

January: Let's Invent!

Are you looking for something fun and educational to do at home? Check out these library recommended STEAM activities, programs, podcasts and more! Click the links to visit activities and books.

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SCIENCE

National Drinking Straw Day: Jan 3

Activities:

[Making a Straw Marble Maze](#) – All Ages

[Egg Drop Protection Device](#) – All Ages

[The Incredible Hoop Glider](#) – All Ages

Books to Read:

[You Can't Drink a Meatball Through a Straw](#) by Henry Winkler

[Straw](#) by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

[The Last Straw](#) by Jeff Kinney

Interesting Facts about Drinking Straws: In North America, large quantities of drinking straws are used daily, numbering around 500 million, and while they are typically made from plastic; metal, glass and paper are also used. In some instances they are used for craft purposes, while in Uganda they are recycled to make useful woven items like bags.



Static Electricity Day: Jan 9

Activities:

[5 Static Electricity Experiments](#) – Ages 4 to 12

[Static Electricity Activities for Babies and Toddlers](#) – Ages 1 to 5

[The Dancing Ghost](#) – Ages 6 to 12

Books to Read:

[Shocking Electricity](#) by Nick Arnold

[The Big Bad Blackout](#) by Megan McDonald

[How Does a Battery Work?](#) by Roman Wilson

Interesting Fact about Static Electricity: A spark of static electricity can measure thousands of volts, but has very little current and only lasts for a short period of time. This means it has little power or energy.

ART

National Kid Inventor's Day: Jan 17

Activities:

[Artificial Intelligence Inventing](#) – Middle School+

[Science for Kids: Scuplely Ships](#) – Ages 7 to 12

[Chain Reactions: Stixplosions!](#) – All Ages

Books to Read:

[Billy Sure Kid Entrepreneur and the Invisible Inventor](#) by Luke Sharpe

[Cleonardo, the Little Inventor](#) by Mary GrandPre

[Ben the Inventor](#) by Robin Stevenson

Interesting Facts about a Kid Inventor: In the heat of the summer, very few things cool you down better than a tasty cold popsicle. This sweet food invention has been around since 1905, when 11-year-old Frank Epperson left a mix of powdered drink mix, water, and a stir stick out on his cold porch overnight. The frozen pop he found in the morning eventually became the name we know today - Popsicle.

National Tin Can Day: Jan 19

Activities:

Come Back Can - Ages 10 to 15

Tin Can Phone - Preschool

Frosty The Snowman – Ages 7 to 11

Books to Read:

Tin by Padraig Kenny

Tin Boy by Stephen Cole

The Illustrated Guide to Crafting with Tin, Wire and Foil by Simona Hill

Interesting Fact about the Tin Can: Patented in 1810 by Peter Durand, a British merchant, the Tin Can has been a way to store perishable foods for over 200 years. The Tin Can was not patented until 1825 by Daggett and Kensett in the United States, and it would be another 33 years until Ezra Warner would invent the can opener in 1858.

