

NOVEMBER - BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Daniel Boone

Daniel Boone was born on November 2, 1734, near Reading, Pennsylvania. He received little formal education and was taught how to read and write by his mother. His father taught him survival skills, and he proved himself to be a brave and skilled woodsman and hunter. He was given his first rifle at age twelve and shot his first bear. When Boone was fifteen, he moved with his family to Rowan County, North Carolina, on the Yadkin River. There he started his own hunting business. In 1775, he settled an area he called Boonesborough in Kentucky. He married and had six children but found it difficult to stay still. Wilderness tales reawakened the frontiersman in him. To satisfy his yearning for adventure, he would occasionally leave his family and lead hunting and exploring expeditions. He also served in the military and on the local legislature. Many tall tales are told of Daniel Boone.

2. Veterans Day

Veterans Day became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. It began as Armistice Day and commemorated the temporary end to hostilities between the Allied Nations and Germany in World War I. This original armistice (cessation) took place on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. That is why Veterans Day is celebrated on November 11th each year. After World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became Veterans Day, a holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars.

3. National American Indian Heritage Month

This observance began as “American Indian Week” in November of 1986 when Congress requested that President Ronald Reagan make the proclamation recognizing the accomplishments of the peoples who were the original inhabitants, explorers, and settlers of the United States. The following is a quote from the proclamation. “Many of the foods we eat and the medicines and remedies we use were introduced by Indians, and more than one highway follows an Indian trail. Indians make contributions in every area of endeavor and American life, and our literature and our arts draw upon Indian themes and wisdom. Countless American Indians have served in our Armed Forces and have fought valiantly for our country.” In 1990, Congress passed a law authorizing the United States President to proclaim November as “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Each president since that time has made such a proclamation. These proclamations celebrate the contributions of the American Indians and urge the people of the United States to learn more about American Indian cultures.

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4. Robert Fulton

Robert Fulton was born on November 14, 1765, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He lived a portion of his adult life in Europe, where he studied painting with Benjamin West in London. Fulton was fascinated by the new engineering enterprises of his day – canals, mines, bridges, roads, and factories. He demonstrated a strong aptitude for mechanical engineering and is perhaps best known for designing the first commercially successful steamboat in 1807. It was named the Clermont and traveled on the Hudson River from New York City to Albany in record time. He later developed a submarine called the Nautilus and the first steam warship in history.

5. Peanut Butter Lovers Month

November is Peanut Butter Lovers Month and time to recognize one of America's favorite foods. Americans will eat over 65 million pounds of peanut butter during the month of November. The observance began in 1990, when Southern Peanut Growers representing southeastern peanut farmers initiated November 4th as "Peanut Butter Lovers Day." This date was chosen because Dr. John Harvey Kellogg applied for the first United States patent on peanut butter on November 4, 1895. The celebration was expanded to the entire month of November in 1995 when peanut butter reached its 100th birthday.

6. America Recycles Day

America Recycles Day (ARD) has been celebrated on November 15th, in the United States, since 1997. It is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to helping Americans see the value of recycling and buying recycled products. Events are planned throughout the country to heighten awareness and motivate citizens to positive action toward preserving our natural resources, limiting waste, and curbing pollution through recycling.

7. International Drum Month

The Percussion Marketing Council (PMC) is the official trade association of the percussion industry. It represents manufacturing, distribution, publishing, and education in the percussion world. The non-profit organization was founded in 1995 and is comprised of all volunteers. It seeks to increase public awareness of drumming and create educational and market development programs for all ages and all audiences. November was selected as International Drum Month (IDM) and annually provides an opportunity for those in the industry to promote the merits of drumming while inviting people to give it a try.

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8. Elmer's Glue Trademark

The Elmer's Glue trademark was registered on November 18, 1952. The Elmer's Glue Company was originally part of the Borden Company. Borden introduced the first consumer white glue in 1947. Several years later, the company changed the packaging and called the product Elmer's Glue-All. The name Elmer was chosen to represent the spouse of Borden's famed corporate symbol Elsie, the cow. Elmer's Glue-All has been marketed successfully for decades and remains one of the most highly recognized names in the adhesive industry.

9. Charles Schulz

Charles Schulz, an award-winning cartoonist, was born on November 26, 1922, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He took an art correspondence course as a teenager, and that is when he developed an interest in cartooning. When he came home from serving in World War II, he became an art instructor and published his first comic strip called Li'l Folks. The name later became Peanuts. This weekly newspaper comic strip, featuring the character Charlie Brown, became one of the world's most famous and successful cartoons and has been adapted for use in television, movies, and on the stage. Schulz said he based his Charlie Brown character on himself, and Snoopy developed from a childhood pet. His final daily Peanuts newspaper strip ran on January 3, 2000.

10. Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day is a holiday rich in tradition and for most commemorates an autumn harvest feast shared by the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag Indians in 1621. For over two centuries, various days of thanksgiving were observed first by individual colonies and then by the states. In 1789, George Washington, first President of the United States, issued the new nation's first official Thanksgiving proclamation. He asked Americans to express gratitude for the successful completion of the Revolutionary War and the ratification of the United States Constitution. In 1863, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held annually on the last Thursday of November. In 1941, Congress finally sanctioned Thanksgiving Day as a legal holiday to be observed on the fourth Thursday of November each year.