

JUST FOR KIDS – SEPTEMBER 2026

SEPTEMBER HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS

LABOR DAY – MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7th

The first Monday in September is **Labor Day**, a day to celebrate the American worker. We think of Labor Day as a day off from school and work. But what is it really about? You can find out at some of the sites below.

LABOR DAY FACTS FOR KIDS (ages 7 and up) **Video**

Learn some exciting new things in this Labor Day facts video for kids! Learn facts like when Labor Day is, common misunderstandings about Labor Day, who made Labor Day a federal holiday and why we celebrate it in the first place!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8YrXS-fb1Q>

LEARN ABOUT LABOR DAY (ages 8 and up) **Video**

Why do we celebrate Labor Day? Do you know that once people could get fired for working on weekends or for taking a vacation? See how working conditions have changed over the years and what made them change.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KY_L8--kNB0

ROSH HASHANA – SUNSET SEPTEMBER 11 to SUNSET SEPTEMBER 13

LEARN ABOUT ROSH HASHANA

TAP INTO ROSH HASHANA!: "REBBETZIN TAP & FRIENDS" (ages 6 and up) **video**

Learn about Rosh Hashanah with Rebbetzin Tap. Why do we dip apples in honey? Why do we blow the shofar? Listen to the shofar sounds!

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/2385613/jewish/Tap-into-Rosh-Hashana.htm

ROSH HASHANA TO DO LIST (ages 8 and up) **Text**

Here's a handy guide for how to celebrate Rosh Hashana. It includes the candle lighting and prayers we say, the way to greet people, the sweets we eat, tashlich and more to help you celebrate this special holiday.

(Note: this year's dates differ from those in the article)

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/4755/jewish/Rosh-Hashanah-To-Do-List.htm

THE SHOFAR (ages 8 and up) **Text**

Why do we blow the shofar? Why do we use a ram's horn? What do the different shofar sounds represent? This article will answer all your questions.

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/4754/jewish/The-Shofar.htm

TASHLICH (ages 8 and up) **Text**

Do you toss bread in the water for tashlich? Other people shake the corners of their clothes over the water. Learn some interesting facts about the custom of tashlich.

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/4753/jewish/Tashlich.htm

YOM KIPPUR – SUNSET SEPTEMBER 20th to SUNSET SEPTEMBER 21st

Learn about Yom Kippur at some of the sites below.

TAP INTO YOM KIPPUR!: "REBBETZIN TAP & FRIENDS" (ages 6 and up) **Video**

What's Yom Kippur all about? Why do we not eat and drink? Learn about Yom Kippur with Rebbetzin Tap!

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/2450340/jewish/Tap-into-Yom-Kippur.htm

A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO YOM KIPPUR (ages 7 and up) **Text**

Here's a handy guide for how to celebrate Yom Kippur. It includes the candle lighting and prayers we say, the shoes we wear, the role of the shofar, and more to help you celebrate this special holiday.

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/4589/jewish/Guide.htm

WHAT IS YOM KIPPUR? (ages 12 and up) **Animated Video**

Learn the basics of the Day of Atonement in 3 minutes. Yom Kippur is the most holy day of the Jewish year and it is full of spiritual opportunity if you open yourself up to its customs, prayers and melodies. This short video is a basic lesson on what Yom Kippur is, for everyone. It explains what the holiday is about, where it comes from, and how you observe it.

<https://youtu.be/4oqBzg8wCUg>

FIRST DAY OF FALL – TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22nd

Fall 2026 officially begins on Sept. 22. That's the day of the autumnal equinox when day and night are nearly equal in length. This time of year is all about harvests, cozy sweaters and the beauty of nature preparing for winter

WHAT IS THE FALL EQUINOX - FACTS FOR KIDS (ages 10 and up) **Video**

The Fall Equinox happens every year in September and happens at the same exact time on earth everywhere, although there are some differences on our planet which you will learn in this video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQyQYNVodMU>

SUKKOT – SUNSET SEPTEMBER 25th to SUNSET OCTOBER 2nd

Learn about Sukkot at some of the sites below.

ALL ABOUT SUKKOT WITH DINA (ages 5-8) **Video**

You will learn facts and history about Sukkot in this quick video

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/989953/jewish/All-About-Sukkot.htm

TAP INTO SUKKOT!: "REBBETZIN TAP & FRIENDS" (ages 6 and up) **Video**

What's Sukkot all about? Why do we build a Sukkah and shake the Lulav? Learn about Sukkot with Rebbetzin Tap!

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/2385615/jewish/Tap-into-Sukkot.htm

STORIES

ROSH HASHANA STORIES

JACKIE AND JESSIE AND JONI AND JAE by Chris Barash (ages 5-7) **Read Aloud**

Join these four friends as they go on a walk to the river with their families with their bags of bread for tashlich. When they get there, they think about things they may need to apologize for and ways that they can be better in the future. The story is told in rhyme and illustrations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J20BnzzLeW8>

CHELM FOR THE HOLIDAYS: A ROSH HASHANA STORY (ages 8 and up) **Text**

Rosh Hashanah was coming, but for some reason, this year there was no honey in the marketplace in the village of Chelm. What would the people of Chelm do? How could they bake their honey cakes? How could they dip their apples in honey? How will we celebrate Rosh Hashanah without honey? thought Schlemiel.

If you know the Wise Men of Chelm stories, then you know this is going to be funny!

<https://pjourway.org/PJOW/media/Book/previews/ChapterChelmfortheHolidays.pdf?ext=.pdf#:~:text=A%20Rosh%20Hashanah%20Story%20Rosh%20Hashanah%20was%20coming%2C,we%20celebrate%20Rosh%20Hashanah%20without%20honey%3F%20thought%20Schlemiel>

EVEN HIGHER: A ROSH HASHANA STORY by I.L. Peretz (ages 8-12) **Read Aloud**

Every year, just before Rosh Hashanah, the rabbi of Nemirov disappears. The villagers are certain their rabbi flies up to heaven to speak with G-d before the fate of every soul is decided for the coming year. But a skeptical Litvak scoffs at the villagers, claiming miracles cannot happen, and he secretly follows the rabbi early one morning. What he witnesses changes his heart!

<https://youtu.be/AVsEgww3uxl>

YOM KIPPUR STORIES

SAMMY SPIDER'S FIRST YOM KIPPUR by Sylvia A. Rouss (ages 6-8) **Read Aloud**

When Josh breaks the rules and plays ball indoors, he finds himself apologizing not only to his parents, but to Sammy Spider as well. Enjoy this Yom Kippur story about saying, "I'm sorry."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lctEHNycXo4>

THE STORY OF JONAH (ages 8 and up) **Read aloud**

The Book of Jonah is traditionally read on the afternoon of Yom Kippur. It teaches us a lesson about the process of atonement and changing our behavior for the better. Enjoy this special read aloud of the story.

https://youtu.be/4_gqTuRYNVE?si=zXFAztNELgRKG2u

STORIES FOR FALL

September 22 (the autumnal equinox) marked the official first day of fall. But, as you can see from some of the stories below, it is October and November that mostly show the signs of fall.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S FALL? by Allan Fowler (ages 4-5) **Nonfiction Read Aloud**

Summer is over and now it's fall. The leaves are falling from the trees and the air is getting chilly. Think of other signs of fall you might know. Then listen to this book and find out about some more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQGjgbydSig>

WHY DO LEAVES CHANGE COLOR? by Betsy Maestro (ages 7-10) **Nonfiction Read Aloud**

Aren't autumn leaves beautiful? But, why do they change colors from green to red, orange and yellow? Why are the colors different every year? Why do leaves from different trees turn different colors? Listen to this book explain why this happens.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5jTTJ9CjNQ>

TOO MANY PUMPKINS by Linda White (ages 7 and up) **Read Aloud**

Rebecca Estelle doesn't like pumpkins at all, and she certainly doesn't want to grow any. But something happens and she ends up with too many pumpkins! What should she do with them? What would you do with too many pumpkins?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGtSLfTJ7xU>

STORIES FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

September is the month when children in New York go back to school. It's exciting to start the new school year, but sometimes people are a little nervous too.

THE KISSING HAND by Audrey Penn (ages 4-7) Read Aloud Animated

Chester Racoon is nervous about going to school for the first time, he would rather stay home where things are familiar. But his mother has a secret to share that will help him overcome his fears. What do you think it could be? Listen to the story and find out.

<https://youtu.be/C5XMX5GCCe4>

TOO MUCH GLUE by Jason Lifebvre (ages 5 and up) Read Aloud

Here's an artistic story about a little boy that just loves his glue! Now what could go wrong with that? Listen to find out how his friends help out.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Je39PxnjveY>

MISS NELSON IS MISSING by Harry Allard (ages 7 and up) Animated

Miss Nelson is the nicest teacher in the whole school. She never yells, and she gives the easiest assignments. Then one day Miss Nelson is not at school. There is a substitute, Miss Viola Swamp, who immediately lays down the law - no talking, no goofing off in class - and gives lots of homework. Where is the wonderful, unappreciated Miss Nelson? Is she ever coming back?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RX3g3qigzWU>

FIRST DAY JITTERS by Julie Danneberg (ages 7 and up) Read Aloud

Have you ever been nervous about going to school on the first day? You're not alone. It happens to many of us, just like Sarah in this story. Be sure to watch for the surprise twist at the end!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUT6lgo2Sus>

ACTIVITIES

ROSH HASHANA ACTIVITIES

ROSH HASHONA COLORING PAGES (ages 5-7)

Print these pages and color them in: Apple Dipped in Honey, The Machzor, The Shofar

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/354757/jewish/Coloring-Pages.htm

MAKE APPLE PRINT ROSH HASHONA CARDS (ages 5-8)

Did you know you can also use apples for art projects? Everyone loves receiving handmade holiday cards, and these apple prints are so easy and fun to make, you may even end up with enough for next year too!

<https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/september-2019/make-apple-cards-for-rosh-hashanah>

MAKE APPLE HONEY POPS (ages 10 and up)

Looking for a really sweet treat to start your new year? Grab a few friends and make these apple pops together. The best part about these pops? There are so many ways to make them! Have fun customizing your pops and trying out different dip and topping combinations

<https://pjourway.org/Blog/Kid/2017-08/rosh-hashanah-apple-pops>

YOM KIPPUR ACTIVITIES

YOM KIPPUR COLORING PAGES (ages 5-7)

Print these pages and color them in: The Blowing of the Shofar, The Scale, and The Machzor

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/361493/jewish/Coloring-Pages.htm

MAKE A DUCT TAPE MACHZOR COVER (ages 10 and up) **Video**

Make a beautiful cover out of duct tape for your machzor (High Holidays prayer book).

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/3050207/jewish/Make-a-Duct-Tape-Machzor-Cover.htm

SUKKOT ACTIVITIES

WHAT IF WE BUILT THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUKKA? (ages 6 and up) **Video**

What do you think the world's greatest sukkah would be like? See what ideas Ezy, Eli, Dina and Rina, come up with. Then take a look at the interesting questions to think about or discuss with your friends or family (There are no right or wrong answers)

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/989576/jewish/What-If-We-Built-the-Worlds-Greatest-Sukkah.htm

MAKE AN ETROG BOX OUT OF LEGOS (ages 7 and up)

Follow the easy directions and pictures and make an etrog box with a Star of David on top, all out of Legos.

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/3080941/jewish/Make-an-Etrog-Box-out-of-Lego.htm

MAKE A MODEL SUKKA (ages 7 and up)

Have you ever made a model sukkah? There are lots of ways to make one. You can use Lego or cardboard boxes, for example. Here you'll see how to make one using paper towel rolls.

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/3080917/jewish/Make-a-Model-Sukkah.htm

DO AN EXPERIMENT (ages 8 and up **with an adult's help**)

One of the interesting laws is that a sukkah has to be less than 20 cubits tall – that's about 30 feet. To get an idea of exactly how tall 30 feet is and how temporary or permanent it feels, **TRY THIS EXPERIMENT WITH AN ADULT**. *Then share your thoughts about the questions at the end.*

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/989950/jewish/Experiment-Measuring-20-Cubits-High.htm

MUSIC

ROSH HASHONA MUSIC

DIP THE APPLE IN THE HONEY SONG (ages 4-6) **Video**

Sing a fun song about apples and honey and try dipping apples in honey.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByYzmsmQ3wI>

SUKKOT MUSIC

SHAKIN' THE LULAV (ages 6-10) **Video**

Watch this fun upbeat video, based on the song "Twist & Shout," to learn about the lulav and esrog and how to use them in the sukkah.

(click on "more" to see the lyrics and sing along!)

<https://youtu.be/qODQ0pgR64Y>

AUTUMN MUSIC

BOOM CHICKA BOOM AUTUMN

Sing-a-long and dance along Skeleton Style, Pick an Apple Style, Eat an Apple Style, Turkey Strut Style, Pick a Pumpkin Style, Raking Leaves Style and the hilarious ending, Blowing Leaves Style.

<https://youtu.be/BAOU5HbpFJg>

Check this out:

CHILDREN'S BOOKS THAT CORRELATE WITH THIS MONTH'S TOPICS AVAILABLE TO BORROW FROM OUR SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY

ROSH HASHONA and YOM KIPPUR

1. The World's Birthday - A Rosh Hashona Story, Barbara Diamond Goldin (**FICTION**)
2. Sam and Charlie (And Sam Too!), Leslie Kimmelman
3. Talia and the Very Yum Kippur, Linda Elovitz Marshall (**FICTION**)

4. Tikkun Olam Ted And the Importance of Small Steps, Vivian Newman
5. Sammy Spider's First Rosh Hashanah, Sylvia Rouss (**FICTION**)
6. Rosh Hashona and the Ten Days of Teshuva – coloring book, Shepsil Scheinberg (**NONFICTION**)
7. Rosh Hashona and Yom Kippur, Miriam Schlein (**NONFICTION**)
8. Yom Kippur Mahzor, Torah Aura Productions (*4 copies*) (**NONFICTION**)
9. Sound the Shofar (the Story and Meaning of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, Erika Weihs (*young adult*) (**NONFICTION**))
10. Happy New Year, Beni, Jane Breskin Zalben (**FICTION**)