



ELEMENTARY LIBRARY IDEAS FOR JANUARY

Idea #1: Start a K-5 Research Progression

by [Laura Trapp \(The Trapped Librarian\)](#)



These animal research projects will help your students develop their research, writing, and technology skills beginning in Kindergarten, progressing through 5th grade.

These fun projects are designed so that each grade level builds upon skills learned in previous years.

([See this Research Bundle from The Trapped Librarian](#))

Idea #2: Teach Research the Easy Way!

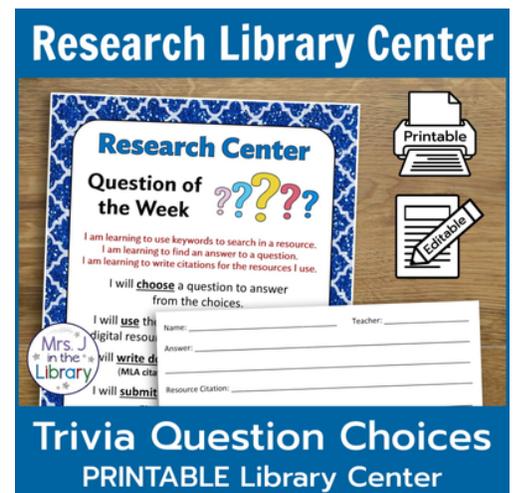
by [Collette Jakubowicz \(Mrs. J in the Library\)](#)

Our students aren't the only ones who groan about research projects...many librarians also struggle with how to teach research skills in an engaging way.

This library center can be used as a whole class or individual activity to teach students how to use keywords and high-quality resources.

You can use any question or topic too! The materials are differentiated for kindergarten through 5th grade, and include options for citing their sources.

Check it out in the [Librarians Teach Shop](#) or on [TPT](#)



**CONTRIBUTING
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Idea #3: Create Colorful Coffee Filter Snowflakes

by Cari White (Library Learners)

The new year is a great time to teach or review the life skill of setting goals.

These New Year library centers will help students to set resolutions and think about the new year ahead.

[\(Read this article from Library Learners\)](#)



PreK-
Grade 5

2023 FAVORITES

selected by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

PICTURE BOOKS

- *The Indestructible Tom Crean* (Thermes)
- *Jump In!* (Strickland)
- *Stars of the Night: The Courageous Children of the Czech Kindertransport* (Stelson)
- *Once Upon a Book* (Lin)
- *Summer Is for Cousins* (LaRocca)
- *The Tree and the River* (Becker)
- *My Powerful Hair* (Lindstrom)
- *Ancestry* (Salyer)
- *Big* (Harrison)
- *There Was a Party for Langston* (Reynolds)
- *On the Tip of a Wave* (Ho)
- *Tomfoolery!* (Markel)

CHAPTER BOOKS / NOVELS

- *Sincerely Sicily* (Burgess)
- *Just Jerry: How Drawing Shaped My Life* (Pinkney)
- *You Are Here: Connecting Flights* (Oh)
- *The Moth Keeper* (O'Neill)
- *Aniana del Mar Jumps In* (Mendez)
- *Bea Wolf* (Weinersmith)
- *The Red Ear Blows Its Nose: Poems for Children and Others* (Schechter)
- *Half Moon Summer* (Vickers)
- *We Still Belong* (Day)
- *The Puppets of Spelhorst* (DiCamillo)
- *Duel* (Bagley)
- *Jawbreaker* (Wyman)

FUN TRIVIA FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

INTERESTING FACT: Just because it's WINTER, doesn't mean your area will get snow!

Can you guess the 4 U.S. cities that have NEVER experienced a snowfall (according to the Farmer's Almanac)? [Find the answer here!](#)



Idea #4: Start a New Tradition - Limited Time FREEBIE

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



Do you have a great neighbor? Start a new SNOW DAY tradition by stashing away a store-bought pan of frozen cinnamon rolls AND this limited time freebie treat tag!

[\(See this limited-time freebie from That Library Girl](#)

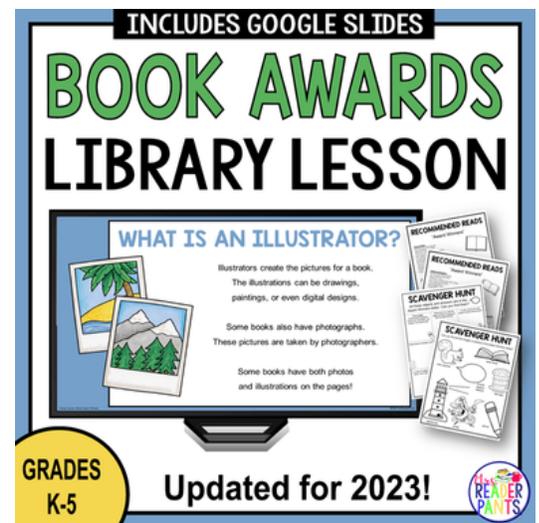
Idea #5: Tips & Tricks to Use Google Classroom

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

This elementary library lesson introduces ALA book awards to students.

It gives details about five awards: Newbery, Caldecott, Coretta Scott King, Pura Belpre, and Sibert, plus mentions the Odyssey and Asian Pacific American Award.

Includes winning titles for 2023, with updates coming soon for 2024. Once you buy it, you'll get the annual updates free.



[\(see this Library Lesson from MrsReaderPants\)](#)

Books That Feature Snow!

Scholastic says these 25 books are "SNOW" awesome that they'll be trending in 2024! Julie (That Library Girl) found 10 titles that were new to her!

Take a peek if you need to add a little snow action to your collection!



Idea #6: Inspire Kindness with Nerdy Birdy!

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



Upper elementary kids love Nerdy Birdy and Nerdy Birdy Tweets!

These books are great springboards for discussions of friendship and digital citizenship.

[\(Grab a free reading response printable at the end of this blog post!\)](#)

READ-ALOUDS - MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES



- *Wibble Wobble Boom!* by Mary Ann Rodman
- *Try It!: How Frieda Caplan Changed the Way We Eat* by Mara Rockliff
- *Mel Fell* by Corey R. Tabor
- *Digestion! The Musical* by Adam Rex
- *Good Night to Your Fantastic Elastic Brain* by JoAnn Deak
- *Abdul's Story* by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow
- *The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes* by Mark Pett

- *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires
- *The Way I Act* by Steve Metzger
- *I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato* by Lauren Child
- *The Little Red Fort* by Brenda Maier
- *What's in the Garden?: Learn Where Food Comes From* by Marianne Berkes
- *The Last Loose Tooth* by Tyler Clark Burke
- *The Thing Lou Couldn't Do* by Ashley Spires
- *Just Try One Bite* by Adam Mansbach and Camila Alves McConaughey
- *I Don't Want to Wash My Hands* by Tony Ross
- *Why Do I Need to Brush My Teeth* by Caressa Simmons
- *Grow Strong! : A Book about Healthy Habits* by Cheri J. Meiners
- *Healthy Habits, Healthy YOU* by Lisa Greathouse

Idea #7: Promote Award-Winning Books

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs. J in the Library)

In many U.S. states, your local library association runs a "student choice" award contest, and this article explains a few ways to have students participate and cast their vote. January is a great time to introduce your state's contest, as well as promote the upcoming ALA Youth Media Awards.

The 2024 Newbery, Caldecott, Pura Belpré, Coretta Scott King, and Children's Literature Legacy Awards will be announced January 22, 2024 at 8 am Eastern.



([Read the full article from Mrs J in the Library](#).)

Idea #8: Celebrate Winter with PreK Classes

by Cari White (Library Learners)



Are you teaching PreK Library Lessons this winter?

You and your students will enjoy the books and activities you'll find in these Winter PreK Library Lessons!

([See this resource in the Library Learners TPT store](#).)

Polar Bear WebCam

As students are working at library centers, you can display this polar bear webcam on the big screen. Students can observe polar bears in their natural habitat.



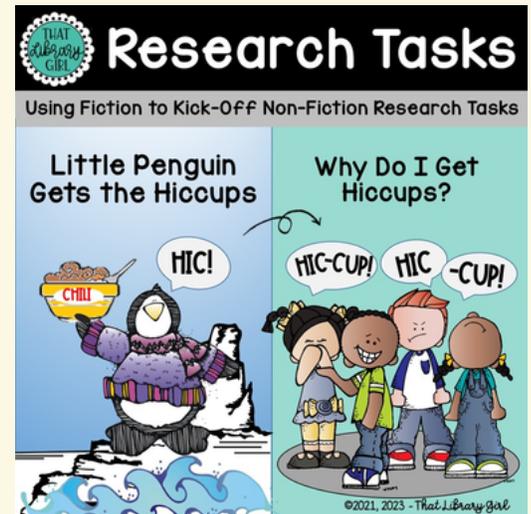
Idea #9: Pair Fiction with Nonfiction Research

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

How did a funny penguin read-aloud (*Little Penguin Gets the Hiccups*) lead to a mini research project about why people hiccup?

This resource includes 6 mini-tasks, so you'll have lots of options for differentiation. (One is even great to leave for a sub!)

[\(Get the scoop on That Library Girl's blog\)](#)



Idea #10: Predict the Caldecott Award Winners

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

**2024 MOCK
CALDECOTT**



My first-ever predictions!



The 2024 ASLC Book Awards will be announced live at 8am on January 22! Which books will win this year's Caldecott, Newbery, and other awards?

This is my first-ever Caldecott prediction list! Will I get them right? Time will tell...

[\(see all 10 predictions from MrsReaderPants\)](#)



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Idea #11: Teach Research Skills in Kinder and Grade 1

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

Is it possible to teach research skills in the primary grades?

Of course the answer is a resounding "YES!"

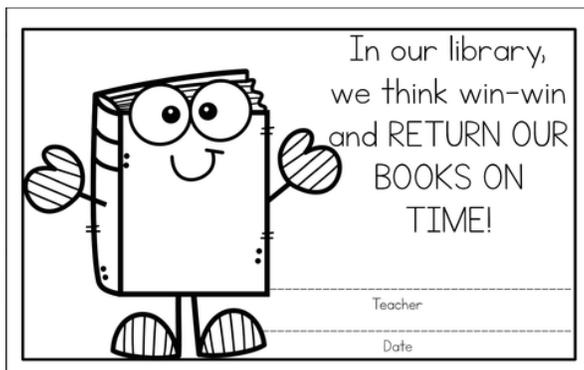
Research skills for kindergarten and first grade students lay the groundwork for future learning and success.



[\(Get these research skills tips from The Trapped Librarian\)](#)

Idea #12: Reward Library Book Returns

by Cari White (Library Learners)



[\(Get this Awards Freebie from Library Learners\)](#)

Print out these awards on colorful card stock, and post them outside teachers' doors when their class returns (or renews) 100% of their library books.

You'll soon find the classroom teacher getting competitive and more actively encouraging book returns!

The time you spend now will save you so much time rounding up library books at the end of the school year!



Polar Bears Are Amazing!

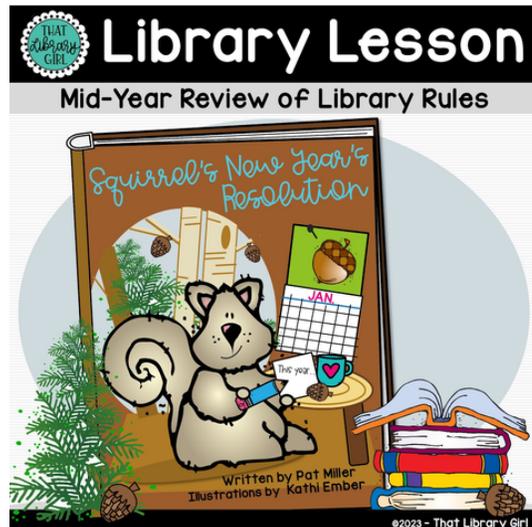
Your students will love learning a little bit about polar bears with this short "Amazing Animals" video from Nat Geo Kids!

Idea #13: Review Library Rules and Procedures

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

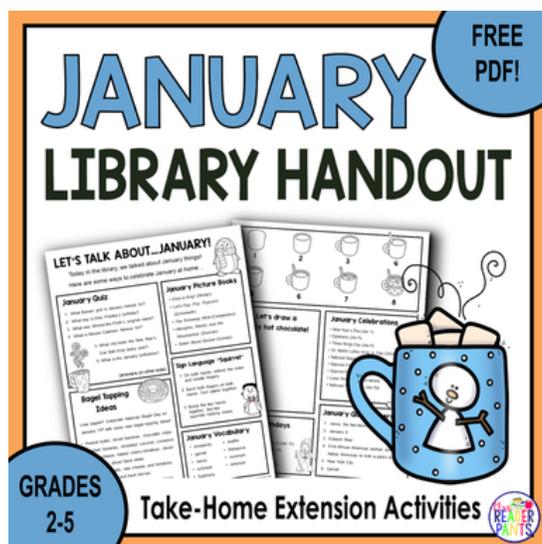
Could your library use a few New Year's resolutions? This updated resource pairs Pat Miller's book (*Squirrel's New Year's Resolution*) with a sassy slideshow discussion. It's perfect for your mid-year library rules review!

(Head over to [That Library Girl's TPT shop](#) for more details).



Idea #14: Hand Out January Take-Home Activities

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



This FREE January Library Handout can be used alone or with January library lessons and activities.

It includes a January quiz, how to draw a fancy hot chocolate, recommended January picture books, ideas for bagel spreads, and January celebration dates.

([Download this freebie from MrsReaderPants](#).)



9 Ways to Beat the Winter Blues (School Librarian's Edition)

By Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

Ugh... don't let the winter blahs get you down. That Library Girl has a collection of ideas to help you face the long, dreary days with a smile!

Idea #15: Check Out the Chompers Podcast!

submitted by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs. J in the Library)



Chompers is a podcast for brushing your teeth to with trivia, interviews, jokes, and stories.

There's even a week-long musical with episodes each morning and night! It's a great resource to share with your school community or to highlight with one of the read-alouds in this newsletter.

Chompers also has a Spotify playlist of 1-2 minute songs to brush your teeth to. Some songs also highlight other good hygiene habits, like covering your sneezes and washing your hands, which could work well for cleaning up at the end of library class.

[Visit Chompers here](#)

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