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April is a great month for special days. It's the beginning of spring. The days are getting longer and warmer.

Discuss with your learners:

- What does spring mean to them? What are their favourite spring activities?
- Discuss the religious and cultural activities they remember or participate in during April.
- Share food, recipes and crafts associated with spring.

Pre-reading activities for the front page

Metro Vancouver has traffic!

No matter where you live you have to get around to shop, work, and go to school. How do your learners move around?

- Conduct a poll. Do your learners walk, bicycle, drive, take transit or.....?
- Put each mode of transportation on a separate sheet of paper. Paste a picture on each. If possible, use flip chart paper.
- Divide each sheet in half, vertically. Title one half "Pros" and the other "Cons". Brainstorm words or phrases to describe their experience and thoughts about each mode of transportation.
- Use the words and phrases to talk or write about the ideas.
- Practise using vocabulary and sentence structure that compares the pros and cons.

Canadians shop in the US

Use a similar approach as above. Start with a poll.

Poll question: Where do you shop?

First Nations study business

Discuss: Why is a special program for aboriginal students studying business needed?

Use the internet to find out more.



See our website for more on this story:
thewestcoastreader.com

Answers to exercises

1. Compound words (page 3)

workshops, skytrain, cannot, anymore, nickname, something

2. Crossword puzzle—double letters (page 4)



April special events (Calendar p.3)

April is a month of celebrations and new beginnings. Have some fun and share food, recipes and crafts associated with spring with your learner group.

Each of the April celebrations is associated with special food, songs, and activities. Discuss with your learners their experience with each event. Taste the foods. Listen to the music. Do some crafts.

Work with your learners to plan activities related to the April celebrations. These celebrations are excellent opportunities to practice thinking, writing and speaking skills. Each activity will need to be planned, supplies gathered, instructions understood and products celebrated.

Vaisakhi

Vaisakhi is a Sikh holiday. It is also celebrated by Hindus and Buddhists. Processions on this day include joyous singing, dancing and playful duels.

Vaisakhi is one of Canada's largest cultural events. Parades feature floats, community groups, live music, dancers, performers and food! All are welcome to this celebration. It marks the beginning of the New Year and is a holy day marking the birth of Khalsa.

Activity: Go to the parade and festival

Find out what is planned for Vaisakhi in your community. Attend the parade and festival. Write and talk about the experience. Parades are held in Prince George, Richmond and Surrey.

Passover or Pesach

Passover is an eight-day celebration. It commemorates the freedom of Jewish slaves from Egypt during the reign of Pharaoh Ramses II.

Families celebrate Passover by having a Seder on the first night of Passover. Special foods, songs, and customs make the Seder the focal point of the Passover celebration.

One of the special foods for Passover is 'matzah'.

Activity: Read aloud and talk about the story.

When the Jewish people left Egypt, they were in a hurry. They did not have time to bake the bread dough in their ovens. They carried the unbaked dough on their backs. As they walked it cooked in the sun. It became hard and flat and was called 'matzah'. During Passover, Jews must eat matzah.

"Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread." (Exodus 12:15).

Adapted from www.bje.org.au

Bring some matzah to class and taste it together.

Special events (cont.)

Easter

Eggs were used as a symbol of rebirth long before the life of Jesus Christ. Today, we decorate eggs for Easter and hide them for children to find.

The idea of the rabbit as a part of Easter came to North America in colonial days with the Germans. Children are told that the Easter Bunny brings treats like chocolate and colourful eggs. The Easter Bunny hides them for children to find.

Activity: Decorate Easter eggs.

Have ready wide mouth jars, food colouring, felt pens, glue, stickers, ribbons, coloured paper, etc. Most thrift stores have baskets or bowls you can fill with straw or shredded paper to make a nest for your finished eggs. Empty egg cartons are useful to hold the eggs while they dry. Egg decorating kits are available in most grocery stores.

Use the imagination and creativity of your learners.

Earth Day

Earth Day is still celebrated in the spring. Students, teachers and parents take time to learn about the environment.

Earth Day is a time for all of us to recognize how we impact the limited resources on our planet. Activities, campaigns and events are held on this day to promote awareness of the earth's environment. Participate in a local event or start your own!

Exercises

1. Compound words

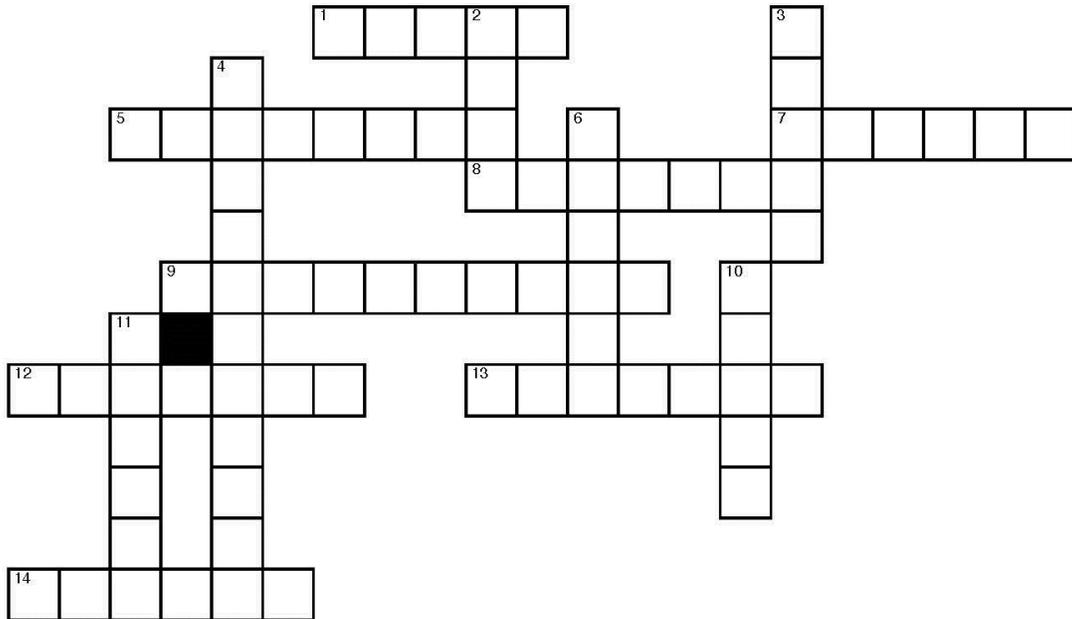
A compound word is a word made of two shorter words. For example, week + end = weekend.

grand	shops	_____
work	name	_____
sky	thing	_____
can	mother	_____ grandmother
any	train	_____
nick	not	_____
some	more	_____

Double Letters

Fill in the crossword puzzle with the words that complete these sentences.

HINT: All the answers have double letters.



Across

1. You need six to eight hours of _____ every night.
5. Canadians might go cross-border _____ less often.
7. Get your tax forms from a Sercie Canada _____.
8. Banks, _____ and public officers are closed.
9. Schools and many _____ are closed on Easter Monday.
12. The Easter Bunny hides the _____.
13. Easter _____ is four days long.
14. Hot water gets rid of _____.

Down

2. _____ cost less in the United States
3. Jesus died on the _____.
4. Most _____ have trained volunteers.
6. Canadians buy _____ in the USA.
10. The Easter _____ brings eggs and candy to children.
11. The Canadian _____ is worth less now.