

THE ENRICHMENT PROJECT

Badge Program

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MONTHLY OBSERVANCES: MAY

Steps

1. **May printable.**

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

- American Wetlands Month
- Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
- Better Sleep Month
- Clean Air Month
- Flower Month
- Get Caught Reading Month
- Melanoma / Skin Cancer Awareness Month
- Modern Dance Month
- Moms are Marvelous Month
- National Bike Month
- National Hamburger Month
- National Historic Preservation Month
- National Inventors Month
- National Photo Month
- National Salsa Month
- National Scrapbooking Month
- Older Persons Month
- Teacher Appreciation Month
- Young Achievers of Tomorrow 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 May 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 or event. May has a lot of themes you can incorporate with outdoor activities such as gardening, biking and cooking out on the barbecue. Indoors, you can try scrapbooking, reading or enjoying a nap. Who doesn't love a good nap? 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?



Monthly Observances: May

*April showers bring
May flowers . . .
but flowers isn't
the only observance
celebrated in May.*

*Monthly observances
can give you every-
thing from ideas for
activities to service
projects.*



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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. Don't limit yourself to the stated themes. For example, National Bike Month might allow you to provide an event on preparing your bike for the season, bike safety or even a trip on local routes with a picnic break to allow extra time for socialization.

5. Create and design.

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

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

6. Education.

Teaching and leading activities about May observances gives your curriculum a new look. You can find many supplements and printables 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
- Recipes
- 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, Older Persons Month might have you checking into how you can support your local senior centers or nursing homes. Skin Cancer Awareness Month is a great time to share information on how to protect yourself while being outside in the sun. 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? Be sure to keep track of where you get the information so you can refer back to this resource.

12. Search for even more!

How have other people celebrated the month theme you chose? Talk to them to 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

SUPP_AEP_05_May.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:May_observances

www.butlerwebs.com/holidays/default.htm

giftedkids.about.com/od/Monthly-Special-Days-Calendars/a/Special-Days-And-Observances-In-May-Page.htm

www.nsc.org/news_resources/Resources/Pages/NSCSafetyCalendar.aspx

library.thinkquest.org/2886

www.pohly.com/dates_may.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

www.holidayinsights.com/moreholidays

Check out Larajla's Enrichment Project to start your own adventure.