

May 2nd to May 8th

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May 2

- **1519 (D)** — On this day in 1519, famed artist Leonardo da Vinci died in Cloux, France, at the age of 67. On the day of his death, some of his last words were, “I have offended God and mankind because my work did not reach the quality it should have.” It seems that he drastically underestimated the significance of his work compared to the modern-day public’s large appreciation for it.
- **2008** — On May 2nd, 2008, the first Marvel movie was released: *Iron Man*. This movie starring Robert Downey Jr. kickstarted the modern Marvel franchise to be one of the most popular and lovable franchises of all time. *Iron Man* received \$585.3 million (box office), which is very impressive for the first Marvel movie, but relatively small compared to some of the newest Marvel Avengers films which consistently yield over a billion dollars (box office).
- **2012** — About 500 years after Da Vinci’s death in 2012, the famous pastel drawing of “The Scream,” by artist Edvard Munch sold for \$119,922,500. The original pastel painting was drawn on cardboard in 1893.

May 3

- **1375 BC** — Near Syria, the first ever recorded solar eclipse was documented. It wasn’t until many years later in 1851 when a solar eclipse was photographed.
- **1937** — Later, in 1937, Margaret Mitchell, the author of the famous novel, *Gone with the Wind*, received a Pulitzer Prize. Two years later, a movie based on the novel was made, stretching to 3 hours and 58 minutes.
- **1960** — Lastly, in 1960, the Anne Frank House was opened to the public, allowing tours of the hideout.

May 4

- **1878** — On May 4th, 1878, Thomas Edison’s first phonograph, or an early record player, was released to the public at the Grand Opera House.
- **1959** — Years later in 1959, Ella Fitzgerald and Perry Como, two famous jazz legends, received the first Grammy Awards.
- **2008** — Also, in 2008, Seth MacFarlane, a comedian and creator of TV shows *Family Guy* and *American Dad*, concluded an agreement with Fox to keep his two shows on TV until 2012. This made MacFarlane the highest paid television writer and in 2021, MacFarlane’s net worth is estimated to be around \$300 million. Since the shows were such a success, they are still airing on TV today, meaning the agreement was expanded later.
- **Holiday** — Lastly, although there is no specific year for when this “holiday” was created, May 4th has the honor of being dedicated to Star Wars, as the famous catchphrase in all the movies, “may the force be with you” is substituted with “may the fourth be with you”.

May 5

- **1862** — May 5th is known as “Cinco de Mayo,” a widely celebrated Mexican holiday. In 1862, Mexico defeated the French, led by Napoleon III, in the Battle of Puebla, naming the holiday after the victory gained following the battle.
- **1948** — Lastly, although it has been a Japanese holiday since ancient times, Children’s Day was made a national holiday in 1948. Children’s Day honors the gift of children and hope for what they will later bring to the world.
- **1961** — In 1961, the first US astronaut, Alan Shepard Jr. journeyed through space in the Freedom 7 spacecraft for a total of 15 minutes in space.

May 6

- **1837** — On May 6th, 1837, the first steel plough was created in Grand Detour, Illinois by John Deere. Deere was a blacksmith in the early 1800s trying to find an innovative way to harvest crops, so he created John Deere after the release of the first steel plough, making John Deere one of the oldest American companies still operating today.
- **1840** — Also, in 1840, the “Penny Black,” or the world's first adhesive postage stamp, was first used in Great Britain. On the stamp is Queen Victoria, and at the time, 286,000 sheets or 68,808,000 stamps were made, and if you are lucky enough to find one in 2021, they’ll cost you about \$693.94 each.
- **1937** — Lastly, on May 6th, 1937, the Hindenburg disaster occurred. Although the cause of the malfunction isn’t confirmed, some scientists speculate that an electrostatic discharge may have ignited leaking hydrogen on board, causing the cotton canvas to burn and unfortunately kill 36 people.

May 7

- **558** — In 558, the Hagia Sophia, located in Constantinople, collapsed due to a large earthquake. However, despite all of its past encounters with raiders, fires, and other earthquakes, no one will hesitate to let the majestic dome disappear - the Byzantine emperor Justinian I (or Justinian the Great) ordered the rebuilding of the Hagia Sophia immediately after the incident.
- **1994** — Back to Edvard Munch’s “The Scream,” on May 7th, 1994, the art was recovered after it had gone missing for three months. Police investigators discovered the art hidden in a hotel room after it had been stolen by three Norwegians.

May 8

- **1945** — The end of World War II begins when Wilhelm Keitel, a German commanding officer of Nazi armed forces, formerly surrendered in 1945.
- **1962** — Later, in 1962, Oskar and Emilie Schindler, who saved 1200 Jews in World War II, were honored in a celebration in the Avenue of the Righteous in Jerusalem. The 1993 film *Schindler's List* was based off of Oskar and Emilie Schindler’s work.