

April Fools' Day Around the World



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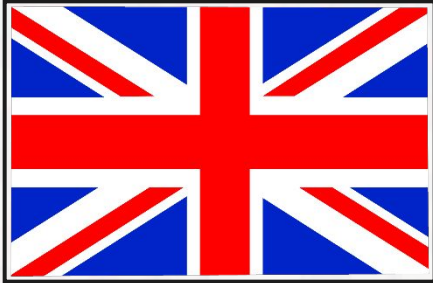
How Did April Fools' Day Begin?

Until the 15th century, the first day of the new year was 1st April.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII changed the calendar to the Gregorian calendar, which meant the first day of the new year was changed to 1st January.

Anyone who continued to celebrate new year on 1st April was considered a fool!

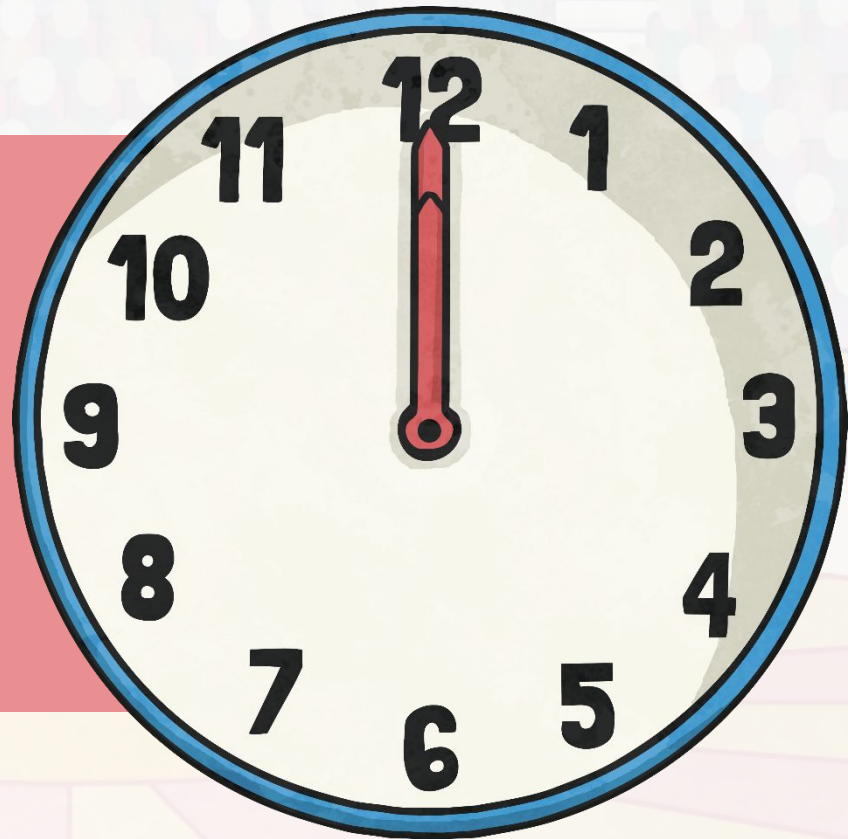


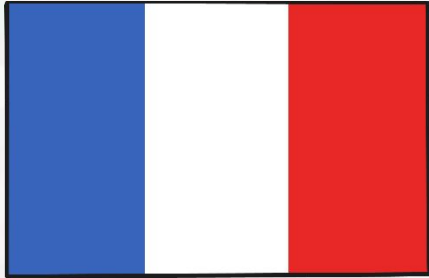


United Kingdom

In the UK, April Fools' Day is a chance to play a trick or prank on an unsuspecting person.

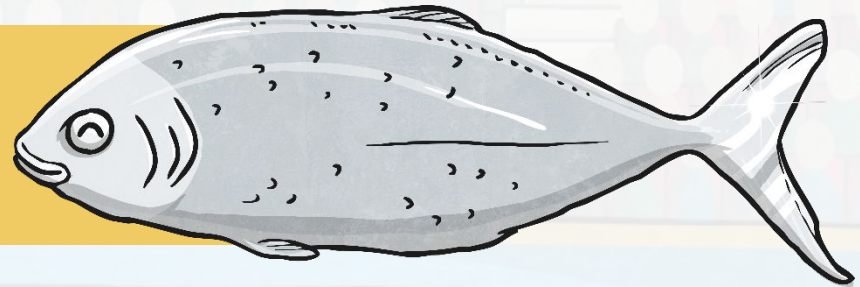
Traditionally, pranks should be carried out by midday. It is thought that anyone playing a prank after this time, is in fact the fool themselves.





France

In France, April Fools' Day is called 'Poisson d'Avril', which means 'April Fish'.



April 1st falls during Lent, and meat is not supposed to be eaten during this time, so instead fish is a preferred food.

Therefore, on this day, a joker will tape a paper fish to the back of a classmate or friend and wait for the joke to be noticed!



Scotland

Traditionally, in Scotland, this day was called 'Hunt the Gowk'. 'Gowk' is a Scottish word that means 'cuckoo'.

It is a day to send someone on a fool's errand. This means you send someone to look for something that doesn't exist like hens' teeth or a tin of tartan paint.





Portugal

In Portugal, the traditions of April Fools' Day last for two days on the Sunday and Monday before Lent.

One of the main Portuguese pranks is to throw flour on someone.





India



In India, the festival of Holi is celebrated on 31st March.

This is a day to play jokes and throw coloured powder around to welcome the season of spring.



Iran

In Iran, the 13th day of the Persian new year is called 'Sizdah Bedar'. Pranks have been played there since 536BC making it the oldest known joke day in the world.

It is traditional to celebrate the day by having a picnic and playing games. Then after the picnic, all the leftover green vegetables are thrown away. This represents getting rid of bad luck for the coming year.





Germany

German people call this day 'Aprilscherz' and it is a day to play tricks on family, colleagues and friends. Even some white lies are excused on this day.



The media also usually publish or report on a fictitious story to try and play a trick on the German public.



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