



Happy April Fools Day



# VOCABULARY



a fool



a hoax



gullible



a practical  
joke

a prank



prankster

# HISTORY

- The beginning of this tradition was in 1582, in France with the reform of the calendar under **Charles IX**.
- Before that date, the new year was celebrated on April 1<sup>st</sup> but from that year on, the **New Year's Day** was moved to **January 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- However, many people did not receive the news for several years and others refused to accept the new calendar and **continued to celebrate the new year on April 1<sup>st</sup>**.



# HISTORY

- These people were labeled as "fools" and were subject to some ridicule. They were often sent on "fools errands" and other practical jokes were played on them.
- Over time, this evolved, into a tradition of prank-playing on the first day of April. It spread to England and Scotland in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and it was later introduced to the American colonies.
- April Fools' Day, also known as "All Fools' Day", thus developed into an international fun fest.



# TRADITIONS

- Pranks performed on April Fools' Day range from the simple, (such as saying, "Your shoe's untied" or "I accidentally stepped on your glasses!"), to the more elaborated ones.
- Practical jokes are often played on friends or relatives that in the USA can last the entire day.

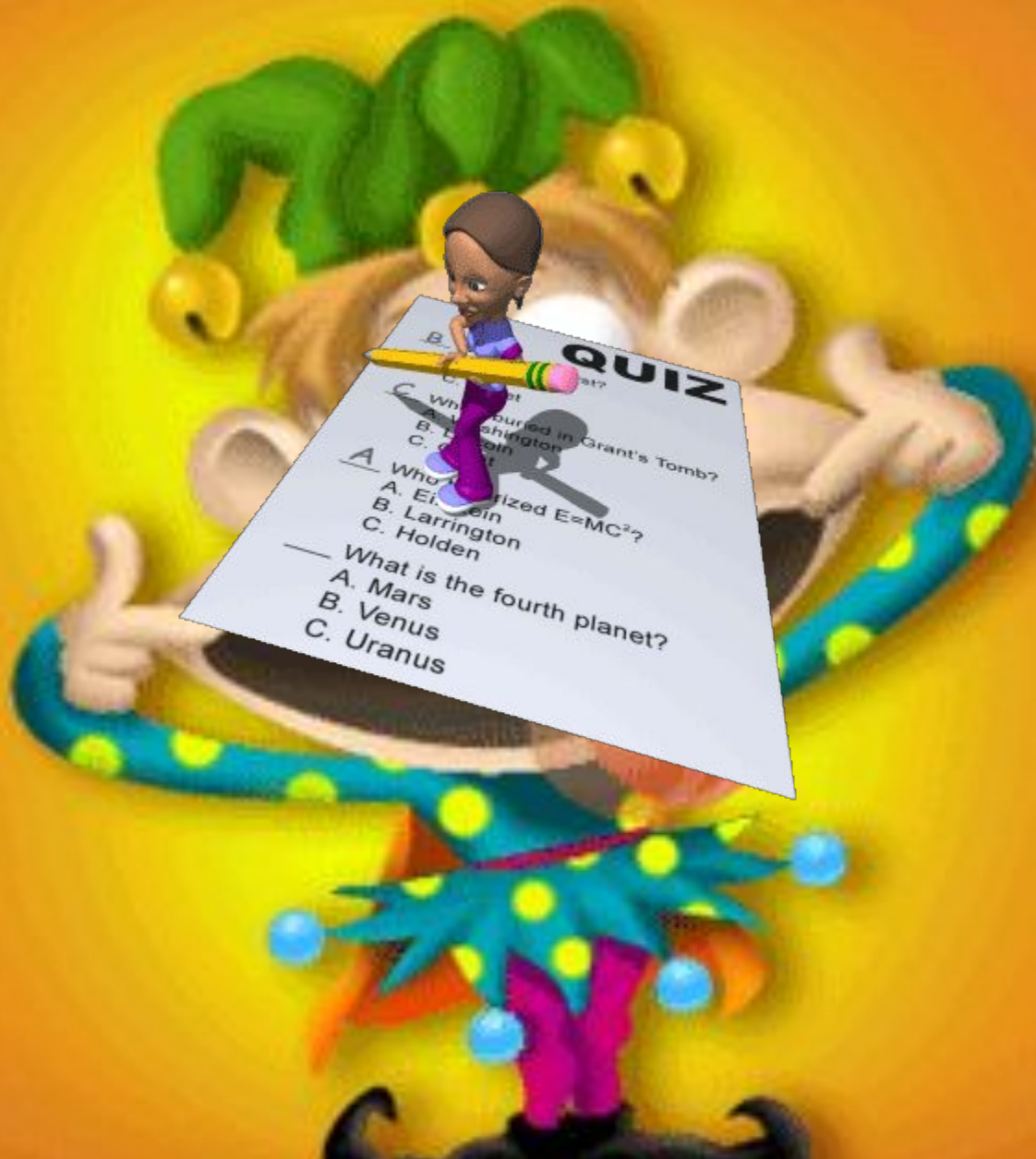


# TRADITIONS

- There are also very famous hoaxes.
- For example, in 1957 a British short film once shown on April Fools' Day was a detailed documentary about "spaghetti farmers" and how they harvested their crop from the spaghetti trees.



# Happy April Fools Day!



## QUIZ

- B. ...?
- C. ...?
- C. Who ...?
- A. ... buried in Grant's Tomb?
- B. ...
- C. ...
- A. Who ...?
- A. Einstein
- B. Larrington
- C. Holden
- What is the fourth planet?
- A. Mars
- B. Venus
- C. Uranus

Happy April Fools' Day!

1. April Fools' Day is also known as...

a) Prank day

b) April Sunday

c) All Fools' Day





# Happy April Fools Day!

2. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century France, when did the new year begin?

a) January 1<sup>st</sup>

b) April 1<sup>st</sup>

c) March 1<sup>st</sup>



# Happy April Fools Day!

3. When New Year's Day was changed, many people weren't informed or didn't believe it. These "April Fools" were from which country?

a) Italy

b) Scotland

c) France



# Happy April Fools Day!

4. In France today, what is April 1<sup>st</sup> called?

a) Avril avril

b) April poison

c) Poisson d'Avril



# Happy April Fools' Day!

5. The BBC played an April Fools' Day joke on viewers, saying that \_\_\_\_\_ grew on trees?

a) Spaghetti

b) Shoes

c) Pigs

