

# DID YOU KNOW...?

## Why do fans of the Baltimore Orioles owe their team's existence to World War II?

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Time goes by very quickly, doesn't it? I mean, look at the calendar. Here we are at the end of the first month of 2024 already. Goodness, it seems like just yesterday we were celebrating the arrival of the 21st Century!

It's true what they say ... the older you get, the faster time flies.

It's also true that time flies like an arrow, and fruit flies like bananas.

No, I have no idea what the two statements have to do with each other. I just needed something to fill the introduction to this week's silliness, and they happened to fit the bill.

Speaking of this week's silliness, why not get right to it? Here's the trivia, friends, and I hope you enjoy it!

Did you know ...

... a popular sweet treat has its own holiday? Sort of, anyway. National Sugar Cookie Day is observed every July 9, and the best way to celebrate it is to – you guessed it – enjoy some sugar cookies. Maybe you could even bake your own! (And if you do, send me some.)

... hot dogs are legally sandwiches? Well, they are in California and New York, anyway. The law in both states says that the common frankfurter, inside a bun, is considered a sandwich. (Well, hot dog!)

... your favorite painting may have sfumato? Wait, don't go get a paper towel or anything. Sfumato is a visual art term for a method of color blending and shading that creates a hazy or smoky effect. One of the most famous examples is in the background of the Mona Lisa, painted by Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519). (And if you don't mind, shoot me a note telling me how to pronounce sfumato. Thanks.)

... an infamous King of England was also a music composer? King Henry VIII (1491-1547) was an accomplished musician who composed several songs and instrumental works during his lifetime. His Majesty even had a collection of recorders, flute-like instruments that many modern children learn to play in elementary school. The king's were made of ivory or wood, and several survive today. (I never hear of that being highlighted at the Renaissance Festival, though it should be.)

... three members of the same NBA team shared an unlikely coincidence? In 2015, three point guards playing for the Dallas Mavericks shared the same birthday – right down to the year. Deron Williams, José Juan Barea, and Raymond Felton all came into the world on June 26, 1984. (Birthday parties must have been a hoot.)

... fans of the Baltimore Orioles owe their team's existence to World War II? Well, indirectly, anyway. Most Orioles fans won't admit it, but prior to 1953 their beloved Birds were the hapless St. Louis Browns. A charter member of the American League in 1901 (as the Milwaukee Brewers), the Browns were a pretty big draw in St. Louis baseball from 1902 to 1926, often on par with the crosstown National League Cardinals. But from 1927 onward, fans began going to more Cardinals games, and the owners of the Browns reluctantly decided to move the team to Los Angeles for the 1942 season. The Browns (or whatever they would be called in L.A.) would play at that city's Wrigley Field and Major League Baseball would come to the West Coast. Travel difficulties had already been worked out. The announcement of the move was set for Monday, December 8, 1941. But as we all know, on the day before, the Japanese Navy attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, bringing the United States into World War II. In the aftermath of the attack, the announcement was cancelled, as was the move. The Browns would win one pennant, in 1944, and would remain in St. Louis until the end of the 1952 season, when they would be sold to a group who moved them to Baltimore and renamed them the Orioles.

... opossums are virtually free from contracting rabies? Scientists aren't exactly sure why it's so rare for an opossum to catch rabies, but one reason could be the fact that they have a lower body temperature than most mammals. The fact that their blood basically isn't warm enough could be what keeps the rabies virus from incubating in their bodies. (Besides, they eat ticks and do a really good job of playing dead. They're cute!)

... at least one Western leader did not want the Berlin Wall to fall in 1989? As Communism crumbled in eastern Europe, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher (1925-2013) pleaded with the leader of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev (1931-2022), to keep the wall in place, asking him to do anything in his power to prevent its destruction. Thatcher feared that a unified Germany would "disrupt the balance of power" in Europe. (Even the best politicians get it wrong sometimes.)

... the odds of winning the lottery are not really very good? In fact, according to one statistical summary, you have a better chance of dying on your way to buy a lottery ticket than you have of actually winning the lottery. (Not that that will keep me from trying, of course.)

... the country's first president had a serious sweet tooth? George Washington (1732-1799) created his very own sweet egg nog recipe, and also brought ice cream-making equipment to the capital in New York when he took office as president. (His sweet tooth was the only real one he had!)

Now ... you know!



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Tues. & Thurs ..... 6 PM  
1st & 3rd Sundays. .... 11 AM
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Clinch County
- **Evan's Temple Holiness Church**  
46 Davis Ave. - Lakeland  
229-482-8049
- **Everlasting House of Prayer Deliverance Center in Temple of Love**  
806 E Davis Ave. - Lakeland  
229-482-9550
- **First Baptist Church**  
15 Main Street - Lakeland  
229-482-3401  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 AM  
Sunday Morning Service . 11:00 AM  
Sunday Night Service .... 6:00 PM  
Wed. Night ..... 7:00 PM
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803 E Peeler Ave. - Lakeland  
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Off of Hwy 168-Lakeland  
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229-482-3574
- **Lovejoy Community Church**  
23 Lovejoy Rd - Lakeland  
229-482-2169  
Sunday School ..... 10:00 AM  
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Sunday Night Service . . . 6:00 PM  
Wed. Night Bible Study . . . 7:00 PM  
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Pastor: Jasper B. Daniels  
79 S. Mill Street - Lakeland  
229-482-2784
- **New Life Church**  
104 W Thigpen Ave  
Lakeland, GA
- **New Life Church of God of Stockton**  
516 W. Highway 84  
Stockton, GA 31649  
Pastor: Dwaine Crummey  
(229) 242-7001  
Sunday Morning - 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Church - 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Night - 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Night - 7 p.m.
- **New Life Ministries**  
104 W Thigpen Ave  
Lakeland, GA
- **New Hopewell Missionary Baptist**  
124 W Main St. • Lakeland  
229-482-3237
- **Oak Grove Freewill Baptist Church**  
Oak Grove Church Lane  
Lakeland, GA • 912-422-4212
- **Oak Street Church of Christ**  
Pastor: Bro. Joseph Ingram  
Sunday School. .... 9:45 AM  
Sunday Morning Service ..11:00 AM  
Tuesday Bible Study . . . . 6:30 PM
- **Pearly Gates Apostolic Church**  
1326 South Mill Street  
Lakeland, GA 31635  
Bishop and Pastor Odie Cook
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Sunday School- 10 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Service- 11 a.m.  
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