

## Editor's notes:

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A sure-fire sign of fall is the sight and sound of skeins of Canada Geese, honking and flying in vee formations. While one subspecies -- the Giant Canada Goose -- is relatively non-migratory, the others fly south in the winter though they don't venture as far as Florida or Central America.

Much of the Canada Goose population -- estimated at 1.5 million -- leaves Canada for the relative warmth of states like Illinois, Missouri, South Dakota, and Pennsylvania. Here they can generally find leftover grain in farm fields and unfrozen bodies of water. Geese mate for life. In the spring, they instinctively return to the place they were born to raise their young. As young birds, they learn the migration routes from their parents and older birds. They fly in vee formations to reduce wind drag. Their hollow bones make them light and capable of soaring at great heights.

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In addition to this lovely weather, here are some other offerings for October:

**35th Anniversary of Disney World, October 1** -- On this day in 1971, the Magic Kingdom opened its doors. Located on 47 square miles outside Orlando, Florida, it is the largest theme park resort in the world, boasting four main amusement parks, two water parks, six golf courses, 20 hotels, an auto race track, and a sports complex. The park is roughly the same size as San Francisco.

**Dictionary Day, October 16** -- This day commemorates the birth of American lexicographer Noah Webster in 1758. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, more words begin with the letter "S" than any other; "X" has the fewest words.

**World Rainforest Week, October 16-22** -- Every year the Rainforest Action Network designates a week in October to recognize the beauty and wonder of the rainforests of the world. Rainforests cover less than 10 percent of

the total land surface of the earth, but are home to more than half of all species, including 50 million indigenous people.



## Celebrating Oktoberfest

The first Oktoberfest took place on October 12, 1810, a celebration of the marriage in Munich of Crown Prince Ludwig of Bavaria to Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen. It included much food and drink and ended with a series of horse races. The fall festival became an annual event and today, the Munich Oktoberfest, which culminates on October 3, is the largest public festival in the world. More than 6 million visitors converge on the city over the 17-day celebration, consuming 5 million litres of beer and more than 200,000 pairs of pork sausages. Other cities around the world have adopted the holiday to celebrate their German heritage.

In North America, the Milwaukee Oktoberfest celebrates the 150th anniversary this year, attracting about 100,000 visitors to enjoy German brass bands, folk dancing, singing, yodelling, and traditional German food and drink. Cincinnati's annual Oktoberfest, now in its 30th year, spreads across five city blocks, offering more than 500,000 visitors live entertainment and booths serving German food, beer, and wine. (In 1994, 48,000 "Oktoberfest Zinzinnati" participants made the *Guinness Book of World Records* by performing the world's largest chicken dance.)

The biggest Oktoberfest outside of Germany is in Kitchener/Waterloo in Ontario, where 700,000 visitors attend events including a fashion show, parade, beauty pageant, relay races, arts exhibition, sports competitions and beer and wine tasting.



**Hallowe'en, October 31** -- dates back to an ancient fall festival celebrated by Druids in Ireland, Great Britain, and Northern France. After the Roman invasion of Britain in 43 A.D., the festival was merged with two Roman celebrations, Feralia -- a late October commemoration of the passing of the dead -- and the day to honour Pomona, the goddess of fruit and trees, whose symbol was the apple. This led to the tradition of bobbing for apples on Hallowe'en. Jack o'lanterns were first carved out of beets and turnips in Ireland as representations of dead souls. When the Irish came to America, they couldn't find an adequate supply of turnips or beets, so they used pumpkins.

## Celebrating a Master



Pablo Picasso

October 19 marks the 125th anniversary of the birth of artist Pablo Picasso. He was born in Malaga, Spain, the eldest child of an art instructor. One of Picasso's first words was "piz," short for "lapiz," the Spanish word for "pencil," because he wanted to draw the pigeons he saw outside his window. At 12, Picasso's father deemed his son's work so impressive that he gave him his art supplies and vowed he himself would never paint again. Two years later, Picasso passed the entrance exam for the Barcelona School of Fine Arts. His first art exhibition was in Barcelona in 1900.

Picasso's "Blue Period" -- characterized by melancholic blue tones and grim subject matters -- spanned the next four years. This evolved into the Rose Period, in which he used pink tones and circus themes.



Art critics credit Picasso with pioneering Cubism, an abstract and geometric painting style. Many deemed this his most famous contribution to modern art, cementing his place as one of the greatest artists of the 20th century.

In his later years, Picasso lived the life of an international celebrity and expanded his art to include sculpture, ceramics, and lithography. *The Guinness Book of World Records* named Picasso the most prolific painter ever. In his lifetime, he produced 13,500 paintings, 100,000 prints and engravings, 34,000 book illustrations, and 300 sculptures. He died at 91 in 1973.



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## Frankenstein Day, October 27



Frankenstein enthusiasts designate the last Friday of October to celebrate Mary Shelley and Boris Karloff, the "mother" and "father" of this monster. Shelley wrote the novel in 1818; many literary experts consider it the first science fiction book and still one of the greatest.

The inspiration for the book came from a dream that Shelley had while visiting the poet Byron at his villa on Lake Geneva in Switzerland. Stormy weather forced her and the other guests indoors, where they passed the time reading ghost stories. Byron challenged his guests to write their own. Shelley may have been influenced by experiments at the time in which doctors and scientists sought techniques to bring people (such as drowning victims) back from the dead through smelling salts, artificial respiration, and electric shock.

On October 3, 1931, Universal Studios finished filming the most famous Frankenstein movie (it took another two months to edit and release). Two decades earlier, a silent film about the creature cobbled together by a mad scientist had been made, but it was the Universal Studios' movie, starring Boris Karloff, that horrified and thrilled audiences. The movie earned \$12 million (equal to nearly \$160 million in today's dollars), making it one of the biggest moneymaking films of its day.

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## A Latin Lesson

*Latin words are often used in business. Here are some common terms you may encounter and their meanings:*

**Non sequitur** (non SEK-qui-ter) -- a statement that does not follow logically from what preceded it.

**Bona fide** (BONE a fide) -- in good faith, authentic.

**Contra** (CON tra) -- on the opposite side.

**In transitu** (in TRANS it oo) -- in the process of going from one place to another.

**Pro rata** (pro RAT ah) -- proportional distribution.

**Sine qua non** (sin a qwah NON) -- an essential element.