

Bubble Gum Day Activity Guide

Bubble Gum Day has been celebrated at schools, community centers and children's museums, and offers many curriculum connections.

Writing

- What adjectives can be used to describe the experience of chewing gum? Try to use all five senses. Extension: Use the adjectives to write a descriptive paragraph.
- Write a letter to your favorite gum company, suggesting a new flavor. What would this flavor be? Why should they make it? Give it a creative name.
- If you could donate a million dollars to any cause, which would you choose? Why?

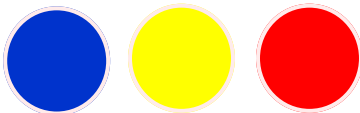


Math

- Show students a variety of clear containers, and have them estimate how many gumballs will fit in each. Then, provide gumballs so they can check their hypotheses.
- Blow a bubble, then use a piece of string to (quickly!) measure its circumference.
- If each student pays 50¢, what is the total that will be raised by your class? Your grade? Your school?

Science

- Unwrap a piece of bubble gum and record its weight. Chew it for five minutes, then weigh it again. Has it changed? Why? (Hint: Sugar)
- Drop a piece of chewed bubble gum in a glass of water and observe what happens. Then, drop one into clear soda. Is the result the same or different? Why?
- Which brand of gum will make the biggest bubbles? Design an experiment to make predictions about 3 brands, then test them out.



Art

- Draw a self-portrait. Now, imagine you blew a giant bubble and it popped. Add the sticky mess to your drawing. How do you look now?
- Inflate a balloon, then cover with papier maché. Allow to dry, then pop the balloon with a pin. Decorate your "bubble."
- Show students a picture of "Balloon Dog" by Jeff Koons. Draw or paint your favorite animal in this bubble-y style.

What is Bubble Gum Day?

On Bubble Gum Day, kids who donate 50¢ get to chew gum at school, with proceeds going to any charity the school chooses. The holiday was created in 2005 by children's book author Ruth Spiro.

For more information, or to share your Bubble Gum Day ideas, visit

www.BubbleGumDay.com

Suggested reading:

Lester Fizz, Bubble-Gum Artist by Ruth Spiro
(Dutton Children's Books, 2008. K-4)

Bubblemania by Lee Wardlaw

Bubble Gum Science by Klutz

Bubble Gum, Bubble Gum by Lisa Wheeler

Spheres by Nathan Olson

Library Sparks Magazine (February, 2010)

by Ruth Spiro

With ideas contributed by Cindy Briody, Hilltop School; Brandy Bergenstock, Homeschooling Mom & Private Art Teacher; Alexandra Benton, Art Teacher. Some science ideas from *Bubble Gum Science* (Klutz)

