

What's Unique About February?

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it's packed with interesting and unusual characteristics. It's not just the occasional Leap Year. Here are a few to ponder as you shiver:

- * February starts on the same day of the week as March and November (shifting to August in leap years).
- * February ends on the same day of the week as October.
- * In leap years, February ends on the same weekday it begins.
- * February is the only month that can pass without a full moon.
- * Once every six years, and twice every 11 years, it has four full seven-day weeks.

Presidents By The Numbers

In honor of Presidents Day (Feb. 15 this year), here are some facts from the National Geographic website about how our past presidents have measured up:

- Shortest president: James Madison, 5'4"
- Tallest president: Abraham Lincoln, 6'4"
- Heaviest president: William Howard Taft, about 300 pounds.
- Oldest president elected: Ronald Reagan, 69
- Youngest president elected: John F. Kennedy, 43
- Youngest president to serve: Theodore Roosevelt, 42, taking the oath of office after the assassination of William McKinley.

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Ask The Groundhog

Everyone knows that on Feb. 2, a groundhog coming out of its burrow to look for its shadow will either signal an early end to winter or predict another six weeks of snow and cold weather. The science may not be accurate, but Groundhog Day has become a major event in many U.S. towns and cities.

How did it start? Many historians believe that Groundhog Day is related to Candlemas Day, a medieval Christian celebration that falls on Feb. 2. An old sailor's saying from English lore states:

*If Candlemas Day is clear and bright,
winter will have another bite.*

*If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,
winter is gone and will not come again.*

Another possible source for the belief may be the fact that the first official day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere's western lands comes almost seven weeks after Feb. 2, while under the early Julian calendar, the spring equinox fell on March 16, exactly six weeks after Feb. 2. Groundhog Day may reflect the confusion created by dueling calendars.

Quote

"There is never a time or place for true love. It happens accidentally, in a heartbeat, in a single flashing, throbbing moment."

- Sarah Dessen

February Events

February 2nd	Groundhog Day
February 9th	Mardi Gras
February 10th	Ash Wednesday
February 12th	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
February 14th	Valentine's Day
February 15th	Presidents' Day
February 22nd	George Washington's Birthday



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Do More, Work Less Get Organized For Success

Winning control of your work schedule doesn't have to be a gargantuan effort. Here are some simple tips for getting organized:

- ★ **Start on a Monday.** On the first day of the workweek, list your top three activities for the week. Commit to getting those three priorities done by Friday, no more, no less.
- ★ **Designate time for administrative tasks.** Put everything else on the back burner for a few hours. Don't answer the phone, don't read email, don't let co-workers interrupt. Concentrate on your administrative chores.
- ★ **Check email only once a day.** Set aside a specific time during the day to read and respond to email. Trying to monitor all your email throughout the day is disruptive to work flow.

Words Of Wisdom

The BIG GAME will be played Feb. 7. If you need something to say while watching the game with your friends, try a few of these timeless football quotations:

- ★ "It ain't necessary to see a good tackle. You can hear it!" (Knut Rockne)
- ★ "The man who complains about the way the ball bounces is likely to be the one who dropped it." (Lou Holtz)
- ★ "When you win, nothing hurts." (Joe Namath)
- ★ "Three things can happen when you throw the ball, and two of them are bad." (Darrel Royal)
- ★ "My advice to defensive players: Take the shortest route to the ball and arrive in a bad humor." (Bowden Wyatt)

Happy Valentine's Day: Some Fun Facts



Sixty-two percent of Americans celebrate Valentine's Day. How do they observe it? Take a look at these statistics:

- ✓ **Chocolate.** Americans buy 58 million pounds of chocolate during the week of Valentine's Day, spending \$448 million.
- ✓ **Cards.** We buy about 150 million "Will you be my Valentine?" cards each year.
- ✓ **Gifts.** Men spend an average of \$150 on cards and gifts; women spend an average of \$74.
- ✓ **Flowers.** Twenty-three percent of us buy flowers or plants as Valentine's Day gifts: 61 percent of these buyers are men, and 39 percent are women. The top choice? A mixed bouquet, followed by red roses.
- ✓ **Champagne.** Americans buy 174,000 gallons of sparkling wine through Valentine's week, worth about \$8.6 million.

Cut Energy Costs With This Tactic

Here's one easy way to save money on energy year-round: Unplug your gadgets when you're not using them. Otherwise they'll keep consuming power and costing you money even though you're not actively using them.

Don't want to constantly yank and insert a half-dozen or more plugs?

Attach them to a single power strip, and shut that off when you don't need it. A simple solution to an expensive problem.

The Real Possession

A young boy studied with a wise monk who practiced pottery making. After many years of study and practice, the boy showed great promise.

One sunny afternoon, the boy was admiring one of the monk's prized pots when it slipped from his hand and broke into many tiny pieces.

The boy broke into tears, apologizing profusely to his teacher. But the monk merely smiled. "You need not be sad, it is still within me."

The wise monk's true pleasure came through the process of creating and shaping the pot, not in owning it afterward. His joy was not in the destination, but in the journey.



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DID YOU KNOW?



You have a 3 month window prior to your inspection date to have your inspection done?

If you have a 04/16 sticker, beginning February 1st and ending the last day of April, we can schedule your appointment to receive your 04/17 sticker.

Faster Than You Think?

Two friends were sitting on a park bench when they saw a man out for a walk with a turtle on a leash.

Intrigued, one of the friends said, "That's a nice pet you've got there."

"Yeah," the man sighed.

"I used to have another one, but he ran away."



Never Forget The Medical Priorities

A man went to his doctor with a problem: "Doc, I'm having trouble remembering things. Yesterday I forgot where I live. The day before that, I think, I went to store and couldn't remember what I needed to buy. And my wife tells me I forget her name all the time. At least I think she told me that. What can I do?"

"First things first," the doctor said. "Pay me in advance."

Thanks For The Kind Words

"The staff is awesome. They never make you feel dumb when asking questions, even though it might be a dumb question."

-Sandy

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Quote

"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."

- Lao Tzu

Keep Children Safe Driving During Winter Months



Rule of thumb, when you buckle in your child, they should not be wearing anything more than what they wear indoors, such as a sweatshirt. Anything between the child and the straps is compressible. It's like having space which creates more risk as the child could thrust forward in the straps in the event of a crash. Anything interfering increases injury according to Dr. Hoffman, medical director of the Children's Hospital in Portland Oregon. To keep them warm put their jacket arms through backwards and over the harness or tuck a blanket around the straps. Remember most crashes occur within 6 miles of home at relatively slow speeds. Even at 30 mph, the force on a 10 lb infant is more than a 10 lb bowling ball falling from a 3 story window. Always take the time to remove their coats before buckling them up!



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What's The Answer?

What's Unique About February?

Who Was The Youngest President Elected?

Will You Be My Valentine?

How Did Groundhog Day Start?

*The Answers To These And Many
More Questions Are Inside*

