

# Kindergarten Unit 7: History - A Celebration

Content Area: **Social Studies**  
Course(s): **Social Studies Grade K**  
Time Period:  
Length: **14 days**  
Status: **Published**

## NJSLS - Social Studies

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SOC.6.1.2.CivicsPD.1	Engage in discussions effectively by asking questions, considering facts, listening to the ideas of others, and sharing opinions.
SOC.6.1.2.HistoryCC.2	Use a timeline of important events to make inferences about the "big picture" of history.
SOC.6.1.2.HistoryCC.3	Make inferences about how past events, individuals, and innovations affect our current lives.
SOC.6.1.2.HistoryUP.2	Use evidence to demonstrate how an individual's beliefs, values, and traditions may change and/or reflect more than one culture.

## Rationale & Transfer Goals

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Every year, we celebrate individuals and events that shaped our nation's history. In this Unit, students will explore why, when and how we celebrate them. Students will identify their favorite holidays and the meaning behind several holidays. Students will explore the achievements of historical heroes as well as how and why they are celebrated. Students' will recognize these celebrations as taking place in a month on the year long calendar. Students will recognize and describe characteristics of those we celebrate and identify what makes an individual brave or courageous.

## Enduring Understandings

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- We celebrate individuals and events that have shaped our nation's history.

## Essential Questions

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- What important people and events do we celebrate throughout the year?
- What are the characteristics of a hero?

## **Important Vocabulary**

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- holiday
- celebrate
- history
- remember
- hero
- president
- honor
- inventor
- courage
- legend

## **Content - What students will know**

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- What are holidays and why do we have them? Holidays are important days. On holidays, we remember important things from our history and celebrate them.
- Why do we honor George Washington and Abraham Lincoln every year? Both were presidents who helped our country during hard times.
- What did Martin Luther King Jr. do to change people's lives? He spoke and he helped make a law that said everyone had to be treated the same.
- Why are some people from history honored in so many different ways? They are important; people appreciate all that they did for our country; people want to live up to the example they set of being good citizens.
- What are some holidays we celebrate during the year? Possible responses: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving
- Why do we hold parades for special groups? We hold parades to honor them and remember why those groups are important to us.
- What do the people we honor have in common with each other? They all work to help people in our country.
- What are some examples of people with courage? Pocahontas helped people, Daniel Boone made trails for people, and Meriwether Lewis and William Clark explored the land.

## **Skills - What students will be able to do**

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- Identify events honored in holidays.
- Understand that history relates to people and events from other times.
- Identify people and events honored in holidays
- Understand the achievements in accounts of historical people
- Understand the achievements of Martin Luther King Jr.

- Understand different ways we honor people from America’s history.
- Understand and interpret a calendar.
- Identify special groups we celebrate with parades

**Instructional Activities - How we teach content and skills**

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- [HMH Magazine](#)
- [HMH In The News](#)
- [HMH FYI](#)
- [Online Resources](#)
- Little Thinkers
- Brainpop Jr.
- Youtube
- Scholastic Kids

**Evidence/Assessment - How we know students have learned**

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- [Magazine & Benchmark Assessment](#)
- Informal assessments
- Anecdotal notes & participation
- Project: Create a project honoring a hero/ Write and draw about your favorite holiday, including two reasons why it is your favorite

**Spiraling for Mastery**

Content or Skill for this Unit	Spiral Focus from Previous Unit	Instructional Activity
Events and people from the past impact our lives today	Some people and events existed in the past, the past can affect the future	Who are some heroes from the past that we celebrate today?

## Key Resources

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- [Unit 7 Resources](#)
- [Unit 7 Magazine](#)
- A one year calendar
- Images of celebrated heroes: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., Booker T. Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Pocahontas

## 21st Century Life & Careers

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WRK.9.1.2.CAP.1                      Make a list of different types of jobs and describe the skills associated with each job.

## Career Readiness, Life Literacies, & Key Skills

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TECH.9.4.2.CI.1                      Demonstrate openness to new ideas and perspectives (e.g., 1.1.2.CR1a, 2.1.2.EH.1, 6.1.2.CivicsCM.2).

TECH.9.4.2.GCA.1                      Articulate the role of culture in everyday life by describing one's own culture and comparing it to the cultures of other individuals (e.g., 1.5.2.C2a, 7.1.NL.IPERS.5, 7.1.NL.IPERS.6).

## Interdisciplinary Connections

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MA.K-2.1.2.2.Cr1a                      Discover, share and express ideas for media artworks through experimentation, sketching and modeling.

MA.K-2.1.2.2.Cr1b                      Brainstorm and improvise multiple ideas using a variety of tools, methods and materials.

MA.K.NBT.A.1                          Compose and decompose numbers from 11 to 19 into ten ones and some further ones, e.g., by using objects or drawings, and record each composition or decomposition by a drawing or equation (e.g.,  $18 = 10 + 8$ ); understand that these numbers are composed of ten ones and one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, or nine ones.

SOC.6.1.2.HistoryCC.3                      Make inferences about how past events, individuals, and innovations affect our current lives.

K-ESS2-1                                  Use and share observations of local weather conditions to describe patterns over time.

## Intersections of History

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The objective of this unit is for students to demonstrate an understanding how past events, individuals, and innovations affect our current lives. Students will discuss and engage in celebrations of notable public figures throughout the school year and use calendar skills to identify when these celebrations take place in terms of months, seasons, past and present. Students will explore beliefs, values, and traditions that may change and/or reflect more than one culture. Students will develop and build upon their own global awareness through

current and past events and related literature.

**Black:** Students will engage in a study of Martin Luther King Jr & Booker T. Washington and be able to summarize and describe how their actions and words have impacted the world today. Students will recognize prominent figures within black history- from politicians to activists to scientists and artists- at a developmentally appropriate level, what contribution they made to change the landscape of the world at the time and how their stories affect us today. Students will explore the concept of the past being a time of different norms and rules and explain how things have changed. Students will use calendar skills to identify Black History Month as every February and discuss why we celebrate black culture and history. Related Literature to support intersection: Martin's Big Words by Doreen Rappaport; The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles; Freedom Summer by Deborah Wiles; Carter Reads the Newspaper by Deborah Hopkinson

**Hispanic:** Students will explore customs and traditions rooted in hispanic culture and celebrate different hispanic countries with a Hispanic Heritage Month study in October. Students will explore the geographical location, climate, food, politics, recreation, and day to day life of various hispanic countries. Students will compare and contrast customs of holidays, such as Christmas and Halloween, in the US to customs of citizens in Spanish speaking countries. Students will use calendar skills to identify Hispanic Heritage Month as every September through October. Related Literature to support intersection: Islandborn by Junot Diaz; Too Many Tamales by Gary Soto; The Miracle of the First Poinsettia: A Mexican Christmas Story by Joanne Oppenheim; Pepe and the Parade: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage by Tracey Kyle

**Women:** Students will engage in a study of Pocahontas and how her story has impacted the world today; students will discuss ways in which Pocahontas has been commemorated. Students will use calendar skills to identify Women's History Month as every March and will study women inventors, politicians, leaders, authors, activists and scientists not only during Women's History month, but throughout the year. Related Literature to support this intersection: This Little Trailblazer by Joan Holub, Like a Girl by Lori Degman, My Name is Not Isabella by Jennifer Fosberry

**LGBTQ:** Students will use calendar skills to identify LGBTQ Pride Month as every June. Students will explore ways in which Pride month is celebrated, such as the flag or parades, and the historical figures and events that have contributed to the LGBTQ movement. Students will explore and discuss traditions and celebrations of families whose structure may look different from their own. Related Literature to support this intersection: Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag by Rob Sanders, Stonewall: A Building, an Uprising, a Revolution by Rob Sanders, This Day in June by Gayle E. Pitman