

Build-A-Calendar

MATERIALS

FOR STUDENT: (one per student unless otherwise noted)

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Block, 2" square x 1/2" thick - cut from large Foam Block (see "FOR TEACHER")
- Pencil
- Washable black fine line felt tip marker
- Glue stick
- Paper plate

FOR TEACHER:

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Blocks:
 - 15¹⁵/₁₆" x 11 15¹⁵/₁₆" x 17 15¹⁵/₁₆" (for the mounting board)
 - 7¹⁶/₁₆" x 11 7⁸/₈" x 11 7⁸/₈" (or any 7¹⁶/₁₆" or 1/2" thick foam blocks that are at least 11 7⁸/₈" square, to give you thirty-six 2" squares for the day numbers)
- Cardstock, white, 8 1/2" x 11", seven sheets

- Colored copy paper, 8 1/2" x 11" in bright colors: Yellow, orange, green, and blue
- Golf tees, white, thirty-six
- Large paper clips, two (for hanger loops)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Paper cutter

- Serrated knife
- Cutting mat or stack of newspapers
- Hole punch, 1/4" diameter
- Glue gun (for teacher only)
- Paper towels / wet wipes (for any gluey hands)
- Photocopier



MATH

GRADE LEVEL
KINDERGARTEN – FIRST

COMPLETION TIME

- 30 minutes



OBJECTIVES

Students learn:

- The concept of time being tracked by days, weeks, months and years
- To use a calendar
- How one month of days flows into the next month so that the numbers shift

STANDARDS

Measurement / Data - Foundational skills

- Read a calendar
- Learn the days of the week and the months of the year
- Understand and apply counting sequencing

TEACHER PREPARATION

Note: Read through all the instructions first and check out the TIPS! Have a glue gun plugged in and ready to use (ideally set on low temperature) but out of student reach. This can give you immediate adhesion when you're in a hurry to help students. It is recommended that you make the background board and one number block before preparing the others, since knowing how the parts fit, might affect how you prepare the rest of them.

[1] Use a ruler and pencil to measure and mark lines to make 2" squares on the thin (7¹⁶/₁₆" thick) foam block. On a cutting mat, use a serrated knife against the edge of a ruler to cut along the pencil lines, using several passes of the knife for each cut. Cut a total of thirty-six.

Place the thicker (15¹⁵/₁₆" thick) foam block on its edge, running horizontally. To make the channels for the month's name and days of the week titles, use the pencil and ruler to draw two parallel lines, evenly spaced on the top edge. Then, use a serrated knife to cut the lines 1/2" deep all along the top. Make several shallow passes of the knife, first, to get the channel started.

[2] Photocopy the squares pattern onto each of the four colors of copy paper. Then, cut them out along the outsides of the black lines, using the paper cutter. (Save the extras for special days and holidays, and any student errors when numbering.)

In the top middle of each paper square, use a 1/4" circle punch to make a hole. (This is where the golf tee will be pushed into the foam.)

[3] For the month names, use the white cardstock to cut twelve 4" x 11" strips. For the days of the week names, cut seven 1 1/2" x 2" strips.

Whether you or the students are going to print the words, it is suggested that you use a pencil to lightly draw guidelines in the top 2" of the month strips (leaving room for the days of the week to cover the bottom, as well as for the 1/2" insertion into the foam.)

[4] On a paper plate, set a foam square, colored paper square, golf tee, pencil, glue stick and marker. Repeat for all students.

Note: If you want to create a color pattern with the paper numbers, use a pencil to lightly write on the back, the numbers 1 – 31, using alternating paper colors as you go.

LESSON INTRODUCTION

- Remind students that they have been learning about the months of the year and the days in a month. Now, they can make a class calendar with a number block for each day that will be mounted to a background foam board using golf tees.
- Explain that they should follow along, one step at a time and when they're finished, they will be able to attach their number block to the month's calendar.



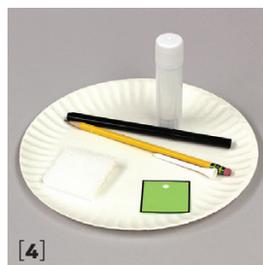
[1]



[2]



[3]



[4]



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INSTRUCTIONS

[1] Ask students to keep all the parts and pieces on their plates, reminding them that you'll all be making this at the same time. Have the students check the backs of their paper squares to see what their numbers are. Have them lightly write the number in pencil on the front. When they (and you) are satisfied that it's large enough and legible, have the students carefully trace over their pencil lines with their black marker.



[2] Optional – to smooth the edges of the foam: Demonstrate and have the students place the foam block on its edge on the table and press down, rocking it back and forth to compress. Then rotate the block to the next edge, pressing it down and rocking. Continue rotating, then pressing, until all four edges have been compressed. Turn the block around and compress those four edges, as well. Last, turn the block to compress the four small edges, without rounding the corners.

Demonstrate and have the students apply plenty of glue stick to the surface of their compressed foam blocks, going all the way out to the edges, but not onto the sides. Have them center and attach their paper numbers.

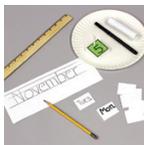


[3] With their foam block flat on the table, demonstrate and have the students insert their golf tee straight down into the hole in their paper number, going through the foam block, too. Show them how to feel the point of the tee on the back and then have them push the tee in, just a little bit farther, but caution them not to force the foam all the way up to the top of the golf tee or it will



make the hole too loose on the calendar.

[4] If the students will be printing the lettering of the months and days of the weeks, demonstrate and have them do that now, very lightly printing in pencil first, and then tracing over the pencil lines with the marker.



[5] Select one or two students to arrange the number blocks on the background block, explaining that they should arrange everything first but not press any golf tees into the background foam until you've approved the placement. Have them refer to a paper or cell phone calendar to set the number 1 block approximately where the correct day of the week should go in the top row – and then continue to finish out the top row. If there are blank days at the beginning, have them place blank foam blocks in those spaces. Have them even out the placement in the first row.

Referring to the calendar again, have them find the correct numbers for the Sundays in the month, and place those number blocks in a vertical row on the left side. Explain that this will help them make straight vertical and horizontal rows. (Good vocabulary words!) After all blocks have been placed, along with blank foam blocks where there are no numbers, you, or the students, can carefully push the tees into the foam, stopping when they feel the tees touch the table beneath.



[6] Have one student insert the correct month strip into the top (back) channel, pressing from the top down and sliding right or left as needed. Then ask a couple of other students to insert the days of the week into the front channel, spacing evenly.

MODIFICATIONS

To simplify project:

- Make the days of the week one long strip with words evenly spaced and glued in place.
- You can assemble the calendar after students make the numbers.

To expand project:

- Make three calendars and show three months at a time. Explain that businesses base a lot of their work on the quarters of the year: Jan. Feb. Mar. / April May June / July Aug. Sept. / Oct. Nov. Dec.
- Discuss leap year and how it affects the calendar every four years.

For multiple ages:

- Younger and older students can work side-by-side, with the older students placing the number blocks and helping the younger ones push the tees into the foam.
- Have both levels of students decorate their own birthday square and other special dates.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- Use the numbers for other math activities, such as addition and subtraction problems. (It is advised that you use another block for the background so that the holes on the calendar's background don't become too worn.)
- Make a giant wall calendar using large or pieced together background foam and 6" or 8" number blocks.
- Use another of the same size background blocks as a base for the calendar to stand by itself. Hot glue the bottom of the calendar toward the back of the base and use the front area to hold the extra number, blank and decorated blocks.



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TIPS

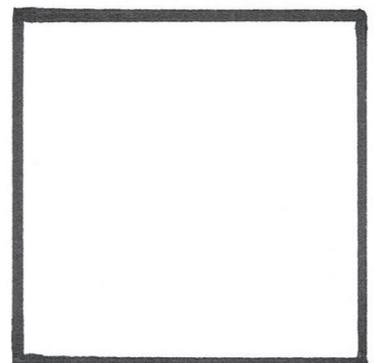
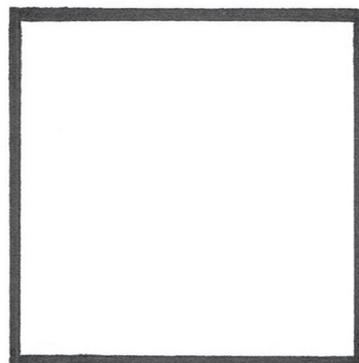
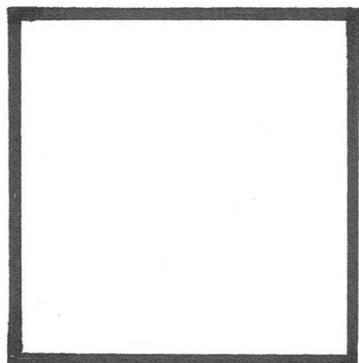
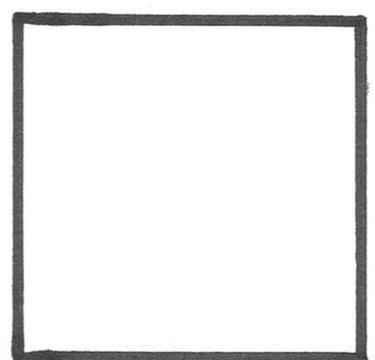
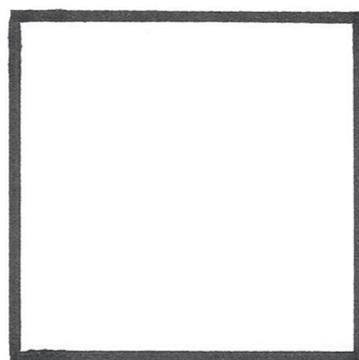
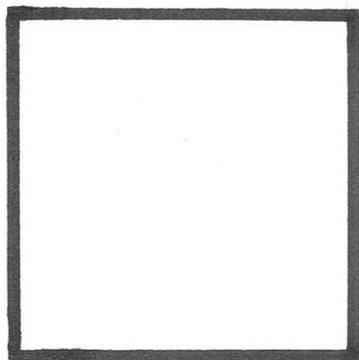
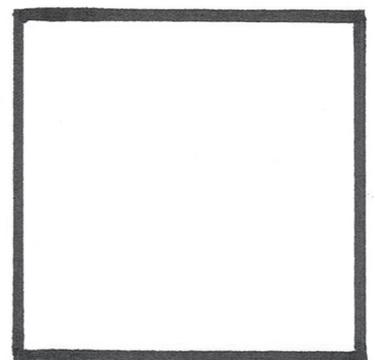
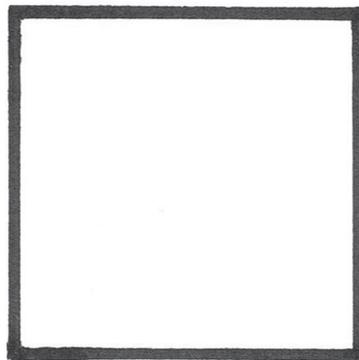
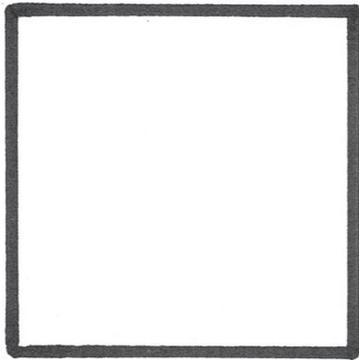
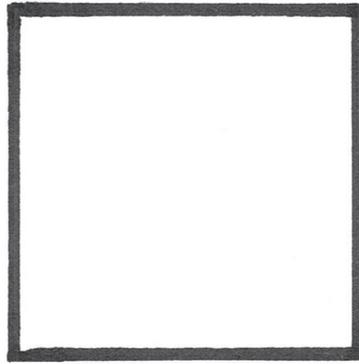
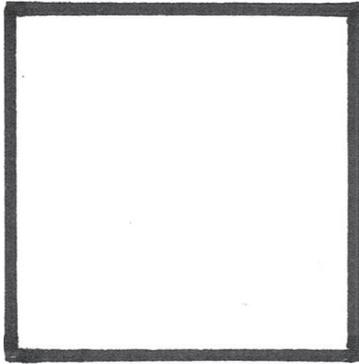
- To cut the channels in the top edge of the thicker foam block, ask a helper to hold the block while you hold the ruler, draw and cut with the serrated knife.
- If you plan to hang the foam calendar, slightly separate the ends of two large paper clips, approx. 1/4". On the top back of the foam calendar, 2" in from the ends and 2" down from the top, insert the shorter ends into the foam, creating hanger loops with the longer ends. Hot glue to secure.
- To make the 1/4" holes in the colored papers as standard as possible, measure and mark the first one and use it as a template for the placement of the other holes.
- If you have more than thirty-one students, the additional students can decorate paper squares for holidays, birthdays and special events. If you have fewer than that, you may ask some students to make a second number.
- To assist in making straight rows with the foam number blocks, use a ruler to push sections of blocks vertically or horizontally.
- All the students will probably want to push the tee in their own number, however once the hole has been made, it's not easily changed. A compromise is for you to push in all the tees just far enough to get them started so they won't shift and then let the students take turns pushing in their own numbers until they feel the tee touch the table beneath.
- When replacing the month's numbers, remove the calendar from the wall and work on a flat surface. First, have the students assigned to reassemble the calendar, remove and replace the month name strip, but leave the days of the week in place. Have them carefully pull the golf tees straight out of the background foam, along with the number – leaving the tee in the number block with its point extended. They can be set on the table in number order, to make retrieval easier. After removing all the number blocks, have the students set block number 1 under the correct day of the week, double checking to be sure. They should gently hold up the block until the golf tee finds the hole and then slip it into the hole. Have them repeat with the other numbers. For the days that do not have numbers, at the beginning and/or end, use the blank foam squares.

REFERENCES

A Second, A Minute, A week With Days In It by Brian P. Cleary
Me Counting Time From Seconds to Centuries by Joan Sweeney
I.Q., It's Time by Mary Ann Frazer
Game Time! by Stuart Murphy

PATTERN

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