

# CONNECTION

Sharing the day-to-day learning experience

at

Community Homes & Services

PO Box 744, Novato CA 94948

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## Mother's Day

What Is a Mother? A mother gives birth to a child or raises a child. Mothers play an important role in families and society—they are often a kid's first caregiver, teacher, and source of love and support.

In humans, a mother can be biological (giving birth to the child), adoptive (raising a child not born to her), or a stepmother (married to a child's parent but not the biological mother).

Mothers care for children in many ways—feeding, teaching, comforting, and helping them grow into



adults. In some places, mothers are the main caregivers. In others, parenting is shared more equally between mothers, fathers, or other family members.

Many traditions honor motherly figures, such as the Virgin Mary in Christianity or mother goddesses like Rhea in Greek mythology. We celebrate Mother's Day to show appreciation for our moms!

*What do you think of when you think about Mothers' Day?*



# ANIMAL MOMS AND THEIR BABIES

Speaking of Mother's Day, animal mothers play a powerful role in the wild—protecting, feeding, and teaching their young just like human moms do. Here's a quick look at what some animal moms are called, along with the names of their babies:

Lion

Mom: Lioness

Baby: Cub



Elephant

Mom: Cow

Baby: Calf

Bear

Mom: Sow

Baby: Cub

Deer

Mom: Doe

Baby: Fawn

Horse

Mom: Mare

Baby: Foal



Ferret

Mom: Jill

Baby: Kit



Duck

Mom: Hen

Baby: Duckling



Whether it's a lioness guarding her cubs or an elephant cow guiding her calf, the bond between a mother and her young is powerful across all species. On Mother's Day, we celebrate the fierce, nurturing, and loving nature of moms everywhere—human and animal alike.

*Fill in the blank below:*

Kangaroo

Mom: Doe or Flyer

Baby: \_ \_ \_ \_

# MAY 2025 NATIONAL DAYS

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH, JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, SKIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH, WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH, MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH, MINIATURE GARDEN MONTH

5/1 - May Day, Global Love Day

5/2 - World Tuna Day, Space Day

5/3 - Kentucky Derby, Free Comic Book Day, Garden Meditation Day, Paranormal Day

5/4 - Bird Day, Lemonade Day, Orange Juice Day

5/5 - Cinco de Mayo, Astronaut Day

5/6 - Nurses Day, Teacher Appreciation Day

5/8 - World Red Cross Day, Coconut Cream Pie Day

5/9- Lost Sock Memorial Day, Alphabet Magnet Day

5/10 - Clean Up Your Room Day, Archery Day

5/11 - Mothers Day, Twilight Zone Day, Mini Golf Day

5/12 - International Nurses Day, Limerick Day

5/13 - Apple Pie Day, Crouton Day, Fruit Cocktail Day, Frog Jumping Day

5/14 - Dance Like a Chicken Day, Buttermilk Biscuit Day

5/15 - Bring Flowers to Someone Day, Chocolate Chip Day

5/16 - Do Something Good for your Neighbor Day, Classic Movie Day, BBQ Day

5/17 - Armed Forces Day, Cherry Cobbler Day, Walnut Day

5/18 - International Museum Day, No Dirty Dishes Day

5/20 - Rescue Dog Day, World Bee Day, Pick Strawberries Day

5/21 - American Red Cross Founder's Day

5/22 - Maritime Day, Vanilla Pudding Day, Solitaire Day

5/23 - Taffy Day, Lucky Penny Day

5/24 - Scavenger Hunt Day

5/25 - Geek Pride Day, Towel Day

**5/26 - Memorial Day - HOLIDAY**

5/28 - Hamburger Day, Brisket Day

5/29 - Flip Flop Day, Paper Clip Day

5/30 - Creativity Day, Water a Flower Day

5/31 - Smile Day



# May the 4th be with You

With 11 movies, 6 live action series, and 9 animated series, there is no shortage of material about the Star Wars universe. For his Star Wars themed birthday party, Devlin dove deep into some Star Wars trivia to share with his guests. Celebrate Star Wars Day by testing out how well you know that galaxy far, far away...



Darth Zachary at Devlin's Star Wars birthday party

What was Han Solo frozen in?  
Carbonite

True or False: R2-D2 originally had speaking lines.  
True

How many forms of communication is C-3PO fluent in?  
Over 6 million

What was Yoda's name in early drafts of The Empire Strikes Back?  
Buffy

What Star Wars vehicle was mistaken for a military tank during the filming of A New Hope?  
The Jawa Sandcrawler

Variations of what line appear in every film in the Star Wars saga?  
I have a bad feeling about this

The Millennium Falcon made the Kessel run in how many parsecs?  
Less than 12

How many puppeteers did it take to operate Jaba the Hutt?  
Three

What planet does the Death Star destroy in A New Hope?  
Alderaan



# More Star Wars Trivia

What planet is Padme Amidala from?

Naboo

Which actor is the only one to appear in every single Star Wars movie to date?

Anthony Daniels

Which 90's band was supposed to appear in Attack of the Clones?

NSYNC

How many light sabers does General Grievous wield at one time?

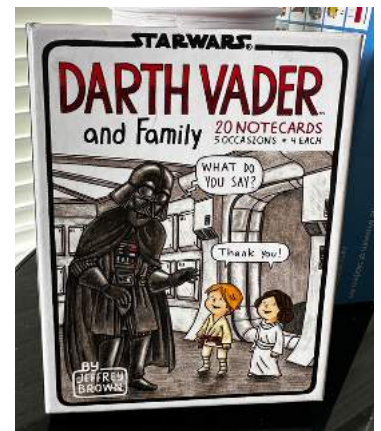
Four

What is Kylo Ren's given name?

Ben

Which animal are porgs based on?

Puffins



# Listen Up: Staff Training with Chas

## Skilled Listening

We can't always just fix people, but if we try, we can always listen to them, and oftentimes, that is a lot, if not all, of what they need. During staff training, Chas talked about ways and styles of effective listening. So let's look at a few of them:

**Active Listening** (also called empathic listening) - Make it a point not to judge, correct, debate, counsel, expose, embarrass, bore, ignore, or punish. Just simply be all there for the person, and receive, appreciate, and validate the emotional intent of the person's message.



Listening is always all about trust. Once someone trusts that you are really listening and once someone feels really "listened to," he is much more likely to listen back... making possible a dialogue that is respectful, reciprocal, and real!

Now we're talking! In many cases, it may be useful to take Active Listening a next step further. It is called **Productive Listening** and it is defined simply as Active Listening with a product. As the person talks, you collaborate to get that message down on paper. This could (and should) be "quality time" wherein "quality attention" is exchanged, a positive ritual by which the person recognizes his own eloquent voice to be "on the record!" This is part of what we do when each student at CH&S writes in his / her Project Journal at the end of each day. It's a script to live by.

Chas also touched upon:

- Actionable Listening... listen for action plans, ways to follow up
- Informational Listening... listen to gain or improve understanding
- Reflective Listening... repeat or rephrase what you hear to check for understanding
- Persuasive Listening... listening receptively to enhance negotiation
- Critical Listening... listening analytically in collaboration to facilitate decision-making

# Staff Training: How to Listen

## Things avoid

- Selective Listening... Just listening for what you want or expect to hear
- Defensive Listening... taking things that you hear as personal attacks, threats, or insults
- Delusional Listening... listening that is premised upon cognitive distortion
- Litigious Listening... competitive, listening to win



## A few tips

- Be a *listening presence*. Give undivided attention.
- Listen beyond just what is said. How is it said? What is meant? What is felt?
- Listen to behavior. Listen to body language.
- Take things personably, not personally.
- Ask clear, constructive, compelling questions.
- Be patient. Allow for silence.
- Don't judge.
- Respect!
- Care!

Everyone is different... and yet, everyone is the same. We all, in one way, shape, or form, must be heard. Getting to know someone is, in large part, learning to listen to them... Learn to listen and listen to learn.

Thanks For  
Listening



# Amy Martin

## CH&S STUDENT PPP

Amy is a very intelligent, fascinating, and delightful woman with many interests, skills, and accomplishments.

Amy sets an excellent example for others with her responsible and professional style.

She is very articulate, very insightful, and very dignified.

When Amy speaks, people listen. Amy is admired for her commitment to her goals, her ability to understand and to care about others, and her talent for keeping it positive! As such, Amy is exactly what everyone looks for in a friend.



Amy is:

Engaging and fun

A great negotiator

A superb conversationalist

Independent and organized

Kind and compassionate

Inspirational!



*Watch Amy's PPP video on our Instagram account.  
[https://www.instagram.com/reel/C\\_LuGY5y1yP/?  
utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C_LuGY5y1yP/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)*



# Daniel's Gameplay



Review

# GAME GAUNTLET

with Daniel and Joe

Daniel's dream career is reviewing video games, he's been working on a logo/avatar (left) and he's thinking of calling his review blog *The Game Gauntlet*. Here's Daniel's first review:

**The First Berserker: Khazan** is a *Soulslike* (meaning it features difficult, skill-based combat, interconnected levels, and a focus on exploration) action role playing game. The object of the game is to collect loot by fighting various tough enemies. To win the game, the player must survive a series of missions and defeat the final boss.

In addition to being a Soulslike game, it also reminds me of a hack and slash. A hack and slash is a game that primarily uses melee, (close range) weapons. The long range weapon that the player can wield in *The First Berserker* is soul ball that can be thrown like a projectile in sneak attacks. For example, when I was fighting an abominable snowman-style ape, he threw rocks at me. The player's only option in this situation is to block or evade, both of which deplete the player's stamina. A well placed, strong attack from an enemy can deplete your health bar completely and you start back from your last bonfire checkpoint.

## Graphics

The art is done in an anime\* style, and it specifically reminds me of a series called *Berserk*. There's a lot of blood in the game, and the takedowns are very visceral and brutal. The graphics are very bright, and the backgrounds are extremely detailed.

## Story

The game tells the story of a general named Khazan who is framed for crimes he didn't commit. His friend, a warrior brother in arms, has been executed by corrupt royal officials. Khazan is possessed by a demon warrior spirit who helps him on his quest for revenge against those who wronged him.

# THE FIRST BERSERKER: KHAZAN

with Daniel and Joe

## Pros

- There is an option to change the difficulty from easy to normal mid game, in case you find it's too hard or easy
- The combat is fun, but challenging
- It's skill-based, so the more you play, the more fun it is. As you progress, you upgrade your abilities from your skill tree and upgrade your stats as well. Over time, you learn from your mistakes.

## Cons

- The game is extremely hard, especially when you're playing in normal mode
- Some enemies are much harder and take longer to defeat than others

\*Anime is hand-drawn and computer-generated animation originating from Japan. Anime is a diverse medium with distinctive production methods that have adapted in response to emergent technologies. It combines graphic art, characterization, cinematography, and other forms of imaginative and individualistic techniques. Compared to Western animation, anime production generally focuses less on movement, and more on the detail of settings and use of "camera effects", such as panning, zooming, and angle shots.



Check out Daniel's gaming set up!

# The Washington Post's Peeps Diorama Contest

with Joe



Last month marked our 2nd annual Peeps Diorama Contest! We had eight entries this year, and they were all winners in their own way. Take a look!

(left) Devlin's Star Wars scene - winner of the Abate Award for Elegance.

Michelle's farmhouse alien abduction scene - winner of the Tootle Award for Attention to Detail (right).



Hayley's tattoo parlor scene - winner of the Harter Award for Serious Silliness (left)

# More Peeps Diorama Contest Winners

with Joe



(left) Katie's shark attack scene - winner of the Stone Award for Creativity and Martha's beauty parlor scene - winner of the Kirschner Award for Most Peeped (below).



(below) Nino's circus scene - winner of the Graham Award for Best Use of Color and Jennifer's haunted house scene - winner of the Church Award for Badassery (left)



# Connor Wins Best in Show AND 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. Wait, what???

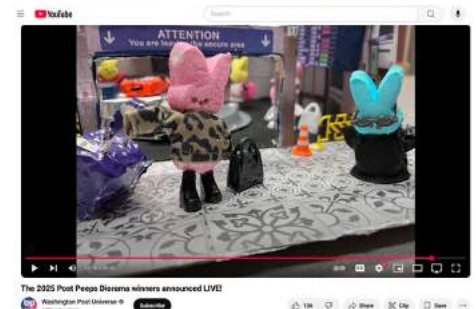


Connor's baggage claim diorama - winner of Best in Show at CH&S! Connor and his staff Michelle made this wonderfully detailed baggage claim scene using duct tape, foil, paper plates, cardboard, glue, and a whole lot of inspiration and dedication. We submitted these dioramas to the

Washington Post's national Peeps diorama contest, and **Connor's baggage claim won 3rd place!!**

Here's what the judges had to say about it: "The third place winner, who is equally good - depending on who you talked to in our judging staff, is baggage claim. Handmade, love it. Baggage claim claiming 3rd. You can collect your third place prize now; it's our respect." Check out the entire Washington Post contest winner announcement on Youtube (below): <https://www.youtube.com/live/MFtgScyDp54?si=R-e6HMnFsyngEqPs>

So how do we win again next year? Make something historical, since this year's winner made a Roman gladiator scene? Maybe we should lean into the mundane-but-relatable scenes like Connor and Michelle did with the baggage claim. Some Peeps waiting in line at the DMV, perhaps? Peeps stuck in traffic on the 101? Anyhow, congratulations to Connor and Michelle, as well as everyone who submitted a diorama!



# Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Fox and the Grapes

Ready to Read READING COMPREHENSION

One hot summer day, a hungry fox was walking through a vineyard when he saw a bunch of ripe, juicy grapes hanging from a vine. The grapes looked delicious, and the fox's mouth watered. He wanted to eat them right away.

The fox jumped up to grab the grapes, but they were too high. He took a few steps back and leaped again, but he still couldn't reach them. He tried running and jumping, but no matter how hard he tried, the grapes were just out of his reach.



Tired and frustrated, the fox sat down and looked at the grapes.

Then, instead of admitting defeat, he sneered and said, "Those grapes are probably sour anyway. I wouldn't want them." With that, he turned his nose up and walked away.

This fable, told by Aesop, teaches an important lesson. Sometimes, when people can't get what they want, they pretend it wasn't important to them in the first place. This is called "sour grapes," a term used when someone acts like they don't care after failing at something. The story encourages facing reality and acknowledging that something is out of reach—it is about letting go and moving on. After all, there are plenty of other yummy things to eat that are within reach!

# The Fox and the Grapes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What did the fox see hanging from a vine?
  - a) Apples
  - b) Grapes
  - c) Oranges
  - d) Berries
  
2. Why couldn't the fox reach the grapes?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. True or False: The fox kept trying until he finally got the grapes.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What did the fox say when he gave up?
  - a) "Those grapes are probably sour anyway."
  - b) "I will try again later."
  - c) "I should ask for help."
  - d) "These are the best grapes ever!"
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What does "sour grapes" mean?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How did the fox feel when he couldn't reach the grapes?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. True or False: The fox asked another animal for help.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What lesson does this story teach?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Have you ever wanted something but couldn't get it? How did you feel?

# George Lucas: More Than the Force

**Thea:** Who do you want to write about for the May Magazine? Here's a short list of famous people born in May: Engelbert Humperdinck, John F. Kennedy, George Clooney, Emilio Esteves, George Lucas...

**Amy:** George Lucas! And not because of Star Wars but because he made *American Graffiti!*

May is a perfect time to celebrate visionaries—and George Lucas, born May 14, 1944, is one of the most influential storytellers of our time. From a life-changing car crash to creating some of the most beloved characters in film history, Lucas has shaped how we watch—and hear—movies.

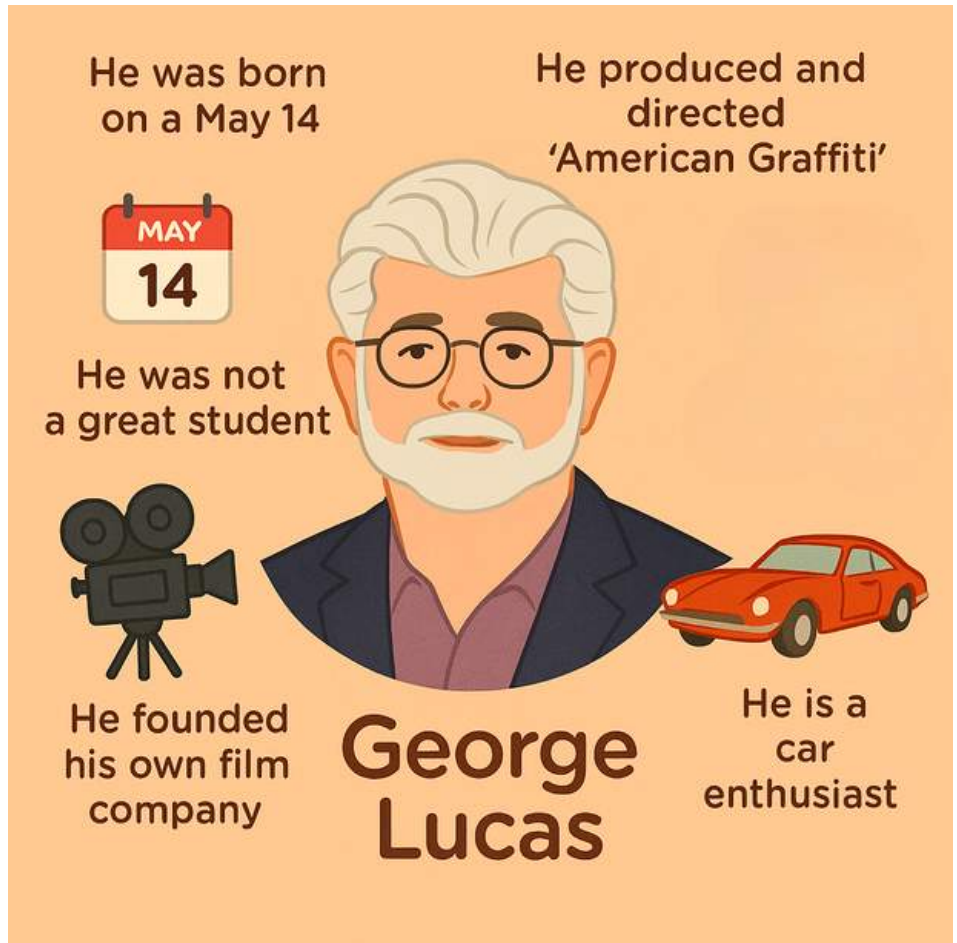
Here are some fascinating facts about George Lucas:

1. He created *Indiana Jones* – the globe-trotting archaeologist was Lucas's idea, brought to life with Steven Spielberg.

2. He revolutionized movie technology – His company, Industrial Light and Magic, has powered effects for *Jurassic Park*, *Avengers* and more.

3. A near-fatal car crash changed his life – three days before his high school graduation, Lucas was t-boned and he ended up hospitalized for four months. The accident ended his dreams of being a race car driver.

4. Lucas wasn't a great student—until he found film – filmmaking gave him purpose and direction.



He was born  
on a May 14



He was not  
a great student



He founded  
his own film  
company



George  
Lucas

He produced and  
directed  
'American Graffiti'



He is a  
car  
enthusiast



# George Lucas

5. *American Graffiti* was based on his teen years in Modesto – a love letter to 1960s car culture and rock 'n' roll. "I saw the second *American Graffiti* movie when I was a little kid and I thought it was confusing, I liked the first one much better," said Amy.



6. And let's not forget *Star Wars*. Star Wars Day is May 4. May the Fourth be with you each year on National Star Wars Day!

7. He's building the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art in Los Angeles – it will honor storytelling in all forms, from comics to cinema.

From innovation to generosity, Lucas reminds us that great stories—and great lives—are made by bold choices. This May, we celebrate not just his birthday, but the imagination and heart he's shared with the world.



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**We accept and appreciate donations of any size or kind. All donations to CH&S are tax-deductible. CH&S is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.**

## ***Happy May Birthday!***

5/2 - Gail and Dylan  
5/7 - David G. and Katie  
5/8 - Andrew N.  
5/11 - Colleen and Harold  
5/29 - Donald



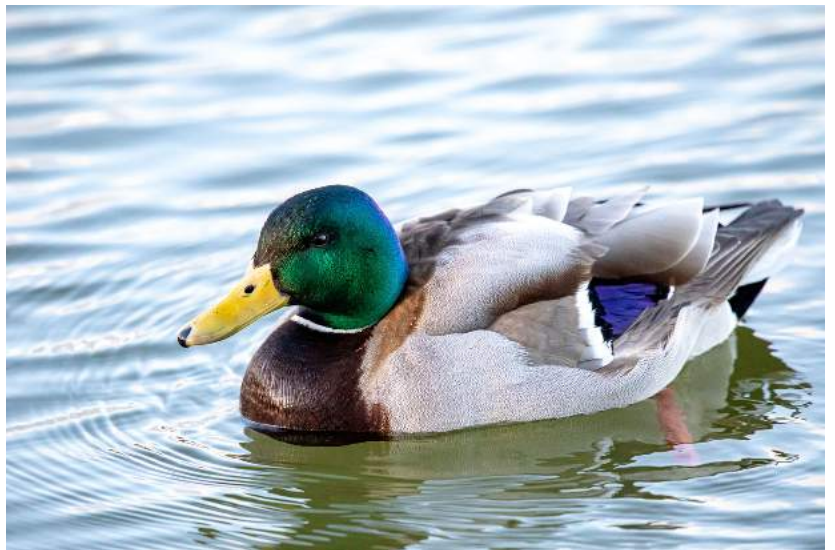
# Iris' Critter Corner:

## Frog Jumping Day May 13th



My brother had a pet frog that would sing for him. I was home one time and I was like, what's that sound? My mom even said, what's all that racket? And I opened the bathroom door and there's my brother and his frog, singing together! He called it Big Mama. I had little frogs, but they didn't sing, they were too little. They swam in the tub. We had eight frogs. We caught them in the fish pond near our house—they were hard to catch because they're fast, and they were hiding in the plants.

The ducks in the pond I used to call the four Stooges. Every time I turn around I'd say, where's my mallard ducks? And they'd be walking down the road quacking. My brother'd laugh at me when my ducks would come up to the garage to ask for food. They'd waddle up the driveway. I made them get exercise to come get it.



The Liberian flag

Iris was born in Liberia and spent her childhood on a game reserve in Malawi. She is our resident zoologist and expert on the ins and outs of the African continent.



Liberia's national coat of arms

# Daniel's Mythology Minute

Daniel is a big mythology aficionado, and his favorite god is Zeus, King of the Olympians.

Daniel has long been fascinated by Greek and Roman mythology, especially the epic tales of gods, monsters, and heroes that shaped ancient beliefs.

Zeus, the mighty ruler of Mount Olympus, stands out not just for his power, but for the dramatic story of his birth. Zeus was born to the Titan Cronus and his wife Rhea (aka the Mother Goddess). It had been prophesized that Cronus' children would overthrow him, so he swallowed each child at birth (*ick*)—but Rhea hid baby Zeus and tricked Cronus by giving him a rock in the shape of a baby to swallow (below).

Later, when Zeus grew up, he returned, forced Cronus to release his siblings, and led a rebellion known as the *Titanomachy*, which ended in the Olympian gods taking control of the cosmos (below right).



Daniel finds Zeus interesting because Zeus represents justice and authority, plus the power of nature, especially thunder and lightning, plus Zeus is the father of Hercules (Roman)/Heracles (Greek). Armed with a thunderbolt forged by the Cyclopes, Zeus became a symbol of divine power and leadership. Despite his flaws—like a fiery temper and many love affairs—Zeus held the universe in balance and punished those who broke sacred laws.

Daniel also enjoys how Zeus appears in Roman mythology as Jupiter (The Romans regarded Jupiter as the equivalent of the Greek Zeus), showing how cultures shared and adapted myths.



*Do you have a favorite  
Greek or Roman story?*

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## May 2025 Connection Magazine

**May 28 is National Hamburger Day so let's learn how to sign "hamburger" in ASL (American Sign Language):**

- Step 1: Hold both hands in front of you, palms facing up, slightly curved like you're holding a round hamburger bun.
- Step 2: Bring your hands together—right hand on top of left—like pressing a patty.
- Step 3: Switch hands (left on top now) and press again.



**Motion Tip:** It's like making a hamburger patty—press, flip, press again.