<table>
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>Children &amp; Animals Calendar</td>
<td>The National Environmental Policy Act became law on this day in 1970. Have students try to draw an &quot;extinction-proof&quot; animal that could survive anything humans might do to the environment.</td>
<td>Why is there no such thing as an &quot;extinction-proof&quot; animal?</td>
<td>Alaska was admitted to the union today in 1959. Quickly name three Alaskan animals.</td>
<td>It's Trivia Day! Please see our article &quot;Teaching with Trivia,&quot; also in this issue.</td>
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**January 1986**

1. **"The fog creeps in on little cat feet..."**
   Happy birthday to American poet Carl Sandburg. Have each student write one animal-related metaphor to share with the class.

2. **First seeing eye dog completed training in 1929.**
   To pay tribute to an important human-animal partnership, have students lead blindfolded classmates around the school yard and discuss.

3. **Oil was discovered in Texas in 1901.**
   Name some animals that are most likely to be harmed by oil spills.

4. **Any stamp collectors in your class?**
   If so, ask them to share their favorite animal stamps with students in honor of philatelist Philip at René Rémond at Fervary, born today.

5. **Charles Pernu was born today in 1829.**
   Read an animal fairy tale and discuss any negative stereotypes of animals that appear in it.

6. **Happy Birthday to Albert Schweitzer, born today in 1875.**

7. **Martin Luther King was born today in 1929.**
   Please see our detailed activity.

8. **Founding father Benjamin Franklin was born today in 1706.**
   What animal did he want instead of the eagle as the emblem of our country? (Turkey)

9. **Happy birthday to A.A. Milne born in 1882.**
   With younger students, read one of Milne's Pooh stories then share information about real bears. How are they different from or like Pooh?

10. **During class tomorrow why not share the poem "The Raven" with your students in honor of Edgar Allen Poe born today in 1809.**

11. **Who described the dog as "...in life the fittest friend the first to welcome, foremost to defend?"**
   Happy birthday to English poet George Gordon, Lord Byron, born today in 1788.

12. **It's National Handwriting Day. Write a story about the most memorable pet owner you know.**

13. **Share the poem "To A Mouse" with students. And while you're at it, light a birthday candle for Scottish poet Robert Burns born in 1759.**

14. **Sing happy birthday to Lewis Carroll, born Charles Dodgson in 1832. How many animals can students name from Carroll's Alice in Wonderland?**

15. **It's India Republic Day. During class tomorrow, ask students to name three endangered animals found in India.**

16. **Showing You Care**
Use this mini teaching poster to help students get started thinking about responsible pet ownership. Ask students: Does this girl look as if she loves her pet? How can you tell? What are some ways for a pet owner to show that he or she loves a pet? (Answers might include: giving a pet plenty of love and attention, making sure it has fresh water and food, exercising it—for large pets, on a lead when not inside a fenced yard, grooming it, taking it to the veterinarian for shots and/or spaying or neutering.)

Next tell students that they are to interview three people as part of their homework tonight. The people being interviewed should be able to tell about a favorite pet that they currently have or that they have owned in the past. Have students ask each person the following questions:

1. What kind of animal is your favorite pet?
2. Why is this pet your favorite?
3. What things have you done to show your pet that you loved it?

The following day in class, have students share their interview responses. Then have them write one or two paragraphs about their own pet or the pet they would like to have and what they do (or would do) to show their love for their animal. You may want to follow this lesson with additional activities from our article “Cartoons in the Classroom,” also in this issue. ☀

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