

JUNE – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. *Frank Lloyd Wright*

Frank Lloyd Wright was born on June 8, 1867, in Richland Center, Wisconsin, and is regarded by many as the most influential American architect of the 20th century. Wright created a distinctly American form of architecture that deviated from traditional European styles. He believed that structures should be built in harmony with their surrounding natural environment. He studied engineering briefly at the University of Wisconsin but soon went on to work for an architectural firm in Chicago. He opened his own firm there in 1893. Wright built about 50 prairie houses between 1900 and 1910 and designed a wide variety of other structures throughout his long career.

2. *National Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Month*

National Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Month has been celebrated during the month of June in the United States for years, but the exact origin of this observance is difficult to determine. It was probably the creation of some food or nutrition organization. There has also never been an official congressional declaration or presidential proclamation establishing the month of June as National Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Month. The tradition offers an opportunity to increase awareness of the health benefits of consuming more fruits and vegetables. Farmer's Markets across the country host events and offer specials, and many recipes are shared.

3. *Jacques Cousteau*

Jacques Cousteau was born in France on June 11, 1910. He was a French naval officer until an automobile accident cut short his career in naval aviation. He went on to become an explorer, ecologist, scientist, inventor, researcher, photographer, filmmaker, and author. His fascination was the sea and all its life forms. Cousteau developed the aqua-lung, which allowed divers to breathe under water, and he was an advocate for marine conservation. In 1950, he founded the French Oceanographic Campaigns (FOC) and leased a ship called Calypso. Cousteau converted the ship into a mobile laboratory for his field research, and it served as his primary vessel for diving and filmmaking. His first book, published in 1953, was *The Silent World*. Cousteau's extensive exploring, writing, and filming introduced millions of viewers around the globe to a whole new world under the sea.

4. *National Baseball Hall of Fame*

The National Baseball Hall of Fame is located in Cooperstown, New York. It was dedicated on June 12, 1939. Privately owned, it serves as a central point for the study of the history of baseball in the United States and features a host of artifacts and exhibits that honor persons who have excelled in playing, managing, and serving the sport. The Hall's motto is "Preserving History, Honoring Excellence, and Connecting Generations." Inductees are elected by either the Baseball Writers Association of America (BBWAA) or the Veterans Committee (former players/inductees). The first five men elected were Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson, and Walter Johnson. As of January 2011, nearly 300 individuals had been inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

5. *National Flag Day*

In the United States, Flag Day is observed each year on June 14th. It commemorates the day in 1777 when the flag of the United States was adopted by a resolution of the Second Continental Congress. For many years following that resolution, various states, communities, and schools independently planned “Flag Day” celebrations. Inspired by these traditions, President Woodrow Wilson made a proclamation on May 30, 1916, officially establishing an annual observance of Flag Day. It wasn’t until August 3, 1949, however, that President Harry Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day. Though it is not an official federal holiday when government offices are closed, it is widely observed in the United States with a variety of patriotic celebrations.

6. *Father's Day*

Father’s Day is celebrated annually on the third Sunday in June in the United States. It complements Mother’s Day, which is observed in May. Both holidays are intended to honor parents and give recognition to the extremely important roles they play in our society.

7. *Sally K. Ride*

On June 18, 1983, Sally K. Ride made history as the first woman in space when she flew as a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger. Born in Los Angeles, California, on May 26, 1951, Ride always had a love for science. She earned a doctorate degree in Physics in 1978 and was selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in January of that same year. After one year of intense training, she became eligible to fly future Space Shuttle missions, her first being the one in 1983. Following her service with NASA, Ride became a college Physics professor. She had a life-long passion of encouraging girls and young women to pursue careers in science, math, and technology. For this reason, she founded her own company, Sally Ride Science, and authored five science books for children. She received numerous awards during her prestigious career and was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame and the Astronaut Hall of Fame.

8. *A Patent Granted for the Hula Hoop*

On June 23, 1964, Arthur Melin was granted a United States patent for the Hula Hoop. The hoop is an ancient invention, however, and cannot be claimed by any modern company or single inventor. Long ago the Greeks used hooping as a form of exercise. Earlier hoops were made of metal, bamboo, wood, grasses, and even vines. Today, companies use mostly plastic. Hooping made its appearance in Great Britain around 1300, and homemade versions of the toy were very popular. Early in the 1800s, British sailors witnessed hula dancing in the Hawaiian Islands. Hooping and hula dancing look similar, and it is believed this is when the two terms were put together, giving us the “hula hoop” for the first time. Arthur Melin and Richard Knerr co-founded the Wham-O Toy Company in Melin’s garage in Los Angeles, California, in 1948. They trademarked the name Hula Hoop, and the company became the hoop’s most successful manufacturer in modern times. Over twenty million Wham-O Hula Hoops sold for just \$1.98 in the first six months.

9. *National Dairy Month*

The National Dairy Council recognizes June as National Dairy Month. During this time, a variety of activities and promotions are planned to highlight the health benefits of dairy foods and raise public awareness on behalf of dairy farmers, dairy producers, and the dairy industry. June as Dairy Month first entered American culture in 1937. It started as National Milk Month, but the success of the program led to its expansion. In 1939, the campaign was increased to include all dairy products. In 1955, the American Dairy Association (now the National Dairy Council) became the lead promoter of June as National Dairy Month, involving communities and businesses nationwide. The programs continue to make an impact and are likely responsible for the habit many Americans have of drinking milk daily and consuming a host of other dairy products, as well.

10. *Johannes Gutenberg*

Johannes Gutenberg was born in Mainz, Germany, on June 23, 1400. He is credited with inventing the first movable type printing process, which allowed many copies of a written work to be printed at one time. Prior to his invention, manuscripts were handwritten, which was very laborious and time-consuming. Gutenberg started as a goldsmith, and it is likely this is where he gained the skill and the idea for forming molten metal into individual alphabet letters and symbols. These metal forms were set into a framework on a printing press, coated with ink, and pressed onto paper. Multiple copies could then be created. This process revolutionized written communication in Europe and the world by making printed materials available to the masses. Gutenberg first introduced his type-set printing process in Strassburg, Germany, in 1440. His crowning work is considered by most to be the mass printing of the Bible. Referred to as the Gutenberg Bible, it required several years of work, and was completed in 1455, with a first edition of about 200 copies.