



Showers Bring May Flowers

April Fool's Day April 1st



The custom of playing practical jokes on friends was part of the celebrations in ancient Rome on March 25 (Hilaria) and in India on March 31 (Huli). The timing seems related to the vernal equinox and the coming of spring—a time when nature fools us with sudden changes between showers and sunshine.

April Fool's Day is thought to have originated in France. Before the use of the Gregorian calendar, New Year's celebrations ended on April 1st. When New Year's Day was changed to January 1st, the people who still celebrated it on April 1st were called April Fools.

In France, the victim of a joke is called an "April Fish" (poisson d'avril). In England, tricks can be played only in the morning. If a trick is played on you, you are a "noodle". In Scotland, you are called an "April gowk", which is another name for a cuckoo bird. In Portugal, April Fool's is celebrated on the Sunday and Monday before Lent. The traditional trick there is to throw flour at your friends. Humor and practical jokes are universal.

Celebrate Earth Day April 22nd and Arbor Day - April 24th



Arbor means "tree" in Latin. Arbor Day is a special day that has been set aside for planting and caring for trees. The first Arbor Day was celebrated in Nebraska on April 10, 1872.

It was started by J. Sterling Morton, a Nebraska newspaper publisher who encouraged Nebraskans to plant trees to beautify and enrich the treeless state. He offered prizes for the most trees planted; over a million trees were planted on that first Arbor Day.

After Arbor Day was made a legal holiday in Nebraska in 1885, agricultural associations and town councils spread the idea of Arbor Day in other states. A campaign was also inaugurated to make Arbor Day a school festival. Now, with activities that range from the planting of a single tree to the beautification of public grounds, children are learning the importance of forestry and reforestation.

Today, all fifty states and many Canadian provinces celebrate this holiday every spring. The actual date of Arbor Day varies from state-to-state due to climate. The most common date is the last Friday in April. In Nebraska, however, Arbor Day is now celebrated on April 22, the date of Morton's birthday.



The date of Easter varies each year as it is based on the lunar calendar and the position of the moon. Easter is celebrated on the Sunday after the full moon following March 21st. Good Friday is the day that Jesus died. It is called Good Friday as Jesus died for the good of mankind. Easter Sunday is the day that Jesus came back to life; it is a day of celebration and the day that we exchange gifts of eggs. In Christian faith eggs represent a symbol of new beginnings, new life and renewed faith. The word Easter dates back to early England; it is thought to relate to the Pagan goddess of spring and fertility Eostre (also called Ostara). The act of exchanging gifts of eggs dates back to the time of the Egyptians and Persians! Painted eggs were given as gifts to symbolize fertility and new life. The Easter Bunny originated in Germany, the idea was taken to America during the 1700s. Chocolate Easter eggs were not introduced until the early 1900s. Before the exchanging of chocolate eggs, gifts consisted of decorated chicken eggs and stuffed hollow cardboard eggs. Early chocolate Easter eggs were much smaller and solid, not large and hollow as they usually are today. Different countries celebrate Easter in different ways. In Sweden they do not have an Easter Bunny, they have an Easter Wizard!

April is...

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| • Alcohol Awareness Month | • 2nd Week National Public Health Month |
| • American Cancer Society Month | • 2nd Week National County Government Week |
| • Autism Awareness Month* | • 2nd Week National Garden Week |
| • Cancer Control Month | • 2nd Week National Library Week |
| • Community Service Month | • 2nd Week National Medical Laboratory Week |
| • Foot Health Awareness Month* | • 2nd Week National Volunteer Week |
| • Frog Awareness Month* | • 2nd Week National Week of the Ocean |
| • Garden Awareness Month* | • 2nd Week National Women's Nutrition Week |
| • Holocaust Remembrance Month* | • 2nd Week Families Laughing through Stories Week |
| • Humor Month* | • 2nd Week Young People's Poetry Week |
| • Keep America Beautiful Month* | • 3rd Week National Youth Service Day |
| • International Guitar Month | • 3rd Week Astronomy Week* |
| • International Customer Loyalty Month | • 3rd Week Egg Salad Week* |
| • International Legacy Month | • 3rd Week TV Turn Off Week* |
| • International Work Life Enrichment Month | • 4th Week National Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Week |
| • Mathematics Education Month | • 4th Week Explore Your Career Options Week |
| • Month of the Young Child | • 4th Week National Coin Week |
| • National Anxiety Month National | • 4th Week National Crime Victims' Rights Week |
| • National Pet First Aid Awareness Month | • 4th Week National Infant Immunization Week |
| • National Poetry Month | • 4th Week National Organize Your Files Week |
| • National Child Abuse Prevention Month | • 4th Week National Park Week |
| • National Humor Month | • 4th Week National Karaoke Week |
| • National Welding Month | • 4th Week Professional Secretaries Week |
| • National Lawn and Garden Month | • 4th Week National Volunteer Week (Presidential Proclamation) |
| • National Soy Foods Month | • 4th Week Reading Is Fun Week |
| • Occupational Therapy Month | • 4th Week Marriage Enrichment Weekend |
| • Pets are Wonderful Month | • 4th Week & 1st Week of May National Science & Technology Week |
| • Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month | |
| • Spring Ahead for Life Month | |
| • Straw Hat Month | |
| • Stress Awareness Month | |
| • Thai Heritage Month | |
| • Uh-Huh Month | |
| • Women's Eye Health & Safety Month | |
| • Worldwide Innovation Month | |
| • ZAM! Zoo and Aquarium Month | |

Special April Days

1 April Fool's Day * One Cent Day * 2 National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day * International Children's Book Day * 3 American Circus Day * 4 Tell-A-Lie Day * 5 National Raisin and Spice Bar Day * 6 Walking Day & Twinkies Day * 7 No Housework Day * World Health Day * Metric Day * 8 Empanada Day & All Is Ours Day * 9 Name Yourself Day * Astronauts Day * 10 Golfers Day * National Siblings' Day * Encourage a Young Writer * 11 Barbershop Quartet Day * 12 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day and Look Up At The Sky Day * Space Shuttle Columbia First Launched, 1981 * 13 Blame Somebody Else Day * Thomas Jefferson's Birthday * 14 National Pecan Day * 15 Rubber Eraser Day * Jackie Robinson's 1st Major League Baseball Game, 1947 * Sinking of the Titanic: Anniversary * 16 National Stress Awareness Day * National Eggs Benedict Day * 17 National Cheeseball Day * International Moment of Laughter Day * 18 International Jugglers Day * National Stress Awareness Day * Pet Owners Day * 19 Garlic Day * 20 Look Alike Day * Astronomy Day * Food Day * 21 Kindergarten Day * 22 National Jelly Bean Day * Earth Day * Remembrance Day * Take Your Daughter to Work Day * 23 Picnic Day and Read to Me Day * World Laboratory Animal Day * We All Grow Up Day * Home Run Day * 24 National Pigs In A Blanket Day * 25 National Zucchini Bread Day * 26 Richter Scale Day * National Pretzel Day * National Crayola Day * Professional Secretaries Day * 27 Tell A Story Day * National Storytelling Day * Take Your Daughters to Work Day * 28 Great Poetry Reading Day * 29 National Shrimp Scampi Day * Moment of Laughter Day * National Puppetry Day * National Rebuilding Day * Zipper Day * 30 National Honesty Day * Hairstylist Appreciation Day * International Walk Day * National Honesty Day