

Enrichment Activity Guide

December 2011



Dec. 7 To calculate fingernail growth, multiply .5 cm times 4 ($.5 \times 4 = 2$) for an answer of 2 cm per year.

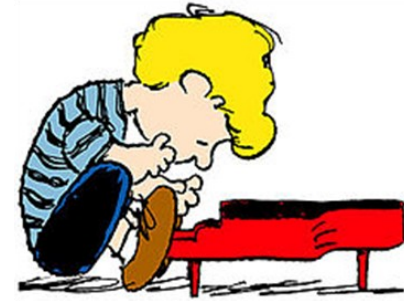
Dec. 8 Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, a machine that separated seeds from cotton fibers. Prior to Whitney's creation, the fiber and seeds had to be separated by hand, a process that required a great deal of physical labor. As a result, the production of cotton became a huge business, especially in the South. The cotton gin also led to the inventions of many machine tools and the practice of mass production in the early 19th century.

Dec. 9 The U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends a balanced diet of food from the five basic food groups: fruits, vegetables, grains, protein, and dairy.



Dec. 13 Abraham Lincoln is on the penny. Thomas Jefferson's profile is on the nickel. The 32nd President Franklin D. Roosevelt, adorns the dime, while first President George Washington is illustrated on the quarter. Finally, John F. Kennedy is on the half-dollar coin and Native American explorer Sacagawea graces the golden dollar coin.

Dec. 16 The *Peanuts* character Schroeder is devoted to composer Ludwig van Beethoven. Creator and artist Charles Schultz once said he used Beethoven because the name sounded funnier than other classical composers.



Dec. 23 To calculate the weight of an average African elephant, multiply 90 times 189 lbs ($90 \times 189 = 17,010$) for an answer of 17,010 lbs.

Dec. 25 Clara Barton worked tirelessly to establish the American Red Cross, which provides aid to those in need.



Dec. 26 During the seven days of Kwanzaa, families and communities celebrate seven principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, purpose, collective economics, creativity, and faith.

Dec. 30 The seven continents of the world are Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia.