

Formative Winter Holiday Toolkit

Grab activities, tips, and resources to close out 2025
on a high note and start 2026 with a bang!



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newsela

Ask the Astronaut: Luna FAQs

You asked and Luna is ready to answer! Here are some things educators want to know most about their new AI assistant.

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A: When parsing PDFs, Luna works best when the passage or diagram and the related questions are on the same page. If this information is several pages apart, Luna may not know to connect them.

formative

Thanksgiving Activities

Tap into your students' interest in turkey, apple pie, and shopping with these engaging Thanksgiving and Black Friday interactive activities.

Social Studies

Build background knowledge on how and why we **celebrate Thanksgiving** in the United States.

Science

Discover the **environmental impact** behind a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

ELA

Practice **elementary reading comprehension** with a story about the first Thanksgiving.

formative

Winter Holiday Activities

Need some fun, engaging activities to keep your students learning as the end of the calendar year draws near? Try one of these holiday activities!

Celebrating Christmas

Test students' knowledge of Christmas origins, popular customs and holiday fun facts.

Celebrating Hanukkah

See how much students know about the symbols, foods, and traditions of Hanukkah.

Celebrating Kwanzaa

Discover how much students know about the history and significance of the **seven days of Kwanzaa**.

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Election Practice Sets

Give students in every grade band the opportunity to learn more about civic concepts for Election Day with independent practice. Choose from flashcard, match, quiz, or write modes to customize the practice experience.

Elections

Explore the meaning and significance of terms like **incumbent**, **swing state**, and **voter turnout**.

Civic Duty

Teach civic vocabulary like **jury duty**, **paying taxes**, **public service**, and **community service**.

Local Government

Learn the **functions and duties of local government**, like **zoning**, **city council**, **mayor**, and **mayor**.

State Government

Discover the **functions and duties of state government**, like **legislature**, **bicameral**, **governor**, and **state**.

formative

Winter Solstice Luna Prompts to Try in Formative

Want to try out Luna on Formative this winter, but aren't sure where to start? Use or adapt one of these prompts to get the creativity going!

ELA

- Make a quick write activity that asks students to write about the Winter Solstice using their senses.
- Develop a reflection activity where students explore the themes of change and hope people may feel when the seasons shift.

Social Studies

- Make an exit ticket that asks students to share a reason why ancient cultures built celebrations around the Winter Solstice.
- Can you create an activity where students compare how two

Science

- Let's create a check for understanding activity where students draw or explain why the day is shorter than the night during the Winter Solstice.
- Make an activity that asks students to draw and label the Earth

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Vision Board on Formative

Create a vision board on Formative! Use the lesson feature and choose from the question options, content ideas, or import to guide a meaningful conversation on setting goals.

1. Click Create + and Lesson

2. Choose how you want to build your lesson

Add question or content | Draw a slide | Import from Google Slides | Add lesson blocks

formative

Vision Board Printable

Create a fun and colorful vision board to kick off your goals for the new semester! Use this framework to make your board inspiring and focused.

New Skill Goal Share a measurable goal for a new skill you want to gain:

Write | Draw

Kindness Goal Create a goal around spreading kindness:

Write | Draw

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Admin Get Started Checklist

Follow these steps to log into your Formative account, get teachers into the platform, and promote usage!

Step 1: Log in and select rostering options

Confirm with your IT department how your teachers should log into Formative. If you worked with our Onboarding Team, you're likely already set up and ready to log in.

Formative offers multiple ways to bulk roster your classes, and you can contact our **Support Team** for help with this step.

Step 2: Review details

Review your school, district, and department teams to make sure everyone is included and has access to your subscription.

Step 3: Email teachers

Email your teachers to share the correct integrated login method for their accounts. Reinforce the message by sharing the information in-person, too!

Step 4: Promote collaboration

Step 5: Monitor usage

formative

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Step 2: Create activities

Access unlimited activity creation—including lessons, Formative assessments, common assessments, and collaboration tools and resources—with just a few clicks.

Step 3: Assign content

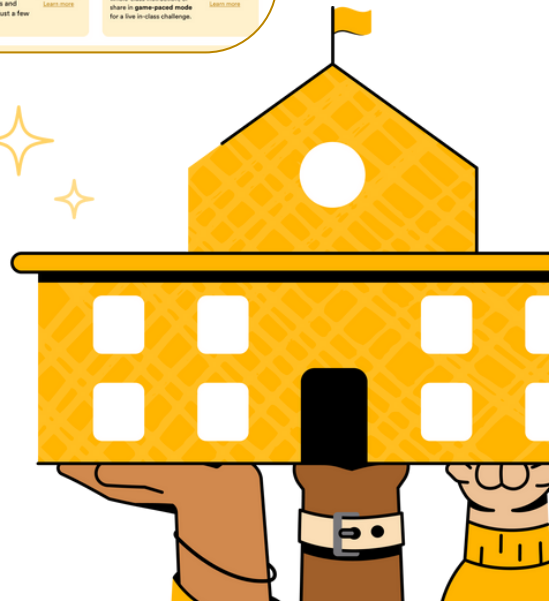
Assign or present your activity to the class. Assign in **student-paced mode** for independent work, present in **teacher-paced mode** for whole class instruction, or share in **game-paced mode** for a live in-class challenge.

NOVEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Formative Assessment: Political Ideologies and the American Political System	4 Formative Assessment: Political Ideologies and the American Political System	5 Social Studies Practice Lesson: Civics Government	6 ELA Starter Lesson: Cause and Effect	7 Math Starter Lesson: Solving Area Problems
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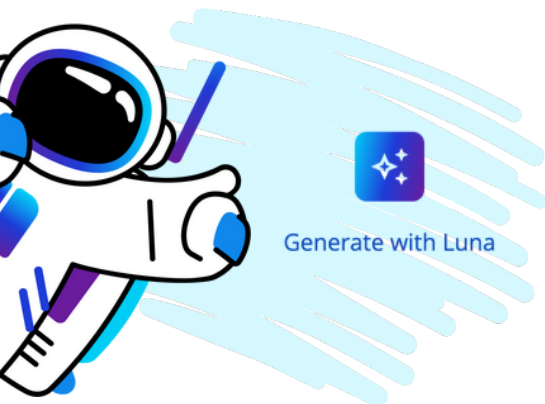


Ask the Astronaut: Luna FAQs

You asked and Luna is ready to answer! Here are some things educators want to know most about their new AI assistant.



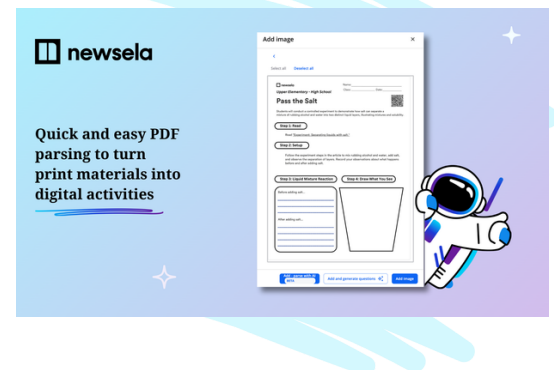
Q: How can I find Luna in Formative?



A: When you log into Formative and start **creating or editing an activity**, Luna, the AI-powered astronaut assistant, appears automatically to help! You can also look for ✨ across the platform

Q: Does Luna ever make errors converting PDFs?

A: When parsing PDFs, **Luna works best when the passage or diagram and the related questions are on the same page.** If this information is several pages apart, Luna may not know to connect them.



Q: Can Luna retrieve images?

A: Yes! When you parse a PDF, any **images associated with the question or passage are pulled into the digital item.** Luna won't find new images for you, but you can add or upload your own after creation.



Thanksgiving Activities

Tap into your students' interest in turkey, apple pie, and shopping with these engaging Thanksgiving and Black Friday interactive activities



[Lessons](#)

Social Studies

Build background knowledge on how and why we celebrate Thanksgiving in the United States.



 Fill in the Blank

1. The Pilgrims sailed on a ship called the Blank 1. They landed in what is now called Blank 2 Massachusetts.



Science

Discover the environmental impact behind a traditional Thanksgiving meal.



ELA

Practice elementary reading comprehension with a story about the first Thanksgiving.



The First Thanksgiving

It was not very easy for the early Pilgrims. In the winter of 1620, due to harsh conditions, a lack of food, and disease, many of them died.

However, the Pilgrims had reason to be thankful. They had become friendly with the Native American tribes and had learned how to plant corn and how to fertilize their fields.

After the harvest of this year, the Pilgrims had a successful first Thanksgiving.

5. If a Labubu priced at \$10 and a Labubu priced at \$4, how much do you save?

Math

Practice pre-algebra using real-world Black Friday shopping concepts.



\$4



\$6

Winter Holiday Activities

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Celebrating Christmas

Test students' knowledge of Christmas origins, popular customs and holiday fun facts.



Celebrating Hanukkah

See how much students know about the symbols, foods, and traditions of Hanukkah.



Celebrating Kwanzaa

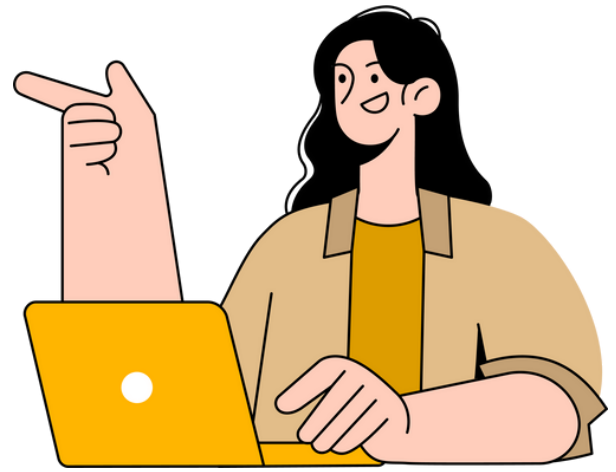
Discover how much students know about the history and significance of the seven days of Kwanzaa.



New Year Reading Log

Help your students build a reading habit by starting a new year reading log and marking when they read each day.





Election Practice Sets

Give students in every grade band the opportunity to learn more about civic concepts for Election Day with independent practice. Choose from flashcard, match, quiz, or write modes to customize the practice experience.

Elections

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Civic Duty

Teach civic vocabulary like *jury duty*, *paying taxes*, *public service*, and *community service*.



Local Government

Learn the functions and duties of local government, like *zoning*, *city council*, *municipality*, and *property tax*.



State Government

Discover the functions and duties of state government, like *legislature*, *bicameral*, *governor*, and *State Constitution*.



Winter Solstice Luna

Prompts to Try in **Formative**

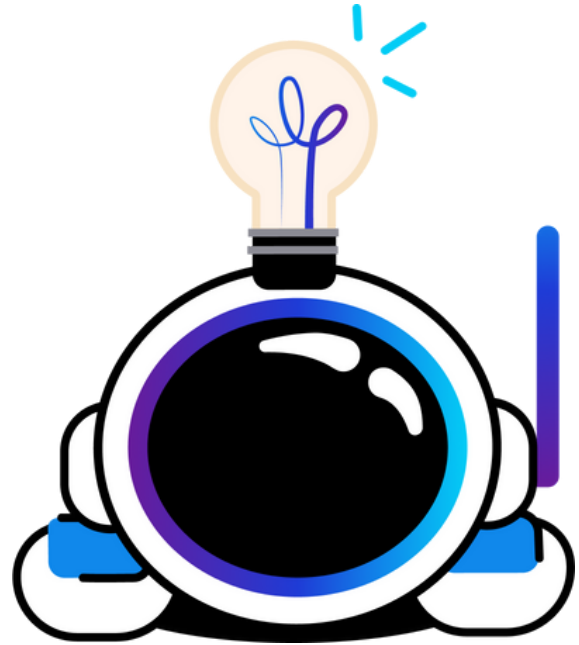


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[Learn more about Luna for Formative on our blog](#)

ELA

- Make a quick write activity that asks students to write about the Winter Solstice using their senses.
- Develop a reflection activity where students explore the themes of change and hope people may feel when the seasons shift.



Social Studies

- Make an exit ticket that asks students to share a reason why ancient cultures built celebrations around the Winter Solstice.
- Can you create an activity where students compare how two different cultures observe the solstice?

Science

- Let's create a check for understanding activity where students draw or explain why the day is shorter than the night during the Winter Solstice.
- Make an activity that asks students to draw and label the Earth's tilt and orbit during the Winter Solstice.

Share Your Best Prompts

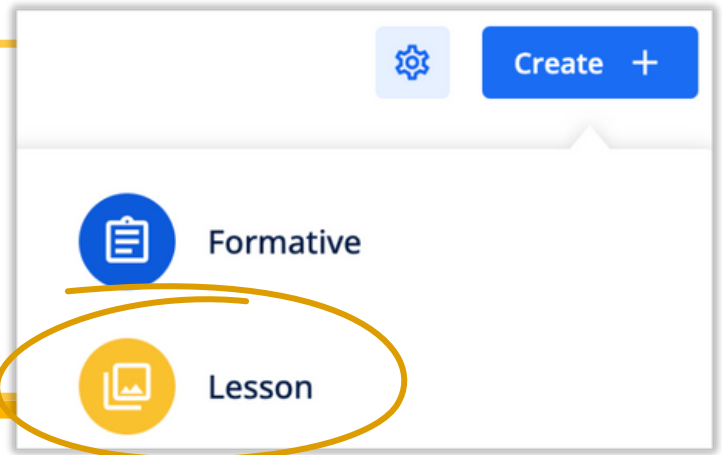
Our team is excited to see what you and Luna can do together. Share your favorite Luna prompts or tips [with our community](#).



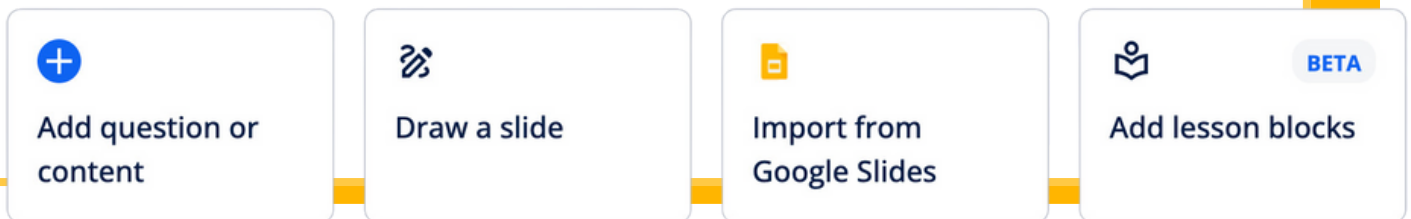
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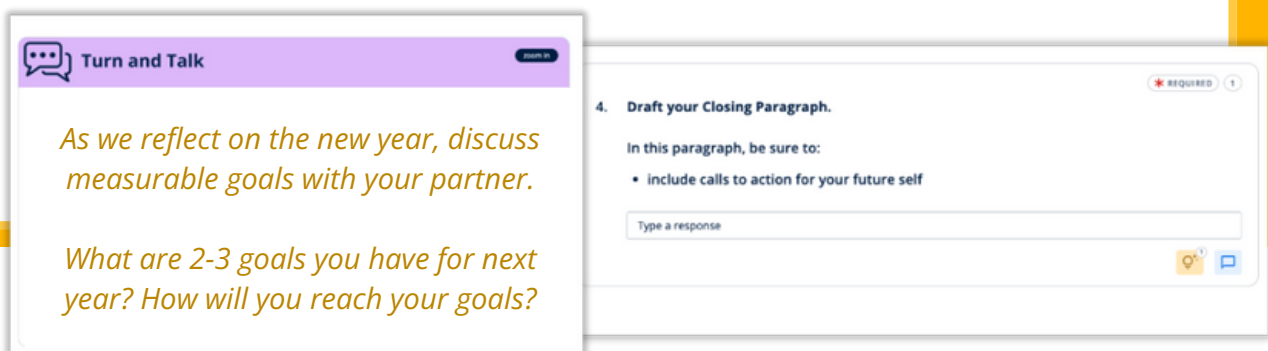
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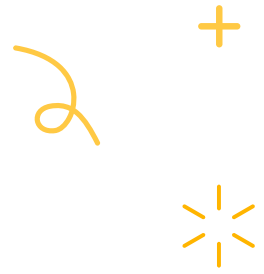


2. Choose how you want to build your lesson



3. Teach your vision board lesson





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New Skill Goal

Share a measurable goal for a new skill you want to gain:

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Kindness Goal

Create a goal around spreading kindness:

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Classroom Goal

Develop a goal you can implement in class:

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+ Formative Get Started Checklists

Welcome back to Formative! Follow the steps in the admin checklist to set up your Formative accounts, get teachers into the platform, and promote adoption and use. Share the teacher checklists with your team to help them get into their accounts, create activities, and assign or present engaging learning experiences.



Admin Get Started Checklist

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☐ Step 2: Review details

Review your school, district, and department teams to make sure everyone is included and has access to your subscription.



[Learn more](#)

☐ Step 3: Email teachers

Email your teachers to share the correct integrated login method for their accounts. Reinforce the message by sharing the information in-person, too!

☐ Step 4: Promote collaboration

Set up a private library for your organization so colleagues can collaborate on activities and common assessments.



[Learn more](#)

☐ Step 5: Monitor progress

Get details on common assessment performance, view teacher activity across your organization, and look in-depth at students' standards progress.



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[Learn more](#)

☐ Step 4: Gather real-time responses and give feedback

View student assessments and activity responses in real time, and provide in-the-moment guidance to shorten the feedback loop and help students get pointers when they need them the most—immediately.



[Learn more](#)

support@newsela.com

Scan the QR code to access more getting-started resources or visit formative.com/getting-started



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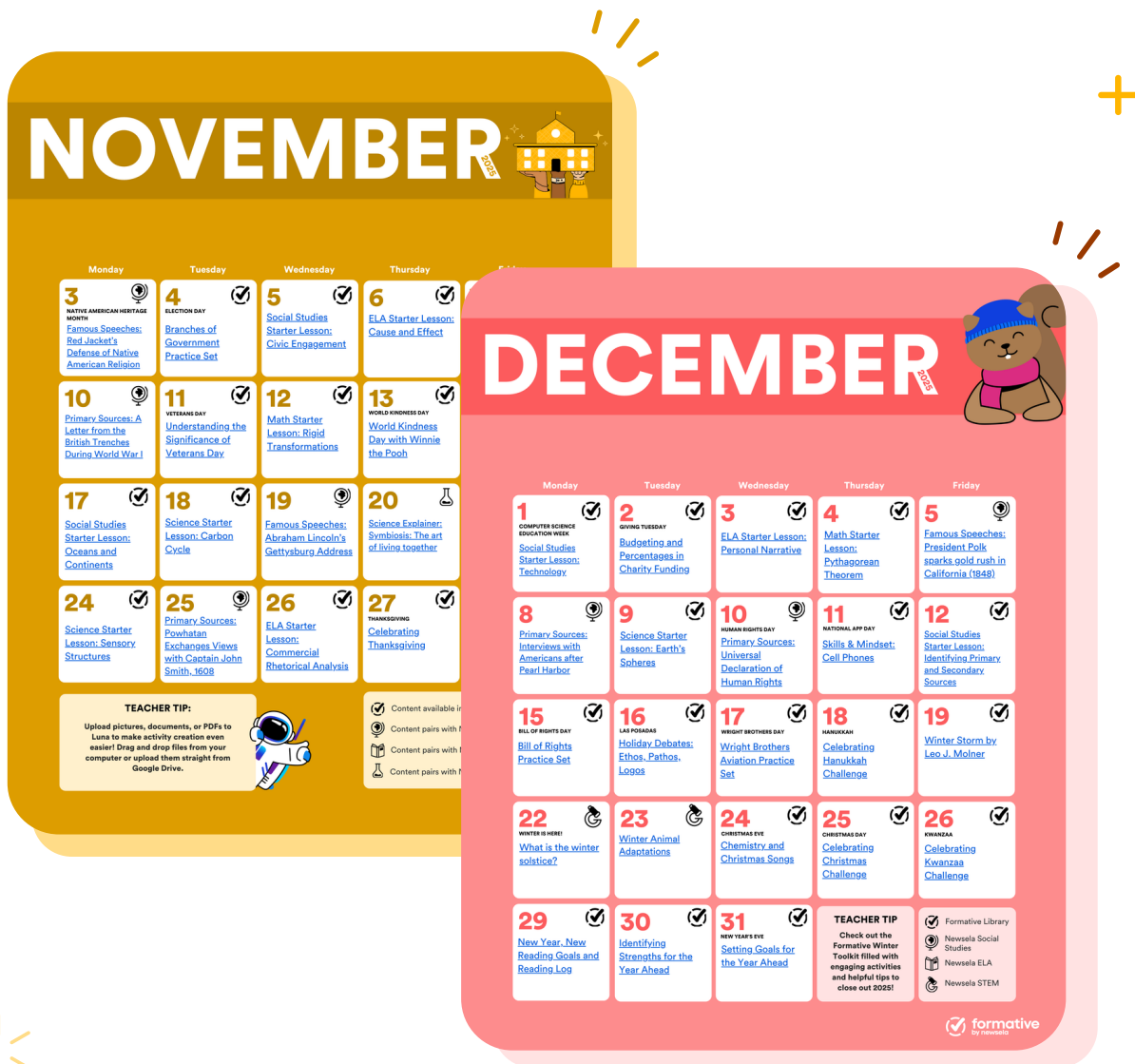
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+ Daily Activity Calendars

Formative's monthly calendars provide ready-to-go activities to help students build knowledge and skills. Each day's content is relevant, engaging, and diverse, with something for every grade band across subjects like ELA, writing, social studies, science, and math.



NOVEMBER



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

3



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

[Famous Speeches: Red Jacket's Defense of Native American Religion](#)

4



ELECTION DAY

[Branches of Government Practice Set](#)

5



[Social Studies Starter Lesson: Civic Engagement](#)

6



[ELA Starter Lesson: Cause and Effect](#)

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[Math Starter Lesson: Solving Area Problems](#)

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[Primary Sources: A Letter from the British Trenches During World War I](#)

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VETERANS DAY

[Understanding the Significance of Veterans Day](#)

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[Math Starter Lesson: Rigid Transformations](#)

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WORLD KINDNESS DAY

[World Kindness Day with Winnie the Pooh](#)

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[Math Starter Lesson: Pythagorean Theorem](#)

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[Social Studies Starter Lesson: Oceans and Continents](#)

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[Science Starter Lesson: Carbon Cycle](#)

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[Famous Speeches: Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address](#)

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[Science Explainer: Symbiosis: The art of living together](#)

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[Skills & Mindset: Focus and Concentration](#)

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[Science Starter Lesson: Sensory Structures](#)

25



[Primary Sources: Powhatan Exchanges Views with Captain John Smith, 1608](#)

26



[ELA Starter Lesson: Commercial Rhetorical Analysis](#)

27



THANKSGIVING

[Celebrating Thanksgiving](#)

28



BLACK FRIDAY

[Black Friday Pre-Algebra Shopping](#)

TEACHER TIP:

Upload pictures, documents, or PDFs to Luna to make activity creation even easier! Drag and drop files from your computer or upload them straight from Google Drive.



Content available in the Formative Library



Content pairs with Newsela Social Studies



Content pairs with Newsela ELA



Content pairs with Newsela Science

DECEMBER



2025

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

1

COMPUTER SCIENCE
EDUCATION WEEK



[Social Studies
Starter Lesson:
Technology](#)

2

GIVING TUESDAY



[Budgeting and
Percentages in
Charity Funding](#)

3



[ELA Starter Lesson:
Personal Narrative](#)

4



[Math Starter
Lesson:
Pythagorean
Theorem](#)

5



[Famous Speeches:
President Polk
sparks gold rush in
California \(1848\)](#)

8



[Primary Sources:
Interviews with
Americans after
Pearl Harbor](#)

9



[Science Starter
Lesson: Earth's
Spheres](#)

10

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



[Primary Sources:
Universal
Declaration of
Human Rights](#)

11

NATIONAL APP DAY



[Skills & Mindset:
Cell Phones](#)

12



[Social Studies
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Identifying Primary
and Secondary
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[Bill of Rights
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LAS POSADAS



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Logos](#)

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[Wright Brothers
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[Celebrating
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Challenge](#)

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[Winter Storm by
Leo J. Molner](#)

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WINTER IS HERE!



[What is the winter
solstice?](#)

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[Winter Animal
Adaptations](#)

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[Chemistry and
Christmas Songs](#)

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CHRISTMAS DAY



[Celebrating
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Challenge](#)

26

KWANZAA



[Celebrating
Kwanzaa
Challenge](#)

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[New Year, New
Reading Goals and
Reading Log](#)

30



[Identifying
Strengths for the
Year Ahead](#)

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NEW YEAR'S EVE



[Setting Goals for
the Year Ahead](#)

TEACHER TIP

Check out the
Formative Winter
Toolkit filled with
engaging activities
and helpful tips to
close out 2025!



Formative Library



Newsela Social
Studies



Newsela ELA



Newsela STEM

Thank you!

You're ready for winter! Log in and get started today.

Questions? Fill out a [support ticket](#) and we'll be in touch!



[Login to Formative](#)



[Contact Support](#)

