

April Fool's Day

Information & Worksheets

My Joke Book

Name: _____

My favourite knock-knock joke!

My favourite riddle!

My favourite animal joke!



GRADES 1-3

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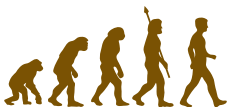
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April Fool's Day



Teacher Information:

No one knows how April Fool's Day or All Fool's Day began. Some feel that it may have been a celebration of the spring equinox which takes place on March 24th. On this day, night and day are the same length. Perhaps it may have marked the beginning of the old New Year when this fell at the end of March.

At one time many years ago there was an event called the "Feast of Fools". During this feast the people often switched roles. For example, a slave could become an emperor for a day or a peasant could become a nobleman.

In Britain an old tradition would also take place on this day. People would have a chance to make fun of their rulers. The king or queen would make a member of their country the "Lord of Misrule". The Lord of Misrule had to make sure that everyone at court broke the normal rules of behaviour during the celebration.

In Canada and the United States, April Fool's Day is celebrated by playing practical jokes such as sending people on silly errands, making people look up, setting someone's alarm to ring at the wrong time and switching the salt and sugar.

On April Fool's Day jokes must be played before noon or the joker is considered a fool as this old English rhyme explains.

April Fool's gone past
You're the biggest fool at last
When April Fool comes again
You'll be the biggest fool then.

Activities:

- Using the information provided, relate facts to your students about this special day.
- Years ago people enjoyed playing tricks on one another. Some tricks were funny and harmless while some were mean and hurtful. Here are some examples of tricks played on April Fool's Day. Have the children decide if they are harmless or harmful.

Joey tied his father's shoelaces together.

Marcia put salt in the salt shaker.

Tracey set the time on the clocks an hour ahead and everyone in the family was up an hour too early for school.

Paul poured maple syrup on the seat of his brother's bicycle.

Mark hid his brother's homework and he had to go to school without it.

- Discuss types of jokes that we tell each other such as Knock, Knock jokes, riddles, and animal jokes. Have the student share the ones they know.

An Animal Joke: **Q:** How do you paint a rabbit? **A:** With hairspray

A Riddle Joke: **Q:** What did the baby corn say to its mother? **A:** Where's "pop"corn?

A Knock-Knock Joke: Knock-knock. Who's there? Soup. Soup who? Superman

- Record the three styles of jokes on chart paper.
- Locate joke and riddle books from the library for the students to read and use.
- Have the students write their own jokes
- Use the reproducible pages to form joke books. The students will record three different types of jokes in it.

My Joke Book



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