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November 2023

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International Games Month

Adopt-a-Turkey Month

Día de los Muertos November 1

Veterans Day (U.S.) November 11

Diwali November 12

Rock Your Mocs Day November 15

International Men's Day November 19

Thanksgiving (U.S.) November 23

Square Dancing Day November 29

The Game Is Afoot

As friends and family gather together during the third week of November to celebrate Thanksgiving, they will have another holiday to celebrate: Game and Puzzle Week. This weeklong holiday is designed to inject some old-fashioned fun and games into a holiday that is often dominated by eating and watching television.

Despite our preoccupation with digital screens, board games are currently enjoying a “golden age” of popularity. In 2021 alone, tabletop games earned a whopping \$13.4 billion worldwide. Designers are developing plenty of innovative, creative, strategic, and beautiful games for our enjoyment. Most importantly, however, these tabletop games

deliver something that a screen cannot: a shared social experience.

There are plenty of competitive games where one winner comes out on top: *The Settlers of Catan* rewards the player with the most advanced settlement,

(cont. on pg. 4)



Ladies' Choice

Sadie Hawkins Day on November 13 gets its origins from Al Capp's comic strip *L'il Abner*. Sadie Hawkins was the daughter of Hekzebiah Hawkins, one of the founders of Dogpatch, the comic's fictional setting. Sadie was unlucky in love and was destined to become a spinster.

On November 15, 1937, the comic depicted Hekzebiah declaring a “Sadie Hawkins Day,” a day when all the eligible bachelors of Dogpatch would participate in a footrace against Sadie. Whichever man Sadie caught would have to marry her.

Capp revived the storyline year after year. Over the years, Sadie Hawkins Day has become a day when women ask men on dates, or, at Sadie Hawkins Dances, girls ask boys to dance. Capp himself used his last *L'il Abner* comic to set November 26 as the “official” holiday.

November Birthdays

In astrology, those born November 1–21 are Scorpio's intense scorpions. Scorpions seek deep connections with others. Those born from November 22–30 are Archers of Sagittarius. The Archers have a unique blend of passion, curiosity, and adaptability, which makes them bold travelers and explorers.

- Will Rogers (cowboy) – Nov. 4, 1879
- John Philip Sousa (conductor) – Nov. 6, 1854
- Bram Stoker (novelist) – Nov. 8, 1847
- Jonathan Winters (comedian) – Nov. 11, 1925
- Whoopi Goldberg (comedian) – Nov. 13, 1955
- RuPaul (drag queen) – Nov. 17, 1960
- Allyson Felix (athlete) – Nov. 18, 1985
- Joe DiMaggio (athlete) – Nov. 25, 1914
- Tina Turner (singer) – Nov. 26, 1939
- Chadwick Boseman (actor) – Nov. 29, 1976



The Game Is Afoot (cont. from pg. 1)

Ticket to Ride the most extensive rail network. But designers now offer plenty of games where players must cooperate to win the day. *Pandemic* pits players against the outbreak of various diseases, *Mysterium* requires solving a mystery and a ghost story, and *Robinson Crusoe* forces players to survive together on a deserted island.

Whether games are competitive or cooperative, they often force us to face challenges and solve problems together. Faced with challenges, players reveal who they are to friends around the table. Win or lose, games are bound to provide plenty of laughter, levity, and togetherness.

ANSWERS: 1.B; 2.C;
3.A; 4.D

The Emu War



Notable Quotable

“If we had a military division with the bullet-carrying capacity of these birds it would face any army in the world.”

~ Major Meredith, on his adversaries during Australia’s “Emu War”

After World War I, Australian veterans were granted land in western Australia for farming. But in October of 1932, the economic hardship of the Great Depression was compounded by another disaster: 20,000 emus.

Emus—those large, flightless birds native to Australia—migrate to the coast from the Australian interior after breeding. As the birds migrated, they encountered the newly cultivated farmlands and found them an excellent new habitat full of food and water. The massive flocks soon ate and spoiled the wheat crop.

The farmers petitioned the government to save their

Monster Success

On November 3, 1954, the film *Godzilla* premiered across Japan. *Godzilla* remains one of Japan’s most enduring pieces of popular culture and has been identified by *Guinness World Records* as the longest-running film franchise in history. The film and its gargantuan monster symbolize something more

Life Support

November 18 is Married to a Scorpio Support Day, but what is it about Scorpions, those born between October 23 and November 21, that makes marriage to them so difficult? Each astrological sign has personality traits and characteristics associated with it, but Scorpions have gotten a bad rap for their intensity. Not only is Scorpio’s astrological sign a dangerous scorpion, representing the scorpion that stung Orion to death, but the sign is ruled by both Mars and Pluto, the two most powerful planets of the zodiac. Astrologers believe that under these ruling planets, Scorpions are more intense. No wonder their spouses might need a little extra help!



livelihoods, and the government agreed to send military machine gunners to the area. On November 2, 1932, the machine gunners declared their “war” on the unsuspecting emus.

By November 8, Major Gwynydd Purves Wynne-Aubrey Meredith had led several attacks on the birds with little success. Over 2,500 rounds of ammunition had been fired and only 50 birds had been killed. The military withdrew to regroup. They returned to “battle” the following week but with marginal success. By November’s end, the “Emu War” had ended. Today, as many as 700,000 emus call Australia home.

sinister, however—a nation’s collective terror over nuclear war. The film’s producer and director deliberately seized on this anxiety when they created a monster that embodied nuclear destruction. Skeptical critics thought the film would be a flop, but time has shown that *Godzilla* has conquered even the critics.

Lighting the Darkness

Diwali, India’s fabulous “festival of lights,” occurs on the night of the new moon during the Hindu month of Kartik, and this year falls on November 12. Diwali is primarily a religious celebration for Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs, but it has become so popular that many other South Asian countries treat it as a national holiday.

Across India, Diwali is celebrated over five days, but the

darkest night, the night of the new moon, is the main day of the festival. Families light small, clay lamps known as *diyas* to ward away evils associated with the darkness. Some places set off bright explosions of fireworks in the night sky. Once the lamps are lit, families gather for fabulous feasts and prayers to Lakshmi, the Mother Goddess of good fortune and prosperity. To celebrate Diwali is to

celebrate the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.

There are many legends associated with Diwali. In the north, Diwali commemorates the return of King Rama to his kingdom of Ayodhya after 14 years of exile. To celebrate the king’s return, his subjects lit lamps and decorated Ayodhya with rows of *diyas*, a practice reflected in modern Diwali celebrations.



Notable Quotable

“The olive tree is surely the richest gift of Heaven.”

~ Thomas Jefferson, American Founding Father

Ancient Meanings

Can you match the tree to its symbolic meaning?

- | | |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Palm | A. Mourning and life after death |
| 2. Myrtle | B. Victory and triumph |
| 3. Cypress | C. Love and beauty |
| 4. Willow | D. Resilience and flexibility |

Answers on page 4

Offering an Olive Branch

In 2019, UNESCO declared November 26 World Olive Tree Day. Why does the olive tree deserve such special treatment? The olive tree’s symbolism dates back to ancient Greece. Poseidon, the

god of the sea, and Athena, goddess of wisdom, both vied for possession of Athens. Poseidon struck the Acropolis and water ran out. Athena planted an olive tree. The gods granted Athens to Athena due

to her superior gift, one that would sustain the people. Ever since, the olive tree—and especially its branches and leaves—have been considered dignified symbols of peace, fidelity, and strength.

