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September

LABOR DAY (U.S.): first Monday of September, September 4th



Labor Day is a legal holiday celebrated on the first Monday in September in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Canal Zone, and the Virgin Islands. The celebration of Labor Day, in honor of the working class, was initiated in the U.S. in 1882 by the Knights of Labor, and the first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

GRANDPARENT'S DAY (U.S.): first Sunday after Labor Day, September 11th



In 1973, West Virginia began a statewide campaign to set aside a special day just for grandparents. The first Grandparents Day was set by Governor Arch Moore. Through concerned efforts on the part of individuals interested in preserving their heritage, this campaign was spearheaded by Marian McQuade of Fayette County, mother of fifteen children. Senator Jennings Randolph (D-WV) was especially instrumental in this project. In 1973, Senator Randolph introduced a resolution in the United States Senate and in 1978, five years after its inception, Congress passed legislation proclaiming the first Sunday

after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day. Excellent cooperation was received from radio, television, the press and several national publications, while contacting governors, senators, congressmen, churches, and organizations interested in senior citizens. September was chosen, signifying the "autumn years" of life, and today this event, begun by only a few, is observed by thousands throughout the United States.

PATRIOT Day, September 11th

Not to be confused with Patriot's Day held in April commemorating the battles of Lexington and Concord, this is the day the US recognizes the lives lost, risked and saved during the September 11th attacks. It was known as the National Day of Prayer or Remembrance. On September 10, 2004, President Bush proclaimed September 11th as Patriot Day.

Flags are flown at half-staff at all government buildings and homes. At 8:45 AM eastern time, a moment of silence is observed for the more than 3,000 lives lost beginning with the 1st plane crash. Activities around the day can include projects recognizing police and fire fighters and those lives lost.

INDEPENDENCE DAY (MEXICO): September 16th

Mexican Independence Day History In the year 1500, Spain conquered Mexico and named it New Spain. Life was difficult under the Spanish rule and many of the native Mexicans (Mayas and Aztecs) were forced to go into slavery. More than 300 years later, on September 16, 1810, a priest named Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla started a revolt against the Spanish rule. The Spanish were finally defeated in 1821 and banished from Mexico. Now Mexican Independence is celebrated every year to remember the beginning of their struggle for freedom.

Mexican Independence Day is like the U.S. 4th of July. The party starts the night before on the 15th with food and a public address to the citizens from the Mexican President. On this day, the Mexican people decorate their cars and homes with the Mexican flag.

FACTS ABOUT FALL LEAVES - Autumn Begins September 22nd

Leaves are nature's food factories. Plants take water and carbon dioxide (a gas in the air), and use sunlight to turn them into a kind of sugar called glucose. The plants use the glucose as food for energy and as building blocks for growing. The way plants turn water and carbon dioxide into sugar is called "photosynthesis." It just means "putting together with light." The same thing that gives plants their green color is the thing that makes photosynthesis happen: a chemical called "chlorophyll."



As summer ends and autumn comes, the days get shorter and shorter. This is how the trees "know" to begin getting ready for winter.

During winter, there is not enough light or water for photosynthesis. The trees will rest, and live off the food they stored during the summer. They begin to shut down their food-making factories. The green chlorophyll disappears from the leaves. As the bright green fades away, we begin to see yellow and orange colors. Small amounts of these colors have been in the leaves all along. We just can't see them in the summer, because they are covered up by the large amount of green chlorophyll.

The bright reds and purples we see are made only in the fall. In some trees, like maples, a lot of glucose stays in the leaves after photosynthesis shuts down. This glucose is turned into a red color by the bright sunlight and cool nights of autumn. The brown color of trees like oaks is made from wastes left over in the leaves.

It is the combination of these processes that make the wide range of colors we enjoy in the fall.

JOHNNY APPLESEED'S BIRTHDAY - September 26th



Johnny Appleseed was born in Leominster, Massachusetts on September 26, 1774. His real name was John Chapman. His father, Nathaniel Chapman, was one of the Minutemen who fought at Concord on April 19, 1775, and later in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. John's mother, Elizabeth Symond Chapman, had three children: Elizabeth, who was born in 1770, John, and Nathaniel Jr., who died shortly after birth in 1776. John's mother, who was sick from tuberculosis, died just three weeks after her third child.

Although there is no proof, it is reasonable to assume that Elizabeth's parents took care of John and his sister while their father was in the Army. Nathaniel married his second wife, Lucy Cooley of Longmeadow, Massachusetts, in 1780. With their family of ten children, Nathaniel and Lucy lived in Longmeadow for many years. Johnny and Elizabeth lived with them for at least part of that time. There is little authentic information available about Johnny's life with the new family. However, he did start his westward journey about 1797.

"Johnny Appleseed" was not a scatterer of seeds as many people believe. He was a practical nurseryman. He realized that there was a real need and an opportunity for service in supplying seeds and seedlings. For the most part, moving ahead of the pioneers, Johnny started many nurseries throughout the Midwest by planting seeds which he bought from cider mills in Pennsylvania.

In order to assure stability of the newly established homesteads, the law required each settler to plant fifty apple trees the first year. Because of the poor transportation that existed in the interior in those days, apples were a practical necessity in the early settlers' diets. John Chapman, or Johnny Appleseed, owned many tracts of land throughout Ohio and Indiana. He used this land to plant apple seeds, transplant seedlings and set out orchards. He sold and gave away trees to the pioneer settlers. John Chapman spread religion as well as apples.

(Through the courtesy of the Leominster Historical Commission. Background reprinted from Harpers Weekly, November 18, 1871)

BETTER BREAKFAST MONTH

Ideas for Better Breakfast Month

1. Make breakfast collages on paper plates.
2. Make necklaces using different kinds of cereals.
3. Serve Breakfast for lunch or dinner.
4. Make a placemat for eating breakfast on.
5. Dress up breakfast by making smiles on the pancakes with syrup.

SEPTEMBER IS...

- Baby Safety Month
- Be Kind To Writers And Editors Month
- Better Breakfast Month
- Cable TV Month
- Chicken Month
- Childhood Cancer Month
- Children's Eye Health And Safety Month
- Children's Good Manners Month
- Classical Music Month
- Cookbook Month
- Courtesy Month
- Emergency Care Month

- Gourmet Adventures Month
- Healthy Aging Month
- Honey Month
- International Self-Awareness Month
- International Square Dance month
- Latino/Hispanic Heritage Month Sept 15-Oct 15
- Library Card Sign-Up Month
- Modern Rock Month
- Mom And Apple Pie Month
- National Apple Jack Month
- National Bed Check Month
- National Biscuit Month
- National Car Care Month
- National Chicken Month
- National Cholesterol Education And Awareness Month
- National Coupon Month
- National Courtesy Month
- National Dessert Days Month
- National Ethnic Foods Month
- National Food Education Safety Month
- National Gum Care Month
- National Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15)
- National Honey Month
- National Humor In Business
- National Literacy Month
- National Mind Mapping Month
- National Mushroom Month
- National Organic Harvest Month
- National Papaya Month
- National Piano Month
- National Pizza Month
- National Potato Month
- National Rice Month
- National School Success Month
- National Sea Food Month
- National Self Improvement Month
- National Sewing Month
- National Sight Saving Month
- National Women of Achievement Month
- Hug a Texas Chef Month
- Organic Harvest Month
- Polish American Heritage Month
- Piano Month
- Project Aware Month
- Read-A-New-Book Month
- Rice Month
- Sea Cadet Month
- Self-Improvement Month
- Sewing Month
- Shameless Promotion Month
- Success in School Month
- Southern Gospel Music Month
- Stop The Violence And Save Our Kids Month
- Vegetarian Awareness Month
- Women of Achievement Month
- Special September Dessert Days and Weekly Celebrations:
 - Sept 4th – National Macadamia Nut Day
 - Sept 6th – National Coffee Ice Cream Day
 - Sept 13th – National Peanut Day
 - Sept 17th – National Apple Dumpling Day
 - Sept 19th – National Butterscotch Pudding Day

- Sept 21st – International Banana Festival
- Sept 21st – National Pecan Cookie Day
- Sept 22nd – National Ice Cream Cone Day
- Sept 23rd – National White Chocolate Day

- 1st Week Mental Health Workers' Week
- 2nd Week Remember the Victims of 9-11
- 2nd Week Balance Awareness Week
- 2nd Week National Healthcare Housekeeping Week
- 2nd Week National Assisted Living Week
- 2nd Week National Rehabilitation Week
- 3rd Week National Child Care Week
- 3rd Week Constitution Week
- 3rd Week National Flower Week
- 3rd Week National Farm Safety Week
- 4th Week National Dog Week
- 4th Week National Roller Skating Week
- 4th Week National Food Services Employees' Week
- 4th Week Religious Freedom Week
- 4th Week Fall Hat Week

Special September Days

3 Skyscraper Day * 4 Newspaper Carrier Day * 6 Read a Book Day * 7 Neither Rain or Snow Day/Father's Day in Australia * 8 International Literacy Day * 9 Teddy Bear Day * 10 TV Dinner Day * Hot Dog Day * 11 Patriot Day * Make Your Bed Day * 12 Chocolate Milkshake Day * 13 Scooby Doo's Birthday /Think Positively Day / Peanut Day * 15 Chicken Lovers Day * 16 Collect Rocks Day / Mayflower Day / Working Parents Day * Mexican Independence Day * 17 Apple Dumpling Day * Constitution Day * 18 Mushroom Picking Day / Play-Doh Day * 19Homemade Pudding Day * 21 Gratitude Day / Peace Day * Mini Golf Day * 22 Elephant Appreciation Day / First Day of Autumn * 24 Little League Day * 25 Comic Book Day * 26 Johnny Appleseed's Birthday * 27 Answering Machine Day * 28 Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival *