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Suggestions for Commemorating Memorial Day



**By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Most people think this coming weekend is just a long weekend or the start of summer, but let me tell you what Memorial Day really is! This day is a day where we honor all the men and women who gave their lives fighting for our freedom.

Memorial Day is always on the **LAST MONDAY OF MAY**.

Lots of Americans will visit cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, and participating in parades. People also decorate soldiers' graves with flowers and flags.

It began in 1866 after the Civil War and was originally called Decoration Day. This was called Decoration Day because the day included decorat-

ing graves. After World War 1, the holiday's name was changed from Decoration Day to Memorial Day.



Here are some ways YOU can honor those who served in our country's armed forces:

- Put flags or flowers on the graves of people who served in wars.
 - March in a parade.
 - Visit monuments dedicated to soldiers.
 - Write an old-fashioned letter or send a care package.
 - Fly an American Flag in front of your home.
- As you can see, Memorial Day is not just the start of summer; it has so much more behind that! So, this Monday, maybe consider doing one of these things to honor those who gave their lives serving our country to keep us safe.

Come Out of Your Shell and Celebrate World Turtle Day!



**By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff**

World Turtle Day is celebrated every year on May 23rd to help people learn about turtles and tortoises and how to protect them.

It started in 2000 by American Tortoise Rescue. The day is all about teaching people how important turtles and tortoises are, and the dangers they face like losing their homes, pollution, and being taken from the wild illegally.

On this day, people take part in different activities such as educational events, cleaning up the environment, and speaking out to help turtles. National Turtle Day hopes to make sure these amazing animals are around for a long time.

Protecting turtles is important because they help keep our ecosystems thriving. Turtles control jellyfish populations, clean up dead fish and plants, and their nesting helps maintain beaches and dunes. They also show us how healthy the ocean is since their well-being reflects the state of their habitat.

However, many turtles are in danger because of habitat loss, pollution, climate change, and illegal hunting. By protecting turtles, we also help protect the environment and ensure that other plants and animals can thrive. So make sure to be conscious of what waste you put out into the ocean this May 23rd and everyday!



**By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff**

"World Turtle Day".

What? There's a day for turtles?" is what you may be thinking right now! Let me tell you what this day is about and why we have it!

National Turtle Day is on Thursday, May 23rd. It began in the 2000s and is sponsored by American Tortoise Rescue. We have this day to honor our turtles and protect them from their disappearing habitats.

Additionally, we have this day to inspire humans to help turtles survive. Some things we can do to help the turtles continue to do well is:

- Keep the nesting beaches (where turtles make their nests) dark and safe for the turtles.
- DO NOT disturb nesting turtles, nests, or hatchlings.
- Clean up and reduce the amount of garbage and junk you see on the beach.
- Participate in coastal clean-ups.

There's so much you can do to help our turtles survive and keep their habitats so if you are interested on May 23rd or any day you are free, consider doing one of these things to help our turtles!

Memorial Day History



**By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Memorial Day is Monday, May 27th. It honors the people who gave their lives serving their country in the U.S. military. Let's take a closer look at what this holiday is for and how it started.

History

Memorial Day was originally celebrated in 1868, as Decoration Day. It was proclaimed by a US Commander in Chief, to honor Union soldiers who gave their life in the civil war. In 1873, New York became the first state to officially recognize Memorial Day, and by 1890, all northern states had

adopted the holiday.

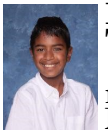
By the 1900's people started to expand the celebration with parades, races, and more. The holiday was officially renamed in 1967 by federal law, even though the name had first been coined in 1882.

The Uniform Monday Act passed by congress moved the date of this holiday, which is why we now celebrate Memorial Day on the last Monday of May, instead of May 30th.

Now you know all about how Memorial Day came about, and what it celebrates. Today, we remember all soldiers who gave their lives fighting in our military. A great way to celebrate and remember is to go watch the Memorial Day parade – right in Somers!



The Aurora Borealis—We Had a Geomagnetic Storm Last Week



**By Noah Samuel
Tusker Tribune Staff**

You might have about the geomagnetic storm that happened this month, from May 10-13. You might have even been lucky enough to see the aurora borealis because of that storm. But do you *really* know how and why this phenomenon happens, and why it's so rare to see one here?

It Starts with Magnets

There are two auroras that occur: the aurora borealis, the northern lights, and the aurora australis, the southern lights. The aurora that was visible over the United States was the aurora borealis, as it was in the north.

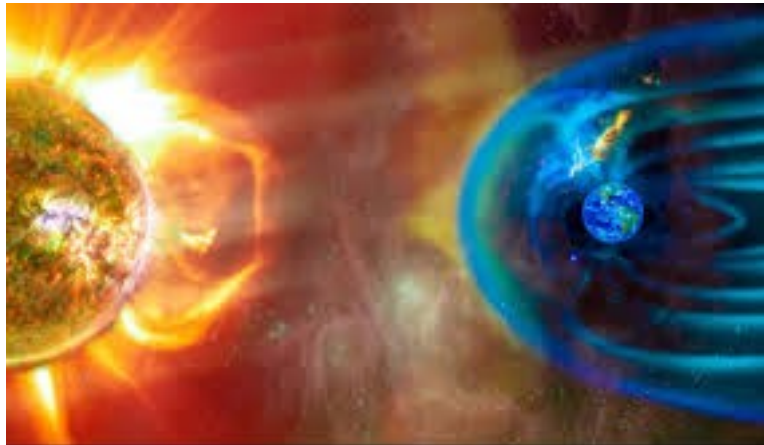
The reason we could see this display was because of something you wouldn't think of – magnets. Or rather, the Earth's magnetic field blocking the sun. The "how" part, however, is a little more complicated. It starts with the sun. The trajectories of solar flares, or large plasma ejections, are changed with large outbursts of solar wind. This causes the particles in the plasma to become electrically charged. The charged particles, mostly protons and electrons, rain down onto the Earth's magnetic field. The field repels the particles, however, and the solar winds go out and around the Earth. The result of this resistance causes us to see green, blue, and rarer red in the Earth's atmosphere, close to the magnetic

poles.

Why We Saw It

The reason that the auroras this far south—as far as Florida and Texas—are visible is due to a geomagnetic storm—one of the highest intensities since 2003. The same phenomenon that causes the auroras occurred just this past weekend, except at a much higher rate than normal.

One of the main differences was that a sunspot the size of 17 Earths released a solar flare multiple times larger than the average size. When the Earth's magnetic field bent the winds around our planet, the larger-than-normal auroral oval spread farther south across the Earth.



Storm Aftereffects

Even though it is cool to see the auroras, and it might be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see one in New York, there are many bad aftereffects of a storm at this size. The first you might have noticed—bad weather. The result of a storm like this can be heavy rains, lightning strikes, and even natural disasters like tornadoes.

Another effect can be GPS and cell issues, as geomagnetic storms can interfere with communication signals. Now you know about the past geomagnetic storm, and its effects – both good and bad.

What Was Life Like for Kids in the Middle Ages?



By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever wondered how your life would be different if you were born 600 years ago? Well, I have. Let's find out!

Jobs and work

In medieval times, I would be considered an adult because girls became adults at age 12 (14 for boys). At this age, I would go through a lot of changes in my life, like now. But unlike now, I might be sent to someone as a servant. This was common, as it would give the parents a break and train children. While being a servant, I might learn a new skill in an apprenticeship or work on a farm. Usually, the poor would not have an apprenticeship.

Boys who were wealthy usually would continue going to school and could eventually get a job in law, in the church, or as a clerk, or administration. The wealthiest boys may have been sent to live with a churchman or someone of nobility, where they might have had military training, but more commonly learn aristocratic manners. Some people got married in their teens, but it was more common to get married in your 20's.

Education

As far as education goes, girls would learn to be nuns, and boys would learn to be clerks or monks. At schools, students would learn Latin, but as English spread more, it was later changed to learning English. It is unknown exactly how many children got an education, but the number most likely grew after the year 1200. Girls were taught at home and boys were sent to school, usually. Boys and girls learned to read and write in their own language. In the 15th century, people started learning French. By that time, only a small number of people were learning Latin.

Toys and games

Medieval children had a variety of toys, some of which were metal toys, dolls made of wood or cloth, and toys the kids made. Kids could use stones, sticks, or even bread to make toys. There were also games such as dancing, archery, and games of skill. Children also wrote songs in books.

Raising children

When a child was born in medieval times,



they would be baptized shortly. Then, the parents would choose three godparents for the child, and one of the godparents would choose the

child's name, which was usually the same as the godparent. Babies from medieval times were breast fed until around age two. This was done by the mom in most cases, but wealthy people would hire someone to do it for them. At around age two or older, the baby would try soft foods. Caring for the child was the responsibility of the parents.



Like now, there could be some incidents resulting in death of the baby. 25% of medieval babies died in their first year, 12.5% of medieval children died between the ages of 1-4, and a 6% of medieval children died between the ages of 5 and 9. So, if you were born in medieval times, there is a large chance that you would have died before you reach the age you are at now.

Young children may have run errands or looked after younger siblings. When they were older, they may have gotten some farming duties, but a kid's jobs were easier than an adult's.

Children were expected to learn how to behave in church and learn some prayers in Latin. They had more duties associated with religion as they got older, which included going to church and confessing to a priest at least once a year.

Conclusion

If you ever feel like being a kid is hard, remember how much harder it could be if you were born in the Middle Ages! Do you think you could have survived in medieval times? I am not sure if I could. I personally am so glad I was not born in the Middle Ages.

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All About Ancient Egypt



By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

Introduction

Ancient Egypt a very well-known subject of history. I am sure you have heard of it. But I am sure a lot of you do not know much about Ancient Egypt, I did not either before writing this. So read on to learn some interesting facts about one of the oldest human civilizations.

Hieroglyphics

Hieroglyphics are symbols the Ancient Egyptians used to write and read, like how we have the English alphabet. There was no punctuation in Egyptian hieroglyphics, no commas, no periods, and even no spaces! Can you imagine writing like this? There were also no vowels in Egyptian hieroglyphics. And there are over 700 symbols in the Ancient Egyptian alphabet- imagine learning all of those! Priests and scribes were the only people in Ancient Egypt who knew how to write or read. Most of everyone else did not.

Gods

There are many Ancient Egyptian gods, such as Thoth, god of writing, and Heka, god of medicine and magic. Sometimes, the gods would change roles, like with Set, who went from a protector to an evil murderer. There are over 2,000 Egyptian gods, so here are some of them:

- Qebhet, a goddess who gave water to dead souls while they waited for judgement in the afterlife.
- Isis, the mother of all the Egyptian pharaohs.
- Horus, a sky god who is the child of Osiris and Isis.
- Osiris, one of the most important Egyptian gods who judges the dead and is Lord of the Underworld.
- Bastet, the goddess of childbirth, fertility, cats, domesticity, home, and women's secrets. She protected homes from diseases and is the daughter of Ra.
- Amun, the god of the sun and sky.
- Hathor, a goddess who was depicted as a woman with cow ears, a cow with the head of a woman, or just a cow.
- Ra, the god of the sun.
- Ammit, goddess who was part hippo, part crocodile, and part leopard. If you were not justified by Osiris in the afterlife, she would devour your heart.
- Ba-Pef, God of terror
- Cavern Deities- a group of gods who had no name. They lived in a cavern in the underworld and helped carry out punishments for evil souls

of the afterlife and helped good souls.

Pharaohs

There were many pharaohs of Egypt, here are some interesting ones. Hatshepsut was the first female pharaoh of Egypt. Hatshepsut was married to a pharaoh, Thutmose the second. After that, she was a substitute pharaoh (Until her stepson was able to rule). Eventually though, she became pharaoh. She ruled from around 1473 to 1458 BCE, over 20 years.

When Thutmose the third became pharaoh after Hatshepsut died, he tried to make it seem as if Hatshepsut never ruled, because he wanted to stick to the tradition of only males ruling. Despite his doozie mindset, he was able to make Egypt very powerful under his rule, conquering land up to the Euphrates River and Southeast Asia. Thutmose the 3rd ruled from around 1475 to 1425 BCE.

Narmer was the first pharaoh of Ancient Egypt. His name translates to raging catfish. Before Narmer, Egypt was 2 kingdoms instead of one, Upper and Lower Egypt. Narmer united the 2 and then went on to rule the combined kingdom for over 60 years before being killed by a hippopotamus.

Khufu was the pharaoh credited for building the Great Pyramid of Giza. For around 4,000 years, the pyramid was the tallest structure in the world! He wanted the pyramid



amid built to be a stairway to the heavens.

Mummification

The process of mummification was done because it was important to Ancient Egyptian religion to keep a body life-like even after death. And they did an excellent job, because many mummies from thousands of years ago can still be viewed by scientists. Scientists can also get a good idea of how the mummified body looked before death.

Sometimes, mummification could happen accidentally, but it was around 2600 BCE that Egyptians started doing the mummification process on purpose. The process of mummification lasted 70 days, and the first step in it was removing all organs that would decay quickly. Hooked tools were used to carefully remove the brain from the head. Organs inside the body were removed by cutting into the side of the body and removing the organs through the cut.

The only organ they left in the body was the heart, as they believed it was especially important to a person's intelligence and being. The other organs were preserved in jars or boxes, which were buried with the mummy. Or, instead, the organs could be treated and then be put back into the mummy's body.

Continued on Page 5

An Ode to Changing Seasons



By Cecilia Morrissey
Tusker Tribune Staff

Snow, leaves, flowers, and more;
There is so much else to adore
Spring,

Summer, Fall, and
Winter
These are the seasons that give the world its color.

First let's talk about fall and its colors;
The leaves, the pumpkins, and so many others.

Halloween is what is most know for;
The treats the costume and all the fun.
Going house to house for hours to come;
Getting candy and chocolate, all the above.

Next its winter and its snowy nights;
Flying snowballs going at others;
Hot chocolate, snowmen, holidays of so many it's hard to keep count;



Christmas, Hanukkah what else is it about?
Now for spring, a warm season;
Flowers, birds, and baby season.

Animals are back for now and having their off-spring;
Plants are coming back to life after winter storms;
A season where school's almost out;
Perfect for life and people to be warm.

Summer's almost here, you've been warned;
SUMMER! A favorite for most.
The sun is scorching, and beach time is now;
Kids are out and camp has started.
Playdates, pools, and bugs are out;
A very hot season but one of the best;
My hands need a rest.

All these seasons are beautiful and great;
Can't wait for it to happen again and again.

Egypt From Page 4

The next step was taking all moisture from the body. To do this, they used natron on the body. Natron is a kind of salt that can remove moisture. To make the mummy more life-like, fake eyes were added, and linen was placed on some parts of the body.

After this, the wrapping of the mummy began. Hundreds of yards of linen were used on each mummy. The mummies were wrapped carefully, with each toe and finger wrapped individually. After the wrapping was finished, the mummy was adorned with prayers, magic words, and amulets to protect the mummy. Often priests would put a mask of the person in between layers of linen. The mummy was also coated with resin.

A tomb was decorated with prayers, furniture, food, statues, and art. It was believed that all these things would become real in the afterlife when needed. After the mummification was done and the tomb was ready, the funeral could begin. At the funeral, there was a ritual that allowed the dead to eat and speak in the afterlife. This ritual was called the Opening of the Mouth. There were other rituals as well. After all this, the mummy was finally ready for the afterlife. The mummy was placed in their coffin, and the coffin would be placed in the tomb. Then, the last step was stealing the tomb entrance.

Not everyone got this after death treatment,

though. It was very costly, so it was mostly pharaohs, officials, and nobility who did all of this. Some animals, such as birds, cats, crocodiles, bulls, and baboons were sometimes mummified for religious reasons.

Conclusion

Before I wrote this, I knew little about Ancient Egypt. But I decided to do some research on it, and I realized it is a very interesting topic. I hope you enjoyed learning about Ancient Egypt as much as I did.

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