

April 25th to May 1st

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April 25

- **1908 (B)** — Edward Murrow, the journalist famous for his World War II radio reports and his CBS television program *See It Now* which helped bring down McCarthyism, was born in a small log cabin in the North Carolina countryside on this day.
- **1917 (B)** — Ella Fitzgerald, one of the most famous vocalists dubbed “the First Lady of Song,” was born on this day in Newport News, Virginia. Despite a difficult childhood, she found early success in performing with jazz bands. Later on, she forged a successful and multi-decade solo career with notable songs like “A-Tisket, A-Tasket” and “Summertime” while collaborating with music giants such as Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington.
- **1990** — The Hubble Telescope, on this day, is sent into orbit by NASA’s Space Shuttle *Discovery*. Throughout its more than thirty year career as a space telescope in low Earth orbit, it has allowed scientists to study the formation of planets and galaxies while capturing iconic images of space such as the *Pillars of Creation*.

April 26

- **1886 (B)** — Ma Rainey, the influential blues singer, was born in Columbus, Georgia. She pursued successful careers in the realms of recording and vaudeville and built a nationwide reputation as a strong and influential singer. Today, she is in the spotlight again in the 2020 film *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom* featuring Viola Davis playing Rainey and a performance by the late Chadwick Boseman.
- **1954** — *Seven Samurai*, a samurai film directed by Kurosawa Akira, is released in Japan on this day. One of the most influential films in history, and having a rare 100% rating on Rotten Tomatoes, its impact and legacy can be seen in the development of films and franchises such as Marvel’s *Avengers* and George Lucas’ *Star Wars*.
- **1986** — Roughly 100 kilometers north of Kiev in Soviet Ukraine, an explosion and fire ravaged the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant releasing toxic levels of radioactive material into the atmosphere and the surrounding environment. To this day, the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone prohibits visitors from visiting the area as a result of nuclear fallout and the nearby city of Pripjat was abandoned and left as a ghost town as a result of contamination.
- **1989 (D)** — Lucille Ball, the Emmy-winning actress and comedienne, died on this day at the age of 77. She is best remembered for being the star of the 1950s sitcom *I Love Lucy* alongside her husband Desi Arnaz.

April 27

- **1521 (D)** — During the Battle of Mactan between rival tribes in what is now Cebu in the Philippines, Portuguese explorer and sailor Ferdinand Magellan dies as a result of a poisoned arrow. The rest of his fellow explorers complete their voyages and are the first to circumnavigate the globe.
- **1759 (B)** — Mary Wollstonecraft, one of the earliest feminist thinkers and writers famous for her 1792 book *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, was born on this day in London, England. Her life and works inspired multiple generations and activists who advocated for suffrage and women’s equality.

- **1961** — On this day, the West African nation Sierra Leone declared its independence from Great Britain with celebratory parades in its cities. A year earlier and a few hundred miles to the east, French Togoland declared its independence and established the Republic of Togo.
- **1981** — The first personal computer mouse is launched by Xerox PARC. Even though it is not the first computer mouse, its development marks a milestone in the accessibility of computer technology to the general public.
- **1994** — Roughly four years after being freed from prison for fighting against apartheid in South Africa, Nelson Mandela wins the first multiracial elections in South Africa and is elected as the nation's first black president. A Nobel Prize winner and an icon of democracy around the world, he remained in this position until 1999.

April 28

- **1916 (B)** — Ferruccio Lamborghini, the founder of Automobili Lamborghini, was born in Cento, Italy. After World War II, he began to tinker with cars and eventually started to build tractors. His attention shifted to crafting cars and the first Lamborghini sports car, the 350GTV, was built in time for the 1963 Turin Auto Show.
- **1967** — On this day, Muhammad Ali refused induction into the Army during the Vietnam War as a result of his religious beliefs as a Muslim and due to his opposition to the war. As a result, he lost his title and was convicted of draft evasion with the latter overturned by the Supreme Court in the 1971 case *Clay v. United States*.

April 29

- **1945** — On this day, American infantrymen liberate the Dachau concentration camp and free roughly 32,000 Jewish prisoners. The images of the camp, the dead in train cars, and of malnourished survivors shock Americans at home and show another horrific side of the Second World War: the Holocaust.
- **1992** — The Rodney King riots begin in Los Angeles after the police officers that were filmed beating Rodney King in a video were not charged with any crimes. The video, which brought nationwide attention to police brutality towards African Americans, caused massive outrage and calls for reform. As a result of the jury's verdicts, people took to the streets to protest which led to dozens of deaths, thousands of injuries, and millions of dollars in damage. Later on, in 1993, two of the four officers filmed beating King were convicted of crimes and sentenced to prison time.
- **1991** — One of the deadliest cyclones in history hits Bangladesh leaving roughly 140,000 people killed and 10 million people displaced.

April 30

- **1789** — On the second floor balcony of Federal Hall, in the presence of cheering New Yorkers and fellow politicians, George Washington was inaugurated as the first president of the United States. He served as president from 1789 to 1797 and is referred to as the "precedent president" due to the fact that many of his actions created traditions and customs respected by dozens of his successors.
- **1897** — British researcher and physicist J.J. Thomson announced to the scientific community that he discovered "corpuscles," or what is now referred to as electrons. This discovery leads to his development of the Plum Pudding Model, or a scientific model of the atom, which was later shown to be incorrect.

- **2004** — On an episode of *60 Minutes II* on this day, the CBS program released shocking and disturbing images of prisoner abuse and torture at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. This led to widespread backlash and criticism against the military American treatment of prisoners and the conviction of many soldiers associated with the scandal.

May 1

- **1898** — Across the ocean in the Philippines on this day, a fleet of American ships led by George Dewey defeated a flotilla of Spanish ships in the Battle of Manila Bay. As a result, the United States gained control of the archipelago during the Spanish-American War and afterwards, annexed the Philippines as an American territory ultimately granting the island nation independence in 1946.
- **1931** — On this day, in the bustling borough of Manhattan, the Empire State Building is dedicated. The 102-story building became the tallest building in the world from 1931 to 1970. While it no longer has that title, the Art Deco skyscraper remains an iconic part of New York's skyline and of American culture having been featured in films, television programs, and much more.
- **1941** — The film *Citizen Kane* had its premier at the Palace Theater in New York City. The drama, directed by and starring Orson Welles, is considered by the American Film Institute as the best film ever made.
- **1972** — Cesar Chavez began a hunger strike, which lasted 24 days, on this day in the effort to bring nationwide attention to the plight of migrant workers in Arizona who were prohibited by law to organize for better working conditions.