The month of March is associated with several famous quotes. The saying “As mad as a March hare” has generated some famous phrases such as “March Madness,” which is commonly used to refer to the start of the NCAA basketball tournament.

**Origins of “as mad as a March hare”**

This saying is centuries old and comes from Europe. In March, hares would conduct their courtship rituals. The males would leap and cavort to attract females’ attention. Then they would approach the female, who would “box” with them in an attempt to fight them off, before finally mating. Hares normally keep out of the way of males’ antics, which is why the phrase “as mad as a March hare” originated.

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“**As mad not as a march hare, but as a madde dogge.**”

— Sir Thomas More, 1529

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The amount of sunlight reaching the Earth’s surface is 6,000 times the amount of energy used by all human beings worldwide. The total amount of fossil fuel used by humans since the start of civilization is equivalent to less than 30 days of sunshine.

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**MARCH 14**

Birth of Albert Einstein (1879-1955), Scientist, famous for his theories of the structure of the universe.

“**Teaching should be such that what is offered is perceived as a valuable gift and not as a hard duty.**”

— Albert Einstein

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**“As mad as a hatter”**

**Meaning**

Completely mad. This is now commonly understood to mean crazy, although the original meaning is unclear and may have meant annoyed.
Planning a summer vacation

Let’s have a little fun! The Cosgrove family is planning a summer vacation. Mr. and Mrs. Cosgrove have already made the travel and hotel arrangements, but need help figuring out how to best use their money so that everyone gets to do what they want. The family is made up of two adults and three children. They have four full days of fun to plan and a total recreational budget of $400.

Nearby vacation attractions include:
- **Super Hero Theme Park** — $45 for adults, $32 for children
- **Natural History Museum** — $18 for adults, $12 for children
- **City tour on electric scooters** — $10 per hour, per scooter
- **Whitewater River Tubing** — $31 each for a 2-hour trip
- **Wild West Train Ride** — $15 for adults, $7 for children

There are also plenty of free things they can do, too. There’s a hiking trail with a nice picnic area, a large park with several sports fields, a daily farmers market with a puppet show and a real-life Wild West shootout show at the pioneer museum.

Can you help the Cosgroves plan their vacation?

1. If the Cosgroves decide to spend a whole day at the Super Hero Theme Park, how much money will they have left in their budget?
   - a. $246
   - b. $214
   - c. $220
   - d. $190

2. Do the Cosgroves have enough money to go to the Super Hero Theme Park, river tubing and spend three hours touring the city on scooters?
   - a. Yes
   - b. No

3. Is it possible for the family to enjoy at least one paid attraction on all four days of the vacation? If yes, list the itinerary.

   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________

4. It’s always important to save money when you can. Can you put together a fun itinerary for all four days, mixing the free activities with the paid activities? How much money do the Cosgroves have left in their budget?

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**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

the way, so the sight of these leaping, cavorting, boxing hares led people to believe that hares went mad in March.

**Where is the March hare from?**

The March hare is a character in Lewis Carroll’s Alice in Wonderland, written in 1865. The 2010 film version starring Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter is the most recent of many movie adaptations of the book. Lewis Carroll wanted a historically “mad” character to join the mad hatter at his tea party.

In Carroll’s book, the main character, Alice, hypothesizes, “The March Hare will be much the most interesting, and perhaps as this is May it won’t be raving mad — at least not so mad as it was in March.”

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**Mercury poisoning**

Mad hatter disease describes the symptoms of mercury poisoning, specifically its effect on the nervous system. These include paraesthesias, vision and hearing impairment, slurred speech, anxiety, hallucinations, irritability, depression, lack of coordination, and tremors.

The condition was observed among workers in the hat-making industry in the 19th century. Chronic mercury exposure was common in hatters who used a mercury solution during the process of curing animal pelts. Poor ventilation in the workshops of the time resulted in the hatters breathing in the fumes of this highly toxic metal, leading to an accumulation of mercury in the workers’ bodies. Metal toxicity was poorly understood and the broad range of symptoms were also associated with insanity.

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**vocabulary**

**hatter**

[hat-er] noun
One whose occupation is the manufacture, sale or repair of hats.
First known use of the word is 14th century.
SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, people have used the wind’s energy. Over 5,000 years ago, the Egyptians used wind to sail ships. Later, people built windmills to grind wheat and other grains. On our Western ranches, small windmills are still used to pump water for livestock.

Wind is called a renewable energy source because the wind will blow as long as the sun shines. The sun heats up the air over land, and the warm air rises. Then cooler air from the oceans rushes onto the land. At night, the winds are reversed because the air cools more rapidly over land than over water.

The modern machine to make electricity from the wind is called a wind turbine. It looks like a huge propeller mounted on a pole. A turbine stands as tall as a 20-story building and has three blades that span 200 feet across. One wind machine can produce enough electricity to power as many as 400 homes.

In windy places like Texas and Montana, dozens of wind machines are grouped in a “wind farm.” Throughout the United States we make enough electricity from wind to power a city the size of Chicago.

What will the future bring? If we want to burn less coal and oil, we will have to use more energy from wind, sun, water and nuclear fuel. Some people are concerned because wind turbines can kill a lot of birds and bats. Others think that we will have to build turbines everywhere to make enough energy. As fuel grows more expensive, wind may become cheaper to use. Engineers may also create new inventions to harness power from the wind.

ACTIVITY
When you look at articles in the newspaper, notice how many of them talk about our use of energy. The business pages are a good place to read about energy companies and the prices of different fuels. See how many different kinds of energy you can find.
Ireland: The Emerald Isle

The fact that Ireland is an island, as well as green with leafy trees and grassy hills, means that the nation is sometimes called the Emerald Isle. But the color that people originally associated with St. Patrick was blue! Some ancient Irish flags even sport this color. Green was finally introduced to the St. Patrick’s Day festivities in the 18th century, when the shamrock (which is, of course, green) became a national symbol. Because of the shamrock’s popularity and Ireland’s landscape, the color stuck to the holiday.

Leprechauns are actually one reason you’re supposed to wear green on St. Patrick’s Day. The tradition is tied to folklore that says wearing green makes you invisible to leprechauns, which like to pinch anyone they can see. Some people also think sporting the color will bring good luck, and others wear it to honor their Irish ancestry. So make sure to wear green on March 17 so leprechauns (or your friends) don’t pinch you.

March Word Search

ALASKA ENERGY HARE HISTORY HUSKIES IDITAROD INVENTION MADNESS MARCH NOODLE NUTRITION PATENT POWER WIND WOMEN


Make a pinwheel wind turbine

Pinwheels are like wind turbines. They need wind to move. Here’s how to make your own.

You will need:
- Scissors
- Thumbtack
- A pencil with an eraser on one end

To make it:
1. Cut out the square and then cut along the dashed lines. Be careful NOT to cut all the way to the center.
2. Punch out the holes with a thumbtack.
3. Curl up the corners. The corner holes should line up with the center hole.
4. Push the thumbtack through all the holes and into the side of the pencil eraser.
5. Hold the pencil and blow straight into the pinwheel so it goes around.

Signs of spring

EVERY SEASON BRINGS changes. Some are easy to see, like falling leaves and blowing snow. The coming of spring, too, brings big changes. It also has many little secrets waiting for you to discover.

Some signs of spring can be found while it still seems like winter. As early as February you can see new leaves are beginning to emerge from the ground.

Have you ever noticed the first flowers of spring? The crocus is a small flower that grows just a couple of inches tall from a bulb. The flowers look like a tiny tulip in colors of yellow, white or purple. Grape hyacinth has clusters of little purple flowers on a short stalk coming right out of the ground. Then when you see daffodils and tulips blooming, you’ll know that spring is really here.

Another sign of spring is the buds...
How much is your St. Patrick’s Day wish worth?

We asked students from third to eighth grade what they’d wish for if they found the lucky pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Read each one, guess how much each one costs and write it in the space provided.

Answers at the bottom* — don’t peek!!

1. 500 stuffed animals — Amelia, fourth grade
   - $12,500
2. A petting zoo — Jason, sixth grade
   - $600,000
3. 1,000 remote control cars — Bridger, fifth grade
   - $40,000
4. 200 pizzas — Camden, seventh grade
   - $3,000
5. A soccer field — Sophia, fourth grade
   - $800,000

Answers show actual average prices:*

*Values vary widely depending on location, size and quality. Prices are an average cost and don’t include permits, licensing or ongoing maintenance.

SPRING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on trees, which are beginning to open. These buds will gradually open to make new flowers and leaves. Later in March you will see the colorful flowers of fruit trees: plums, apricots, cherries, apples, peaches and pears. But in the very early spring you can see the unusual flowers of elm, aspen and maple trees. These flowers don’t have the showy petals of most flowers, but they have the tiny parts that will make new seeds.

Animals are on the move during the spring, too. You may not see a bear lumbering out of its winter den, but you’ll see birds everywhere. City birds like sparrows and house finches are busy gathering stuff to build nests. Robins are hunting for worms on the lawns and singing loudly from tree tops. As the weather gets warmer, you’ll see ants coming out from their underground homes. When flowers start to bloom, you’ll see bees looking for nectar.

A good way to enjoy the changing of the seasons is to keep notes in a calendar. You can use a printed calendar or make your own calendar page with the days of each month. Then when you see a new sign of spring, write it down on that day. Then next year you can get out your calendar of spring and see if you can find the same signs of spring. Look in some of the same places and see if you notice spring happening around the same time.

DID YOU KNOW?

Swallows migrate annually to Argentina in October, and return to their spring and summer home in San Juan Capistrano each March. The swallows celebration began centuries ago when mission padres observed that the birds’ return roughly coincided with St. Joseph’s Day on the church calendar, March 19.

NOW YOU KNOW!

The forked tail of the Barn swallow

Signs of spring

- Birds singing and building nests
- Insects
- Buds opening on trees and shrubs
- Flowers on fruit trees
- Leaves and flowers from bulbs

There are over 25,000 varieties of daffodils in shades of yellow, white, orange and peachy pink.

NEWSPAPER ACTIVITIES

Spring is a good time to check out the weather pages in the newspaper. Which parts of the country are having warm and sunny weather? Where is it still snowy and freezing? See if you can find every different kind of weather: sunny, cloudy, rainy, windy and snowy. Then look at the front page of the paper to see if there is news about big thunderstorms, hailstorms or tornados.
A fruit for all seasons

Did you ever think about where all the different kinds of fruit come from? A hundred years ago people ate oranges shipped in railroad cars all over the United States. Today we eat fruit from around the world as well as our own country. When it is winter here we import fruit from the southern hemisphere where it is summer.

See if you can match the different fruits with where they are commonly grown:

- Pie cherries
- Apples
- Bananas
- Kiwi fruit
- Grapes
- Blueberries
- Avocados
- Pomegranates
- Pineapple
- Cranberries

Canada, Mexico, Wisconsin, California, New Zealand, Utah, Chile, Ecuador, Philippines, Utah

See answers on page 4

Start your own journal

Springtime is a good time to start your own journal. A notebook or sketchbook works well, or you can make your own book from any kind of paper. The idea of having a journal is to write down things you do, or think about, or what you feel.

Keeping a journal is also a good way to put your ideas down on paper. Leonardo Da Vinci, the famous artist and inventor, kept a journal. He filled it with sketches as well as his observations on art, science, music and architecture.

A journal doesn’t have to be just writing. You can also draw pictures. It’s a good place to put photographs, too. Then you can write about the picture and what you were doing when it was taken.

You can make your journal a scrapbook, too. You might find pictures in magazines that you like, or articles and comics from the newspaper. The pages of your journal are also a good place to paste postcards, tickets, stickers and labels.

People who study plants put leaves and flowers between paper and press them. You can do the same with your journal. Just put any thin part of a plant between two clean pages. Make sure your journal is lying flat and put a heavy book on top overnight or longer. You can also press flowers and leaves between paper towels and then paste them into your journal. You can also press insects in your journal, but there is one rule to follow. If it’s fat and gooey, don’t do it.

Source: NOVA Online, Lingolex.com

Insects facts

bees

A worker bee can visit between 50 and 100 flowers on a single trip. It will return to the hive carrying half its weight in pollen and nectar.

ants

Ants are clean and tidy insects. Some worker ants are given the job of taking the rubbish from the nest and putting it outside in a special rubbish dump!
Today is the day for the wearin’ o’ the green.

Today is the day when the little people are seen.

Today is St. Patrick’s Day, so if ye’r Irish me lad,
Join the celebratin’ fer the grandest time ta’ be had.

Ya’ put yer hand up in the air, the other hand on your hip.

Ya’ tap yer toe, ya’ tap yer heel, ya’ bounce yer knee a wee bit.

Ya’ prance ‘n dance around the room, n’ circle one two three.

The saints be praised, I must admit, ya’ all look Irish ta’ me.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day from Read Today!

St. Patrick’s Day

Do you know Utah’s state tree? It is the blue spruce. It has needles, like a pine or fir. The needles are a grayish blue color and are pointed and sharp. You are most likely to see a blue spruce planted around homes but it also grows wild in Utah’s mountains. Its shape is like a Christmas tree, and older trees grow to be really tall. In the spring, look at any evergreen tree to look for new growth. You should see new shoots covered with needles. Can you guess which state also has the blue spruce for its state tree?

(Answer: Colorado)
Women’s History Month honors and celebrates the struggles and achievements of American women throughout the history of the United States. American women have struggled throughout our history to gain rights not simply for themselves but for many other underrepresented and disenfranchised groups in America.

Women’s History Month had its origins in 1981 when Congress authorized and requested the president to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as “Women’s History Week.” As requested by Congress, President Ronald Reagan issued a presidential proclamation proclaiming that week as the first “Women’s History Week” and recognizing the vital role of women in American history:

American women of every race, creed and ethnic background helped found and build our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways ... As leaders in public affairs, American women not only worked to secure their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity but also were principal advocates in the abolitionist, temperance, mental health reform, industrial labor and social reform movements, as well as the modern civil rights movement.

In 1987, after being petitioned by the National Women’s History Project, Congress designated the month of March 1987 as “Women’s History Month.”
Mothers of INVENTION

What do hang gliders, windshield wipers, shopping bags and Barbie dolls all have in common? All of these were invented by women!

Necessity, they say, is the mother of invention. And among those inventors who have recognized a need and created a solution are a surprising number of women. From a secretary, Bette Nesmith Graham, who invented liquid paper, to a Hollywood starlet, Hedy Lamarr, who helped create a secret communications system that aided in defeating the Nazis, an array of women from all walks of life have joined the ranks of inventors. They are literally the mothers of invention.

When America was founded in 1776, under U.S. law, patents were considered intellectual property. Women were not allowed to own property and therefore couldn't hold a patent. That is, until 14 years later, when the Patent Act of 1790 declared that both women and men could obtain patents in their own names to protect their inventions. It was a step toward equality. But there was a catch. Only women who were single or widowed actually had the legal capability to hold patents. At the time, many state statues had restrictions for married women. Once a man and woman married, they became legally one person. Any property that the woman owned before marriage or acquired during marriage essentially belonged to her husband. So in these states, married women patented their inventions under their husband's name or that of a male business associate, or sometimes they didn't patent them at all. Although the Patent Act was passed in 1790, women were either prevented by statute, or persuaded by social pressure, not to pursue patents for almost 20 years.

The first women patent holders

Mary Kies finally changed that. In 1809, she became the first woman in America to hold a patent. The independent Mary insisted on taking credit for her own work and, though she was married, her native Connecticut had no statue to prevent her from doing so.

Good timing made a success of her invention — a machine for weaving ladies’ hats.

At the time, because the U.S. was trying to remain neutral in the Napoleonic Wars, President James Madison had ordered an embargo on European goods. Since no goods were coming into the country there was less competition for Mary’s hats. Her hats became extremely popular, and this not only helped to bolster the hat industry but the whole New England economy.
Margaret Knight's paper bag folding machine

When Margaret found out, she set out to prove that the invention was hers. Margaret took Charles Annan to court. The trial lasted about 16 days and cost her about $1,600, but she was able to prove that she actually had the idea long before Charles had it. Charles Annan's strongest argument for his defense was that since Margaret was a woman, she couldn't possibly have come up with this mechanical invention. At the time, most people believed that there were two distinct spheres in life—a man's world and a woman's world. It wasn't admired living in your area? If so, who has accomplished something significant? Looking through your newspaper, invite her to speak to your class. Be sure to prepare a list of reporter’s questions.

ACTIVITY

Looking through your newspaper, can you find an article on a woman who has accomplished something admirable living in your area? If so, invite her to speak to your class. Be sure to prepare a list of reporter’s questions.

Margaret Knight's paper bag folding machine

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Honoring women

Each year The National Women’s History Project selects a group of notable women who are extraordinary visionaries and role models to honor. The theme for 2019 is “Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence.” This year we honor women who have led efforts to end war, violence, and injustice and pioneered the use of nonviolence to change society. These Honorees embraced the fact that the means determine the ends and so developed nonviolent methods to ensure just and peaceful results.

Below is a brief description of a few these honorees. Choose one and do some research to find out more about her. Think about what interests you. Could you find a way to develop something you are passionate about into something big or small that would change people’s lives?

**LIVING HONOREES**

**Kathy Kelly**
Co-coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence
Kathy Kelly is a peace activist, pacifist and author. She has traveled to Iraq twenty-six times, notably remaining in combat zones during the early days of both U.S.-Iraq wars. Kelly’s recent work has focused on Afghanistan and Gaza and protesting U.S. drone policy.

**Zainab Salbi**
Founder and Former CEO of Women for Women International
At the age of 23, Salbi founded Women for Women International, a grassroots humanitarian and development organization dedicated to serving women survivors of wars by offering support, tools, and access to life-changing skills to move from crisis and poverty to stability and economic self-sufficiency.

**Graciela Sanchez**
Co-founder and Director of the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center
Graciela Sanchez is a dedicated neighborhood activist and cultural worker. Sanchez has worked throughout her lifetime to eliminate racism, sexism, homophobia and class elitism.

**Deborah Tucker**
President of the Board of Directors of the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence
Deborah D. Tucker has dedicated over 40 years to ending violence. She founded and led several organizations while working with many to advocate for improvements to laws, policies and practices at the local, state, national and international levels. Most notably, she helped write and pass the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and co-chaired the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence.

**Dr. E. Faye Williams**
President/CEO of the National Congress of Black Women
Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq. has made her biggest mark as an activist for peace and human rights, having traveled and worked on issues around the world. In her book, The Peace Terrorists, she details a 40-day peace mission she undertook with 200 women from around the world for the purpose of working to prevent the first Gulf War.

**Sister Alice Zachmann**
Founder and former Director of the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission USA
Sister Alice Zachmann has dedicated her life to ending war and violence, from advocating an end to the Vietnam War to supporting the United Farm Workers. She founded the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission USA in 1982, fearlessly supporting Guatemalan survivors of torture and abuse, as well as working to end U.S. military assistance to Guatemala.

**DECEASED HONOREES**

**Elise Boulding**
Creator of Peace and Conflict Studies
Elise Boulding was a major contributor to the development of the field of Peace and Conflict Studies. Among her core theories of peace were the theory of peace as an everyday practice, that strong families cultivate a peace culture, that women as mothers have a great influence in setting the foundation for peace, that all children could be co-creators of a peaceful future, and that building a global civic culture is a first step to ending world conflicts.

**Sarah Brady**
Gun control Advocate
Sarah Brady became active in the gun control movement in the 1980s after her husband was permanently disabled in the failed assassination attempt on President Reagan. She was the most visible gun control activist of her time and was instrumental in the passage of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, more commonly known as the Brady Bill, in 1993.

**Dorothy Cotton**
Civil Rights, Activist
Dorothy Cotton was the only woman in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s inner circle and one of the most influential women in the civil rights movement. She developed the Citizen Education Program, teaching disenfranchised people the importance of political participation and methods of nonviolent protest. She fearlessly faced off with Klu Klux Klansmen who frequently violently disrupted civil rights demonstrations.

**Peace Pilgrim**
Spiritual Leader and Peace Activist
Peace Pilgrim was a non-denominational spiritual leader, pacifist and vegetarian activist. In 1953 she started a cross country personal pilgrimage for peace. She stopped counting miles in 1962 when she marked 25,000 miles and was on her seventh cross country march when she died in 1981.

**Mary Burnett Talbert**
Anti-lynching activist, Orator and Suffragist
Mary Burnett Talbert was a founder of both the Niagara Movement and its successor the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). It was through the NAACP that Mary Talbert became a leader in the anti-lynching movement. Talbert and the Anti-Lynching Crusaders publicized the horrors of lynching and provided a focus for campaign fundraising.

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"This Promise of Change: One Girl’s Story in the Fight for School Equality," by Debbie Levy and Jo Ann Allen Boyce. In 1956 fourteen-year-old Jo Ann Allen was one of twelve African-American students who broke the color barrier and integrated Clinton High School in Tennessee. This is the heartbreaking and relatable story of her four months thrust into the national spotlight and as a trailblazer in history.

"Love Sugar Magic: A Dash of Trouble," by Anna Meriano. Mischief, friendship and a whole lot of heart.

"Dorothy’s Eyes: Dorothea Lange Photographs the Truth Book," by Barb Rosenstock. After a childhood bout of polio left her with a limp, all Dorothea Lange wanted to do was disappear. But this desire not to be seen helped her learn how to blend into the background and observe others acutely.

"Rebel Voices: The Global Fight for Women’s Equality and the Right to Vote," by Louise Kay Stewart and Eve Lloyd Knight Rule Breakers, Risk Takers, Rebel Women. Law Makers. This book is a celebration of women standing up, speaking out, and sticking together to battle inequality and win the vote.

"The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise," by Dan Gemeinhart. Over the course of thousands of miles, Coyote will learn that going home can sometimes be the hardest journey of all...but that with friends by her side, she just might be able to turn her “once upon a time” into a “happily ever after.”