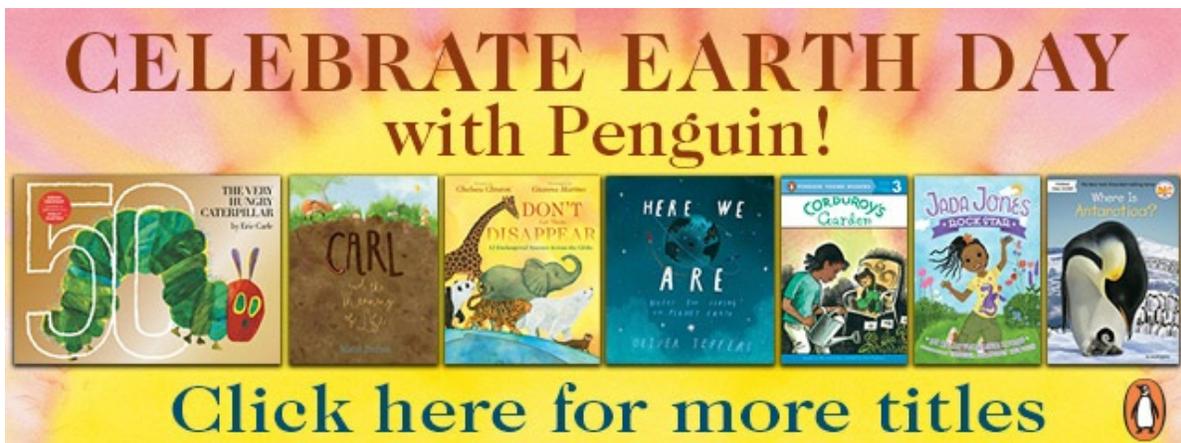
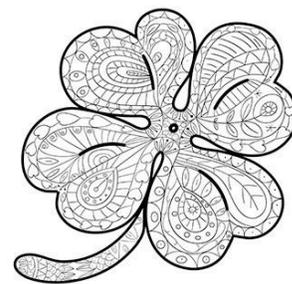
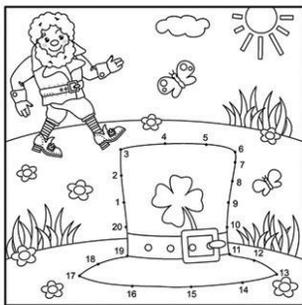


10 days from now is the worldwide day of celebration in honor of St. Patrick (ca. 385-461), Ireland's patron saint. A Briton who as a teen was enslaved by Irish marauders, he escaped after six years, became a priest, and returned to Ireland, where he became a bishop and spent the rest of his life converting the Irish to Christianity (he used a shamrock to explain the concept of the Trinity). According to legend, he also rid the Emerald Isle of snakes.

Of course, there's also the leprechaun and his pot o' gold, green rivers, pinching those not wearing green and many other elements that make St. Patrick's Day the special celebration that it is.

And to help you celebrate, we have some activity pages for your students! Simply click on an image below to open a printable PDF. Enjoy!





This spring, Mason Crest has three amazing new series to offer young adult readers, ranging from sports to history to science!

Women's Soccer Today entertains and informs both readers who love soccer in all forms and those just discovering the sport or the women's game. Then, taking things off the field and into the lab, few areas of human achievement have had a bigger impact than **science and technology**. In this series, readers will get a solid introduction to some of the most important sectors of science and technology to help get them ready to make their own contributions in the future! And finally, **The Untold History of Ancient Civilizations** brings some of the world's earliest cultures to life, encouraging readers to explore some lesser-known facts about groups of ancient peoples.

Check out Mason Crest's new **spring offerings!**

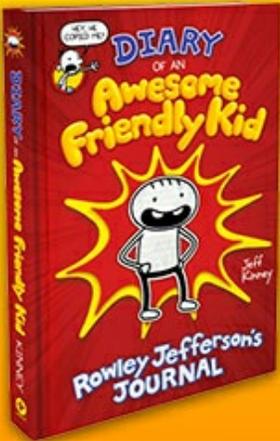


Young readers will love these great new animal series from Bellwether.

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Women's History Month Spotlight: Toni Morrison & Alice Walker

As we transition from Black History Month to Women's History Month, here are profiles of two celebrated, Pulitzer Prize-winning African-American women novelists: Toni Morrison and Alice Walker.

Toni Morrison

Born Chloe Wofford in Lorain, Ohio, in 1931, Toni Morrison acquired her nickname after converting to Catholicism at age twelve and adopting the baptismal name Anthony, after St. Anthony. ("Morrison" is her married name.) The daughter of working-class African-American parents, she grew up in the shadow of racism (her father had fled his native Georgia after witnessing a lynching), but also with an appreciation of her heritage and her parents' integrity in difficult circumstances. As a child, she absorbed the novels of Jane Austen and Leo Tolstoy.



Morrison graduated from Howard University in 1953 and earned an M.A. from Cornell in 1955. After nearly a decade teaching college English

(she also married, had two children, and divorced), she went to work in publishing in 1965, eventually becoming the first black senior editor at New York's Random House. Her debut novel, 1970's *The Bluest Eye*, was the first in a body of work that explores racism and the legacy of slavery in America. Her best-known title, *Beloved*—about a former slave who is haunted, metaphorically and possibly literally, by the past—was published in 1988, earning the Pulitzer Prize. In 1993, the *Beloved* trilogy was awarded the Nobel Prize.

Alice Walker

Black feminist author Alice Walker was born in 1944 in rural Georgia, the youngest of eight children of impoverished sharecroppers. Blinded in one eye in a childhood accident involving a stray BB, Walker became an avid reader as an escape. She was valedictorian of her high school class and won a full scholarship to Georgia's Spelman College, later transferring to Sarah Lawrence College in New York, where she earned a B.A. in 1965.



Post-college, Walker worked for the NAACP in Mississippi and married white civil rights lawyer Melvyn Leventhal—controversial at a time when interracial marriage was still illegal in many places. They eventually divorced, but produced a daughter, Rebecca, now an activist and novelist as well.

Walker's early activism dovetailed with her work as an academic and in publishing (she was editor of the magazine *Ms.*). Already known for her poetry, essays, short stories, and novels, she became a household name with the publication in 1982 of *The Color Purple*. Like much of Walker's work, the novel examines the suffering of black women from both white racism and black patriarchy. It won the 1983 Pulitzer Prize.

Enjoy the works of these and other trailblazers with our Women's History Month [titles](#).



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