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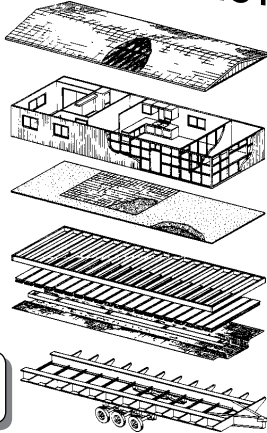
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**Would you like help keep Crystal Lake
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April Fools' Day

April Fools' Day is celebrated on April 1st each year and is known for its tradition of playing practical jokes and hoaxes on others. Here are some interesting aspects of this fun day:



Origins and History

- **Ancient Roots:** The exact origins of April Fools' Day are unclear, but it is believed to date back to ancient Roman and Celtic festivals that involved playful behavior and pranks.
- **Calendar Change Theory:** One popular theory suggests that April Fools' Day began in the 16th century when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. Those who continued to celebrate the New Year on April 1st, instead of January 1st, were called "April fools".

Traditions and Customs

- **Pranks and Hoaxes:** People play jokes on friends, family, and colleagues. These pranks can range from simple tricks to elaborate hoaxes.
- **Media Involvement:** Newspapers, radio, TV stations, and websites often participate by publishing fake stories or reports to fool their audiences.

Famous Pranks

- **Spaghetti Tree Hoax:** In 1957, the BBC aired a segment about Swiss farmers harvesting spaghetti from trees, which fooled many viewers.
- **Taco Liberty Bell:** In 1996, Taco Bell announced it had purchased the Liberty Bell and renamed it the "Taco Liberty Bell," causing a stir before revealing it was a joke.

Modern Celebrations

- **Global Participation:** April Fools' Day is celebrated in many countries around the world, each with its own unique twist on the tradition.
- **Digital Pranks:** With the rise of social media, many pranks now take place online, with companies and individuals sharing humorous and often believable fake news.

Absurdity

Absurd: A statement or belief manifestly inconsistent with one's own.

— **Ambrose Bierce**

On common sense

Common sense ... is very uncommon.

— **Lord Byron**

Judging by common sense is merely another phrase for judging by first appearances; and everyone who has mixed among mankind with any capacity for observing them knows that the men who place implicit faith in their own common sense, are, without any exception, the most wrongheaded and impracticable persons with whom he has ever had to deal.

— **John Stuart Mill**

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Philippians 4:13

36 ★ 32





April Fools’ pranks that have gained attention:

Giant Strawberry Prank
A video featuring a dog named Maymo battling a giant strawberry costume went viral. The adorable and hilarious reactions of the dog made it a hit on social media.



Hilarious Dogs vs. Giant Cheetos Bag
Another popular prank involved dogs reacting to a giant Cheetos bag. The playful and confused reactions of the dogs provided plenty of laughs.

Best Pranks of the Week
America’s Funniest Home Videos compiled a series of the best pranks of the week, featuring jump scares, practical jokes, and laugh-out-loud moments. This compilation has been widely viewed and enjoyed.

Just For Laughs Gags
The Just For Laughs Gags channel released a compilation of pranks that went hilariously too far. These pranks, captured with hidden cameras, showcased some of the best reactions and funniest moments.

These pranks highlight the creativity and humor that people continue to bring to April Fools’ Day and beyond.

Source:
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/video/animals/giant-strawberry-takes-dog-pranks-to-the-next-level/vi-AA1AJ763>
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/video/animals/hilarious-dogs-battle-giant-things-in-epic-prank-compilation/vi-AA1AJ2Q3>
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/video/animals/hilarious-dogs-battle-giant-cheetos-bag-in-prank/vi-AA1AIXzy>

On delusion
She probably labored under the common delusion that you made things better by talking about them.
— **Rose Macauley**

On being a hero
This thing of being a hero, about the main thing to do, is to know when to die. Prolonged life has ruined more men than it ever made.
— **Will Rogers**

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Did You Know?

April Fools' Day was started in France in the 1500s?

The famous quote, "Houston, we've had a problem!" occurred on April 11, 1970?

April celebrates the birth of Queen Elizabeth II, Leonardo da Vinci, William Shakespeare and Thomas Jefferson?



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| 20 | 21 | |
| Easter | | |
| 27 | 28 | |

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| 1 1 Fool's Day | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
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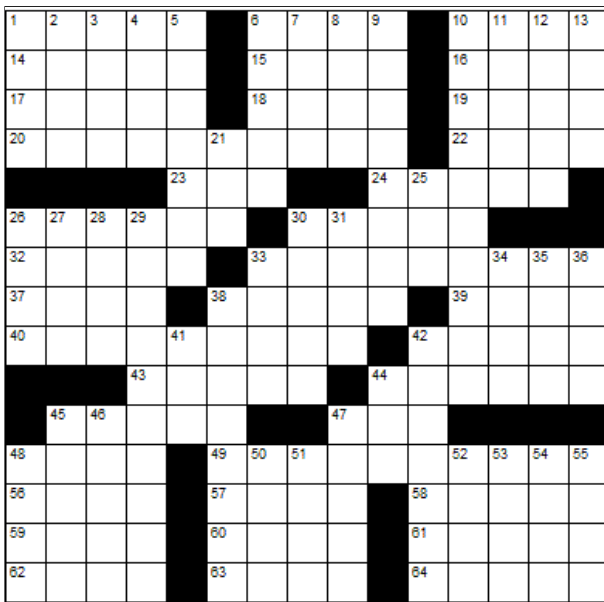
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ACROSS

1. A picture-in-picture
6. Scottish lake
10. Birdbrain
14. Capture
15. African sheep
16. Holly
17. Elicit
18. Waist strap
19. Vitality
20. Ancient tiger
22. Smooth or level
23. Blemish
24. Go inside
26. Lug-nut protector
30. Fortuneteller's card
32. Enlist
33. Lowest female voice
37. In place of
38. Formerly it was a planet
39. Neophyte, in modern slang
40. Heavy rains
42. Useful



DOWN

43. Instances
44. Candidly
45. Holy person
47. Unusual
48. Whimper
49. A type of seasoning
56. By mouth
57. Dugout shelter
58. Debate
59. Bull
60. Weightlifters pump this
61. Untrue
62. Pitcher
63. Blockhead
64. Thick woolen fabric
21. Faucet
25. Neither ____
26. Grasped
27. Freshwater mussel
28. Beer
29. A member of a council
30. Guided visits
31. Picnic insects
33. Hint
34. A certain cut of meat
35. Fee
36. Follow orders
38. Not requiring stamps

41. Greek god of flocks
42. Upward air current
44. Flowery verse
45. Goat antelope
46. Cognizant
47. Express a thought
48. Speck
50. River in Spain
51. Brace
52. Sticking point
53. Look at flirtatiously
54. Diversion
55. Require



April Crossword



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April Major Holidays

April Fools' Day (April 1): A day for pranks and jokes.
Easter: Celebrated on different dates each year, often in April.

Passover: A significant Jewish holiday that often falls in April.

Ramadan: A holy month of fasting for Muslims, which sometimes includes April.



Daily Observances

April 2: World Autism Awareness Day

April 7: National Beer Day

April 15: Jackie Robinson Day

April 22: Earth Day

Weekly Observances

National Library Week: Celebrated in the second full week of April.

National Volunteer Week: Also typically in the second full week of April.

Monthly Observances

Autism Awareness Month

National Poetry Month

Stress Awareness Month

There are also many fun and quirky daily holidays, such as National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day (April 2), National Sourdough Bread Day (April 1), and National Hug a Newsperson Day (April 4)

Source:

<https://www.today.com/life/holidays/april-holidays-and-observances-rcna64888>

<https://parade.com/1360954/jessicasager/april-holidays-observances/>

<https://www.rd.com/article/april-holidays/>

On nature

All things share the same breath — the beast, the tree, the human ...

What are people without the beasts?

If all the beasts were gone, people would die from a great loneliness of spirit.

— Chief Seattle

In nature there are neither rewards nor punishment — there are consequences.

— Robert Ingersoll



Earth Day



Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. It was first observed in 1970 and has since grown into a global movement involving millions of people in over 190 countries.

Key Aspects of Earth Day

- **Origins:** The first Earth Day was organized by Senator Gaylord Nelson and activist Denis Hayes as a teach-in to raise awareness about environmental issues in the United States.
- **Global Impact:** Over the years, Earth Day has expanded globally, mobilizing people to take action on various environmental issues such as climate change, pollution, and deforestation.
- **Activities:** Common activities include tree planting, clean-up drives, educational events, and advocacy campaigns. Many organizations and communities host events to promote sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Earth Day 2025 Theme

The theme for Earth Day 2025 is “Our Power, Our Planet”, focusing on renewable energy and the goal to triple the global generation of clean electricity by 2030. This theme encourages everyone to take action by educating, advocating, and mobilizing for a sustainable future.

Source:

<https://www.earthday.org/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth_Day

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2025/>



On nature

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The *London Review of Books* is known for its quirky and eccentric personal ads section, according to Buzzy Jackson in his review of *They Call Me Naughty Lola*, a collection of the ads, on the Salon Web site.

Here are a few examples gleaned by Jackson:

- “My finger on the pulse of culture, my ear to the ground of philosophy, my hip in the medical waste bin of Glasgow Royal Infirmary. 14% plastic and counting — geriatric brainiac and compulsive NHS malingering fool (M, 81), looking for richer, older sex-starved woman on the brink of death to exploit and ruin every replacement operation I’ve had since 1974. Box 7648 (quickly, the clock’s ticking, and so is this pacemaker).”
- “Shy, ugly man, fond of extended periods of self-pity, middle-aged, flatulent and overweight, seeks the impossible. Box no. 8623.”
- “Things I won’t do for love include replacing corroding soil pipes and trepanning at home. Everything else is A-OK. Eager-to-please woman (36) seeks domineering man to take advantage of her flagging confidence. Tell me I’m pretty, then watch me cling, at box no. 3286.”
- “Reply to this advert, then together we can face the harsh realities of my second mortgage. M, 38, WLTM woman to 70 with active credit cards. Box no. 8624.”

A new hobby

A man decided that he needed a new hobby, so he took up skydiving. On his first solo jump he pulled the rip-cord at just the right moment—but nothing happened. His parachute would not open. Remembering his training he pulled the cord on his emergency chute, but that too, to his great dismay, was stuck and would not open. The man glanced down and saw the ground rushing toward him, and noticed a man hurling upward right at him.

“Hey,” he called out to the man on his way up, “Do you know anything about parachutes?”

“No,” the man called back. “Do you know anything about gas stoves?” — As retold from *Good Clean Jokes*, by Anne Kostick, Charles Foxgrover and Michael J. Pellowski

On being a philosopher

I’m a philosophy major. That means I can think deep thoughts about being unemployed.

— **Bruce Lee**

On nouvelle cuisine

Nouvelle Cuisine, roughly translated, means: I can’t believe I paid \$96 and I’m still hungry.

— **Mike Kalin**



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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | N | O | I | T | U | L | L | O | P | W | E | T |
| X | M | R | A | H | E | E | S | U | O | M | S | S |
| T | W | I | D | E | N | S | L | R | U | Y | N | O |
| E | E | N | V | R | O | U | R | A | R | T | N | R |
| R | V | E | A | E | T | A | U | T | C | U | L | F |
| M | E | L | N | X | S | C | E | Q | E | S | Y | F |
| I | R | P | T | C | C | U | H | T | W | R | F | T |
| N | Y | I | A | E | C | A | O | E | A | L | S | E |
| A | T | R | G | S | A | V | R | E | A | S | P | E |
| T | H | T | E | S | E | V | R | V | T | P | M | R |
| I | I | R | O | D | E | D | O | O | E | O | U | T |
| O | N | M | U | T | O | R | R | I | D | R | P | S |
| N | G | B | S | W | E | E | P | C | D | T | W | P |

advantageous

arrow

avoid

carve

cause

cheap

devote

dreary

everything

excess

extermination

flavor

fluctuate

frost

harm

horror

mouse

pollution

pour

pumps

rescue

rode

scale

scar

sport

stone

store

street

sweep

swerve

teen

terse

there

torrid

triple

tryst

widen



Autism Awareness Month



Autism Awareness Month is observed every April to promote understanding, acceptance, and support for individuals on the autism spectrum. Here are some key aspects:

History and Significance

- **Origins:** Autism Awareness Month was first established in April 1970 to raise awareness about autism and its impact on individuals and families.
- **Evolution:** Over the years, the focus has shifted from mere awareness to active acceptance and advocacy, emphasizing the importance of creating an inclusive society.

Key Activities and Campaigns

- **Light It Up Blue:** Initiated by Autism Speaks in 2004, this campaign encourages people to wear blue and light up buildings in blue to show support.
- **Community Events:** Many organizations host events such as walks, fundraisers, and educational workshops to promote understanding and support for autism.

Goals and Impact

- **Promoting Acceptance:** The month aims to dispel myths and misconceptions about autism, highlighting the strengths and contributions of autistic individuals.
- **Advocacy:** It encourages advocacy for policies and practices that support the needs of autistic individuals and their families.

How to Get Involved

- **Participate in Events:** Join local or virtual events to show your support.
- **Educate Yourself and Others:** Learn more about autism and share accurate information to help dispel myths.
- **Support Autism-Friendly Businesses:** Patronize businesses that employ or support autistic individuals.

Source:

<https://asd.media/what-is-autism-awareness-month-understanding-its-importance-and-impact/>

<https://asd.media/what-is-autism-awareness-month-a-comprehensive-guide/>

<https://www.autismparentingmagazine.com/autism-awareness-activities/>

On possibilities

When you dance, the whole world dances.

— Jalaluddin Rumi

On self-imposed limitations

It is the theory which decides what can be observed.

— Albert Einstein

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| | | OTHER <p>Attention shufflers! Friendly League is looking for additional teams to join our league a smaller league to merge with ours. Our teams are located within 10 miles of East Bay Drive in Largo and play our games on Thursday. Please contact John Halliday, Embassy Park, johnhalliday3@aol.com, 508-360-3875</p> |

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April Facts:

Historical and Cultural Facts

- **Name Origin:** The name “April” is derived from the Latin word “aperire,” which means “to open,” likely referring to the opening or blossoming of flowers and trees.
- **Roman Calendar:** In the ancient Roman calendar, April was the second month of the year. It became the fourth month when January and February were added to the calendar.



Weather and Nature

- **Springtime:** In the Northern Hemisphere, April is typically associated with spring, bringing warmer weather, blooming flowers, and longer days.
- **April Showers:** The phrase “April showers bring May flowers” highlights the rainy weather often experienced in April, which helps nourish the growth of plants and flowers.

Fun and Quirky Facts

- **Diamond Birthstone:** The birthstone for April is the diamond, symbolizing clarity, strength, and eternal love.
- **Zodiac Signs:** April is associated with two zodiac signs: Aries (March 21 - April 19) and Taurus (April 20 - May 20).

Famous Birthdays

- **Leonardo da Vinci:** The renowned artist and inventor was born on April 15, 1452.
- **William Shakespeare:** The legendary playwright is believed to have been born on April 23, 1564, and he also died on the same date in 1616.

Historical Events

- **Titanic Sinks (April 15, 1912):** The RMS Titanic sank after hitting an iceberg during its maiden voyage, resulting in the loss of over 1,500 lives.
- **Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. (April 4, 1968):** Civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.
- **Founding of Microsoft (April 4, 1975):** Bill Gates and Paul Allen founded Microsoft, which would become one of the world’s leading technology companies.
- **First Modern Olympic Games (April 6, 1896):** The first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens, Greece, reviving the ancient tradition.

Source:

<https://www.history.co.uk/articles/major-historical-anniversaries-in-april>

On good sense

Good Sense is a Thing all need, few have, and none think they lack.

—Benjamin Franklin



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