Book bingo 2027: thirty different reading bingo cards for a class

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A free reading bingo card maker: pick from 35 kinds of books, print up to 30 different cards for a class, and print the same set again from its batch number.

Reading bingo works best when every reader has a different card: nobody copies the reader next to them, and the class can cheer every line without a race. Peabody's bingo card maker prints up to thirty different cards for a class from a bank of 35 kinds of books, free, like the rest of Peabody through the end of 2026.

How it works

1. Pick the squares. Book Bingo's own 24 are ticked to start: a book about animals, a true book, a fairy tale, a funny book, a mystery, a book about space or the sky, someone being brave, a story at night, a classic and the rest. Eleven more wait in the bank: a book about school, music, a trick or a trickster, a monster or a giant, mountains, friends working together, a princess or a castle, food, an invention, a folk tale and a cat.
2. Choose how many cards, up to thirty.
3. Print. Each card is shuffled from a numbered batch, so no two cards in it are the same, and each card is numbered. Write the batch number down: the same batch prints the same cards again next year.

Pick more than 24 squares and the cards differ in which squares they have as well as where.

Every square has a book behind it

A bingo card is no fun if a square can't be filled. Every square in the bank fits at least three of Peabody's free stories in the library, so a reader without a library trip can still fill any square. The centre is free.

Ideas for the cards

- Winter break: the Book Bingo 24, a card each, back on the first day of term.
- Summer: pick the long-day squares (water, an adventure, mountains, a story at night) and send a card home in June.
- A class line race: every line of five is cheered; the first blackout reads to a younger class.
- A club: each member takes a card and the club talks about the strangest square anyone filled.

On a screen, readers can play Book Bingo in Peabody's tracker on their own devices, stamping a square a book. The screen card is Book Bingo's own order; the printed cards are

the ones that differ.

Why a different card for every reader

With one card for the whole class, the fastest readers finish the same line on the same day and everyone else watches. With thirty different cards, every child's next square is their own: one reader hunts for a myth while the next looks for a book about food. Children trade tips instead of answers ("the library has a good one about mountains"), and a reader who struggles with one kind of book isn't stuck behind it, because their card may not have it at all. Different cards also stop a card being passed around and copied, which matters if the class is earning something together.

Bingo at home

A family can play too: print one card for each child and one for a grown-up, and put them on the fridge. A grown-up's card full of squares like "a book read aloud to someone" quietly counts the bedtime stories. Brothers and sisters each get a different batch number, so nobody can claim the other's squares.

Questions teachers ask

Can a book fill two squares?

Our rule: one book, one square. A long book that fits three squares is still one book; pick the square that's hardest to fill.

What counts as finishing?

A line of five is a bingo, and the whole card is a blackout. The card says so at the bottom.

Do the cards collect anything about the children?

No. The maker keeps nothing and sends nothing; the cards are paper, and the reader's name goes on the line by hand.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/book-bingo-cards-for-a-class