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National Punctuation Day Lesson Plan Activities

On September 24th Teach How to Use and Read Punctuation Marks

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September 24th is National Punctuation Day! Try some fun and educational lesson plan activities to teach punctuation skills and build reading fluency and writing skills



On September 24th, join schools and businesses across the nation in celebrating National Punctuation Day. Check out the [National Punctuation Day website](#) for resources and ideas. Then, try some (or all!) of the activities described below to "mark" this important day!

Note: You may want to celebrate over the course of a week, focusing on only a few marks each day: period and comma; exclamation point and question mark; quotation marks and parentheses; colon and semicolon; and apostrophe, ellipsis, dash, and hyphen.

Students Will:

- Name different punctuation marks.
- Identify ways each punctuation mark can be used.
- Use punctuation clues to read texts aloud fluently and with expression.
- Use different punctuation marks correctly in their writing.
- Participate in fun, punctuation-related activities, including inventing a new punctuation mark!

Lesson Focus: Why Do People Use Punctuation?

Ask children why we need punctuation. Read aloud the picture book *Punctuation Takes a Vacation* by Robin Pulver [Holiday House, 2003]. Note how text runs together without the help of punctuation. Or, provide children with a paragraph of text from which you have removed all punctuation and have them try to read it. Discuss how punctuation marks are needed to clarify the meaning of what someone has written.

Introduce Punctuation Marks

- *The Perfect Pop-Up Punctuation Book* by Kate Petty [Dutton Children's Books, 2006] is a great resource for introducing punctuation marks and their use. It includes rules for using each mark, along with flip-up panels, pull-tabs, and pop-ups that mix funny text and illustrations to present each mark being used in context.
- Read aloud a picture book that contains punctuation mark characters. The illustrations will teach children what each mark looks like, and the personalities and actions of the characters will help children understand how each mark is used. For example, exclamation points might shout all their dialogue. Try *Punctuation Takes a Vacation*, *Alfie the Apostrophe* by Moira Rose Donohue [Scholastic Inc., 2006], or *Penny and the Punctuation Bee* by Moira Rose Donohue [Albert Whitman & Company, 2006].

Punctuation Mark Activities for Practice and Assessment

- *Build Reading Fluency: Use Punctuation Clues:* Read text aloud, using punctuation clues to model when to pause or stop and how to read with expression. Have children echo-read after you. Use sentences from the picture books mentioned previously or the picture book version of *Eats, Shoots & Leaves* by Lynne Truss [G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2006] and/or *The Girl's Like Spaghetti* by Lynne Truss [G.P.

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