Dancing around a Maypole.

Why not ...

Practise some Morris dancing

Be a May Queen for the day

Dance around a Maypole.



For more information on May Day follow the links on the website.

May 2nd

World Tuna Day

Tuna are large **fish** that live in most parts of the world's oceans. They belong to the same family of fish as mackerel. Tuna is one of the most popular foods that comes from the sea. Most of the tuna that fishers catch is canned.

There are seven different species, or types, of tuna: bluefin, albacore, yellowfin, bigeye, blackfin, longtail, and southern bluefin. The skipjack tuna is related to these species, but it belongs to a separate group of fish.

A tuna has a long, rounded body. It is usually dark on top and silvery underneath. Some species have spots or stripes. Unlike other types of fish, a tuna can keep its body warmer than the temperature of the surrounding water.

Many species of tuna are about 35 inches (90 centimetres) long. The bluefin tuna is the largest species. It can grow as long as 14 feet (4 meters) and weigh up to 1,800 pounds (800 kilograms).

Tuna travel in large groups called schools. Some species travel long distances. Tuna feed on other fish, including herring, menhaden, and mackerel. Some species also eat small, spineless animals such as squid. Some types of tuna return to the waters where they hatched to spawn, or produce eggs.

Taken from Britannica Kids website.

Activities;

Make yourself a tuna sandwich

Measure the length of the largest tuna on the floor

Research more about tuna

May 4th

Giant Stuffed Bird

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Pencils
- large white newsprint or white drawing paper
- Black Sharpie markers
- Paint/Brushes
- Glue
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Construction Paper 1" strips
- Scrap paper
- Feathers
- Sequins
- Yarn
- Buttons
- Misc. Collage materials

1. Draw a huge bird that fills this paper. However, do not add legs, feet, or tails at this time. Those will be added later!
2. Paint the whole bird. Use a variety of colours and patterns. Let the paper dry.
3. Using white glue, run a line of glue all around the reverse side of the bird leaving a six inch space at the bird's belly. (If the birds were first outlined in black marker this task will be easier.) Then attach a second piece of paper. This will create the hollow bird pillow.
4. Cut out the bird, but do not throw away the scrap paper.
5. Wad up the paper scraps into snowball sized balls and stuff the birds. Staple the opening in the belly closed.
6. Next, attach tails, legs, and various bird adornments with the strips of paper, feathers, sequins, yarn, etc. You can fold, curl, and zigzag the paper to create interesting legs and tails. The sky is the limit!

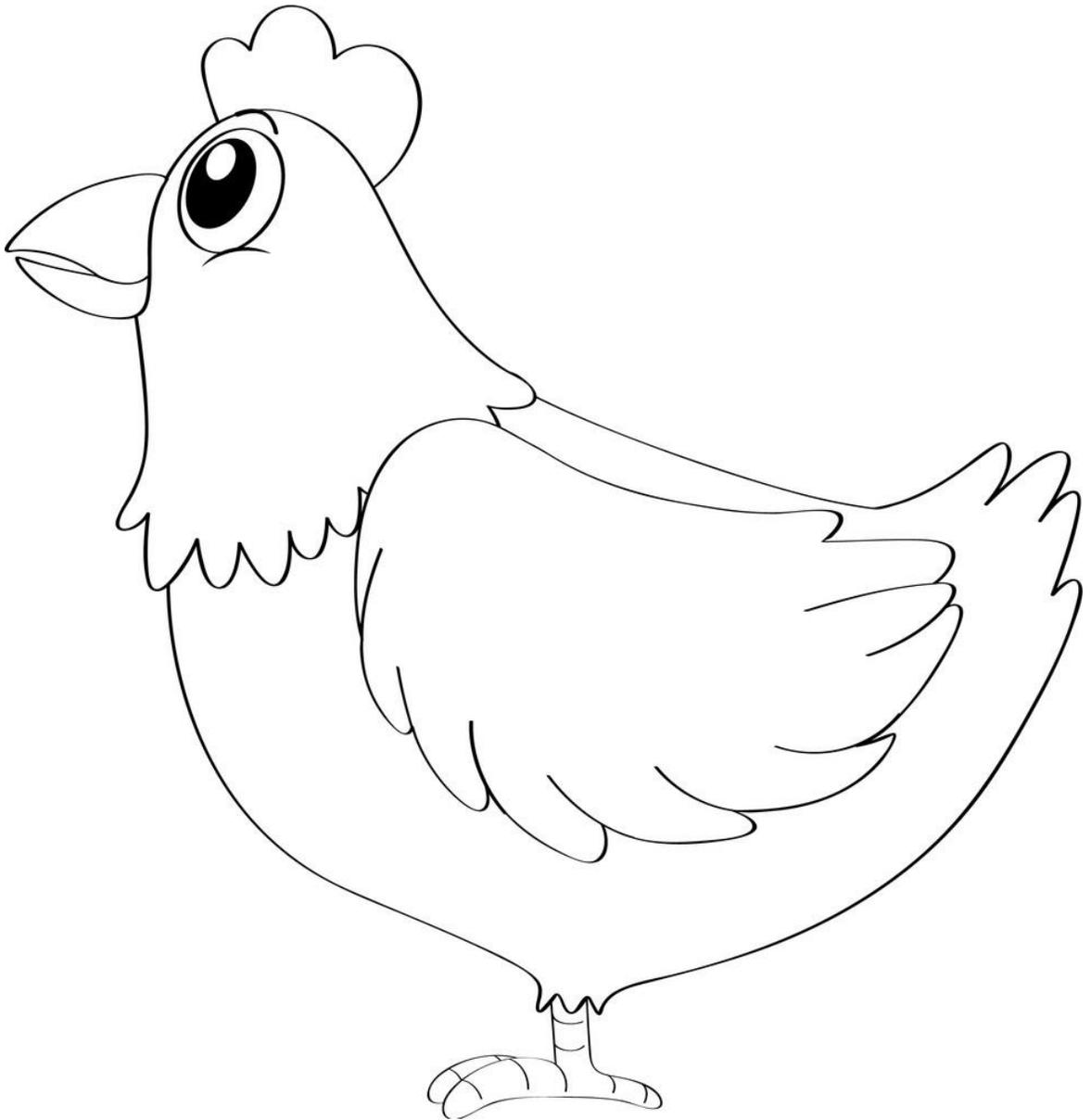
May 4th

Respect for Chickens Day



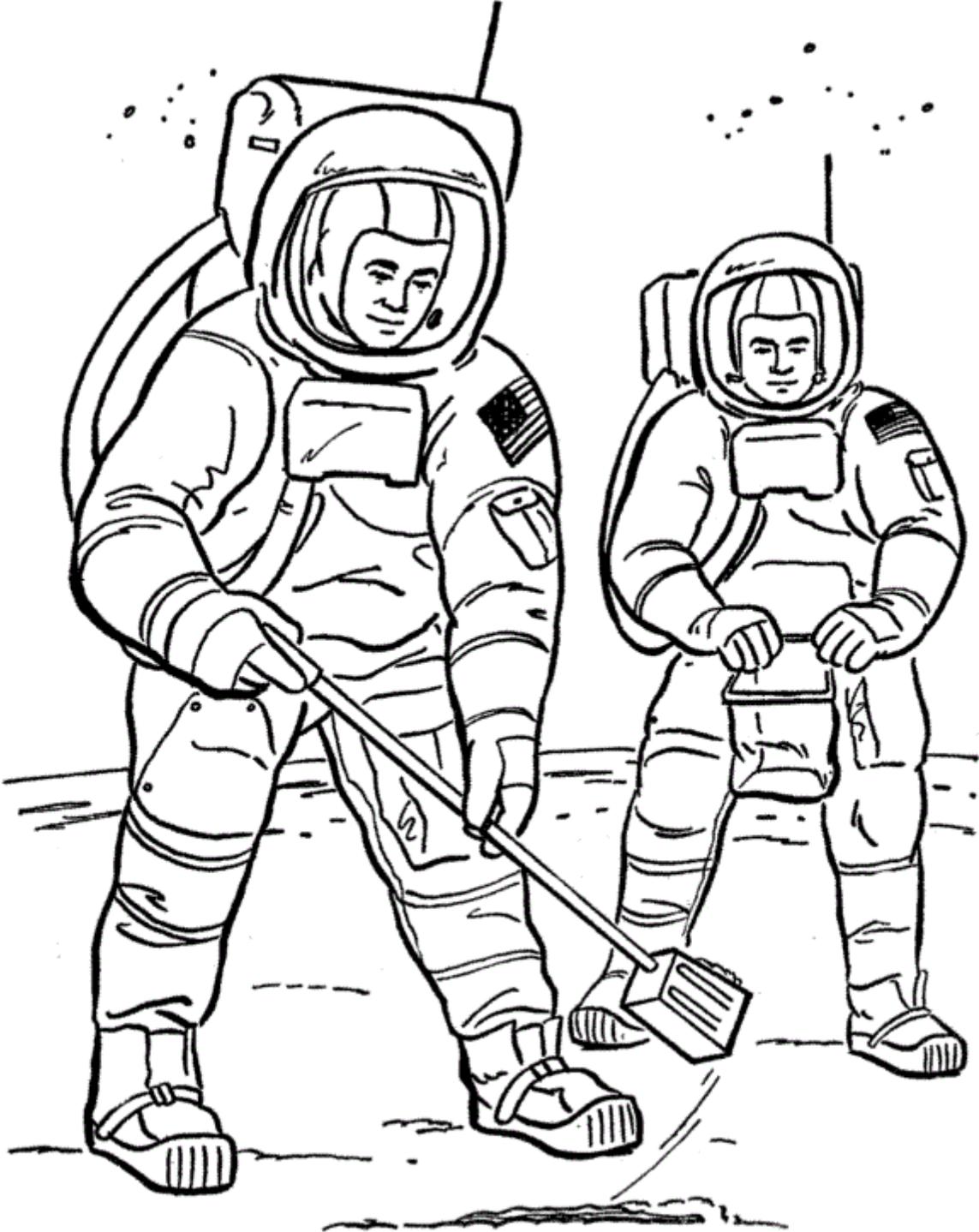
May 4th

Respect for Chickens Day



May 5th

Astronauts Day



May 5th

Children's Day in Japan

Japanese Windsock Craft

- Toilet roll middle or card that you can roll and staple into a tube
- markers
- kite string
- scissors
- hole punch
- clear tape for reinforcement, or stapler
- crepe paper streamers (optional)



What You Do:

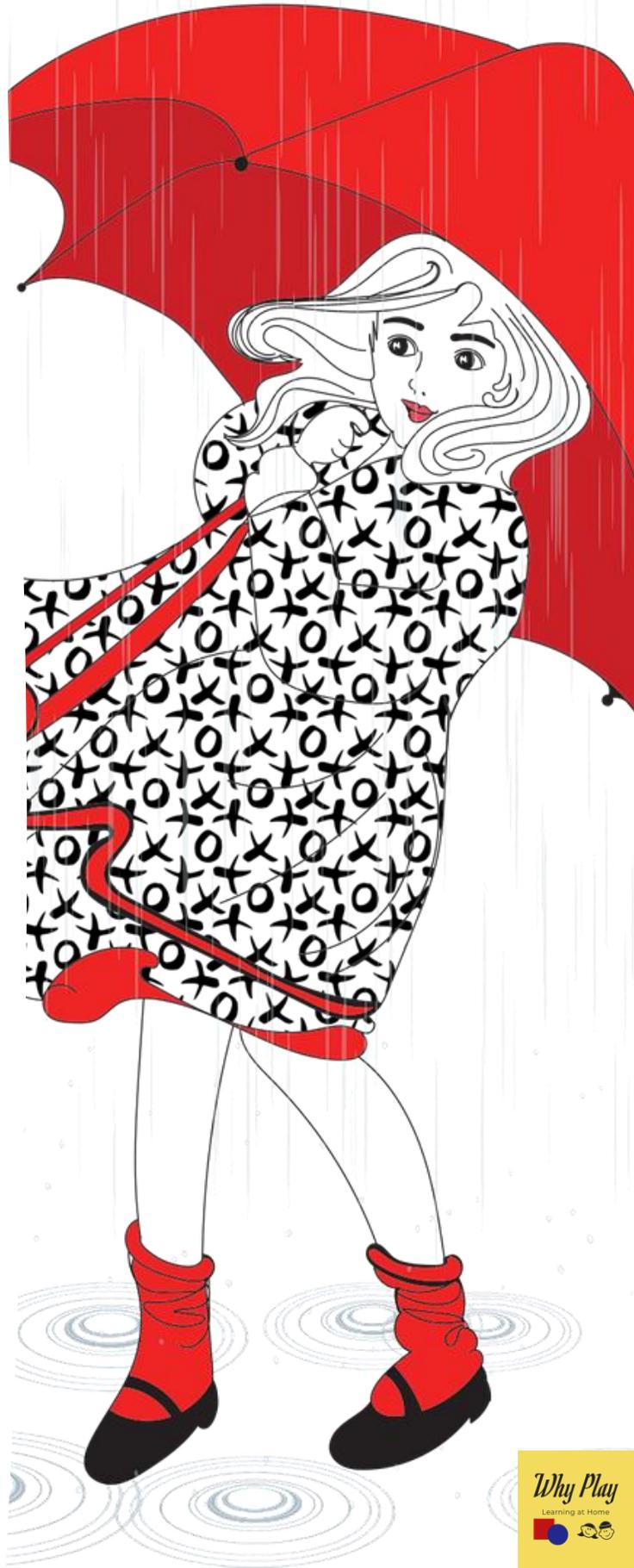
1. Decorate the card/toilet roll middle with felt markers (or paint)
2. Stick long lengths of coloured tissue paper to the card.
3. Roll card into a cylinder shape and staple or tape closed.
4. Punch four holes in the end, two on each side and tie a 1 foot piece of string into each hole.
5. Knot all four strings together and hang up for decoration.
6. The windsock will resemble a fish or octopus when done!



- May 7th

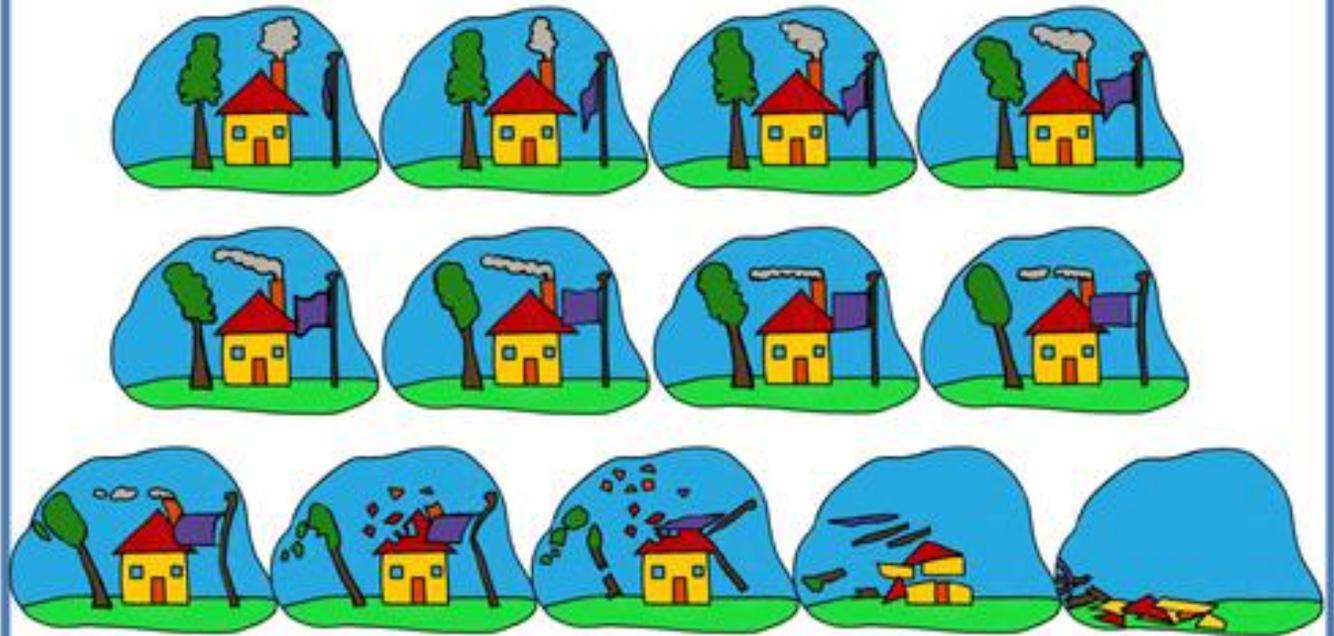
Sir Francis Beaufort

- The scale was devised in 1805 by the Irish hydrographer Francis Beaufort (later Rear Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort), a Royal Navy officer, while serving on HMS *Woolwich*. The scale that carries Beaufort's name had a long and complex evolution from the previous work of others (including Daniel Defoe the century before) to when Beaufort was Hydrographer of the Navy in the 1830s when it was adopted officially and first used during the voyage of HMS *Beagle* under Captain Robert Fitzroy, later to set up the first Meteorological Office (Met Office) in Britain giving regular weather forecasts.
- In the early 19th century, naval officers made regular weather observations, but there was no standard scale and so they could be very subjective – one man's "stiff breeze" might be another's "soft breeze". Beaufort succeeded in standardising the scale.



Wind Force	Description	Wind Speed			Specifications	Probable Wave Height		Sea State
		km/h	mph	knots		meters	Max	
0	Calm	<1	<1	<1	Smoke rises vertically. Sea like a mirror	--	--	0
1	Light Air	1-5	1-3	1-3	Direction shown by smoke drift but not by wind vanes. Sea rippled	0.1	0.1	1
2	Light Breeze	6-11	4-7	4-6	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; wind vane moved by wind. Small wavelets on sea	0.2	0.3	2
3	Gentle Breeze	12-19	8-12	7-10	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion; light flags extended. Large wavelets on sea	0.6	1.0	3
4	Moderate Breeze	20-28	13-18	11-16	Raises dust and loose paper; small branches moved. Small waves, fairly frequent white horses	1.0	1.5	3-4
5	Fresh Breeze	29-38	19-24	17-21	Small trees in leaf begin to sway; crested wavelets form on inland waters. Moderate waves, many white horses	2.0	2.5	4
6	Strong Breeze	38-49	25-31	22-27	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in telegraph wires; umbrellas used with difficulty. Large waves, extensive foam crests	3.0	4	5
7	Near Gale	50-61	32-38	28-33	Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt when walking against the wind. Foam blown in streaks across the sea	4.0	5.5	5-6
8	Gale	62-74	39-46	34-40	Twigs break off trees; generally impedes progress. Wave crests begin to break into spindrift	5.5	7.5	6-7
9	Strong Gale	75-88	47-54	41-47	Slight structural damage (chimney pots and slates removed). Wave crests topple over, spray affects visibility	7.0	10.0	7
10	Storm	89-102	55-63	48-55	Seldom experienced inland; trees uprooted; considerable structural damage. Sea surface largely white	9.0	12.5	8
11	Violent Storm	103-117	64-72	56-63	Very rarely experienced; accompanied by widespread damage. Medium-sized ships lost to view behind waves. Sea covered in white foam, visibility seriously affected	11.5	16.0	8
12	Hurricane	118+	73+	64+	Devastation. Air filled with foam and spray, very poor visibility	14+	---	9

Beaufort Wind Scale



May 7th

Draw your own version of the Beaufort Scale like the one above.

May 9th

Captain Blood

In London, Thomas Blood, an Irish adventurer better known as “Captain Blood,” is captured attempting to steal the Crown Jewels from the [Tower of London](#).

- Blood, a Parliamentarian during the English Civil War, was deprived of his estate in Ireland with the restoration of the English monarchy in 1660.
- In 1663, he put himself at the head of a plot to seize Dublin Castle from supporters of King Charles II, but the plot was discovered and his accomplices executed.
- He escaped capture. In 1671, he hatched a bizarre plan to steal the new Crown Jewels, which had been refashioned by Charles II because most of the original jewels were melted down after Charles I’s execution in 1649.

On May 9, 1671, Blood, disguised as a priest, managed to convince the Jewel House keeper to hand over his pistols. Blood’s three accomplices then emerged from the shadows, and together they forced their way into the Jewel House. However, they were caught in the act when the keeper’s son showed up unexpectedly, and an alarm went out to the Tower guard. One man shoved the Royal Orb down his breeches while Blood flattened the Crown with a mallet and tried to run off with it. The Tower guards apprehended and arrested all four of the perpetrators, and Blood was brought before the king. Charles was so impressed with Blood’s audacity that, far from punishing him, he restored his estates in Ireland and made him a member of his court with an annual pension.

Captain Blood became a colourful celebrity all across the kingdom, and when he died in 1680 his body had to be exhumed in order to persuade the public that he was actually dead.

Taken from [History.com](#)



May 9th

1860 was the birthday of J M Barrie

Sir James Matthew Barrie, 1st Baronet, was a Scottish novelist and playwright, best remembered today as the creator of **Peter Pan**. He was born and educated in Scotland but moved to London, where he wrote a number of successful novels and plays. There he met the Llewelyn Davies boys, who inspired him to write about a baby boy who has magical adventures in **Kensington Gardens** (included in *The Little White Bird*), then to write *Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*, a "fairy play" about an ageless boy and an ordinary girl named Wendy who have adventures in the fantasy setting of **Neverland**.

Peter Pan Themed Activities

- Watch a Peter Pan Film
- Make a fairy house for Tinkerbell
- Make star cookies
- Play a game of follow the leader
- Explore shadows
- Write down what your happy thought is
- Would you rather be a 'lost boy' or a 'pirate'
- Create a map of Neverland



10th May



NATIONAL SHRIMP DAY

Look for the link on the website on how to draw a cartoon shrimp

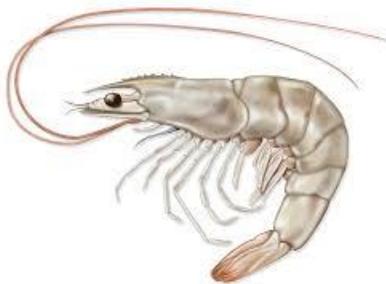
Shrimps are small members of the **crustacean** group of animals. Many people enjoy eating the small creatures.

Boats pulling huge nets called trawls collect shrimps to be frozen or canned for restaurants and grocery stores. Shrimps are also popular food in the water, where they are eaten by flounder, salmon, and other large fish.

There are about 2,000 species, or kinds, of shrimp. They live in all oceans and can also be found in freshwater lakes and streams. They are especially plentiful in warmer seas.

Shrimps and other crustaceans are covered by hard shells called exoskeletons. The head and trunk of a shrimp are combined into one united structure called a cephalothorax. Extending from the head are two large eyes and long, whiplike antennae. The mouth is on the underside of the head.

Like its relatives the **lobsters** and the **crabs**, a shrimp has five pairs of legs that extend from the trunk region. A shrimp's flexible body ends in a fanlike tail that can be used to quickly flex



May 12th

Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale (1820–1910) was a famous nurse who spent her life improving the standard of healthcare in Britain and beyond. She became famous during the Crimean War (1853–1856) when she worked abroad at a British army hospital. The soldiers called her ‘the lady with the lamp’ because she would work all night, comforting those in need. Florence helped to save many lives. She also introduced important nursing methods that are still used today.

Activities;

Imagine you are a soldier in the Crimean War who was treated by Florence Nightingale. Write her a letter to thank her for her care.

Research Florence Nightingale and write a fact sheet

Watch the YouTube film about Florence Nightingale to find out more -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Frow559jWSE>

You can find some more links on the website.

12th May

Ocean Day

CRAYON RESIST FISH

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Crayons or Oil Pastels
- Paper
- Tempera paint (watered down)
- Paint brush



WHAT YOU DO:

- 1.Draw a border around your picture. Inside this border, draw circles or “bubbles”. Use crayons or oil pastels and be sure to press hard.
- 2.Inside the border, draw some fish (starfish, jellyfish, rainbow fish, etc. The sky (or ocean) is the limit.
- 3.When you finish your drawing, lightly brush paint over the picture. Use dark colours.
- 4.The areas of crayon (or oil pastel) will resist or repel the paint.

12th May

OCEAN DRUM

WHAT YOU NEED:

- **A sturdy box:** Pizza boxes, small pizza boxes, flat shipping boxes.
- **Sturdy clear plastic:** recycled salad bar containers, clear tablecloth covers, etc. Don't use plastic wrap as it won't be strong enough
- **Strong tape:** Packing tape, masking tape, or electrical tape
- **Contents for the drum:** Choose any small fillings such as seed beads, small pasta shells, orzo,, lentils, dried beans, marbles, or small pebbles etc.

1. Start with a sturdy box. You may want to pick a large or small pizza box, a small flat mailing box, or some similar sized container.
2. Next, you'll want to create a window so you can watch the beads or seeds inside move back and forth. To do this, find some sturdy clear plastic (like from a grocery store salad container, a clear tablecloth, or recycle a see-through report cover) and cut it into a large square or rectangle. Draw a slightly smaller square or rectangle on the inside of the top of your ocean drum box and cut it out. Secure the window in place inside the box using a nice, strong tape such as packing tape, electrical tape, or masking tape.
3. Fill your drum with your chosen fillings
4. Once you've chosen your perfect contents, you are ready to seal the drum. Cover with packing tape so that when played the contents will stay inside. You can paint your box or decorate the outside, if you like. If you started with a plain box from a stationery supply store, you have a clean slate to create an ocean motif or decorate in any way you want. If you have an overly busy box, like a pizza box, you may wish to cover the top with coloured paper (leaving space for the window, of course) and decorate from there.
5. Play your drum by tilting it to one side – then the other.

May 13th

Astronomy Day

PAPER MACHE PLANETS

Learn how to make a paper Mache planet.

The earth is a planet, the stars are like suns,
With streaks of bright light, the milky way runs.
From the moon to Saturn the big sky unfolds,
to let us all in on the secrets it holds.
What better way to honour the skies,
then to make our own planet that's nice on the eyes.

By Andrea Mulder-Slater

WHAT YOU NEED:

Round balloons.

Cardboard pieces to make the base

Newspaper

Glue (not really needed but some like to use it to make extra sure)

Thick paste made from flour and water

Containers for the paste

Water-based paint.

Paintbrushes, water, water containers and a newspaper covered work area.

WHAT YOU DO:

1. First mix up a batch of paper Mache mix. Do this by mixing flour and water to the consistency of thick cream.
2. You can add a touch of glue to make the paste nice and sticky.
3. Tear newspaper or newsprint into small manageable pieces.
4. Cover the balloon with about 4 or 5 layers of newspaper or newsprint pieces dipped in the paste.
5. Let the balloon dry somewhat between layers.
6. When dry, paint the paper Mache balloon to look like the earth, the Sun, the Moon, Saturn or whichever planet you choose.
7. Create a base for the planet using two pieces of cardboard.



May 15th

Roman God Mercury

Mercury was the youngest son of the Roman god Jupiter. Maia is identified as Mercury's mother. Both Mercury and Maia were honoured in the Mercuralia festival on May 15th.

Mercury had many talents. These are just some of them:

- He could fly faster than most of the other gods, partly because of his winged sandals.
- He was trustworthy
- He was playful
- He was very clever and loyal
- He was a great negotiator

He was nothing like his half brother, Mars, the god of war. Mercury was very popular in the ancient heavenly world. Even Mars trusted him, and Mars didn't trust anybody. The king of the gods, Jupiter, was always sending his youngest son off to fix some problems. He was great at fixing problems.

What super talents do you have?

If you could wake up one morning with a superpower, just like the god Jupiter – what superpower would it be?

Draw a self portrait with a costume showing your new superpower.

16th May

Wear Purple for Peace Day

Wear Purple for Peace Day is celebrated on May 16, 2021. It's a day to promote peace between us and any space aliens who might be visiting.

Write out some sentences about –
What is peace?

How can we teach people to be peaceful?

What would you say to an alien?

Write a purple peace day poem.

Make a purple paper plate wreath

Draw a friendly looking alien



19th May

Anne Boleyn Facts

- Anne Boleyn was born at the start of the 1500s. She lived during the Tudor times.
- She was educated in France and the Netherlands and returned to England in her early 20s.
- Anne Boleyn was given the title 'Marquess of Pembroke' by King Henry VIII.
- Before her marriage to King Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn was maid of honour for his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.
- King Henry VIII originally asked Anne to be his mistress, but she refused.
- King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn married secretly in 1532
- On May 23rd 1533, Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon was annulled, and 5 days later his marriage to Anne Boleyn was declared legal.
- Anne Boleyn became the Queen of England on June 1st
- Boleyn was the Queen of England from 1533 to 1536.
- Anne Boleyn only had one child with Henry VIII - a daughter who would go on to become Queen Elizabeth I. She also had 3 miscarriages.
- Henry VIII was annoyed that she hadn't given birth to a son.
- On May 2nd 1536, Boleyn was arrested and taken to the Tower of London. She was sentenced to being burnt alive, but King Henry changed her punishment to beheading.
- On **May 19th 1536**, Anne Boleyn was executed at the Tower of London by a French swordsman.
- Boleyn's body was buried in an unmarked grave at the Church of St Peter ad Vincula in London.

Read through the facts about Anne Boleyn and then try to answer the questions on the next page.

19th May

Try to answer these questions about Anne Boleyn

- 1) What were the times called when Anne Boleyn lived?
- 2) Where was she educated?
- 3) What was the name of Henry VIII first wife?
- 4) What year did Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII marry in secret?
- 5) What do you think annulled means?
- 6) How long was Anne Boleyn Queen of England for?
- 7) Who did her daughter grow up to become?
- 8) Why was Henry VII annoyed with Anne Boleyn?
- 9) What day was she arrested?
- 10) What day was she beheaded?

Find some images of Anne Boleyn on the internet and draw or paint her portrait.

Find some more information about Henry VIII and his wives by following the links on the website.

20th May

World Bee Day

Bees are so important and they play such an essential role in all our lives, its great that they have their own day to celebrate that. Over the past ten years, bees have suffered a great deal because of loss of habitat, use of pesticides, climate change and parasites. Here are some facts about bees that you may or may not know.

- Male bees are called drones
- Bees live in colonies with other bees
- Bees are invertebrates - that means they have no backbones
- The queen Honey bee can lay up to 2500 eggs a day
- A queen bee lives between 2-5 years, a worker bee live up to 5-6 weeks and a drone up to 6-7 weeks
- Honeybees flap their wings up to 200 times a second
- There are a lot of different kinds of bees, but the honey bee is the most common
- Bees live off their honey supplies during the winter months
- Honey is 80% sugar and 20% water
- It's the worker honey bees that visit the flowers to collect the nectar
- An average honeybee makes only about 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.
- For every teaspoon of honey you eat, 12 bees have helped make it

Find some links on the website to find out more about how wonderful bees are.



22nd May

Vanilla Pudding Day

Easy Homemade Vanilla Pudding

This creamy and flavourful Homemade Vanilla Pudding couldn't be easier or more delicious! Serve this pudding on its own or with cookies, berries or whipped cream.

⅓ cup granulated sugar
3 tablespoons cornflour
⅛ teaspoon salt
2-¼ cups whole milk
2 large egg yolks
1 tablespoon unsalted butter
1-½ teaspoons pure vanilla extract

In a medium saucepan whisk together sugar, cornflour, salt, milk, and egg yolks. Cook over medium-low heat, whisking occasionally (every minute or two), until the mixture is bubbling all throughout (about 7-8 minutes). Once bubbling, continue cooking for one to two additional minutes, whisking once or twice, but not too vigorously (this can break down the binding properties). At this point the pudding should be thickened but still pourable, it will thicken more as it cools. Remove from heat and whisk in butter and vanilla extract.

Transfer the pudding into a large bowl or into individual serving bowls. Cool until it is lukewarm, then cover with plastic wrap. Refrigerate for several hours or until chilled.

Recipe taken from <https://celebratingsweets.com/homemade-vanilla-pudding/>

23rd May

World Turtle Day



Some things you can do on World Turtle Day

- Decorate the back of a paper bowl as a turtle shell. Add a head, feet and tail when dry
- Crawl like a turtle
- Read the fable 'The Tortoise and the Hare'
- Make some turtle biscuits
- Research more about turtles and tortoise's

Some facts about turtles

- Turtles belong to one of the oldest reptile groups in the world. Their origin dates back to the time of dinosaurs, which is nearly 200 million years back, which makes them significantly older than snakes, crocodiles and alligators.
- Despite what most people believe, turtles can never come out of their shells. Their shells grow with them and it's impossible for them to outgrow their shells. Sea turtles, unlike other turtles, can't even retract their flippers and head back into their shells.
- The shell of a turtle is actually a part of its skeleton, and is made up of nearly 50 bones. The shell makes up a part of the turtle's rib cage and spine. The shell of a turtle actually grows with its age, just like a human skeleton!
- Turtles breathe air and lay their eggs on land, which makes them amniotes. Even though they spend most of their lives underwater, they still lay their eggs on land. Most of the sea creatures are anamniotes, which means they lay their eggs underwater.
- Turtles are very fond of jellyfish, even though some species are poisonous. Their appetite for jellyfish can sometimes prove harmful for them, as many times they ingest plastic, thinking it's a floating jellyfish, which can choke them. Turtles can be herbivores, carnivores and omnivores in nature.
- There are a total of 300 species of turtles in the entire world, out of which 129 species are endangered. This is because of constant human interruptions in their natural habitat. They are also poached by humans and are pushed into illegal pet trade.
- Turtles are cold-blooded, which results to an incredibly long life span. Another reason for their long life span is that they have very slow metabolism and can survive without food and water for a long time. They can also survive in harsh conditions, which also adds to their life span.

