

# Black Cat News

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## Earth Day at WSMS

This year, we observed Earth Day by going around West Salem and doing our part to pick up trash. Due to a lot of rain, we were unable to do it on actual Earth Day, but we were able to make it out on Wednesday.



April 27th. Some kids went right around campus while others were bused to various spots around town, including Lake Neshonoc, the fairgrounds, and Vet's Park.

The week prior, Homerooms painted rocks with inspirational notes. These were then left at the various locations around town.



It was a great day!

## Fun Facts about Earth Day

by Drew M.

- \*Originated on April 22, 1970
- \* Is celebrated in over 193 countries
- \*It started in the US and has spread worldwide
- \* Also known as International Mother Earth Day
- \* Senator Gaylord Nelson (Wisconsin) created it
- \*It is estimated that over 1 billion people celebrate each year

# History of Earth Day

by Takoria P.

Earth Day is an annual holiday on April 22 that demonstrates support for environmental protection. Earth Day was first founded in the year of 1970 it was meant to be a day of education about environmental issues. In the decades that lead up to the first Earth Day, Americans were consuming huge amounts of leaded gas through massive and inefficient automobiles. Some people celebrate Earth Day as a way to help clean the earth.



Source:

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

## What People Do On Earth Day?

During Earth Day people spend their time picking up litter and planting trees. They spend April 22nd as a day to protect are planet from deforestation and pollution. It's a day to show your appreciation to the earth and help fix it.



# Spring Crafts



**String Art** - String art would make a great art project for the spring, but you can really make any design you want. All you need for this craft is piece of wood, nails, and some sort of string or yarn. Also, spring themed string art would make nice decorations.

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/514114113697953176/>



**Friendship Bracelets** - Friendship bracelets are a fairly popular spring and summer craft and there are a wide variety of patterns to choose from. If you are looking for a new pattern to try, the one pictured would be fitting for spring.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygx6lGR4mHA>



**Painted Rocks** - As it starts to warm up outside, you can go search for rocks to paint. Painted rocks would make fun decorations for gardens or flower pots.

<https://www.ilovepaintedrocks.com/2017/10/best-easy-rock-painting-projects-tutorials-beginners.html>



**Marbled Paper** - Marbled paper is quite easy to make! All you need is shaving cream, a cookie sheet or dish, and paint or food coloring. You can really use it for anything you like. Cards and envelopes are just two of the many options.

<https://honestlywtf.com/diy/diy-paper-marbling/>



## Easter/Spring Jokes by Brooke R.

Why is April so popular for using a trampoline?  
It's Spring-time!

When does Easter come before Valentine's Day?  
In the dictionary.

Which day of the year do diesel engines like most?  
April Fuel's Day

What happens if you fall in love on Easter?  
You'll live hoppily ever after.

Why don't you see dinosaurs on Easter?  
They're eggs-tinct.

What's a forgetful bunny called?  
Hare-brained

Why are people tired in April?  
They just finished a March.

What music does the Easter Bunny dance to?  
Hip-hop

When would a bunny wear a hat?  
When it's having a bad hare day.



# Origin of the Easter Bunny

By Mara M.



The Easter Bunny is not mentioned in the Bible but is a symbol associated with Easter. The bunny symbolizes fertility and new life.

Apparently in the 1700s, the Easter Bunny came over on a boat with some German immigrants. The Germans ended up transporting their egg laying rabbit called an "Osterhase." The immigrants ended up settling in PA. Children would build nests for the bunny to lay their colored eggs in. This tradition ended up spreading all over the country. If the kids would make the nests, in the morning they would find sweet treats, including colorful eggs, chocolates, candies, and some presents, left by the bunny.

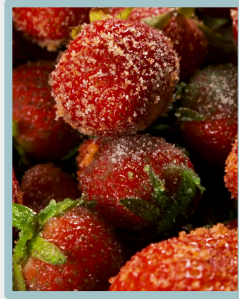
<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/easter-symbols>

## Spring Recipes by Addy M

### Sour Patch Grapes

#### Ingredients

- 1 lb. strawberries
- 2 tsp. lemon juice
- 2 tbsp. flavored Jell-O



**Step 1.** In a large bowl or resealable bag, combine strawberries and lemon juice. Toss gently to coat strawberries lemon juice.

**Step 2.** Sprinkle in Jell-O powder and toss again to coat. Taste, and add more if desired.

### Birds Nest Dirt Cups

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup pretzels
- 1 cup Salted Caramel Candy Melts
- 20 Golden OREO cookies, crushed
- 1 cup Jell-O Instant Lemon Pudding
- 2 cups milk
- 1 container Cool Whip
- 6 PEEPs Chicks
- 18 candy coated chocolate eggs



**Step 1.** Melt the caramel candy. Mix the candy with the pretzels and allow them to cool.

**Step 2.** I made an instant lemon pudding and allowed it to chill. Set aside and crush your oreos.

**Step 3.** Place the crumbled cookies into the bottom of a glass. Top with the lemon pudding mixture, more crumbled cookies, lemon pudding and finally the pretzel “birds nest”.

### Flower Cookies

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup peanut butter, creamy
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- Pastel M&Ms



**Step 1.** Preheat the oven to 350°F.

**Step 2.** Mix together the peanut butter, sugar, and butter until a dough forms.

**Step 3.** Scoop dough and roll in additional granulated sugar. Place dough on ungreased cookie sheet.

**Step 4.** Gently press each piece of dough with the bottom of a glass to flatten.

**Step 5.** Bake for 9 minutes.

**Step 6.** Upon removing the cookies from the oven, gently press the M&Ms into the tops of the cookies to form a flower shape.

**Step 7.** Let cool before eating.



# Bizarre Questions with Mr. Ringle

by Cailyn S.

**Q: Would you rather fight an elephant-sized pigeon or 500 pigeon-sized elephants?**

A: An elephant sized pigeon because pigeons don't have tusks and it would be like stepping on legos if I stepped on an elephants tusks

**Q: if you have described something as indescribable haven't you already described it?**

A: Yes, indescribable is the description.

**Q: if you think anything is possible is it still possible for things to be impossible?**

A: No

**Q: Do fish have a thirst for water?**

A: Maybe in certain situation like how humans need air when something is preventing them from being normal

**Q: Why is sandwich meat round when bread is square?**

A: I'm not sure, why are pizza round and we cut them in triangles and put them in a square box

**Q: If you were an animal what animal would you be, and why?**

A: A bison because they are big and beautiful

**Q: If you punch yourself in the face and it hurts, are you weak or strong?**

A: Strong

**Q: What is the color of a mirror?**

A: Metallic silver

**Q: If you set a rooster on the top of a roof and it lays an egg which way would the egg roll?**

A: Down the roof

**Q: If Hollywood made a movie about you who would you like to play the lead role?**

A: Chris Pratt

**Q: How do I rate as an interviewer on a scale of 1 - 10?**

A: 11



## Meet Mrs. Buisman

by Kayleigh W.

How long have you taught at West Salem? **6 years.**

Have you taught anywhere other than here?  
**Yes, all around Wisconsin but started in Sparta.**

If you had to pick another job what would it be?  
**Librarian.**

What job(s) did you have before teaching?  
**Neshonoc Campground, YMCA, paper route,  
and Maple Grove.**

What's your favorite food? **Popcorn.**

If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be? **Somewhere  
warm on a beach; nowhere specific.**

Where did you grow up/go to school? **West Salem.**

Did you play any sports when you were in school? **cross country and  
track.**

What was your favorite game to play as a child? **Playing games at night  
with neighborhood kids.**

If you could go back in time what year would you go to? **2009.**

What are some of your hobbies? **reading, gardening, being out on  
the river.**

If you could meet any celebrity who would it be and why?  
**Carrie Underwood because I like her music and it would be fun to  
meet her.**

If you had a superpower what would it be? **fly.**





## What You Don't Know About Mr. Mahlum

by Luke G.

**What college did you go to?** UWL

**Why did you want to be a teacher?** I didn't

**If you weren't a teacher, what would you do for a career?** meteorologist

**What was your dream job?** astronaut

**What's your hidden talent?** tether ball

**Do you have a pet?** Murphy. He is a mut.

**Biggest fear?** tight spaces

**What is your favorite song?** "When the Levee Breaks" by Led Zeppelin

**What is your favorite thing to do in your spare time?** play euchre

**What are some of your other hobbies?** Golf, ski, watch documentaries, have campfires

**If you could time travel, what year/decade would you go to?** 1870s

**If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?** Norway (in the summer)

**What's your biggest pet peeve?** people that are late

**When is your birthday?** July 24

**What is your favorite animal?** Wolf

**What else would you like people to know about you?** "I have three kids. One in high school and two in middle school. I have two brothers and used to like baseball hats until I shaved my head."



# Questioning Ms. Sackett

8th Grade ELA Teacher

By Lydia R.

**Q - When did you begin teaching here at the middle school? How many years have you taught?**

A - I started in 2012, and it's been 10 years

**Q - Do you have a favorite unit of ELA to teach?**

A - The diversity unit. We get to have really interesting discussions and do fun activities.

**Q - What activities do you like to do outside of school?**

A - I like to go hiking, kayaking, listen to audio books, and take naps.

**Q - What is your first name?**

A- Rachel

**Q - Were you always wanting to be a teacher?**

A - No, I actually didn't know what to do. I played basketball in college, but moved on to teaching after a while.

**Q - How many kids do you have?**

A - 4 daughters

**Q - Do you have a favorite place to travel or go to?**

A - Any relaxing place by the ocean or the beach to listen to the waves.

**Q - What's your biggest fear?**

A - If something bad would happen to my girls.

**Q - Where did you grow up?**

A - In La Crosse, Wisconsin

**Q - Do you have a hidden/special talent?**

A - I recently just started refinishing furniture. I enjoy remodeling and refinishing household furniture.





# Get To Know Mrs. Sharp

By Macy R. and Grace J.

Where did you grow up?

- Meta, Missouri on a farm

Where did you work and what did you do before working at West Salem?

- I owned a business as an artist

What school did you go to while growing up?

- Maries R-1 in Vienna, Missouri. I went to college at the University of Missouri near Kansas City.

What do you like to do on your free time?

- make art and spend time with friends

What's your favorite type of music?

- folk Americana

Why did you want to work in the office here?

- because the staff and kids are awesome

If you could go anywhere in the world where would you go and why?

- Toronto, Canada to see my son

What's your favorite food?

- dessert, anything with chocolate and salted caramel

Do you have any pets?

- no

What's a hidden talent you have?

- singing karaoke

What activities were you in while you were in school?

- Science Olympiad , Math Counts, speech and drama, Future Homemakers of America

What did you want to be when you were a kid?

- a lot of things, but probably mostly a singer, teacher, or doctor

What's your worst fear?

- something bad happening to my kids.

What's your favorite color?

- turquoise



# Mrs. Lochen

Macy R. and Grace J.

**When did you start working here?**

February 2008

**Where did you go to school?**

Western TC

**Where did you grow up?**

Bangor

**Where did you work before working at West Salem?**

Auto Glass Specialist for 10 years & American Family Insurance

**What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

Spending time with family and reading

**Do you have any pets?**

1 dog (Oreo)

**What is your biggest pet peeve?**

lack of communication

**What is your favorite type of music?**

classic rock

**Why did you want to work in the office here?**

I like working with kids

**What is your favorite thing about West Salem Middle School?**

Working with the great staff and being around the awesome kids.

**What sports did you do while you were in school?**

volleyball (for three years), cross country (for 1 year), and basketball.



# MathCounts

By Alicia Z, Tula M, Sammy A

Mathcounts is a sport for your brain. In Mathcounts you compete against other schools with math. The students in the 7th and 8th grade advanced math classes take six tests. The top twelve highest scores out of all these kids become the Mathcounts team. They then go to competitions around the area and compete with other schools. The entire team competes in the regional competition in La Crosse and then the top mathematicians from that competition go to the state competition in Sheboygan.

The first competition was February 17th in Mrs. Bentzen's room. At this competition, you get to see who goes on to the state competition on March 12th. At regionals there were 48 kids. The top two teams, and four individuals go to the state competition. At state there were 100 middle school students. West Salem had five students go to the Mathcounts state competition. These students were, Sammy A. (7th grade), Isabel K. (8th grade), Lydia J. (8th grade), Breanna S. (8th grade), and Eliot W. (8th grade).





# WSMS Track and Field

Track is a fun, yet challenging sport. There are a variety of both running and field events team members can choose to participate in. The team includes 23 sixth graders, 32 seventh graders, and 29 eighth graders who will compete against many other schools in the area throughout the track season. Come cheer them on at their next meet!

## Schedule

April 12 at West Salem (Logan, Longfellow, Sparta)

April 21 at Central High (Longfellow, Aquinas, Winona)

April 26 at Logan High (Lincoln, Longfellow, Winona)

May 9 at West Salem (Holmen, Winona)

May 16 at Tomah High (Tomah, Holmen, Onalaska)

May 19 at Onalaska High (Onalaska, Aquinas, Westby)

May 23 at Logan High (conference)

## Events

### Track

100 meter low hurdles  
 100 meter dash  
 1600 meter run  
 4 x 200 meter relay  
 400 meter dash  
 4 x 100 meter relay  
 200 hurdles  
 800 meter run  
 200 meter dash  
 4 x 400 meter relay

### Field

high jump  
 long jump  
 triple jump  
 shot put  
 discus

# Soccer Season

by Kylie E. & Bella Q.

Soccer is an amazing outdoor sport with seven people on the field. It's played in the spring time when you can wear shorts and a t-shirt. You play in halves with three defenders, three offensive players, and one goalie. The goalie wears a different color shirt to tell who's the goalie and who's the player, they also wear special gloves to protect their hands from the players' pokey cleats! The offense's job is to make plays, pass to each other, and to put the ball in the goal. On the other hand, the defense stays back and defends their goal. The goal of the game is to score as many goals as you can and to have fun while doing it. There are many different rules in soccer. For example, if the ball touches your forearm and up, it's a hand ball and the other team gets a free kick. The goalie has an exception because they can touch the ball to protect the goal. Another rule is you must wear specific shoes, and you must wear shin guards. You do this so you have better grip on the ground and so when you get kicked in the shin it doesn't hurt as bad. Those are only some of the rules and basic dynamics of soccer.

woooooosh



# FORMULA 1

by Jack T.

## What is Formula 1?

Formula 1 is nine months of racing every other weekend where 20 racers from ten teams race to be the champion. The 20 drivers race in 220 MPH cars around a total of 23 tracks (for the 2022 season). Each racetrack has 14+ turns, and drivers have to race around the track for 2+ hours. The races are very fun to watch with people doing amazing turns and overtakes. But, all of the drivers are risking their lives to race F1.

## Where are the races this season?

This F1 season starts on March 20, and there are a total of 23 races. All of the races are scattered across the world, from the first race in Bahrain and the last being in Abu Dhabi.

Two races this season will be in the USA; one in Miami, Florida, and one in Austin, Texas.

## Who are the racers?

The 20 racers (pictured below), including last year's winner Max Verstappen and runner up Lewis Hamilton, will race in million dollar cars to win the championship. The racers make \$500,000 (lowest) to 55 million (highest). All racers are from many countries from around the world. Great Britain has the most racers with three in the 2021 season.

**2022 CALENDAR**

01 <b>BAHRAIN</b> 18-20 MAR SAKHIR	13 <b>HUNGARY</b> 29-31 JUL BUDAPEST
02 <b>SAUDI ARABIA</b> 25-27 MAR JEDDAH	14 <b>INDONESIA</b> 26-28 AUG SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS
03 <b>AUSTRALIA</b> 08-10 APR MELBOURNE	15 <b>NETHERLANDS</b> 02-04 SEP ZANDVOORT
04 <b>EMILIA ROMAGNA*</b> 22-24 APR IMOLA	16 <b>ITALY</b> 09-11 SEP MONZA
05 <b>MIAMI**</b> 06-08 MAY MIAMI	17 <b>RUSSIA</b> 23-25 SEP SOCHI
06 <b>SPAIN*</b> 20-22 MAY BARCELONA	18 <b>SINGAPORE*</b> 30 SEP-2 OCT SINGAPORE
07 <b>MONACO</b> 27-29 MAY MONACO	19 <b>JAPAN</b> 07-09 OCT SUZUKA
08 <b>AZERBAIJAN</b> 10-12 JUN BAKU	20 <b>USA*</b> 21-23 OCT AUSTIN
09 <b>CANADA</b> 17-19 JUN MONTREAL	21 <b>MEXICO</b> 28-30 OCT MEXICO CITY
10 <b>UNITED KINGDOM</b> 01-03 JUL SILVERSTONE	22 <b>BRAZIL</b> 11-13 NOV SAO PAULO
11 <b>AUSTRIA</b> 08-10 JUL SPIELBERG	23 <b>ABU DHABI</b> 18-20 NOV ABU DHABI
12 <b>FRANCE</b> 22-24 JUL LE CASTELLET	

\*SUBJECT TO CONTRACT  
\*\*SUBJECT TO FIA CIRCUIT HOMOLOGATION

**F1 2022**  
SÜRÜCÜ KADROSU

LEWIS HAMILTON	GEORGE RUSSELL	MAX VERSTAPPEN	SERGIO PEREZ	DANIEL RICCIARDO	LANDO NORRIS
SEBASTIAN VETTEL	LANCE STROLL	ESTEBAN OCON	FERNANDO ALONSO	CHARLES LECLERC	GIOVANNI SORZI
PIERRE GASLY	YURI TSUNODA	WALTER BOSCH	GUANJU ZHOU	NICOLA PIZZI	MICHAEL SCHUMACHER
NICHOLAS LATIPI	ALEX ALBON				

mhz.com



# Trout Fishing

By John M.

## Dates



Catch and release: January 5- May 6  
Regular season: May 7- October 15, 2023



## Species of Trout in Wisconsin

- Rainbow Trout
- Brown Trout
- Lake Trout
- Brook Trout



## Trout Baits

- Night crawlers, hook, and a weight
- Trout Spinner
- Corn
- Small piece of bread
- Fly baits



## Places to catch Trout

- Trout stream
- lakes
- creeks
- ponds
- dams



# Freshwater Fishing Boats

by Cade W.

Freshwater fishing is fishing in lakes, rivers, and ponds. Saltwater fishing is fishing in oceans and seas. I've been freshwater fishing since I was about three years old. I use a Deep V Boat. I like it because it's small and it gets through tough spots.

## Types of Fishing Boats

1. Jon Boat – flat bottom boat
2. Bass Boat -fiberglass or aluminum, fast and shallow water boat.
3. Deep V Boats - big v hull (bottom) boats
4. Center Console Boats-boats that are driven from the center.
5. Pontoon Boats-boats with two pontoons (metal cylinders that make a boat float)



Bass Boat



Deep V Boat



Jon Boat

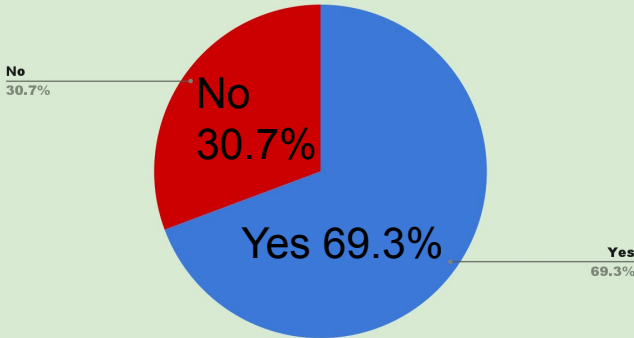
# BENEFITS OF HAVING MUSIC IN YOUR LIFE

BY BRI P.

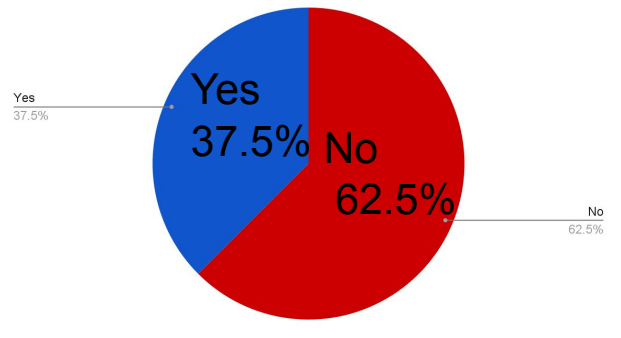
Music can have a major impact in your life, both mentally and emotionally. Neuroscientists have discovered that listening to music heightens positive emotion and helps reduce stress. Music also improves your memory. It does this because music makes you use both sides of your brain which can make it healthier, and memorizing music challenges your brain and makes it stronger. Music also helps some people manage pain. It's also relatable because there are so many types of music-- breakup music, up-beat music, funny music, or even music about world problems. Having all of these different types of music can help people express their emotions.

I surveyed the 7th graders about playing instruments and singing.  
Here are the results:

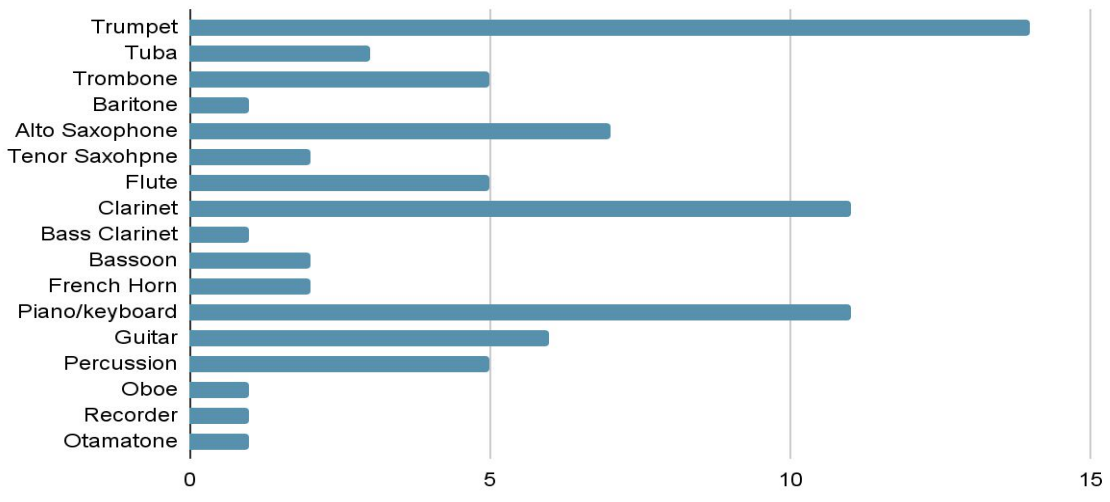
**Do You Play An Instrument?**



**Are You In Choir Or Do You Like Singing?**



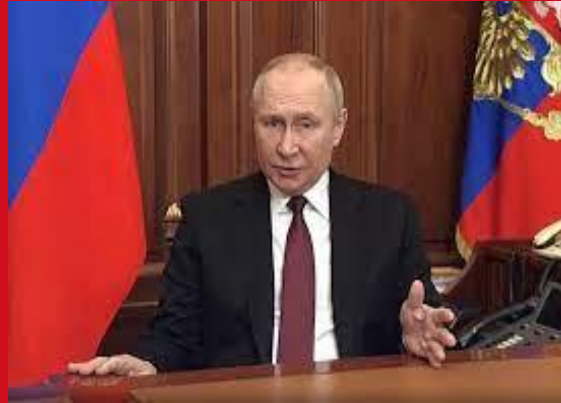
**What Instrument Do You Play?**





# Josef Stalin vs. Vladmir Putin

by Jaxon R.



**Born:** Gori, Georgia

**Died:** March 5, 1953, Kuntsevo Dacha

**Full name:** Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin

**Children:** Vasily Stalin, Svetlana Alliluyeva, Yakov Dzhughashvili, Artyom Sergeev

**Nationality:** Georgian, Russian, Soviet

**Spouse:** Nadezhda Alliluyeva (m. 1919–1932), Kato Svanidze (m. 1906–1907)

**Height:** 5'6

**Spouse:** Lyudmila Aleksandrovna Ocheretnaya (m. 1983–2014)

**Born:** October 7, 1952 (age 69 years), Saint Petersburg, Russia

**Office:** President of Russia since 2012

**Children:** Mariya Putina, Katerina Tikhonova

**Previous offices:** Prime Minister of Russia (2008–2012), President of Russia (2000–2008), Acting President of Russia (1999–2000), Prime Minister of Russia (1999–2000)

**Presidential terms:** May 7, 2000 – May 7, 2008, December 31, 1999 – May 7, 2000, May 7, 2012 –

**Height:** 5'7

Source: <https://www.britannica.com>



# Chernobyl: The disaster that changed the world

By Joey G.

On April 24, 1986, people in Ukraine were more worried than they had ever been. It was a normal day until there was a problem with a flawed reactor on a nuclear power plant. The people in Chernobyl, the workers, noticed the problem only after it happened which was obviously too late.

The reactor exploded, shooting upwards and falling back down, destroying the stuff below it. The reactor released chemicals and radiation that could possibly melt your skin. The workers, the government, hid it from the communities.

The spread of the radiation went North West, passing towns. The Red Forest, a place now overly affected by radiation is not even allowed to be entered without permission. Homes and the town's attractions were abandoned.

At this time you can visit Chernobyl, but with supervision. You also need things like hazmat suits and radiation detectors. After it all happened, places around where it all went down, became more cautious about Nuclear/Radioactive problems.



Source:

<https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-and-security/safety-of-plants/chernobyl-accident.aspx>

The world was frightened. That was the first time we realized the dangers of radiation. We had been testing radioactivity, and after Chernobyl, we knew the price of what we were doing. Prayers were sent out all through the world to the people there. People were sent into the plant, risking their lives. They saved everything they could even if there is still some left.

A photo of The Disaster. April 24, 1986. The destruction is horrible and the radiation is spreading.



# Tragedies on April 15 by Will C.

Many tragedies have occurred on April 15th. I discovered this when I googled "events in April." Here are some of them.

-In 1978, 43 people died in a head-on train collision in Italy.

-96 people were crushed to death in the Hillsborough Football Stadium collapse in 1989.

-The Titanic sank in 1912.

-The first British person to crash in a motor vehicle happened in 1901.







1. School Principals' Day	2. National Life Insurance Day	3. National Paranormal Day	4. National Star Wars Day	5. National Cartoonists Day (also Cinco De Mayo)	6. National Beverage Day	7. National Scrapbook Day
8. National Have a Coke Day (also Mothers Day)	9. National Lost Sock Memorial Day	10. National Clean Your Room Day	11. National Twilight Zone Day	12. National Odometer Day	13. National Apple Pie Day	14. National Archery Day
15. National Chocolate Chip Day	16. National Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day	17. National Idaho Day	18. National No Dirty Dishes Day	19. National Devil's Food Cake Day	20. National Rescue Dog Day (also NASCAR Day)	21. National Armed Forces Day
22. National Solitaire Day	23. National Lucky Penny Day	24. National Scavenger Hunt Day	25. National Brown-Bag It Day	26. National Paper Airplane Day	27. National Grape Popsicle Day	28. National Brisket Day
29. National Paper Clip Day	30. National Creativity Day	31. National Macaroon Day				