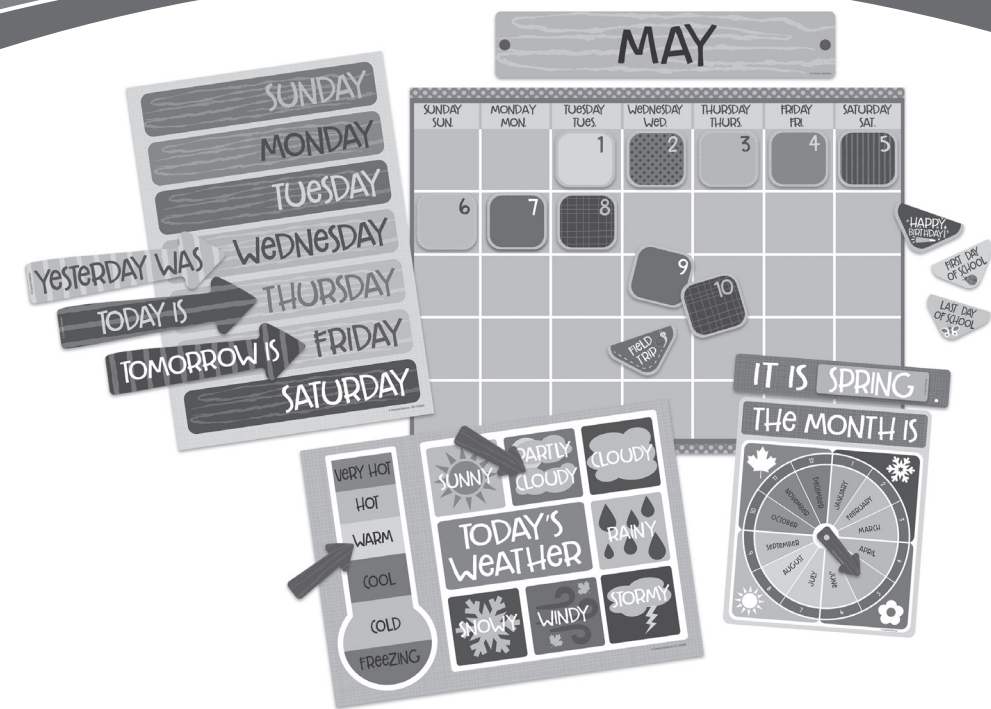


Reproducible Patterns

Nature Explorers Calendar Bulletin Board RESOURCE GUIDE



Putting It Together

- Laminate the Nature Explorers Calendar Bulletin Board for durability.
- Display the Nature Explorers Calendar Bulletin Board on a wall or a bulletin board.
- Refer to the diagram above for a picture of the Nature Explorers Calendar Bulletin Board.

Title Ideas

- A New Day, A New Trail
- Make Every Day an Adventure
- Explore a New Idea Today
- Mr. _____'s Learning Explorers
- Move Mountains Today

Activities By Subject

Classroom Management

Question of the Day Each day, on a piece of chart paper, write a new question for students to answer, such as “Have you ever seen a lizard in the wild?” Discuss the results with students. Then, graph the results on graph paper or use sticky notes or a dry-erase marker to quickly graph answers. Have students keep journals to write their answers to each question of the day.

Monthly Planners At the start of each month, provide students with blank calendar grids [page 4]. Help students write the correct month and dates. Encourage students to decorate their calendars and place them in special take-home folders. Throughout the month, remind students to write important dates (such as Earth Day), upcoming events, and assignments on the appropriate calendar days. Laminate the Nature Explorers Calendar Bulletin Board. Then, use a dry-erase marker to model how students can mark their calendars. Keep families up to date and informed by sending the folders home each night with the calendars, notes, homework assignments, etc.

Daily Stars Set a class goal to earn stars for good behavior. When the class behaves well or finishes a task, use a dry-erase marker on the Nature Explorers Calendar Bulletin Board to draw a star on that day’s calendar cover-up. (You may wish to laminate it first.) If you have to remind the class to stay on task, lower the noise level, etc., remove the star. If the class earns four stars by the end of the week, reward them with free time, stickers, snacks, etc. *Caution: Before beginning any food activity, ask families’ permission and inquire about students’ food allergies and religious or other food restrictions.*

Language Arts

Book of the Day Record the titles and authors of books students have read during the month on the Nature Explorers Calendar Bulletin Board. Or, have students record their information on personal copies of a blank calendar grid [page 4].

Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow Divide a piece of chart paper into three columns and label them *Yesterday*, *Today*, and *Tomorrow*. Display the chart paper next to the Nature Explorers Calendar Bulletin Board. Discuss the concepts of past, present, and future. Choose a verb and write its different tenses in the correct columns. Practice with other verbs. Then, allow the students create sentences with verb tenses that match each column heading.

Matching Abbreviations Help students learn the abbreviations for the months of the year and the days of the week. Write the names and abbreviations of the months on index cards. Repeat for the days of the week. Make the sets self-checking by also writing the correct abbreviation on the back of each index card. Place both sets of cards in a pocket chart or at a center. Have students individually match the months and the days of the weeks to the correct abbreviations.

Math

Number Manipulatives Use the numbered calendar cover-ups in the Nature Explorers Calendar Bulletin Board to reinforce basic counting skills. Ask students to use the numbers to practice skip counting or sort them by odd and even numbers.

Story Problems Have students practice math skills with calendar story problems. Write word problems on sentence strips and place them around the Nature Explorers Calendar Bulletin Board. For example, *Lea borrowed a library book about the butterfly life cycle on the 4th. It is due on the 16th. How many days does she have to*

Activities By Subject

read the book? Allow students to use the calendar to solve the problems.

Calendar Math Use daily calendar time as an opportunity to reinforce several basic math skills, including odd and even numbers, place value, number sequence, and the sequence of days of the week and months of the year. Include these questions into this daily review:

1. How many days have we been in school?
2. Is the number of today’s date an odd or even number?
3. How many days of school do we have left?
4. What will the first day of next month be?
5. How many days are left in the month?

Monthly Sequence For a center activity, place the month headers from the Nature Explorers Calendar Bulletin Board at a math center and have each student properly sequence them. Or, have each student sort the months according to season or alphabetically. For an additional challenge, create index cards with various dates written as numerals. For example, *May 12* would be *5/12*. Then, instruct students to match these cards to the correct month at a math center.

Birthday Graph Use the month headers in the Nature Explorers Calendar Bulletin Board as a base for a month graph. For example, take photos of each student and work as a class to create a bar graph of student birthdays.

Money Math Provide coin manipulatives or real money for students. Each day, let students count out the different amounts of money equal to the amount of the date. For example, if it is the 13th day of the month, they could count out 13 pennies, 2 nickels and 3 pennies, or 1 dime and 3 pennies. Store the money manipulatives near the Nature Explorers Calendar Bulletin Board or at a math center.

Social Studies

Holiday History Use the Nature Explorers Calendar Bulletin Board to help students identify and learn about different holidays. Discuss how different cultures celebrate the same holidays or examine the unique holidays of different cultures. Allow students to use books, magazines, and the internet to research the different holidays each month. After students have enough information, encourage them to display what they learned on sheets of poster board with illustrations and text. Display each student’s work as her chosen holiday approaches. Allow students to create a new holiday cover-up for each holiday and post it on the calendar.

Special Class Day Use the Nature Explorers Calendar Bulletin Board to help students create a special class day each month, such as hat day or backwards day. Allow students to decide what to celebrate or accomplish on the chosen day. You may wish to assign groups and have each group take turns creating a special day. Invite students to create a special cover-up to place on the calendar.

Science

Weather Tracking Have a daily helper tell the class what the weather is like and show it on the Nature Explorers Calendar Bulletin Board weather chart. Discuss changes in the weather, or make a weather graph and have students track changes over time.

Today’s Temperature Place a thermometer outside the classroom window or use the internet to find the temperature so that students can record it each day. Make a class graph to track the temperature over time. Students will be able to correlate changes in temperature with the change in seasons.