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Pi Day



Actual Holiday: March 14

First Celebrated: 1988

Introduction

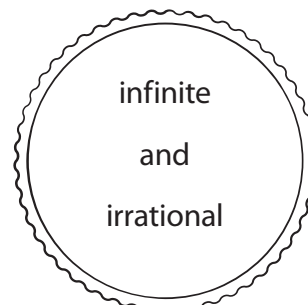
The Greek letter pi (π) represents the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Pi is usually rounded up to 3.14, but it can be calculated to go on forever. Mathematicians and students learn about pi, but no one thought it was something to celebrate until 1988, when physicist Larry Shaw, who worked at a public learning laboratory in San Francisco called The Exploratorium, organized the first celebration of Pi Day. It was meant to be a light-hearted celebration of numbers but has since become a national holiday—and a good excuse to eat some pie! Celebrate this day in your classroom by having some fun with numbers, letters, and words.

Materials

- *Have Some Pi(e)* activity sheet (page 17)
- pencils
- timer

The Activity

- Ask students if any of them have heard of pi. Write the symbol on the board. Tell them that pi is a number used by mathematicians. It is usually written as 3.14. Tell students that in honor of March 14th, the class will be celebrating Pi Day today.
- Tell students that the digits of pi can actually be calculated to go on and on. Challenge students to memorize as many digits of pi as they can. Write *pi* on the board to as many places as you think your students can remember. Have the class recite the numbers together. Ask them if they can think of other ways to memorize numbers and try some of their suggestions. Then erase or block the board.
- Distribute the *Have Some Pi(e)* activity sheet to students. In the “Memorize Pi” section of the activity sheet, have them write as many digits of pi as they can. Have students reveal their responses either by showing or reciting their digits.
- Now have students switch gears and try a word challenge. Set a timer for 3 minutes and 14 seconds. When you say “Go!” and start the timer, students should write down every word they can think of that begins with *pi*. Challenge students to fill the “Pi Words” section of the activity sheet with as many words as they can. See who can come up with the most words or the most unusual words.
- Ask students if they are familiar with haiku poetry. Then ask if they have heard of pi-ku poetry. If this question results in lots of blank looks, tell them that pi-ku poems celebrate pi. They follow a similar format to haiku poetry, but instead of five, seven, and five syllables, the format is three, one, and four syllables. Challenge students to complete the final section of the activity sheet with their own pi-ku poems.



Touch-a-Heart Tuesday



Actual Holiday: Last Tuesday in August

First Celebrated: 1988

Introduction

Touch-a-Heart Tuesday is part of Be Kind to Humankind Week, an annual celebration of kindness. Founder Lorraine Jara came up with the idea for this week when she realized just how much the world needed kindness. Touch-a-Heart Tuesday is all about showing and sharing love. Celebrate this holiday with your class by discussing how hearts can be hurt and how kindness can help them feel good again.

Materials

- *Hearts* activity sheet (page 53)
- scissors
- crayons or other art supplies

The Activity

- Tell students that today they will be celebrating Touch-a-Heart Tuesday.
- Distribute the *Hearts* activity sheet to students. Have them color and decorate the heart at the top of the page. When they have finished decorating the heart, have them cut it out and place it on their desk.
- Write *Unkindness* and *Kindness* at the top of the board and draw a vertical line separating them. Begin a discussion about ways that humans can be unkind to one another. Ask student volunteers to give examples from their own lives or from things they have witnessed.
- Write the first example of unkindness on the board. Then have students fold or crumple part of the heart they decorated. Do the same for each example until the hearts are completely folded up or crumpled in students' hands. Have them place the crumpled-up hearts on their desks.
- Now begin a discussion about kindness. Ask students for examples of kindness they have experienced or witnessed.
- Write the first example of kindness on the board. Have students unfold or uncrumple part of the hearts on their desks. Do the same for each example until the hearts are completely unfolded or uncrumpled.
- Have students try to smooth out the hearts as much as possible. Tell them that when people do unkind things to someone, it hurts their heart. A person can apologize and that definitely helps the situation, but the heart is always going to show that it was once hurt. You can never smooth out the wrinkles entirely on a paper heart any more than you can completely heal a human heart. What we say or do to others, whoever they are, means something.
- Tell students that we can make decisions to touch other people's hearts in only the kindest of ways. We are never going to be perfect. We are human beings and we all make mistakes. But when we do, we have to realize what we have done, apologize when we can, and then make better choices next time. And whenever possible, we should choose to be kind.
- Have students fill out the sections of the heart at the bottom of the *Hearts* activity sheet with ways that they can be kind to their family, friends, and the people around them. Let them decorate and cut out the heart after they have finished writing. Tell them to keep this heart nearby to remind them to always try to touch another's heart in the kindest way.



Name: _____

Hearts

