



## June Horoscopes and Birthdays

In astrology, those born June 1–20 are Gemini's Twins. Twins seem to have two personalities. They have an energetic and fun-loving side that is the life of the party, but also a deep and emotional side that needs love and nurturing. Those born June 21–30 are the Crabs of Cancer. Guided by their hearts, Crabs are emotional and nurturing. They create deep bonds and comfortable homes and are always willing to welcome people into their circle.

Marilyn Monroe – June 1, 1926  
 Josephine Baker – June 3, 1906  
 Francisco "Pancho" Villa – June 5, 1878  
 Tom Jones – June 7, 1940  
 Frank Lloyd Wright – June 8, 1867  
 Gene Wilder – June 11, 1935  
 Harriet Beecher Stowe – June 14, 1811  
 Igor Stravinsky – June 17, 1882  
 Lionel Ritchie – June 20, 1950  
 Octavia Butler – June 22, 1947  
 Pearl S. Buck – June 26, 1892  
 John Elway – June 28, 1960  
 Lena Horne – June 30, 1917

### Notable Quotable

"The sea, once it casts its spell, holds one in its net of wonder forever."

~ Jacques Yves Cousteau, underwater explorer



## The Magnificent Abyss *continued from pg. 1*

The vast diversity of life in our oceans is astounding. Large and charismatic animals such as whales, sharks, dolphins, rays, walruses, and seals get the lion's share of attention. Tourist hotspots such as reefs, beaches, and lagoons along the coasts draw visitors. But the mystery of the ocean lies in its vast depths. Humans are most familiar with the upper ocean, perhaps the top 500 feet. What is astounding is that the average depth of the ocean is over 13,000 feet deep. That's as

high as the peaks of the Rocky Mountains! So what mysteries lie at those unplumbed depths? Just in this past year, scientists have discovered sea anemones and upside-down swimming fish under ice sheets, coral reefs off Greenland, and new species of shrimp and sponges living in superheated waters near underwater sea vents. Who is to say that mermaids do not exist, given the fact that so many parts of the ocean have been unexplored?

## Happy Birthday to Whom?

On June 27, 1859, a schoolteacher named Mildred J. Hill composed a tune she called "Good Morning to All." Her younger sister Patty, who was also the school's principal, wrote some cheerful lyrics that the two could sing to their students upon their arrival at school. In 1924, however, the song underwent a dramatic change. A verse was added with the line "Happy birthday to you." Soon, their school-welcoming tune became the most popular song in the world, sung on virtually everyone's birthday. Yet the song was never

credited or copyrighted. In 1935, the Summy Company decided to register a copyright to the song, and then in 1988, Warner/Chappell Music purchased the company owning the copyright, claiming ownership of the song. While Warner/Chappell claimed that a royalty of \$700 was owed each time the song was sung, no one let an exorbitant fee like that spoil the pleasure of singing "Happy Birthday to You" to loved ones. Today, this beloved tune is considered part of the public domain, allowing all of us to sing along free of charge.

# HERITAGE HOUSE HEADLINES

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### Celebrating June

#### Beautiful in Your Skin Month

#### Soul Food Month

#### Lemonade Days *June 1–9*

#### World Bicycle Day *June 3*

#### Banana Split Days *June 7–8*

#### Roller Coaster Day *June 13*

#### Father's Day *June 16*

#### World Music Day *June 21*

#### Social Media Day *June 30*

## The Magnificent Abyss

June is World Ocean Month, a time to celebrate everything under the sea. What would our world be without the ocean? The ocean produces over half of the air we breathe. Covering 70% of the planet's surface, the ocean's currents distribute heat all around the globe, regulating both the world's climate and weather patterns. And although 95% of the ocean remains unexplored, it is home to over two million different species, including the largest animal ever to have existed on Earth.

The blue whale, capable of growing to almost 100 feet long and weighing in at 190 tons, is larger by far than any dinosaur that ever walked the earth. This massive creature relies

on one of the ocean's smallest animals for its chief food source. The blue whale eats krill, those tiny two-inch-long, shrimp-like crustaceans that swarm by the tens of thousands. That the world's largest animal should rely on one of the smallest should not come as a surprise, for this is just another example of Earth's great symbiosis. Whether on land or in the sea, all organisms are interdependent on each other for their survival.

*continued on pg. 4*



## A Bunch of Hot Air

Hot Air Balloon Day, on June 5, celebrates the incredible achievement of the Montgolfier brothers. On this day in 1783, the brothers demonstrated the first unmanned flight of a hot air balloon in the skies above their hometown of Annonay, France. The balloon itself was constructed of taffeta, fabric, and paper. It may seem amazing that it lifted off the ground at all considering that it weighed

in at over 500 pounds. But fly it did, reaching a tremendous height of 6,000 feet. The Montgolfier brothers knew their invention was a wonder, and they decided to take it to Paris for an official demonstration in front of King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. The balloon was still unmanned, but no less marvelous for its historic flying of a rooster, duck, and sheep before a buzzing crowd of 130,000 awestruck Parisians.

## Rope Dancers Over Niagara



*The Great Blondin earned his nickname from his bright blond hair.*

On the morning of June 30, 1859, an audience of 25,000 swarmed both the American and Canadian sides of Niagara Falls to gawk at a French acrobat named Jean Francois Gravelet, better known by his stage name of Monsieur Charles Blondin. Blondin was going to attempt the feat of walking across the Niagara River gorge.

The Great Blondin's crossing was described as the act of a madman, but Blondin had been tightrope walking since the age of four. He believed it was his natural calling in life. Standing only five-foot-five and weighing 140 pounds, he was described by his manager as "more like a fantastic sprite than a human being." He was also a fantastic showman. He stepped out onto the hempen cable with the aid of a 26-foot long pole. Spectators gasped when he sat down on the rope after walking only one-third of the way across and called for one of the tourist boats, the *Maid of the Mist*, to

anchor beneath him. He lowered a rope and hauled up a bottle of wine, from which he poured himself a glass and had a drink. When he reached the other side, he turned around to walk back again, this time hauling a daguerreotype camera! He again paused in the middle of his balancing act, this time to set up the camera to snap a picture of the crowd on the American side. The Great Blondin's fame skyrocketed overnight. It is estimated that Blondin crossed Niagara over 300 times during his lifetime, with his highwire stunts becoming ever more absurd.

The Great Blondin's feats over Niagara were by no means the last. As recently as June 15, 2012, an aerialist by the name of Nik Wallenda crossed over Niagara on a two-inch-wide wire—but he crossed directly over the falls as opposed to farther down the gorge, entering the history books as the first person to do so.

## In the Name of the Father

Fathers really should thank mothers for the creation of Father's Day. It was a woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by her widower father, who lobbied to create a father's equivalent to the popular Mother's Day. Dodd took her cause to churches, shopkeepers, the YMCA, and local government officials until finally, on June 19, 1910, Washington state celebrated the first Father's Day. Over the years, the holiday gained traction, and in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged all states to adopt

Father's Day as a holiday. But this was not without controversy. Throughout the 1920s and '30s, various groups attempted to squash both Mother's and Father's Day. They argued instead for one holiday, Parents' Day, for, as one advocate said, "both parents should be loved and respected together." It wasn't until 1972 that Richard Nixon, in the middle of his presidential re-election campaign, signed a proclamation making Father's Day a federally recognized holiday—58 years after Mother's Day was made official.



*A Mother's Day sermon inspired Sonora Smart Dodd to invent Father's Day.*

## Operation Overlord



*Code names for the five stormed beaches were Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword.*

Operation Overlord, the invasion best known as D-Day, commenced on the morning of June 6, 1944. Nazi Germany held the beaches of France's Normandy coastline, but Allied forces numbering 156,000 American, British, and Canadian troops landed en masse to retake the beaches. It was the largest amphibious assault in history, and its success was largely due to both the heroism of the Allied soldiers

and months of planning. General Dwight D. Eisenhower enacted a masterful plan of deception that left the Germans unaware of where the Allies would strike. Fake radio transmissions detailed the movement of a phantom army. Even fake supplies and equipment were routed to misleading locations. The success of D-Day marked the beginning of the end of the war in Europe.

## The Spirit of Yoga

You don't need to bend over backward to celebrate International Day of Yoga on June 21. In 2015, the United Nations decided to create a day honoring this ancient Indian practice devoted to uniting body, mind, and spirit.

As yoga has grown in popularity, most people have understood its practice as a series of stretches ranging from the easy to the physically challenging. In many ways, yoga is a vigorous form of physical activity that demands athleticism and flexibility. Yoga, however, is much more than physical exercise. As one of its most famous practitioners, B. K. S. Iyengar, stated, "Yoga cultivates the way of maintaining a balanced attitude in day-to-day life." This balance of mind makes yoga both a spiritual and physical exercise.

Yoga was developed 5,000 years ago by mystics seeking harmony between their body and spirit as a way of achieving divine enlightenment. So while yoga may be practiced today as merely a physical exercise, this is just one

side of the practice. Yoga also touches the soul.

Yoga postures, or poses, require focused attention and intention. Slow, careful breathing and an inward focus akin to meditation help yoga practitioners clear their minds of worry and become present in the now. These practitioners shed their daily worries the way a snake sheds its skin and become energized. Some even feel a greater sense of creativity, insight, imagination, and intuition. These are the gifts that yoga can give to our spirits, while our bodies enjoy the gifts of endurance, flexibility, and stamina.

Not everyone is interested in yoga as a spiritual practice, though. Luckily, there is no penalty for those who wish to use yoga solely as exercise. The yogi and spiritual guide Amit Ray perhaps defined yoga best when he stated, "Yoga means addition—addition of energy, strength, and beauty to body, mind, and soul." For these reasons, everyone should add this holiday to their calendars.



*The oldest known book in the world, the Rig Veda, was written by yogis.*