

THE ENRICHMENT PROJECT

Badge Program

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January
Observances

Monthly Observances: January

Need a theme at a moment's notice? Looking to create craft ideas for your meeting? What kind of event will get your people motivated? Short on ideas and need a starting point?

Monthly observances can give you everything from ideas for activities to service projects. You can even make themed gifts.

MONTHLY OBSERVANCES: JANUARY

Steps

1. **January printable.**

Download the printable of January monthly observances in the United States. These are observances that occur all month long. For January, these include:

- Celebration of Life Month
- National Hobby Month
- National Letter Writing Month
- National Soup Month
- National Stamp Collectors Month

Review the printable to find what monthly themes you can incorporate into your own activities.

2. **Your own list.**

Start your own list of January monthly observances, including ideas to help celebrate them. Expand on the list provided or create your own from scratch to meet the needs of your audience or group.

3. **Theme.**

Any monthly observance can be a theme for your meeting, event, post, gift, etc. Look through the provided PDF or your self-created list and find one that interests you. How can you build a theme around your chosen observance?

START PLANNING

4. **Meetings, parties and events.**

You can plan a meeting, party or event based on a monthly celebration theme. You might want to do one or more activities based on your observance. You may choose to focus an entire event around it. Make sure you have enough time to plan and carry out your event / activities.

5. **Create and design.**

Use the January observances as a way to focus your creative energy. When you're stuck for an idea, these can give you a starting point for brainstorming. Some things you might create include:

- Art
- Blog posts
- Club activities
- Crafts
- Ebooks
- Games
- Gifts
- Podcasts
- Printables
- STEM
- Videos



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6. **Education.**

Teaching and leading activities about January observances gives your curriculum a new look each month. You can find many supplements and printables teachers and educational professionals share online. Find support for your chosen observance.

7. **Sharing.**

Sharing your ideas with others not only encourages participation but may bring greater variety into your activities. You can share:

- Cultural observations
- Hobbies
- Interests
- Religious observances

Explore ways to share with others in your community or group.

8. **Service.**

You can plan service around a monthly observance. For example, for National Soup Month you might plan to work at a soup kitchen or collect donations to help the kitchen. Look through the observances and find one or more that allow you to bring service into your monthly activities.

9. **Communicate.**

Use monthly observations in your communications. You can share your thoughts and ideas to move people to action. From blog posts to emails to newsletters, keep your communication fresh by incorporating these observances in your writing.

10. **Brainstorm.**

Brainstorm ways to incorporate observances into your own community or group. This might be a one-time event or a series for a group, club or community.

CONTINUE THE SEARCH

11. **Explore offerings online.**

Pick a monthly observance (or more) and start your online research. What is available online that you can download and use?

12. **Search for even more!**

How have other people celebrated the month theme you chose? Connect with others and find out what they did. Ask about what worked, what didn't and what they might change to make it better.

Can you incorporate their ideas into your own project? If not, what adjustments can you make?

Supplements

01_January_MonthCelebration.pdf

Printable sheet of monthly observances

NOTE: If you have additional observances you'd like added, please let me know.



Sites to Explore

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:January_observances
www.butlerwebs.com/holidays/default.htm
giftedkids.about.com/od/Monthly-Special-Days-Calendars/a/Month-Long-Observances-In-January.htm
www.nsc.org/news_resources/Resources/Pages/NSCSafetyCalendar.aspx
library.thinkquest.org/2886/jan.htm
www.pohly.com/dates_jan.html
123child.com/act/jan.html
www.brownielocks.com
www.theultimateholidaysite.com
www.thenibble.com/fun/more/facts/food-holidays.asp
www.gone-ta-pott.com
www.holidaysforeveryday.com
www.tfdutch.com/foodh.htm
www.welcoa.org/observances/january.php

Check out [larajla's Enrichment Project](http://larajla.com) to start your own adventure.