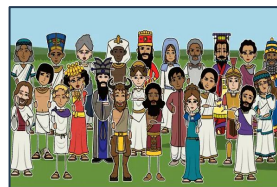


CLOSING THE GAPS

Teachers and administrators know that the pandemic has had negative effects on students' academic progress and [social-emotional](#) well being. While it has been difficult for all students, the last 20 months or so has only deepened pre-existing disparities. [English Language Learners](#) and struggling readers have been hit the hardest as the gap in their access to content and educational opportunities has expanded even further. Teachers are working hard to "close the gaps" by implementing rigorous curricula that is differentiated and meets the academic needs of all students while also supporting students' emotional needs.

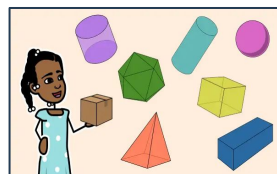
Storyboarding provides a unique solution to both of these challenges. Teachers are able to use [Storyboard That's](#) vast array of [teacher guides](#) to create lessons that are differentiated and tailored to a students' specific learning needs. In addition, students are able to express themselves and demonstrate their understanding and analysis of a wide variety of topics.

Students thrive and engagement is increased when they are given relevant and challenging material that piques their curiosity. Struggling readers should not have to sacrifice being exposed to rich, award-winning literature or advanced academic content in social studies or science! As a matter of equity, students should be given access to content in a variety of ways. Storyboarding effectively allows students to increase their [vocabulary](#), comprehension and content knowledge. Storyboard That gives teachers the tools to empower all students to succeed!



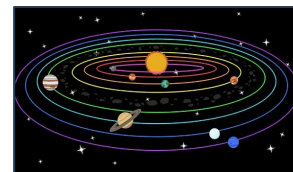
[Social Studies: Ancient Civilizations](#)

[ELA: Shakespeare Plays](#)



[Math: Geometry](#)

[Science: The Solar System](#)



NEW CONTENT

Check out the latest lesson plans and activities in [Teacher Resources!](#) Save time by copying the premade resources to your Storyboard That account to use with your students.



[Novel Study](#)



[Science Observation Templates](#)



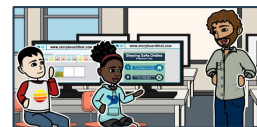
[Underground to Canada](#)



[Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky](#)



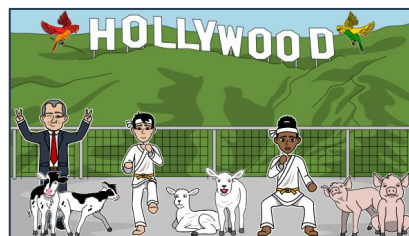
[Spelling Test Templates](#)



[Digital Citizenship](#)

NEW ART: We've got hairstyles! We've added hairstyle options to many of our characters, so now you can choose the style you'd like them to have! We also have new animals, food, landmarks around the world, and storm scenes.

- Baby Farm Animals
- Parakeet
- Karate Characters
- Richard Nixon
- Poutine
- Pigs in a Blanket
- Outdoor Dining
- Swingset
- Playroom
- Community Pool
- Storm Scenes
- Leaning Tower of Pisa
- Eiffel Tower
- Hollywood Sign
- Sydney Opera House
- St. Basil's Cathedral



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Celebrating in December!

The month of December is packed with holidays, and is certainly a time for celebration!

HANUKKAH

[Hanukkah](#), which is also known as The Festival of Lights, is a [Jewish holiday](#) that commemorates the dedicating of the second temple in Jerusalem. In 164 BCE, the Jewish people revolted against the Greeks in the Maccabean War. An oil lamp in the temple, which only had enough oil to burn for one day, burned for eight days! After their victory, the Jewish people cleansed and rededicated the temple. Hanukkah is an eight-day celebration that includes exchanging gifts and lighting the menorah each night. The menorah is a special candelabrum with nine candles, eight of which symbolize the number of days that the Temple lantern stayed lit, and one that is used to light the others. Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month Kislev, which in 2021, is the evening of Sunday, November 28th. During Hanukkah, it is tradition to eat food that is fried in oil, to represent the oil of the Temple lamp. Some foods that are enjoyed include latke (potato) pancakes, jam filled donuts, and fritters. A popular game to play is called [Dreidel](#), which is a four sided top that has special Hebrew letters that have a special meaning.



CHRISTMAS

[Christians](#) around the world celebrate Christmas on December 25th, the day that Jesus was born. It is a day of peace, joy, family, and exchanging gifts. Christmas became a federal holiday in the United States in 1870, and since then has gained popularity all over the world. Santa Claus, who is a popular Christmas figure, is based on Saint Nicholas, who was loved for his acts of kindness and generosity. To celebrate Christmas, people gather with family, [send cards](#), attend church, exchange gifts in the morning, decorate a Christmas tree, and decorate their homes with festive lights and decor.

KWANZAA

Kwanzaa, which is a celebration of African-American heritage and culture, begins on December 26 and ends on January 1, lasting seven days. There are [seven symbols](#) of Kwanzaa: the unity cup, the candle holder, the seven candles, fruits, nuts, and vegetables, ears of corn, gifts, and a mat to set things upon. Each day of Kwanzaa celebrates a special principle such as faith, creativity, purpose, unity, and self-determination to name a few. Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by a man named Dr. Maulana Karenga. Its name comes from a Swahili phrase meaning, "first fruits of the harvest", and was originally intended to be an alternative to Christmas. To celebrate [Kwanzaa](#), homes are decorated in African art, and the traditional African colors of green, black, and red. People may also wear traditional African clothing, and gather on the last day for a large feast called karamu, where traditional African foods are shared.



New Year's Eve is December 31st!

Celebrate the new year with students with one of [Storyboard That's resolution worksheets](#), or by creating a [storyboard](#) illustrating what they want to accomplish in the new year!



Looking for ways to celebrate the holidays with your students? Check out these ideas!

- Check out our [Winter Holiday Activities!](#)
- Make a holiday poster using our [poster templates](#).
- Create a holiday themed game using our [game templates](#).
- Write a letter to spread cheer using our [letter templates](#).

Follow us on social media to see all our newest content!

