



日本語版

LIFT



Life, Information, Fun, Times



History corner



On December 5, 1901, a little magic came into the world along with the birth of Walt Disney. Disney released his first cartoon, featuring Mickey Mouse, called Steamboat Willie at the age of 27.



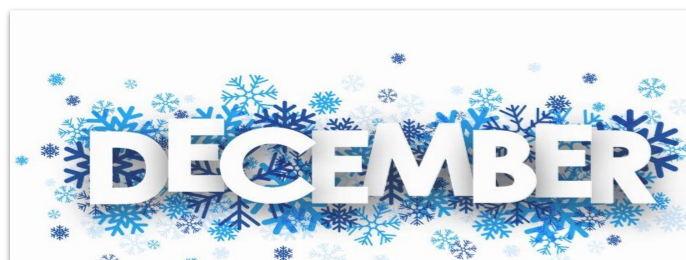
The Bill of Rights came into effect on December 15, 1791. The Bill of Rights included the first ten amendments to the US constitution, rights which are said to be the pillars of modern US society and government.



December 21st was a rather painless day in Britain, at least for one man. For the first time in Britain, anesthesia was used on a patient by Dr. Robert Liston at the University College Hospital in London in 1846.



It was on December 17, 1903, at Kill Devil Hills in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, when Orville Wright completed the first powered flight of a heavier-than-air aircraft. It couldn't have bothered Orville's brother Wilbur, who went up in the same aircraft right after his brother had safely landed.



Did you know that:



"Jingle bells" was composed in 1857, and not for Christmas – it was meant to be a Thanksgiving song!



One of the strangest and most intriguing December festivals is the Krampusnacht in Austria. This is where Santa's evil twin Krampus, a half-goat/half-man demon, chases naughty children through the streets.



December is the darkest month on the calendar because of the short winter days. In places like Alaska, Siberia and the Canadian territories, this month the sun never rises, pitching people into complete darkness for several days.

'Holy Night' in the languages of our teachers.

1	Sanctaid nos	Welsh	6	Noite Sagrada	Portuguese
2	Noche Santa	Spanish	7		Urdu
3	Noapte Sfântă	Romanian	8	Al laya Al MuQadasa	Arabic
4	Szent Éj	Hungarian	9	Svyash'ennaya noch' СВЯЩЕННАЯ НОЧЬ	Russian
5	Sante Nuit	French	10	Kutsal Gece	Turkish



December Festivals around the world



Vocabulary corner

The holy grail of (something)

Something that is idealized above others of its kind.

This \$4,000 behemoth is currently the holy grail of gaming PCs.

Holy mackerel!

An exclamation of surprise, shock, or astonishment.

Holy mackerel, the bill for that dinner was nearly \$200!

A holy stink

A great argument or major issue

My mom's going to raise a holy stink when she sees what happened to the car!

Holy of holies

A sacred or special place

The corporate board room is the holy of holies here.

To raise holy hell

To make a lot of very angry, vocal complaints

The customer has been raising holy hell about the service charge we included on his bill.



Seattle Turkish Film Festival

The Seattle Turkish Film Festival showcases the best emerging and established artists in Turkish filmmaking. The four-day cinematic celebration features a dozen short and long form films across a variety of genres, Q&A sessions, opening and closing galas as well as plenty of networking opportunities.

Montgomery Zoo Christmas Lights, Alabama

The Montgomery Zoo transforms into a Winter Wonderland, sparkling with thousands of lights and festive decorations during their annual Christmas Lights Festival, November 29 - December 31st. You can visit Santa, enjoy the live nightly entertainment, some warming hot chocolate and fresh baked cookies.



The annual Annapolis Chocolate Binge Festival, Maryland-

has over 40 local chocolate vendors selling chocolate specialties, including chocolate bars, cakes, caramels, truffles, fudge, cookies, candies, hot chocolate and more. Enjoy live music, a holiday light canopy, an artisan holiday market and past events have included roasting s'mores with the Fire Department and a gingerbread house moon bounce.

Taste Cumbria Food Festival, Cockermouth, England

A celebration of the food of the Cumbria area of England, the beautiful area is famed for its incredible landscapes and the equally impressive produce and other food products. The entire town centre is turned into a produce market, filled with food as well as an Ale Trail of local pubs and breweries, live demonstrations from "local food heroes" and kid-friendly, all-ages entertainment.



Christmas around the world



Stockholm, Sweden

Technically the Christmas celebrations start December 1st when families break out the traditional Swedish advent calendars, but they don't kick into high gear until after St. Luca's Day on the 13th.

The main celebration and families exchanging gifts is on the 24th.



Firenze, Italy

Christmas in Italy is one of the most magical things you'll ever experience! The nativity scenes, strung-up lights, cool crisp weather, and amazing food and wine put it at the top of the list. The largest Christmas market in Florence is in Piazza di Santa Croce, the beautiful square outside of Basilica di Santa Croce.



Mexico

Christmas in Mexico is observed from December 12 to January 6. Traditional decorations displayed on this holiday include nativity scenes, poinsettias, and Christmas trees. The season begins with celebrations related to the Virgin of Guadalupe, the Patroness of Mexico, followed by traditions such as Las Posadas and Pastorelas.



Australia

Caroling is an important tradition, but in Australia, caroling isn't just neighbors going door-to-door, it's a cultural event. Carols by Candlelight started in Melbourne in 1938, and since then has grown into a tradition across the country. On Christmas Eve people gather outdoors to sing Carols by candlelight. The larger events that take place in major cities like Sydney are broadcast on TV across the country. On Christmas day most people have a cold meal or barbecue seafood like lobsters and prawns.



Ireland

On Christmas, instead of leaving out milk and cookies for Santa, its tradition to leave out meat pie and a glass of Guinness. Dublin celebrates Christmas morning with a swim in the sea. The 40 Foot in Sandycove near Dublin is the area where hundreds of brave swimmers dive into the freezing waters all for the sake of charity. Leading up to the 25th, Ireland is full of shopping, holiday cheer, and bright Christmas markets.



China

Christmas markets are starting to become more popular in Shanghai, but the holiday is celebrated more like Saint Patrick's Day or Valentine's Day. Instead of staying in with family, people go out with friends for light-hearted celebrations; singing karaoke, seeing a movie, and ice skating. Young couples will exchange small romantic gifts on Christmas and food is also an essential part, elegant cellophane-wrapped apples being a common Christmas gift.



Movie pick of the month



There is a reason why this iconic movie has survived the test of time. It was released 30 years ago yet it remains a nostalgic Christmas must-watch. The sequel, Home Alone 2, keeps all the original characters, with one notable addition: New York City. The winter shots of New York bring an extra flair to the movie, and as we follow little Kevin around town, we can admire the Christmas decorations of the Plaza Hotel, 5th avenue, wonder around in a toy store, walk in snowed Central Park, all elements still very much relevant today. The only element that is no longer relevant is a cameo by Donald Trump, giving Kevin directions in the hotel lobby.

Special Christmas Invite to our Students

Join us for a taste of British Christmas!
Enjoy a cup of aromatic mulled wine or tea,
a piece of fresh-out-of-the-oven mince pie
while engaging in a casual chat with our teachers.

When? Dec 20th, Tuesday.
Where? In 1st floor classrooms

Morning round 10:30-12:00

Evening round 18:30-20:00

How much? ¥3,300
How do I sign up? At the office, by December 15th



Did you know that in 1644 Christmas was banned in UK for 16 years?
We are certainly glad the ban was lifted and the tradition of mince pie
and mulled wine was able to survive centuries, so they can be part
of our 2022 YMCA Christmas celebration!

