January reading challenge for kids 2027: 31 days, one tap a day

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A free January reading challenge for kids, 1 to 31 January 2027: a book or 20 minutes a day colours the calendar, and twenty days finish it.

Peabody's January challenge runs from Friday 1 January to Sunday 31 January 2027: on each day a child finishes a book, or reads (or is read to) for twenty minutes, one square of a 31-day calendar is coloured in, and twenty coloured days is the finish line. A missed day simply stays empty. Tomorrow is a fresh square, and there is no line anywhere that says "you missed one". It is free, like the rest of Peabody through the end of 2026, and the calendar is kept on the device and prints.

The January challenge can be started now, and the calendar printed for the fridge, though logging opens on 1 January.

Why twenty days, not thirty-one

A "read every day" challenge with no slack has a problem: the first sick day, the first long car journey, the first birthday party ends it, and a child who has lost their streak stops. So the finish line is twenty of the thirty-one days, which is most days but not every day, and every day after the twentieth is a bonus day that still colours in. The streak dots are there for the children who like them, shown from two days in a row, and a day without reading ends a streak quietly.

What counts

One square a day, for either:

- finishing a book, any book: a Peabody story at the child's level from the library, a book from Peabody's kids' lists, a book from home; or
- twenty minutes of reading, or of being read to. Twenty minutes is about a picture book read twice, a few chapters, or one long sitting with a novel.

A second book the same day is still that day's square: the calendar counts days with reading, not the number of books. For counting books, 100 Books is the one.

How it looks

A calendar of January 2027, starting on a Friday, with today ringed. A coloured square is a day read. On a shared tablet each child picks an animal (no names), and each has their own calendar, so brothers and sisters do not overwrite each other. Nothing a child does is sent anywhere: Peabody counts that a day was logged in the January challenge, and nothing

about the book or the reader.

At any point the calendar prints with empty squares to colour by hand, a log of the books and a line for a grown-up's signature. At twenty days, the certificate prints with the dates on it.

After Winter Break

A reader who finishes the Winter Break challenge (19 December to 3 January) is offered January on the tracker. The two overlap for three days, 1 to 3 January, and a day's reading can be logged in both: they are separate challenges on the same device.

Ideas for the month

- A book at bedtime every night fills the calendar on its own.
- Read-aloud days count, so a family read-aloud of a chapter book is twenty minutes for everyone listening.
- Try a new kind of book each week with the Book Bingo squares: a true book, a myth, a story at night.
- Stuck for a book? What should I read next asks three tap-to-answer questions and picks one.

For a class

A teacher can print one calendar per child for the January weeks back at school, or run it on a classroom tablet where each child picks an animal face. Twenty days fits a school month with a weekend or two off, and the class reading log keeps track of who read what.

Questions parents ask

Is twenty minutes timed?

No. Peabody does not run a timer: a child taps "I read for 20 minutes" and the square colours in. Trust is cheaper than a timer, and a timer turns a story into a chore.

Can we start late, on 10 January?

Yes. The twenty days can come from any days in January, so a child who starts on the 10th can still finish.

What if we have no internet in the holidays?

Print the calendar first. It is the same thirty-one squares, and the certificate can be filled in by hand at the certificate page.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/january-reading-challenge-for-kids