



Save Your Sunshine

Just as sunflowers turn their heads to catch every sunbeam, so too have we discovered a simple way to get more from our sun. Daylight Saving Time gives us the opportunity to enjoy sunny summer evenings by moving our clocks an hour forward in the spring. Here are some stories about Daylight Savings Time to help fill that extra hour.

Draft Status, Vietnam War

A man, born just after 12:00 a.m. DST, circumvented the Vietnam War draft by using a daylight saving time loophole. When drafted, he argued that standard time, not DST, was the official time for recording births in his state of Delaware in the year of his birth. Thus, under official standard time he was actually born on the previous day – and that day had a much higher draft lottery number, allowing him to avoid the draft.

Bombing Thwarted

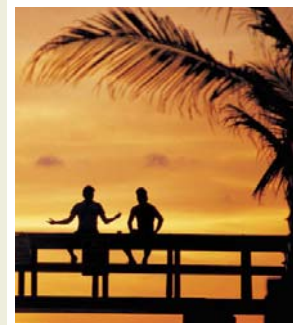
In September 1999, the West Bank was on Daylight Saving Time while Israel had just switched back to standard time. West Bank terrorists prepared time bombs and smuggled them to their Israeli counterparts, who misunderstood the time on the bombs. As the bombs were being planted, they exploded (one hour too early), killing three terrorists instead of the intended victims.

Amtrak

To keep to their published timetables, trains cannot leave a station before the scheduled time. So, when the clocks fall back one hour in October, all Amtrak trains in the U.S. that are running on time stop at 2:00 a.m. and wait one hour before resuming. Overnight passengers are often surprised to find their train at a dead stop and their travel time an hour longer than expected. At the spring Daylight Saving Time change, trains instantaneously become an hour behind schedule at 2:00 a.m., but they just keep going and do their best to make up the time.

Births and Birthdays

While twins born at 11:55 p.m. and 12:05 a.m. may have different birthdays, Daylight Saving Time can change birth order -- on paper, anyway. During the time change in the fall, one baby could be born at 1:55 a.m. and the sibling born ten minutes later, at 1:05 a.m. In the spring, there is a gap when no babies are born at all: from 2:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.



Flowers and Plants love the sun too, so check out our Flower and Plant of the Month Clubs at:

www.GiftSpecialistsInc.com

Baby Bear Gift Basket

This precious new baby gift basket comes bundled up in a lovely and handy woven tote that will make any mother smile.

The basket includes a soft and cuddly baby blanket, an adorable plush teddy bear, a plastic baby bottle, a set of baby wash cloths, and a Johnson & Johnson's baby bath kit that includes shampoo, lotion, powder, grooming set, hand cloth, toy key rings, and a rubber ducky. Each Baby Bear gift basket is hand wrapped by our award winning designers and themed for a baby girl with pink decorative ribbons and bows or blue for a precious baby boy.



Birthday Celebrations around the world.

In the Western world birthdays are happy occasions when we celebrate a person's special day with gifts, sweets, parties and good cheer.

Many other countries around the world have a cake, song, birthday candles and gifts, but often there is a little something that will set the day apart from other cultures. Here are a few examples:



Denmark - A flag is flown outside to show that someone who lives in the house is celebrating a birthday. Presents are placed around the child's bed while they are sleeping so they will see them immediately upon awakening.

Ireland - The birthday child is lifted upside down and "bumped" on the floor (gently, we hope!). One extra bump is given for good luck.

England - Bumping is also traditional in England, but the person is merely lifted in the air rather than turned upside down. At the end, the "lifters" say "one for luck, two for luck and three for the old man's coconut!" The birthday person also receives an English fortune-telling cake complete with coins or other significant trinkets baked into the cake. Whatever the birthday person receives in his or her slice will predict their future.

India - Colorful clothes are usually worn by the birthday person and children hand out chocolates to classmates as well.

Russia - Unlike western culture, in Russia it is traditional to have a birthday pie rather than a cake. Often a child will have a special birthday message carved into the crust.

Germany - There are several birthday celebrations that have become traditions throughout Germany. First, the birthday candles are lit at sunrise and then left burning for the entire day. After dinner, everyone sings a birthday song and then the candles are finally blown out. Presents are then opened and a party begins. Another tradition is that men are often required to sweep the stairs of their city hall when they turn 30. If they have no girlfriend on this important birthday, the single male must sweep the stairs while his friends throw rubble.

Start some birthday traditions of your own with our unique gifts!

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