

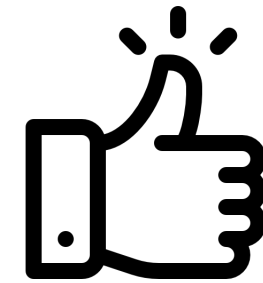
# April Fools' Day

Non-Fiction Article

A P R I L  
F O O L S  
D A Y



## RESOURCE INCLUDES



- ✓ 1 Non-Fiction Article
- ✓ 3 Post-Reading Activities
- ✓ Regular & Modified Versions
- ✓ MP3 Audio File For Each Article
- ✓ Detailed Lesson Plan
- ✓ Answer Key
- ✓ PDF & Google Slides™ Formats

**2 Peas and a Dog**

Middle School Teaching Resources



# LESSON OVERVIEW



- **Video** - Have students watch the two linked videos.
- **Reading** - Students then read the April Fools' Day Article.
- **Questions** - Have students complete the reading comprehension questions.
- **Journal Response** - Let students share their opinions by answering 1 of the 2 journal prompts.

**DIFFERENTIATED**

**ENGAGING**

**SEASONAL  
LESSON**



## APRIL FOOLS' DAY

April Fools' Day, also known as All Fools' Day was first popularized on April 1, 1700. The idea of April Fools is to prank each other, while having harmless fun. The annual tradition's exact roots, however, are still unknown.



Mark April 1<sup>st</sup> on the calendar.

### Gregorian Calendar Change

Many people believe that April Fools' Day originated in the year 1582, when Pope Gregory XIII introduced a new calendar called the Gregorian calendar to replace the previous Julian calendar. The Julian calendar new year began around April 1<sup>st</sup>. When the Gregorian calendar was implemented, the new year was changed to January 1<sup>st</sup>. Many people chose not to accept the change of date and continued to celebrate the new year on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Therefore, they became the target of pranks and jokes on that day.

### Joseph Boskin's Tale

Professor Joseph Boskin from Boston University tells his own tale of how he believes April Fools' Day came to be. His story begins back during King Constantine's reign. A group of jesters were teasing the king, stating that they could do a better job of running the empire. King Constantine decided to allow a jester named Kugel to be king for a day to follow along with the joke. On that day, Kugel passed a law stating that

pranks and jokes were to be made on that day. It then became a yearly tradition. In 1983, Boskin's story was printed in several different newspapers. However, people eventually realized that his story was in fact an April Fools' joke and that there was no truth to it.

### April Fools Around the World

The tradition of April Fools spread to Britain during the 1800's. In Scotland, April Fools' Day is a two-day pranking event. The first day involves "hunting the gowk", which means to send people on silly errands. Day two is known as Tallie Day, which involves pranking people on their "behinds". These pranks involve pinning tails and "kick me" signs on their "behinds".

# ENGAGING LITERACY LESSON

# LESSON SAMPLES

## LESSON PLAN



### April Fools' Day

#### Lesson Overview:

Students will work on their non-fiction reading skills while reading this article.

#### Materials Needed:

Photocopy a class set of the following or use the provided Google Slides version for 1:1 technology schools:

- K-W-L Chart
- Non-fiction article, regular or modified version (audio file also included)
- Comprehension questions, regular or modified version
- Thinking questions (select 1)
- Grammar questions (also available as a self-marking Google Forms Quiz)

#### Video

- Video #1: [The History of April Fools' Day](#)
- Video #2: [Why do we celebrate April Fool's Day?](#)

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# SAMPLE LESSONS

## ARTICLE QUESTIONS

/7

Instructions: Answer the following questions in a full sentence.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Comprehension Questions:

5. When did April Fools' Day spread to Britain?

6. Explain the two day April Fools tradition in Scotland. (2 marks)

## THINKING QUESTION

Assessment	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Above Expectations
	✓-	✓	✓+

What is your opinion about April Fools' Day? Do you feel it should continue or should the government ban this tradition?

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# LESSON FORMATS



**PDF**

✓ Individual & Whole Unit



**DIGITAL**

✓ Google Slides

**RESOURCE CAN BE USED IN-PERSON OR ONLINE**