

May Horoscopes and Birthdays

In astrology, those born May 1–20 are Bulls of Taurus. Bulls are stable, reliable, patient, and determined. They will work hard and finish the job no matter what gets in their way, but they expect to be rewarded! Those born May 21–31 are Gemini's Twins. Twins seem to have two personalities and can blend into any situation. They have an energetic and fun-loving side that is the life of the party but also a deep and emotional side that needs nurturing.

Jack Paar – May 1, 1918
 Bing Crosby – May 3, 1903
 Audrey Hepburn – May 4, 1929
 Nellie Bly – May 5, 1864
 Orson Welles – May 6, 1915
 J.M. Barrie – May 9, 1860
 Salvador Dali – May 11, 1904
 Florence Nightingale – May 12, 1820
 Liberace – May 16, 1919
 Lorraine Hansberry – May 19, 1930
 Bob Dylan – May 24, 1941
 Peggy Lee – May 26, 1920
 Bob Hope – May 29, 1903



Notable Quotable

“A good traveler has no fixed plans, and is not intent on arriving.”

~ Lao Tzu,
 Chinese philosopher

Road Trip *continued from pg. 1*

Oklahoma. Two giant milk bottles are all that remain of the Benewah Dairy Company of Spokane, Washington. The Longaberger Basket Company of Newark, Ohio, spent \$30 million to build its headquarters in the shape of a seven-story picnic basket with two 150-ton handles. (The Longaberger Company has since vacated the property but the unique building still remains.)

For those with an itch to see the exotic, you can find a replica of

the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Niles, Illinois, but it's only half as tall and half as leaning. A small-scale replica of China's Forbidden City exists in Katy, Texas, complete with a miniature army of 6,000 tiny terra-cotta soldiers. You need travel no farther than Lake Havasu City, Arizona, to see the London Bridge. Oil baron Robert McCulloch moved all the pieces of the “fallen down” London Bridge to Arizona and put them together again as a ploy to draw tourists, which it has for almost 50 years.

Dancing *Ghawazee*

May 11 heralds the arrival of World Belly Dance Day. The term *belly dance* is a Westernized description of what was originally traditional Middle Eastern dancing. The earliest form of belly dancing came from the Egyptian *ghawazee* dancers. The *ghawazee* were popular street dancers, unveiled women who rapidly shook their hips and played brass cymbals or castanets with their hands. While men, women, and children alike enjoyed the popular art form, it was often frowned upon as improper.



By the early 1800s, Europeans became fascinated with all aspects of orientalism, or Eastern culture, including belly dancing. It was the French who first called it *danse de ventre*, or belly dance. In the 20th century, the dancing of the *ghawazee* evolved into *raqs sharqi*, a classical Egyptian style of belly dance. This modern style rose to fame during Egypt's golden age of film, but despite its popularity, *raqs sharqi* is still considered disreputable, much like the *ghawazee* of the previous century.

HERITAGE HOUSE HEADLINES

May 2019



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Celebrating May

Physical Fitness & Sports Month

Older Americans Month

Meditation Month

Be Kind to Animals Week May 5–11

Teacher Day May 7

Mother's Day May 12

Nylon Stockings Day May 15

Memorial Day: U.S. May 27

Paper Clip Day May 29

Road Trip to the Odd and Awesome

May 5–11 is Travel and Tourism Week, and while you could spend all seven days visiting popular destinations such as Niagara Falls, Mount Rushmore, or the Grand Canyon, you could also pile into the car and take the path less traveled to see some of America's odd and awesome roadside attractions.

In Houston, Texas, you'll find the home of John Milkovisch. Back in 1968, he grew tired of mowing the lawn, so he decided to landscape his yard entirely in brick, marbles, concrete, rock, and wood. He didn't stop there: Milkovisch continued to cover his house entirely in siding made from aluminum beer cans. For the next 18 years, he used an estimated 50,000 beer cans to both

insulate and decorate his home. The “Beer Can House” is not just a monument to the power of recycling, but it is an artistic center complete with guided tours and a gift shop.

If you're interested in giant-sized sculptures, options abound along America's highways. Thirty-foot-tall dinosaurs loom above Interstate 10 south of Palm Springs, California. An 80-foot-long blue whale rests in a lagoon along Route 66 in Catoosa,

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A Fan Calls Foul

By May 16, the Major League Baseball season is well underway. If you have ever attended a game and caught a foul ball, you know how exciting that can be. May 16 marks the beginning of Foul Ball Week in honor of Reuben Berman, the man who fought to allow fans to keep foul balls. Berman was attending a New York Giants game at the Polo Grounds back on May 16, 1921, when he caught a foul ball. As

was customary, an attendant showed up to retrieve the ball from Berman. Berman tossed it into the crowd, at which point he was forced from his seat, reprimanded in a ballpark office, and ejected from the park! Berman felt humiliated and so sued the Giants. The court ruled that Berman should have been allowed to keep the ball. “Reuben's Rule” was instituted, allowing fans to keep baseballs as souvenirs.

A Scent Is Born



Coco Chanel not only created her new perfume but encouraged women to wear pants.

On May 5, 1921, Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel introduced the first modern perfume to the world—her famous Chanel No. 5. It was no mistake that she debuted her fragrance on the fifth day of the fifth month, for the number five had long held special significance to Chanel.

When Chanel was just 12 years old, her mother died of tuberculosis and her father sent her to live in the convent of Aubazine. As Chanel walked the pathways of the convent gardens, she discovered that the stones were laid in groups of five. She constantly passed over these stones, and they made a lasting impression. While her childhood was stark and frugal, it was amongst the nuns that Chanel learned to sew, a skill that blossomed into a fabulous career in fashion design. But always, the number five stayed with her.

Fashion houses were not interested in the perfume business, yet Coco

Chanel was not interested in following traditions. In 1920, she approached the French-Russian perfumier Ernst Beaux and asked him to “create a scent that would make its wearer smell like a woman, and not a rose.” At the time, most perfumes mimicked the scent of one flower or they were overpowering with musks and jasmine. Chanel wanted something new.

Beaux concocted several scents and presented bottles labeled 1–5 and 20–24. Chanel, of course, selected the fifth vial and named it, simply and accurately, Chanel No. 5. On the fifth day of the fifth month of the next year, Chanel not only presented her latest fashion collection but also her new fragrance, a delicate mixture of jasmine, ylang-ylang, may rose, and sandalwood. It also contained aldehydes, which are chemicals that create longevity in the scent. Chanel No. 5 was a hit, and women have worn it ever since.

May Day

For many, the first rite of spring comes on May 1, May Day, with the raising of the maypole. The celebration of May Day dates back thousands of years. The Celts of the British Isles celebrated May 1 as Beltane, their most important holiday. It was believed that this holiday marked the halfway point of a year split between the dark and light. Massive fires were burned to herald the start of the return of life. The tradition of raising and dancing around a maypole came much later, during the Middle Ages. It was common for villagers

to dance around the maypole bearing colorful streamers, ribbons, and baskets of flowers, symbolizing the fertility of the earth. It wasn't until May 1, 1886, that May Day became associated with the labor movement. In those days, workers of all ages suffered from abhorrent working conditions. It was on that May Day that 300,000 workers marched across America to demand better working conditions. While May Day is considered a major holiday in many countries, it is not widely celebrated, least of all in the United States.

For the Love of Pugs



Pugs likely got their name from marmoset monkeys, which look a lot like pugs.

Pug lovers will flock to Milwaukee on the weekend of May 18–19 for the annual Pugfest. The festivities revolve around three adorable costume contests, where pug owners parade their dogs for all to see. The costume categories are: “Hand-Crafted,” “Ready-Made,” and “Strollers and Floats.” When visitors aren't ooh-ing and aah-ing over the cute dogs, they will be watching pug races and allowing Father

John Allen to perform the annual Blessing of the Pugs. Why do people love these tiny and, some might say, ugly dogs? They were originally bred as companion animals for Chinese royalty. When the dogs were brought back to Europe in the 16th century, European royalty adopted the practice. Today, anyone can feel like a king or queen with their own pug pup.

The Big Cheese

Every May a wide field of intrepid contestants converges on Cooper's Hill outside the small village of Gloucester in England. They will throw themselves down the 650-foot hill, risking life and limb, to chase a rolling nine-pound wheel of double Gloucester cheese. This is the extreme sport of cheese rolling.

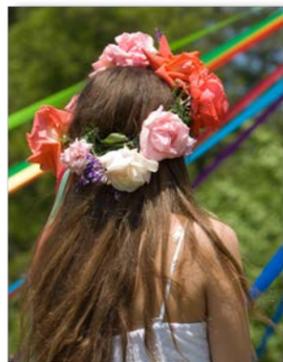
No one knows how this strange pastime originated. Some say that it came from an ancient pagan rite of spring, where bundles of burning brushwood were rolled down the hillside to represent the rebirth of spring after the dead of winter. After the burning bundle was rolled down the hill, buns, biscuits, and sweets were scattered over the hilltop as an offering to the spirits and to ensure a plentiful harvest. Likewise, no one knows when the rolling bundle of burning sticks became a wheel of cheese. What we do know is that the event was first recorded for posterity in 1826. Notes on that year's cheese rolling were recorded by the town crier, and from those notes, it is understood

that even then the event had long been a pastime.

The event is simple. Contestants assemble at the top of Cooper's Hill and wait for the master of ceremonies to push the cheese down the slope. After the cheese is released, the contestants follow. The first to grab the cheese is the winner. However, the cheese may roll up to 70 mph, so usually no one catches the cheese. In that case, the first to cross the finish line is declared the winner. As simple as the competition sounds, there is nothing easy about chasing the cheese down the hill. Each year, many people suffer serious injuries. Paramedics wait at the hill's foot, ready to cart the injured off to local hospitals. Chris Anderson, a repeat champion, has suffered bruised kidneys, a concussion, and a torn calf for his victories. In 2013, in an attempt to mitigate the risk, the speeding wheel of cheese was swapped with a foam replica. Not to worry, the grand prize still remains. Winners, of course, get to take home the cheese.



Cheese rolling has taken place since the 15th century.



Tradition tells that washing your face with May Day's morning dew freshens the skin.