

# April Fools' Day Unit Study

This is a fun way to spend the day.

**Page 3: Reading Comprehension** Have your child read (or read to your child) the story of April Fools Day and complete the questions.

**Page 4-6: Reading & Writing.** You have flash cards, color the word, and handwriting practice. These are words associated with April Fools' Day.

**Page 7: Vocabulary** Have your child use the dictionary to find the meaning of the words.

**Page 8: Alphabetical Order** Can your child put the words in alphabetical order?

**Page 9: Word Find** I love word finds! Can your child spot the words in this?

## The History of April Fools' Day

The history of April Fools Day is a mystery, but here is the most popular idea...

In the 16th century, **France** celebrated the **New Year** just like we do today, except they partied on **April 1st**. In 1562, **Pope Gregory** changed the calendar to the one we use today and from then on, the **New Year** began on January 1st. Lots of people didn't know about the new calendar, or they ignored the new calendar and kept celebrating on April 1st. Everyone else called them **April fools** and played tricks on them.

### Fools Around the World

In France today, April 1st is called **Poisson d'Avril**, which means April Fish. Children tape paper **fish** to their friends' backs and when the young "fool" finds out, the prankster yells "Poisson d'Avril!"

In **England**, tricks can only be played in the morning. If a trick is played on you, you are a "**noodle**."

In Scotland, you are called an "**April gowk**," which is another name for a cuckoo **bird**.

In **Portugal**, April Fools' is celebrated on the Sunday and Monday before Lent. Pranksters usually **throw flour** at their friends.

Source: [www.kidzworld.com](http://www.kidzworld.com)

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### Answer the Questions

1. In what year was the calendar changed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where might you be if someone called you a noodle? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does "Poisson d'Avril" mean in French? \_\_\_\_\_
4. April Fools' Day is celebrated on the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ before Lent in Portugal.
5. In England, tricks can only be played in the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Who changed the calendar in 1562? \_\_\_\_\_

April

fool

silly

funny

prank

trick

joke

clown

laugh

hoax

April

fool

silly

funny

prank

trick

joke

clown

laugh

hoax

April

fool

silly

funny

prank

trick

joke

clown

laugh

hoax

Use your dictionary to find the meaning of the words below.

**April**

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**Fool**

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**Silly**

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**Funny**

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**Prank**

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**Trick**

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**Joke**

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**Clown**

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**Laugh**

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**Hoax**

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Put the April Fools' Day words into alphabetical order

April Fool Silly Funny Prank  
Trick Joke Clown Laugh Hoax

1.

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2.

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3.

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4.

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5.

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6.

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7.

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8.

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9.

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10.

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# April Fools Word Find

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | I | L | V | B | W | T | O | O | K | E | L |
| L | A | P | R | I | L | I | R | V | E | T | S |
| E | H | T | K | N | A | R | P | I | A | F | F |
| R | C | O | L | O | U | R | A | P | C | R | U |
| N | T | S | R | I | G | F | E | K | I | K | N |
| W | S | C | A | N | H | D | L | K | E | J | N |
| O | P | A | R | G | R | E | T | S | O | E | Y |
| L | E | N | U | D | F | O | O | L | T | J | S |
| C | L | O | W | F | U | W | S | Y | O | B | 3 |
| S | I | L | L | Y | N | T | A | H | O | A | X |
| G | O | D | A | D | N | A | S | Y | O | B | 3 |

|       |      |       |       |       |
|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| April | Fool | Silly | Funny | Prank |
| Trick | Joke | Clown | Laugh | Hoax  |