

Calendar of Observances 2021

The increasingly pluralistic population of the United States is made up of many different ethnic, cultural, faith and religious communities. To enhance mutual understanding among groups and promote inclusive communities, the ADL offers this resource as a tool to increase awareness of and respect for religious obligations and ethnic and cultural festivities that may affect students, colleagues and neighbors in your community.

Religious Observations

The calendar includes significant religious observances of the major faiths represented in the United States. It can be used when planning school exam schedules and activities, workplace festivities and community events. **Note that Bahá'í, Jewish and Islamic holidays begin at sundown the previous day and end at sundown on the date listed.**

National and International Holidays

The calendar notes U.S. holidays that are either legal holidays or observed in various states and communities throughout the country. Important national and international observances that may be commemorated in the U.S. are also included.

Calendar System

The dates of secular holidays are based on the Gregorian calendar, which is commonly used for civil dating purposes. Many religions and cultures follow various traditional calendar systems that are often based on the phases of the moon with occasional adjustments for the solar cycle. Therefore, specific Gregorian calendar dates for these observances will differ from year to year. In addition, calculation of specific dates may vary by geographical location and according to different sects within a religion.

[NOTE: Observances highlighted in yellow indicate that the dates are tentative or not yet set by the organizations who coordinate them.]

January 2021

- January 1** **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, commonly used for civil dating purposes.
- January 5** **GURU GOBIND SINGH JI'S BIRTHDAY • Sikh**
Guru Gobind Singh was the 10th Sikh guru of Nanak and founder of the Khalsa.
- January 6** **CHRISTMAS • Armenian Orthodox Christian**
Armenian Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany, except for Armenians living in Israel, who celebrate Christmas on January 19th.
- January 6** **EPIPHANY • Christian**
Known as *Theophany* in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ. In addition, the Western Church associates Epiphany with the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus, and the Eastern Church with the baptism of Jesus by John.
- January 7** **CHRISTMAS • Eastern Christian**
Most Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas 13 days later than other Christian churches based on their use of the Julian rather than the Gregorian version of the Western calendar.
- January 14** **MAKAR SANKRANTI • Hindu**
Seasonal celebration marking turning of the sun toward the north.
- January 17** **WORLD RELIGION DAY • Bahá'í**
Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.
- January 18** **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY**
The birthday of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is on January 15th but it is observed on the third Monday in January.
- January 18–22** **NO NAME-CALLING WEEK**
Annual week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling and bullying of all kinds.
- January 27** **UN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY**
Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945.
- January 28** **MAHAYANA NEW YEAR • Buddhist**
In Mahayana countries the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January.
- January 28** **TU B'SHVAT • Jewish**
New Year's Day for Trees, and traditionally the first of the year for tithing fruit of trees. Now a day for environmental awareness and action, such as tree planting.

February 2021

February	Full Month	BLACK HISTORY MONTH Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.
February 1		NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY Commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865.
February 12		LUNAR NEW YEAR • Confucian, Daoist and Buddhist Also known as the <i>Spring Festival</i> , an important festival celebrated at the turn of the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar.
February 14		VALENTINE'S DAY Celebrates the idea of romantic love.
February 15		NIRVANA DAY • Buddhist Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved Parinirvana, or complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body. Sometimes celebrated on February 8.
February 15		PRESIDENTS' DAY Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.
February 15		SUSAN B. ANTHONY DAY A commemorative holiday to celebrate the birth of Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906) and women's suffrage in the United States.
February 16		SHROVE TUESDAY • Western Christian A day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday and Carnival Day as this day is observed in many ways worldwide.
February 17		ASH WEDNESDAY • Western Christian The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.
February 20		WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE U.N. day to recognize efforts to achieve fair outcomes for all through employment, social protection, social dialogue, and fundamental principles and rights at work.
February 25–28		AYYÁM-I-HA OR INTERCALARY DAYS • Bahá'í The Ayyám-i-ha, or "Days of Ha" are devoted to spiritual preparation for the fast, celebrating, hospitality, charity and gift giving. They are celebrated the four days, five in leap year, before the last month of the Bahá'í year by inserting days into the calendar in order to maintain their solar calendar.
February 26		PURIM • Jewish The "Feast of Lots" marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination.

March 2021

March	Full Month	NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH Honors women as significant agents of historical change.
March 1–19		NINETEEN-DAY FAST • Bahá'í Baha'is between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset and set aside time for prayer and meditation.
March 8		INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY Celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women worldwide.
March 11		MAHA SHIVARATRI • Hindu Also called <i>Shiva Ratri</i> , the Great Night of Shiva, is a festival in reverence of the god Shiva. The festival is celebrated at the 13 th night or 14 th day of the waning moon in the Hindu calendar (month of February or March of the English calendar).
March 15		CLEAN MONDAY • Eastern Christian The beginning of <i>Great Lent</i> for Eastern Christian churches, which starts 40 days before Orthodox Easter (Pascha), counting Sundays.
March 17		ST. PATRICK'S DAY • Christian Feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. In the U.S., a secular version is celebrated by people of all faiths through appreciation of all things Irish.
March 20		VERNAL EQUINOX Marks the first day of the season of spring. The sun shines nearly equally on both hemispheres when it's spring in the Northern Hemisphere and simultaneously fall in the Southern Hemisphere.
March 21		INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION Call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.
March 21		NOWRÚZ • Zoroastrian A traditional ancient Iranian festival celebrating the first day of Spring and the Iranian New Year. Also celebrated as New Year's Day in Baha'i tradition (Naw-Ruz). (This date may vary based on region or sect.)
March 28		KHORDAD SAL • Zoroastrian The Zoroastrian celebration of the birth of Zoroaster, the founder of the Zoroastrianism religion. The holiday is specifically celebrated in India and Iran, immediately following the Persian new year, Nowrúz.
March 28		MAGHA PUJA • Buddhist Also known as <i>Sangha Day</i> , it commemorates the spontaneous assembly of 1,250 disciples, completely enlightened monks, in the historical Buddha's presence.
March 28		PALM SUNDAY • Christian Observed the Sunday before Easter/Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

**March 28–April
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PASSOVER/PESACH • Jewish

The eight-day “Feast of Unleavened Bread” celebrates Israel’s deliverance from Egyptian bondage.

March 29

HOLA MOHALLA • Sikh

An annual event which is a martial arts parade historically coinciding with Holi, the Hindu festival of colors. Celebrations related to Holla Mohalla may be held in various locations over several weekends preceding the actual date of the holiday.

March 29

HOLI • Hindu

A spring festival in India and Nepal dedicated to the god of pleasure, also known as the festival of colours or the festival of sharing love.

March 31

CESAR CHAVEZ DAY

Honors Mexican American farm worker, labor leader and activist Cesar Chavez (1927–1993) who was a nationally respected voice for social justice.

April 2021

April	Full Month	GENOCIDE AWARENESS MONTH A month that marks important anniversaries for past and contemporary genocides. Throughout the month, individuals, communities and organizations join together to remember and honor victims and survivors of mass atrocities.
April	Full Month	NATIONAL POETRY MONTH Introduced in 1996 by the Academy of American Poets as a way to increase awareness and appreciation of poetry in the United States.
April 1		HOLY THURSDAY • Christian Also known as <i>Maundy Thursday</i> , it is celebrated on the Thursday before Easter commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the Crucifixion.
April 2		GOOD FRIDAY • Christian Known as <i>Holy Friday</i> in Eastern Christianity, it commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus on the Friday before Easter/Pascha.
April 4		EASTER • Christian Known as <i>Pascha</i> in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.
April 8		YOM HASHOAH • Jewish “Holocaust Remembrance Day” memorializes the heroic martyrdom of six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust.
April 21		RAMA NAVAMI • Hindu Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.
April 13–May 13		RAMADAN • Islamic Observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the <i>Qur’an</i> to the Prophet Muhammad.
April 14		VAISAKHI (also spelled Baisakhi) • Sikh The festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated). On this day, Sikhs gather and celebrate Vaisakhi at their local Gurdwaras (Sikh house of worship) by remembering this day as the birth of the Khalsa.
April 20–May 1		FESTIVAL OF RIDVÁN • Bahá’í Annual festival commemorating the 12 days when Bahá’u’lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá’í Faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed his mission as God’s messenger for this age. The first (April 20), ninth (April 28), and twelfth (May 1) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha’is suspend work.
April 23		DAY OF SILENCE Students take a day-long vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment.

April 24

ARMENIAN MARTYRS' DAY

Memorializes the genocide of approximately 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 in Turkey.

April 27

THERAVADA NEW YEAR • Buddhist

In Theravada countries the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April.

April 30

LAG B'OMER • Jewish

Celebrates the end of a divine-sent plague and/or Roman occupation during Rabbi Akiva's lifetime (died c. 135 CE).

May 2021

May	Full Month	ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.
May	Full Month	JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH Recognizes the history of Jewish contributions to American culture, acknowledging the diverse achievements of American Jews.
May 1		INTERNATIONAL WORKER'S DAY Also known as <i>May Day</i> , it celebrates the social and economic achievements of workers worldwide. The day commemorates the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, in which police and protesters clashed following a workers' strike for an eight-hour work day.
May 3		WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY Serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression and as a reminder that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news.
May 5		CINCO DE MAYO In 1862 Mexican forces defeated French occupational forces in the Battle of Puebla.
May 8		LAILA AL-QADR • Islamic Commemorates the night that the <i>Qur'an</i> was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. It is known as the "Night of Power." Often set on the 27th day of Ramadan, Sunnis may observe it on the 21st, 23rd, 25th or 29th and Shī'ite (Shiite) observe it on the 19th, 21st or 23rd day of Ramadan.
May 9		MOTHER'S DAY Children of all ages show appreciation for their mothers and mother figures.
May 13		ASCENSION DAY • Christian Also known as <i>Holy Thursday</i> , celebrated 40 days after Easter/Pascha, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.
May 13		EID AL-FITR • Islamic The "Feast of the Breaking of the Fast" marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk.
May 17–18		SHAVUOT • Jewish The "Feast of Weeks" celebrates the covenant established at Sinai between God and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments.
May 21		WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY Recognizes cultural diversity as a source of innovation, exchange and creativity, as well as the obligation to create a more peaceful and equitable society based on mutual respect.
May 23		DECLARATION OF THE BÁB • Bahá'í Commemoration of May 23, 1844, when the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith, announced in Shíráz, Persia, that he was the herald of a new messenger of God.

June 2021

June	Full Month	LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH Commemorates the anniversary of the June 28, 1969 Stonewall riot in New York City, the incident that initiated the modern gay rights movement in the United States.
June 5		WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (WED) The United Nations' most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment.
June 12		ANNE FRANK DAY Birthday of young Jewish girl whose diary describes her family's experiences hiding from the Nazis through assistance of Gentile friends.
June 12		LOVING DAY Observes the anniversary of the 1967 United States Supreme Court decision <i>Loving v. Virginia</i> which struck down the miscegenation laws remaining in 16 states barring interracial marriage.
June 13		RACE UNITY DAY • Bahá'í Observance promoting racial harmony and understanding and the essential unity of humanity.
June 14		FLAG DAY Anniversary of the adoption of the United States flag by Congress in 1777.
June 19		JUNETEENTH Originally commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas in 1865, it is now celebrated throughout the U.S. to honor African-American freedom and achievement.
June 20		FATHER'S DAY Children of all ages show appreciation for their fathers and father figures.
June 20		SUMMER SOLSTICE Marks the first day of the season of summer. The length of time between sunrise and sunset is the longest of the year with the sun shining the farthest from the Southern Hemisphere and the closest to the Northern Hemisphere.
June 20		WORLD REFUGEE DAY Raises awareness about the plight of refugees and displaced persons.
June 26		ANNIVERSARY OF LEGALIZATION OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IN THE U.S. On June 26, 2015, in the case of <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i> , the Supreme Court ruled that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples.

September 2021

September 1		GUR-GADDI GURU GRANTH SAHIB • Sikh Since 1708, Sikhs have accepted Sri Guru Granth Sahib as their eternal Guru that holds the spirit of all Ten Gurus of the Sikhs. They consider Guru Granth Sahib to be a spiritual guide not only for Sikhs but for all of mankind; it plays a central role in guiding the Sikhs' way of life.
September 5		INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CHARITY Recognizes the role of charity in alleviating human suffering, as well as of the efforts of charitable organizations and individuals, including the work of Mother Teresa.
September 6		LABOR DAY Celebrated the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers.
September 7–8		ROSH HASHANAH • Jewish Beginning of the Jewish New Year and first of the High Holy Days, which marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.
September 8		INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY Call to action for universal literacy.
September 10		GANESH CHATURTHI • Hindu Celebrates the birthday of Ganesha, the elephant-deity.
September 15– October 15	Full Month	NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH Celebrates the contributions, heritage and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans.
September 16		YOM KIPPUR • Jewish The “Day of Atonement” marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah.
September 17		CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY Commemorates the ratification of the United States Constitution in 1787. Also honors all who have become U.S. citizens.
September 21– 27		SUKKOT • Jewish The week-long “Feast of Booths” commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.
September 22		AUTUMNAL EQUINOX Marks the first day of the season of fall. The sun shines nearly equally on both hemispheres when it's fall in the Northern Hemisphere and simultaneously spring in the Southern Hemisphere.
September 23		BI VISIBILITY DAY Seeks to draw attention to public policy concerns and foster respect for bi+ individuals and communities.
September 28		SHEMINI ATZERET • Jewish “The Eighth (Day) of Assembly” is observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.

September 29

SIMCHAT TORAH • Jewish

“Rejoicing in the Torah” celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Pentateuch and its beginning anew.

October 2021

October	Full month	NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH A campaign to unite communities nationwide to educate and raise awareness of bullying prevention.
October	Full Month	NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH Recognizes the contributions of workers with disabilities.
October	Full Month	LGBT HISTORY MONTH Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender people in the United States.
October 2		INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE Marked on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence, a U.N commemoration promoting the principle of non-violence and the desire to secure a culture of peace, tolerance and understanding.
October 5		WORLD TEACHER'S DAY Held annually to commemorate teacher organizations worldwide.
October 6–14		NAVARATRI • Hindu Nine-day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It worships God in the form of the universal mother commonly referred to as Durga, Devi or Shakti, and marks the start of fall.
October 11		COMING OUT DAY Encourages honesty and openness about being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Commemorates October 11, 1987, when 500,000 people marched on Washington, DC, for gay and lesbian equality.
October 11		INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY (Native American Day) Celebrates and honors Native American history and culture. [The second Monday of October is also marked as a U.S. federal holiday, Columbus Day. Many people are opposed to the celebration of a man who led and committed atrocities against Indigenous people. Some states and cities in the U.S. have officially changed the day to Indigenous People's Day. Similarly, it is celebrated as <i>Día de la Raza</i> , "Day of the Race", in Spanish-speaking countries and communities.]
October 15		DUSSEHRA/DASSERA • Hindu Anniversary of the day when Rama killed the evil demon Ravana. Also known as <i>Durga Puja</i> , which celebrates the goddess Durga.
October 17		INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.
October 18		MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI) • Islamic (Sunni) The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims.

- October 23** **MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI) • Islamic (Shi'a)**
The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Sunni Muslims celebrate it five days earlier than Shi'a Muslims.
- October 24** **UNITED NATIONS DAY**
Commemorates the founding of the world organization in 1945.
- October 31** **HALLOWEEN**
The eve of All Saints' Day.
- October 31** **REFORMATION DAY • Christian**
Commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in 1517.

November 2021

November	Full Month	NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH Adoptees, birth families, adoptive families and adoption professionals reflect on, educate and celebrate adoption practices.
November	Full Month	NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH Celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans and indigenous people in the United States.
November 1		ALL SAINTS' DAY • Western Christian Commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints. Eastern Christianity observes it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.
November 2		ALL SOULS' DAY • Christian Commemoration of all faithful Christians who are now dead. In Mexican tradition it is celebrated as <i>Día de los Muertos</i> between October 31 and November 2, and is an occasion to remember dead ancestors and celebrate the continuity of life.
November 2		ELECTION DAY A day set by U.S. law for the election of public officials.
November 4		BANDI-CHHOR DIWAS • Sikh A commemorative occasion having no fixed date which occurs in October or November and celebrates the release of the Sixth Guru Har Gobind Sahib from imprisonment and coincides with Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.
November 4		DIWALI • Hindu Also called <i>Deepavali</i> , "Festival of Lights", it celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.
November 6		BIRTH OF THE BÁB • Bahá'í Bahá'í observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1819 of Siyyid, "the Báb," the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith, in Shíráz, Persia.
November 7		BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH • Bahá'í Observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Bahá'u'lláh, prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, in Núr, Persia.
November 9–10		KRISTALLNACHT Commemorates the 1938 pogrom against Jews throughout Germany and Vienna.
November 11		VETERANS' DAY Honors military veterans and the U.S. Armed Services.
November 15–19		AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK Celebrates public education and honors individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child in the U. S. receives a quality education.

November 16	INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE Emphasizes the dangers of intolerance and is a call to action for the advancement of human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as a day to encourage tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures and peoples.
November 19	GURU NANAK DEV JI'S BIRTHDAY • Sikh A very important holiday in the Sikh faith as Guru Nanak Dev's was the First Guru of the Sikhs and the Founder of Sikhism. He was born in mid-November; the holiday is celebrated according to the lunar date.
November 20	TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE Memorializes those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.
November 25	DAY OF THE COVENANT • Bahá'í Day of the Covenant is a festival observed to commemorate Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of His son, Abdu'l-Baha, as His successor.
November 25	THANKSGIVING DAY Following a 19th century tradition, it commemorates the Pilgrims' harvest feast in the autumn of 1621. It is considered by some to be a "national day of mourning," in recognition of the conquest of Native Americans by colonists.
November 28– December 24	ADVENT • Christian Advent is a season of spiritual preparation in observance of the birth of Jesus. In Western Christianity, it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In Eastern Christianity, the season is longer and begins in the middle of November.
November 29– December 6	CHANUKAH • Jewish Eight-day "Festival of Lights", also known as <i>Hanukkah</i> , celebrating the rededication of the Temple to the service of God in 164 BCE. Commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Greek King, Antiochus, who sought to suppress freedom of worship.

December 2021

- December 1** **WORLD AIDS DAY**
International day of action on HIV and AIDS.
- December 3** **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**
Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.
- December 8** **BODHI DAY • Buddhist**
Also known as *Rohatsu*, commemorates the day that the Buddha, Siddharta Gautama, experienced enlightenment or spiritual awakening (bodhi). Celebrated on the eighth day either of December or the 12th month of the lunar calendar.
- December 10** **HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**
On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- December 12** **OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE • Christian**
Celebrates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (by her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of Mexico and the Americas) before Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to Roman Catholicism, on the Mexican hill of Tepeyac in 1531.
- December 15** **BILL OF RIGHTS DAY**
Commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments of the United States Constitution in 1791.
- December 21** **WINTER SOLSTICE**
Marks the first day of the season of winter. The length of time between sunrise and sunset is the shortest of the year with the sun shining closest to the Southern Hemisphere and the farthest from the Northern Hemisphere.
- December 24** **CHRISTMAS EVE • Christian**
Celebration of the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus.
- December 25** **CHRISTMAS • Western Christian**
Commemorates the birth of Jesus.
- December 26**
2021–January
1, 2022 **KWANZAA**
A seven-day celebration honoring African American heritage and its continued vitality. “Kwanzaa” means “first fruits (of the harvest)” in Swahili.
- December 29** **WOUNDED KNEE DAY**
On December 29, 1890 more than 200 Lakota Sioux were massacred by U.S. troops at Wounded Knee in South Dakota.
- December 31** **NEW YEAR’S EVE**
In the Gregorian calendar, New Year’s Eve, the last day of the year, is on December 31. In many countries, New Year’s Eve is celebrated at evening social gatherings, where many people dance, eat, drink. etc.