

Inspired by the success of Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March, The Academy of American Poets took action in 1995. They convened a group of publishers, booksellers, librarians, literary organizations, poets, and teachers to discuss the possibility of creating a similar month-long celebration of poetry. After deciding that the idea had more than enough merit, the Academy held its first National Poetry Month in 1996. Each year publishers, booksellers, teachers, librarians, etc. promote poetry by releasing new publications, teaching poetry units, hosting poetry readings, and other such events. In a proclamation issued on April 1, 1996, President Bill Clinton declared: "*National Poetry Month offers us a welcome opportunity to celebrate not only the unsurpassed body of literature produced by our poets in the past, but also the vitality and diversity of voices reflected in the works of today's American poetry.... Their creativity and wealth of language enrich our culture and inspire a new generation of Americans to learn the power of reading and writing at its best.*"

8. World Penguin Day

World Penguin Day is celebrated on April 25th each year. This is the time of year when the Adelie Penguins in the Antarctic begin their annual migration. They start migrating in the Antarctic fall season and don't return to their colonies until spring. In synchronized fashion, the Adelies dive into the freezing cold waters and swim north for only a few hundred miles. Penguins are unique in that they are the only migratory birds who swim rather than fly. They stay among icebergs that are floating about the area and feast on krill and other penguin delights. While the Adelies don't really travel very far, it is imperative that they go because the days in Antarctica get darker during this time of year. Since these penguins don't see well in the dark, they need to go north to hunt for food, or they would starve. During their time of migration, they appear to have a grand time and not take life too seriously, according to penguin watchers. The birds mostly just bob playfully around in the ocean and rest on the icebergs until time to return to their homes in Antarctica. World Penguin Day gives people an opportunity to learn more about these interesting and entertaining creatures.

9. Dr. Charles Richter

Dr. Charles Richter was born on April 26, 1900. In 1935, he developed the Richter Scale, which is a system of measurement used to quantify the magnitude of earthquakes on seismographs. He was assisted by Beno Gutenberg. Both gentlemen were affiliated with the California Institute of Technology. The scale was originally intended for use in a particular area of California, but is now used to measure earthquakes globally. Richter's purpose for creating the scale was to separate the vast number of small earthquakes from the less frequent large earthquakes that were happening in the area at that time. The scale measures the total amount of energy released by an earthquake. Its values range from zero to nine, and each increase of one represents a ten-fold increase in energy. Tracking the occurrences of earthquakes allows for the observance of patterns, and it is hoped that these patterns will make it possible to predict the location and intensity of future quakes, thereby enabling area residents to be better prepared.

10. Arbor Day

Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday of April each year. In Latin *arbor* means tree. So, Arbor Day is a perfect time to recognize the beauty, usefulness, and importance of trees in our global ecology. The holiday was founded by J. Sterling Morton. He was a pioneer who moved from Detroit, Michigan, to the Nebraska Territory in 1854. He and his wife loved