

Leap Year Birthday

A Reading A-Z Level H Leveled Book

Word Count: 261

Connections

Writing and Art

Would you want your birthday to be on February 29? Write a paragraph explaining why or why not.

Science

Review with a partner how days and years are measured by Earth's movement in space. Then, discuss how the length of a year would change if Earth were farther from the Sun.

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Leap Year Birthday



Written by Brad Bolchunos
Illustrated by Dani Jones

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Focus Question

What makes Leroy's birthday different from most people's birthdays?

Words to Know

beamed	leap years
Earth	librarian
leap day	Sun

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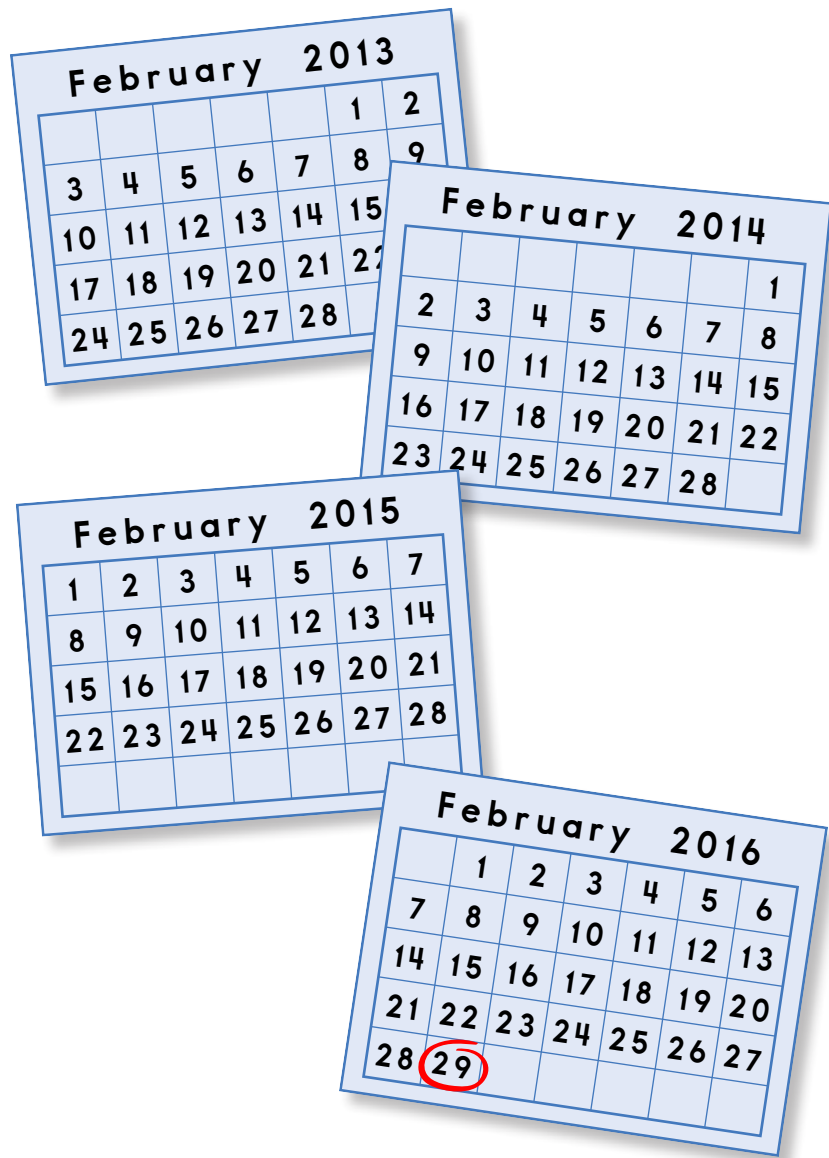
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Correlation

LEVEL H

Fountas & Pinnell	H
Reading Recovery	13-14
DRA	14



It was **leap day**, February 29.
It was a day that only comes once
every four years.

It was also Leroy's birthday.
So was he eight years old
or only two?
Leroy was not sure.





Leroy wanted to learn about
leap day.
He wanted to learn about people
like him.

Leroy and his mom went
to the library.





The **librarian** asked Leroy's mom to "be" the **Sun**.
She asked Leroy to "be" the **Earth**.



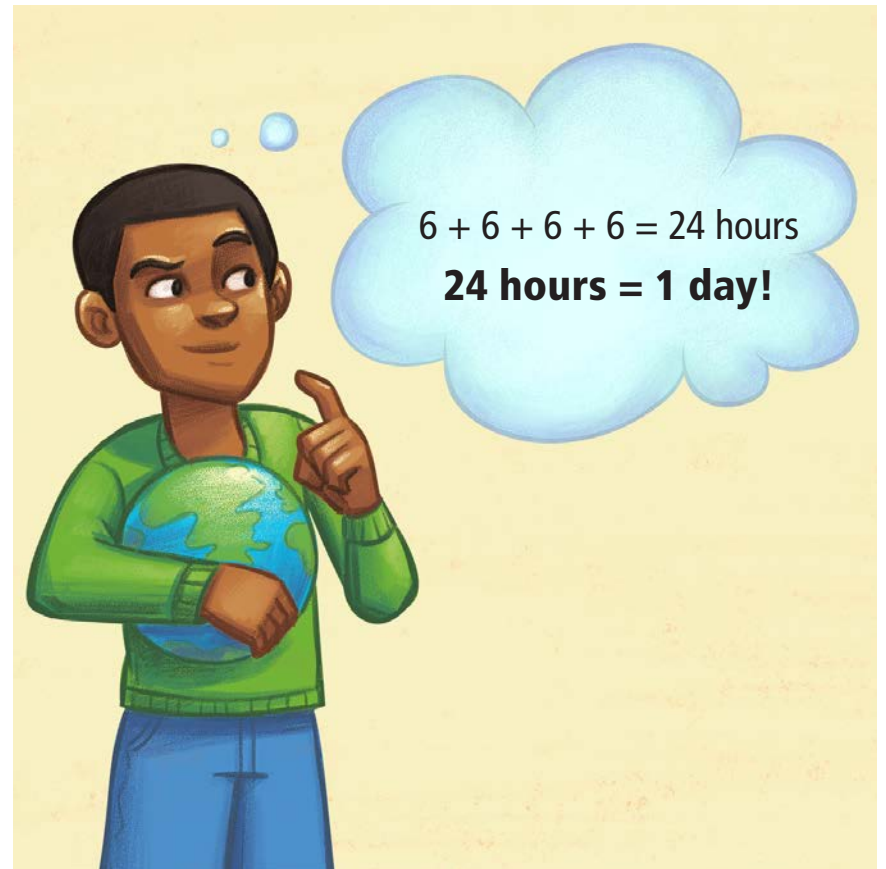
She told Leroy to spin like a top.
She also told him to make a big loop around his mom.
"Every time you complete a spin, you complete one day," the librarian said.
Every day, he also moved a little bit in his big loop around the Sun.



When he got back to the start,
the librarian told him one year
had gone by.

“That was 365 spins, or days,”
she said.

“However, a year is really
a little bit more than 365 days,”
she added.

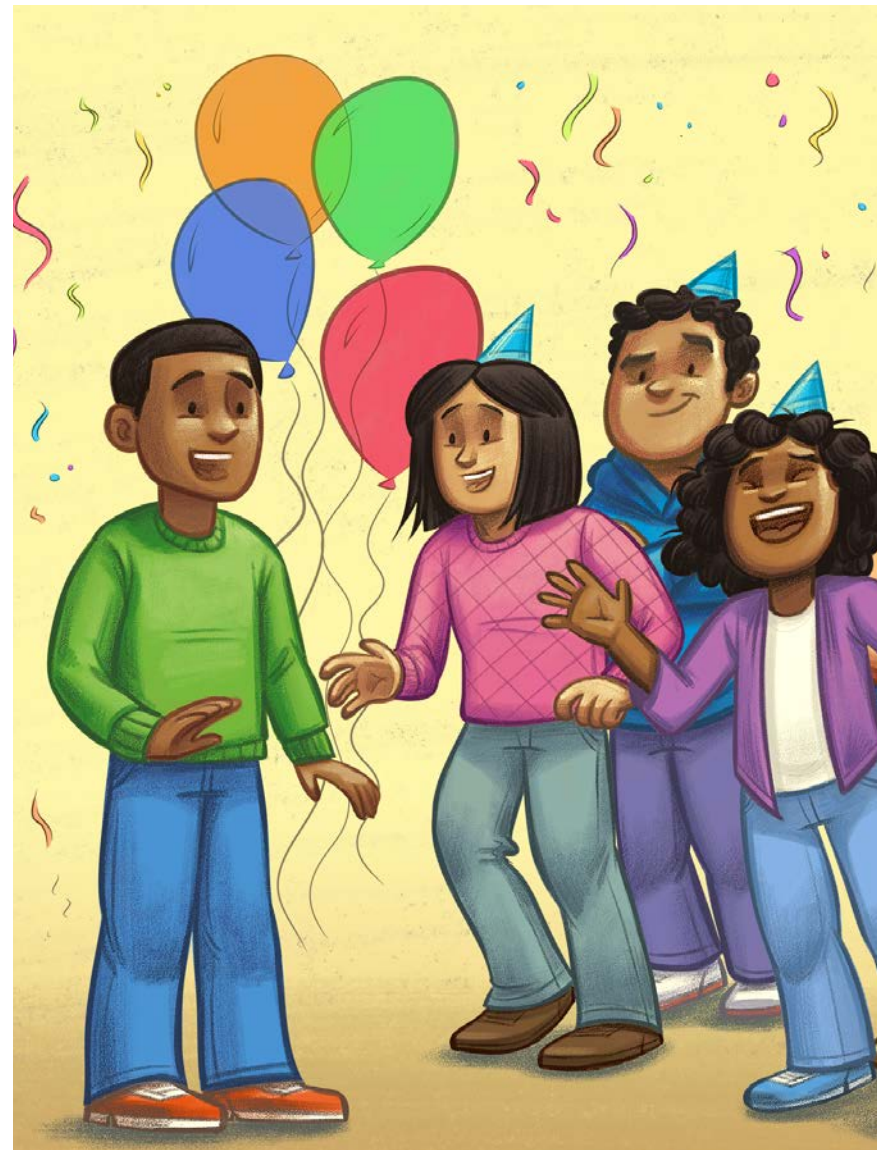


“For a full year, the Earth has to
spin a little bit more,” the librarian
explained.

“To do that, the Earth needs an extra
six hours every year,” she said.

“Every four years, that adds up to
one extra day,” she added.

“That is why **leap years** have 366 days,” she said.
Leroy got it at last!

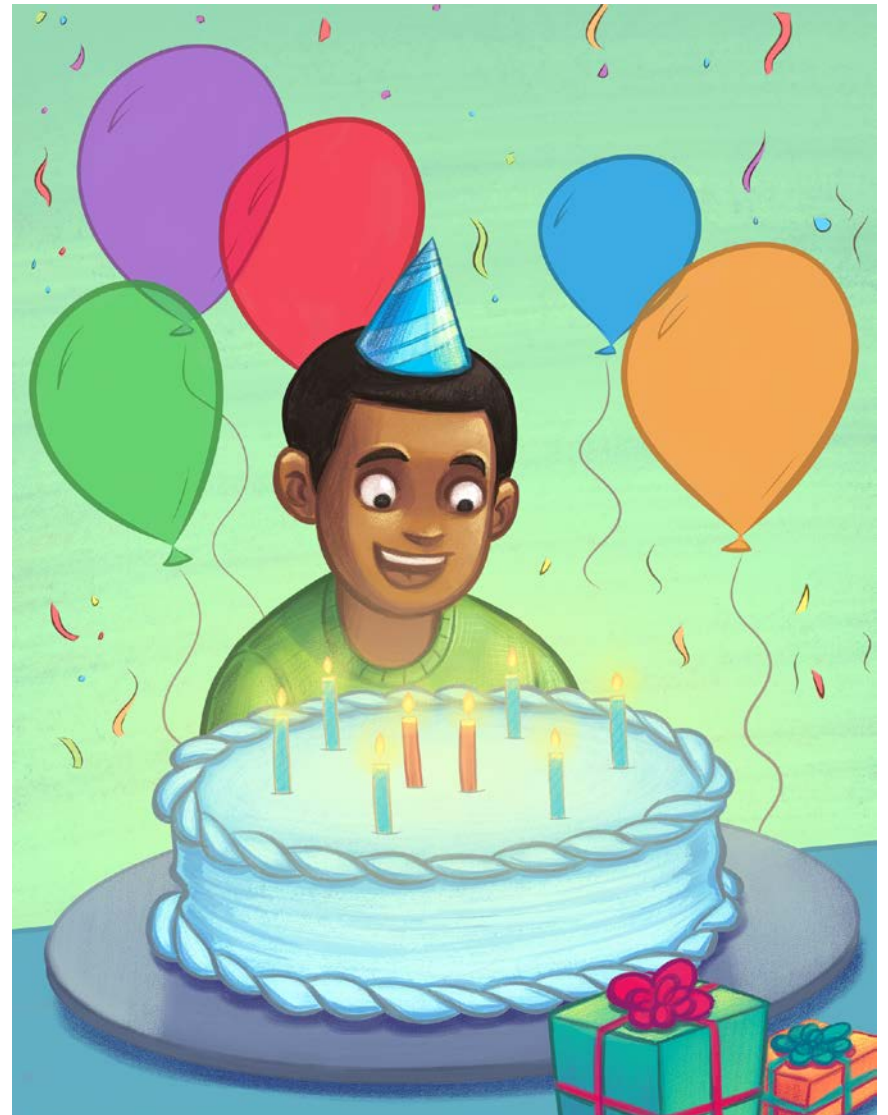


Back home, Leroy's friends jumped out at him.
“Happy birthday!” they shouted.

Leroy's mom brought out a cake
with eight candles.



Six candles were blue.
Two were red for his leap year
birthdays.





Mom **beamed** at Leroy like the Sun beams at the Earth.
Leroy beamed back.

Glossary

beamed (v.)	smiled brightly or happily (p. 15)
Earth (n.)	the third planet from the Sun; the planet we live on (p. 7)
leap day (n.)	February 29, the extra day that occurs in the calendar every four years (p. 3)
leap years (n.)	years with an extra day in them, February 29 (p. 11)
librarian (n.)	a person in charge of a library (p. 7)
Sun (n.)	the closest star to Earth and the center of our solar system (p. 7)