



# Celebrate

## NATIONAL DICTIONARY DAY

October 16

National Dictionary Day celebrates the birthday of Noah Webster, considered by many to be the father of the American dictionary. This special day celebrates language, emphasizes the importance of learning, and encourages readers to use the dictionary to improve vocabulary.

### WAYS TO CELEBRATE:

- **DICTIONARY GAMES!**  
Use Merriam-Webster Activity Sheets and Scavenger Hunts that pair up with our school dictionaries for word play discovery!  
[Teacherspayteachers.com/store/merriam-webster](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/store/merriam-webster)
- **PLAY WORD GAMES!**  
Challenge yourself to a word search, crossword puzzle, or one of the many games at [Merriam-Webster.com/word-games](https://www.merriam-webster.com/word-games).
- **HOST A VIRTUAL SPELLING BEE!**  
A spelling bee is a fun way to foster community all the while building vocabulary and spelling skills!
- **WATCH ASK THE EDITOR VIDEOS**  
where our editors answer grammar questions and address language disputes!  
Visit [Merriam-Webster.com/video](https://www.merriam-webster.com/video).
- **LEARN A NEW WORD EACH DAY!**  
Sign up for Word of the Day at [Merriam-Webster.com](https://www.merriam-webster.com) or close your eyes, open your dictionary to a random page, and read the first word you see!
- **WRITE A HAIKU ABOUT FALL!**  
A haiku is a Japanese form of poetry having three lines containing five, seven, and five syllables. Here's an example: *The leaves are changing. Colors of red and orange. Beautiful tree line.*
- **ROCK ART!**  
Find a few rocks that are large and flat enough to paint your favorite word on. Leave the painted rocks in your backyard, garden, or if allowed, leave them on a trail or public sidewalk for someone else to discover. (Tip: acrylic paint works best.)



#### From Noah Webster to Merriam-Webster

Merriam-Webster can be considered to be the direct lexicographical heir of Noah Webster. After Webster's death in 1843, brothers George and Charles Merriam bought the rights to the 1841 edition of *An American Dictionary of the English Language, Corrected and Enlarged*. They also secured the rights to create revised editions of that work. 'Twas the beginning of a publishing tradition, which has continued uninterrupted to this day at Merriam-Webster.

Be sure to follow @MerriamWebster on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and use #DictionaryDay to follow along and post about your celebrations.