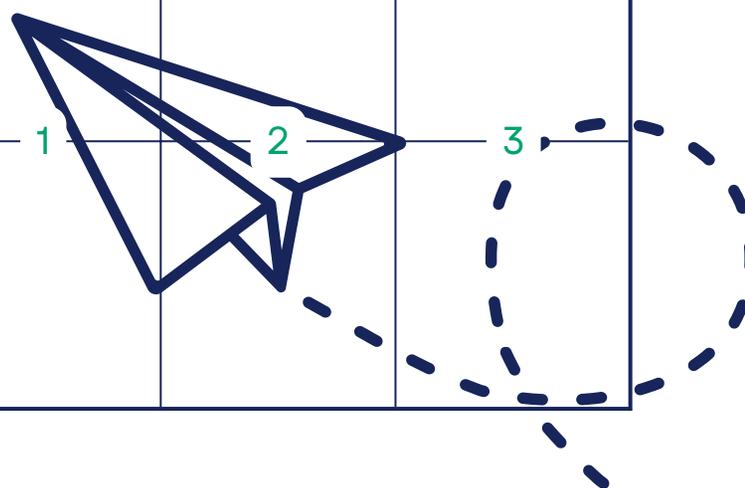




DECEMBER

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	1 ANTARCTICA DAY <i>Polar Exploration</i>	2	3 N'TL COOKIE CUTTER WEEK <i>Shapes & Designs</i>	4 NATIONAL SOCK DAY <i>Cozy Feet</i>	5	6
7	8 PRETEND TO BE A TIME TRAVELER DAY <i>Frozen in Time</i>	9	10	11	12 NATIONAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE DAY <i>Sweet Engineering</i>	13 NATIONAL COCOA DAY <i>Cozy Chemistry</i>
14	15	16	17	18	19 NATIONAL UGLY SWEATER DAY <i>Festive Expression</i>	20
21 NATIONAL FLASHLIGHT DAY <i>Winter Wonderlight</i>	22	23 CANDY CANE DAY <i>Twist & Treat</i>	24	25	26	27
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WINTER WONDERS

December 1

ANTARCTICA DAY

Polar Exploration

-  **Journal Prompt:** What would it be like to live in a place with daylight or darkness all day long?
-  **Build an Arctic Habitat:** Use recycled materials like cardboard, plastic containers, and cotton balls to build a model of a penguin home or Antarctic research base.
-  **Animal Adaptations:** Explore how animals like penguins, seals, and polar bears survive in icy regions. Try a “blubber glove” experiment: place one hand inside a bag filled with shortening or vegetable oil (to act as blubber) and dip both hands—one protected and one unprotected—into ice water. Talk about fur, fat, and behaviors that help animals stay warm.
-  **Iceberg Art:** Paint an ocean scene with watercolors. While the paint is still wet, sprinkle coarse salt over the surface. Watch as the salt absorbs the pigment and creates icy, crystal-like patterns! Once dry, brush off the salt and observe the textures.
-  **Map Antarctica:** Use a map of Antarctica to locate key features like the South Pole, Ross Ice Shelf, and Mount Erebus. Add and label research stations such as McMurdo and Amundsen-Scott. Discuss how scientists study weather, wildlife, and climate change in these remote locations.
-  **Book Tie-ins:** *Where is Antarctica?*; *Ten Animals in Antarctica*; *Dreamy Antarctica*; *Embark on an Exciting Adventure*; *Penguin Problems*

December 2-8

NATIONAL COOKIE CUTTER WEEK

Shapes and Designs

-  **Journal Prompt:** What’s your favorite part about making cookies? Mixing, cutting, decorating, smelling them in the oven, eating them warm?
-  **Cookie Cutter Classification:** Sort a collection of cookie cutters by geometric properties (number of sides/angles, symmetry, concave/convex. etc.).
-  **Tessellation Challenge:** Learn about tessellations. Find or design a cookie cutter shape that can tessellate. Bonus: Make cookies with it and create a ‘cookie tessellation’!
-  **Poster “Quilt”:** Use cookie cutters to trace shapes onto colored paper. Cut them out and glue them onto a posterboard in ‘quilt-like’ patterns (grid layout, radial symmetry, fractal-inspired, etc.).
-  **Cookie Packaging Engineering:** Design packaging that protects cookies of different shapes. Test how shapes stack, fit, and resist pressure.
-  **Book Tie-ins:** *Cookie Truck: A Sugar Cookie Shapes Book*; *Mr. Cookie Baker*; *The Greedy Triangle*; *Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature*

December 4

NATIONAL SOCK DAY

Cozy Feet

-  **Journal Prompt:** “I found a magical sock under the snow...” finish the story.
-  **Sock Puppet Theater:** Create winter-themed sock puppets and put on a short play.

--continued in next column--

--Sock Day continued--

-  **Sock Sorting:** Get out your socks (and your family’s socks, too!) and sort by color, pattern, size, etc. Create bar graphs or pie charts. Older children can calculate percentages or ratios.
-  **Sock Insulation Experiment:** Test which sock material - cotton, wool, fleece, etc. - keeps warmth the best. Fill water bottles with warm water, wrap each in a different sock, and measure temperature every 10 minutes for an hour.
-  **Sock Drive:** Collect new socks to donate to local shelters.
-  **Book Tie-ins:** *Fox in Socks*; *Sigfried’s Smelly Socks*; *Goldie Socks and the Three Librarians*

December 8

PRETEND TO BE A TIME TRAVELER

Frozen in Time

-  **Journal Prompt:** If you could visit winter in the past, what year would you go to?
-  **Traveler from Another Era:** Choose a time period (e.g. pioneer, 1920’s medieval) and dress in winter-appropriate clothing. Discuss how people stayed warm during that era.
-  **Winter Time Capsule:** Collect or draw items that represent winter today - hot cocoa, mittens, snowflakes, etc.
-  **Timeline of Famous Winter Events:** Create a timeline of historical winter moments like the first Winter Olympics and the Blizzard of 1888.

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--Pretend to Be a Time Traveler continued--

■ **Frozen Moment Journal:** Write a journal entry from a traveler who's just arrived in a winter moment - like the Ice Age or a futuristic blizzard.

📖 **Book Tie-ins:** *Blizzard*; *The Mitten*; *If You Were a Kid in the Thirteen Colonies*; *I Survived the Children's Blizzard, 1888*

December 12

N'TL GINGERBREAD HOUSE DAY

Sweet Engineering

📝 **Journal Prompt:** If you could live in a gingerbread house, what would it look like? Describe the interior and exterior.

■ **Gingerbread Blueprints:** Sketch a simple blueprint of a gingerbread house. Include measurements and labels for walls, roof, and doors.

■ **Architecture Exploration:** Discuss what shapes are the strongest - triangles for roof support, arches for doors, etc. Compare real-world buildings and gingerbread versions.

■ **Icing "Glue" Strength Test:** Mix different types of icing (store-bought, homemade royal icing, etc.) and test which holds best. Use small weights or time how long it takes pieces to fall apart.

■ **Build a Gingerbread House:** Using what you've learned about architecture and glue strength, use graham crackers, gingerbread or cardboard to build a gingerbread house.

📖 **Book Tie-ins:** *Iggy Peck, Architect*; *How a House is Built*; *The Plan for the Gingerbread House*; *A Gingerbread House*

December 13

NATIONAL COCOA DAY

Cozy Chemistry

📝 **Journal Prompt:** What's the secret to the perfect cup of hot cocoa?

■ **Hot Cocoa Experiment:** Set up a cocoa lab at home to explore how science affects your favorite winter drink. Test how well cocoa powder dissolves in different liquids (hot water, cold water, milk, plant-based milk) and learn about solubility. Then, make cocoa at varying temperatures and compare how heat changes the flavor and aroma. Finally, drop a few different sizes of marshmallows in each cup and time how long they take to melt. Observe how size and shape affect heat transfer.

■ **Mixology Station:** Gather some hot cocoa mix-ins like cinnamon, vanilla, chili powder, or peppermint. Create your own "formula" and name your hot cocoa blends. Practice measuring and recipe writing.

■ **Cocoa Recipe Poem:** Turn your favorite cocoa recipe into a rhyming poem or song. Add sensory details to describe the smell, taste, and warmth.

📖 **Book Tie-ins:** *The Sweet Story of Hot Chocolate*; *Hot Cocoa Calm*; *Do Frogs Drink Hot Chocolate?*

December 19

NATIONAL UGLY SWEATER DAY

Festive Expression

📝 **Journal Prompt:** What's your favorite thing to wear (doesn't have to be an ugly sweater!)

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--Ugly Sweater Day continued--

■ **Sweater Design Studio:** Create your own "ugly" sweater design. Then bring it to life using a plain white t-shirt or a brown paper bag vest as your canvas. Use markers, felt, yarn, pom-poms, stickers, paint, etc.

■ **Festive Fiber Science:** Learn about different sweater materials (wool, cotton, acrylic) and how they're made. Try a simple felting or weaving activity to explore textile science.

■ **Winter Clothing:** Explore how people in different countries stay warm during winter and how their clothing reflects culture, climate, and tradition. For example,

📖 Norwegian & Icelandic lopapeysa sweaters, Inuit parkas, or Mongolian deel coats.

Book Tie-ins: *The Ugly Christmas Sweater Rebellion*; *Sweater Weather*; *The Helping Sweater*

December 21

NATIONAL FLASHLIGHT DAY

Winter Wonderlight

📝 **Journal Prompt:** What do you see when you shine your flashlight in the dark?

■ **Shadow Science:** Use a flashlight to explore how shadows change with distance and angle.

■ **Flashlight Constellations:** Use a pencil to poke holes in the shape of winter constellations (like Orion or the Big Dipper) into a piece of black construction paper. In a dark room, shine a flashlight through the paper to project the stars on the wall or ceiling. Look up stories behind the constellations and talk about how people used stars to guide them.

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--Flashlight continued--

- **Light & Ice Experiment:** Freeze water in clear containers (like plastic cups or sandwich bags) with small objects inside (beads, buttons, glitter). Shine a flashlight through the ice and observe how the light bends, scatters, or magnifies. Introduce words like 'refraction' and 'transparency'.
- **Morse Code Messages:** Learn a few simple Morse code letters. Use a flashlight to send short messages across the room or under a blanket fort.
- **Winter Solstice History:** Flashlight Day falls on the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. Look up how different cultures celebrate the return of light - like Yule or St. Lucia's Day.
- 📖 **Book Tie-ins:** *Flashlight (Picture Book); Light: Shadows, Mirrors, & Rainbows; The Sky is Full of Stars; Winter: A Solstice Story*

December 23

CANDY CANE DAY

Twist & Treat

- 🔪 **Journal Prompt:** What is one "sweet" moment you've experienced this winter?
- **Candy Cane Engineering:** Build a mini sled, bridge, or sculpture using candy canes and frosting as "glue". Test strength and stability.
- **Candy Cane Olympics:** Set up a series of games using candy canes. For example, use the curved end of a candy cane to pick up and transfer items across the room.
- **Candy Cane Timeline:** Learn about the history of candy canes and create a timeline of significant events (such as German origins, arrival in America, red stripes, etc.).

--continued in next column--

--Candy Cane Day continued--

- 📖 **Book Tie-ins:** *How the Candy Cane Got Its Stripes; The Legend of the Candy Cane; The Candy Cane Fiasco*

December 31

MAKE UP YOUR MIND DAY

Reflect & Resolve

- 🔪 **Journal Prompt:** What do I want to leave behind in this year's winter snow? And what seeds am I planting beneath the forest? Reflect on habits, worries, or patterns you're ready to release and goals/dreams that may take time to grow.
- **Winter Vision Board:** Set some short term and long term goals. Create a goal-setting poster or vision board.
- **"Warm Intentions Jar":** Decorate a jar and fill it with written intentions, affirmations, or wishes for yourself/others. Pull one out each day in January to remain inspired.
- **New Year Traditions Around the World:** Research how different cultures celebrate the new year. Create a mini travel journal or presentation.
- **Winter Poetry Reading:** Read classic winter poems (like Robert Frost's *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*). Then write your own winter poem using sensory language and seasonal imagery.
- 📖 **Book Tie-ins:** *Squirrel's New Year's Resolution; I Can Do Hard Things; The Night Before New Year's; The Illustrated Robert Frost*

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