



UNC-TV PREK-12 NEWS—June 2003 Summer Solstice

People around the world have observed spiritual and religious seasonal days of celebration during the month of June. Most have been religious holy days that link in some way to the summer solstice. On this day, typically JUN-21, the daytime hours are at a maximum in the Northern hemisphere, and nighttime is at a minimum. It is officially the first day of summer. It is also referred to as Midsummer because it is roughly the middle of the growing season throughout much of Europe.

"*Solstice*" derives from two Latin words: "*sol*" meaning *sun*, and "*sistere*," to *cause to stand still*. This is because, as the summer solstice approaches, the noonday sun rises higher and higher in the sky on each successive day. On the day of the solstice, it rises an imperceptible amount, compared to the day before. In this sense, it "*stands still*."

Why does the summer solstice happen?

The 23.5° tilt of the earth's axis causes the seasons of the year. Because the earth is rotating like a top or gyroscope, the North Pole points in a fixed direction continuously -- towards a point in space near the North Star. However, the earth is also revolving around the sun. During half of the year, the southern hemisphere is more exposed to the sun than is the northern hemisphere. During the rest of the year, the reverse is true. At noontime in the Northern Hemisphere, the sun appears high in the sky during summertime and low during winter. The time of the year when the sun reaches its maximum elevation occurs on the summer solstice -- the day with the greatest number of daylight hours. It typically occurs on, or within a day or two of, June-21 -- the first day of summer. The lowest elevation occurs about December-21 and is the winter solstice—the first day of winter, when the nighttime hours reach their maximum.

For information about the historical significance of the summer solstice check out what B.A. Robinson has to say at: http://www.religioustolerance.org/summer_solstice.htm

National Flag Month



- The idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885 when BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'.
- On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school—the State Board of Education of New York later adopted Flag Day.
- On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.
- The Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th.
- Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings.
- On June 14th, 1894, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.
- Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially *established* by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating **June 14th** of each year as **National Flag Day**.

Source: <http://www.usflag.org/>

Adopt a Shelter Cat Month



The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) National Outreach Center asks you to join them in celebrating adopt a shelter cat month. The ASPCA website has information and outreach material on the national outreach website: <http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=catmonth>

Special days in June 2003 include:

International Children's Day (6/1)

Fishing Week (6/1-6/7)

Great Turtle Races (6/2)

National Cancer Survivor's Day (6/3)

National Hug Holiday (6/3-6/9)

Freedom of the Press Day (6/7)

World Ocean's Day (6/8)

Best Friend's Day (6/8)

Little League Week (6/9-6/15)

National Yo-Yo Day (6/10)

E-mail Week (6/11-6/17)

USA Flag Day (6/14)

Dragon Boat Festival (6/14)

Father's Day (6/15)

Smile Power Day (6/15)

National Salvation Day (6/15)

Summer Solstice (6/21)

St Jean Baptiste Day (6/24)

Army Day (6/26)

Special Events in North Carolina in June include:



- **Duke Homestead Herb & Garden Festival**, Durham, NC (6/7/03)
<http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hs/duke/duke.htm>
- **1st Annual JAM'N Bluegrass Style Festival** - <http://www.jam-n-bluegrass.com/>
- NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC: (inaugural festival featuring Mike Snider, The Seldom Scene, Illrd Time Out, The Lonesome River Band, The Lewis Family, Dry Branch Fire Squad)
- **Ocracoke Music & Storytelling Festival**, Ocracoke, NC (6/7-6/8/02)
- **78th Singing On The Mountain**, Linville, NC (6/22/02)
<http://www.grandfather.com/>
- **Illuminations, Summer Performing Arts Series 2003**, Manteo, N.C. (6/24-7/26)

Illuminations is a summer performing arts series featuring five weeks of performances by students, alumni and faculty from the NC School of the Arts schools of dance, drama, music and film. Kick back on a spacious sound side lawn with a picnic or a bottle of wine and enjoy Shakespearean drama, live jazz, films (A Face in the Crowd among them), contemporary dance, and more. The weekly series runs from June 24 to July 26, 2003, and is presented Tuesday through Saturday at Roanoke Island Festival Park. For more information, visit <http://www.ncarts.edu/ncsaprod/performances/illuminations.asp>

SITES TO SEE

En Español

- Libros Recomendados por Edades 0-3 (Ages 0-3) y Edades 4-7 (Ages 4-7) y Edades 8-10 (Ages 8-10) (recomendados para niños)
http://www.lvcld.org/espanol/libros_recomendados.htm
- Ayudate <http://www.ayudate.org/>
This bilingual site is sponsored by the NC Governor's Office for Latino/Hispanic Affairs, NC Cooperative Extension Service, and El Pueblo, Inc., with funds from USDA. It assists newcomers to North Carolina with education, housing, health care, driver's and emergency information, and links to various organizations. It is also the site for the NC AgrAbility program to aid farmers with disabilities.
- AHEC <http://www.hhcc.areasheh.dst.nc.us/corerescatf.html> These resources are available as part of the North Carolina AHEC Spanish Language and Cultural Training Initiative, a statewide collaborative effort to promote increased Spanish fluency and related cultural competencies among North Carolina healthcare professionals. The Duke Endowment funds the Initiative. These items are available for checkout at any North Carolina AHEC or university health sciences library.
- FEMA has produced an excellent bibliography of books on disaster for Kids ages 3-8 and 9-12. http://www.fema.gov/kids/tch_bks.htm
- **ASCD Advocacy Kit Online** <http://www.ascd.org/advocacykit> The ASCD Advocacy Kit, a toolkit for education activists, is available online to assist educators in their advocacy efforts. It provides information about working with policymakers and the media; setting up community forums and media events; glossaries of legislative and media terms; and more.
- **Air pollution spurs allergies; asthma—MSNBC**
In cities across America allergies and asthma seem to be worsening. It is not that more plants are pollinating, experts say. ... Several studies have shown ozone can exacerbate one's allergies, says Dr. David Peden, a professor of pediatrics at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and director of the UNC Center for Environmental Medicine, Asthma and Lung Biology.
<http://www.msnbc.com/news/886576.asp>
- The North Carolina Science Teachers Association newsletter is available at <http://www.ncsta.org/> This latest edition of The Reflector includes articles about No Child Left Behind, Building a Presence, Demonstrations on Air Pressure and summer workshop opportunities. Check it out today!
- **SUMMER A LA ZOOM!** Why not create a ZOOM Camp where kids investigate science and engineering everyday! Explore fluids -Drops on a Penny, Chromatography, Floating Paper Clip -, or launch into structures - Columns, Marshmallow Tower, and Gumdrop Dome. No matter what concepts you choose to explore with the kids, the overall theme will be FUN! Visit UNC-TV's Ready To Learn page <http://www.unctv.org/education/prek12/jfkids.html> and click ZOOM for great activity ideas and printable activity sheets.



Books Celebrating the Family

OUR YOUNGEST READERS

- Ada, Alma Flor. **I Love Saturdays y Domingos**. Illustrated by Elivia Savadier. 32 pages. Ages 4-8
- Adoff, Arnold. **Black is Brown is Tan**. Illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully. 32 pages. Ages 3-7
- Johnson, Angela. **One of Three**. Illustrated by David Soman. Orchard, 1991. 32 pages. Ages 3-5
- Kvasnosky, Laura McGee. **Zelda and Ivy**. Candlewick Press, 1998. 40 pages. Ages 4-8
- Look, Lenore. **Henry's First-Moon Birthday**. Illustrated by Yumi Heo. 32 pages. Ages 4-7
- McKissack, Patricia C. **Ma Dear's Aprons**. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. 32 pages. Ages 4-7
- Okimoto, Jean Davies and Elaine M. Aoki. **The White Swan Express: A Story about Adoption**. Illustrated by Meilo So. 32 pages. Ages 4-7
- Penny, Dale. **Big Brother, Little Brother**. 26 pages. Ages 1-4
- Perkins, Lynn Rae. **Clouds for Dinner**. 32 pages. Ages 4-8
- Reiser, Lynn. **Cherry Pies and Lullabies**. 40 pages. Ages 3-8
- Reiser, Lynn. **Tortillas and Lullabies / Tortillas y canciones**. Coordinated and translated by Rebecca Hart.
- Illustrated by "Corazones Valientes." 40 pages. Ages 3-8
- Steptoe, John. **Baby Says**. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1988. 23 pages. Ages 1-3
- Williams, Vera B. **A Chair for My Mother**. 32 pages. Ages 4-8
- Williams, Vera B. **"More, More, More," Said the Baby**. 32 pages. Ages 6 months–3 years

THE MIDDLE YEARS

- Banks, Kate. **Dillon Dillon**. 150 pages. Ages 8-11
- DeGross, Monalisa. **Donovan's Word Jar**. Illustrated by Cheryl Hanna. 71 pages. Ages 7-10
- Edwards, Michelle. **Zero Grandparents**. (A Jackson Friends Book) 58 pages. Ages 7-9
- Griffith, Helen V. **Granddaddy and Janetta Together: The Three Stories in One Book**. Illustrated by James Stevenson. 79 pages. Ages 7-9

- Hamilton, Virginia. **Cousins**. 125 pages. Ages 8-12
- Hausherr, Rosmarie. **Celebrating Families**. 32 pages. Ages 5-9
- Hesse, Karen. **Just Juice**. Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker. 138 pages. Ages 8-11
- Johnson, Angela. **Daddy Calls Me Man**. Illustrated by Rhonda Mitchell. 32 pages. Ages 6-9
- Little, Jean. **Emma's Yucky Brother**. Illustrated by Jennifer Plecas. (An I Can Read Book) 64 pages. Ages 5-7
- Smith, Cynthia Leitich. **Jingle Dancer**. Illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu. 32 pages. Ages 5-8
- Stolz, Mary. **Stealing Home**. 153 pages. Ages 8-11
- Williams, Vera B. **Amber Was Brave, Essie Was Smart**. 72 pages. Ages 7-11
- Yep, Laurence. **Later, Gator**. 122 pages. Ages 9-11

OLDER CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

- Clarke, Judith. **Wolf on the Fold**. 169 pages. Age 12 and older
- Creech, Sharon. **Chasing Redbird**. 261 pages. Ages 10-14
- Giff, Patricia Reilly. **Pictures of Hollis Woods**. 166 pages. Ages 10-14
- Gilmore, Rachna. **A Group of One**. 184 pages. Age 12 and older
- Henkes, Kevin. **Protecting Marie**. 195 pages. Ages 10-12
- Holm, Jennifer L. **Our Only May Amelia**. 251 pages. Age 12 and older
- Myers, Walter Dean. **The Glory Field**. 375 pages. Ages 12-16
- Na, An. **A Step from Heaven**. 156 pages. Age 13 and older
- Paterson, Katherine. **The Same Stuff as Stars**. 242 pages. Ages 10-14
- Peck, Richard. **A Long Way from Chicago**. 148 pages. Ages 10-14
- Saldaña, René, Jr. **The Jumping Tree: A Novel**. 181 pages. Ages 11-14
- Salisbury, Graham. **Lord of the Deep**. 182 pages. Ages 10-14
- Zusak, Markus. **Fighting Ruben Wolfe**. 219 pages. Ages 12-16

Featured Program: Sagwa



Through Sagwa's humorous adventures and the mini-documentaries, children enter the culture of China long ago and the cultures of children all over the world today. Discovering the similarities and differences they share with others sparks children's interest and appreciation of a wider world. While enjoying the cats' adventures in a beautiful, far-off land, children learn strategies for dealing with their fears, telling the truth in difficult situations, standing up for what they believe in, making friends and dealing with peer pressure, and many other challenges children face as they grow up.

You can help children get the most from *Sagwa* by:

- Encouraging children to talk about the stories and relate them to their own experiences.
- Talking about whether the solutions to problems seem realistic or not.
- Reading stories that deal with the same themes that appear on the series.
- Using *Sagwa* to launch storytelling activities, including writing, telling, illustrating, and acting out classic tales, real-life stories, and original stories.
- Engaging children in sharing stories and information about different cultures.

Sagwa is based on the books written by Amy Tan and illustrated by Gretchen Schields. In Tan's series, Sagwa was one of the three pearl white kittens born to Mama Miao and Baba Miao, two fine cats who lived in a place everyone called the House of the Foolish Magistrate. The Foolish Magistrate was in charge of issuing rules and proclamations for the people of his province. Sagwa was always getting into trouble with the Magistrate.

IN THE NEWS

Liberty's Kids Rejoins UNC-TV's Ready To Learn Children's Lineup!

Beginning July 6, 2003, Liberty's Kids returns to the Ready To Learn children's lineup in the 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning time slot. Renew your acquaintance with previously aired episodes along with dynamic new additions featuring Emmy nominated Walter Cronkite as the voice of Ben Franklin. Teachers can tape and preview episodes for classroom use.

#136 "Yorktown"

Timeline: August – October, 1781

Moses' brother Cato, fighting for his own freedom, serves as a soldier for the British and is sent into harm's way by Cornwallis' inhuman racist orders. Aided by a sympathetic Hessian soldier, Cato escapes with his life. Moses joins the American mining corps, a group of men who dig tunnels and build walls needed in battle, and tries unsuccessfully to find Cato. Sarah, James and Henri witness the siege and victory at Yorktown.

Historical Content:

The climatic battle of the war is fought at Yorktown. After a long siege, Cornwallis surrenders his sword and it is a huge victory for the Americans, but Washington is not yet convinced the war is over (October 19, 1781).

#137 "Born Free and Equal"

Timeline: 1781 - 1783

Sarah, staying with Abigail Adams in Boston, is thrilled to see "Mum Bett" freed and resolves to fight for civil rights. In France, Ben Franklin hopes that news of Yorktown will convince King George to surrender to his former colonies. James finds himself in a tight spot as he digs deeper for the whole story.

Historical Content:

The Massachusetts slave "Mum Bett" sues for her freedom (May 28, 1781). When she wins, she renames herself Elizabeth Freeman (August 1781). With this decision and the case of another slave, Quok Walker, Massachusetts abolishes slavery (1783). In Great Britain, a bitter, recalcitrant King George III is finally convinced to recognize American independence and to go to the peace table.

#138 "The Man Who Wouldn't Be King"

Timeline: December 1, 1782 – December 23, 1783

James tells Sarah and Henri the story of the attempted military coup and the three kid's journey to Maryland to see Washington offer his resignation to Congress.

Historical Content:

Benjamin Franklin and John Adams sign the peace treaty with England, ending the Revolutionary War (November 30, 1783). At Newburgh, New York, some members of Washington's officer corps want him to become King and take over the country. Washington puts down the revolt – not with force, but with the use of his eyeglasses (March 15, 1783). The soldiers had never before seen any sign of physical weakness, and

this revelation has great effect. Washington then races to Congress and resigns to become, once again, a farmer and private citizen (December 23, 1783). When King George III hears that the conquering general has not seized power, he says, "He will be remembered as the greatest man who ever lived."

#139 "Going Home"

Timeline: 1786

Sarah goes to New York to get the story of the fate of the loyalists from Mrs. Radcliffe. Moses helps his brother Cato travel to New York, where Cato leaves for Nova Scotia with Mrs. Radcliffe. James reports on Shays and the discontent of the former soldiers. He also resolves to own and run his own newspaper. Lafayette invites Henri to live with him in France. Ben, accompanied by Sarah's mother, returns from Europe to a triumphant reception in Philadelphia.

Historical Content:

With the signing of the Treaty of Paris, those loyal to the English King are forced to leave their homes in America. Many slaves move to Canada to avoid being returned to slavery. American soldiers return home, many of them to harsh poverty. The Shays Rebellion and other events make it clear that it is not enough that the United States won the war. Now it badly needs a strong central government if it is to survive as a nation.

#140 "We the People"

Timeline: January 1787 – April 30, 1789

Moses resolves to open a school for free black children. Sarah looks forward to reuniting with her father and mother in upstate New York. Everyone looks forward to their new lives in the United States of America as Benjamin Franklin reminds us that the new Constitution doesn't guarantee happiness, only that you are free to pursue it.

Historical Content:

America's leaders meet at a convention in Philadelphia and decide to write a radical new Constitution. Benjamin Franklin, in his final moment on the world stage, helps forge the "Great Compromise" on legislative representation. James Madison writes much of the Constitution, the lawful embodiment of the promise of the Revolution (**September 17, 1787**). It includes the "odious compromise" on slavery that maintains the practice's legality in the United States. George Washington is inaugurated as the first President (**April 30, 1789**).

Comments from the Community



Teletubbies Get Up and Go Events

Success is measured by the comments of the participants (original quotes from participants). Please see the comments below.

"Everything was very nice. We are from Florida and have nothing like this there. Thank you so much for the goodie bag." (parent)

The children of Lots of Love & Learning really enjoyed all the activities that were planned for them today. Thanks for inviting us." (childcare teacher)

"My daughter was clapping and screaming in delight during the exercise event. She loved seeing the Teletubbies and Roo. The energy was contagious! We had a blast. Can't wait for the next event!" (parent)

"It was a great atmosphere and the exercising for the children was wonderful. Continue to keep up the good work. Read-a-roo was a great incentive. Would love to see the real Teletubbies. ENJOYED!" (parent)

"I loved the location of this event. Of course, the staffs of Playspace and UNC-TV were wonderful. My kids were thrilled to see Read-a-roo. Thank you!"

"What I liked most about today's event was the variety of activities provided, the promotion of literacy through UNC-TV, and to see the great participation of the preschools in our area as well as parents with their children. Share a Story is a great way to promote literacy with the families." (Childcare center director and parent)

"We really had a great time, although we arrived late. Everything was great. Thanks for inviting us." (teacher)

"I enjoyed all of the different toys you had for the kids. I intend to bring my son here for his 2nd birthday on May 30." (parent)

"We from Young Missionary Temple Daycare and Learning Center really enjoyed all the activities presented from Playspace and UNC-TV. It was a very remarkable experience for the children to have hands on with very realistic activities."

What I liked most about today's event was the music and movement and the goodie bag."
(New Bern Avenue Daycare staff)