



FUN FACTS HISTORY OF PI

Over 4,000 years ago, the ancient Egyptians calculated the area of a circle using the formula $[(8d)/9]^2$, where 'd' is the diameter of the circle. This formula gives an approximate pi value of 3.1605.

Pi was first calculated by Archimedes of Syracuse, around 212 BC. He was reportedly so engrossed in his work that he did not notice when the Roman soldiers conquered the city of Syracuse. When a Roman soldier approached Archimedes, he yelled in Greek, "Do not touch my circles!"

Before the π symbol was used, mathematicians would describe pi in round-about ways such as "*quantities, in quam cum multipliectur diameter, proveniet circumferential,*" which means, "the quantity which, when the diameter is multiplied by it, yields the circumference." (Beckmann)

By the year 1701, the first 100 digits of pi had been calculated.

Welshman William Jones was the first to use the Greek letter Pi (π) in 1706.

In 1949, it took ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer) 70 hours to calculate 2,037 decimal places of pi.

Pi assists us in our everyday lives, scientist use it to understand mechanics, DNA, General Relativity and String Theory.

Pi Day Birthdays

3/14/1879: Nobel Prize laureate Albert Einstein
3/14/1928: Astronaut Frank Borman
3/14/1933: Composer Quincy Jones
3/14/1934: Astronaut Eugene Cernan
3/14/1948: Comedian Billy Crystal
3/14/1951: Co-founder of Ben & Jerry's Jerry Greenfield
3/14/1958: Prince of Monaco Albert II
3/14/????: Bill Nye the Science Guy's mom's birthday

In 1897, an Indiana law was proposed that pi should just be 3. It didn't pass.

In Japan and Korea, March 14 is known as White Day, a complimentary day of our Valentine's Day, where men give gifts to women. It was first celebrated in 1978. (wiki)



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In 1988, the San Francisco Exploratorium was the first to hold a Pi Day Celebration. This year will be the 24th Pi-Annual Event! Now-retired physicist Larry Shaw founded Pi Day.

In 1991, the Chudnovsky brothers in New York, using their computer *m zero*, calculated pi to 2,260,321,363 digits. They halted the program that summer.

In 2005, Google offered exactly 14,159,265 shares of stock; this is the first 8 digits of pi minus the 3., or pi after the decimal point. (Google)

At the end of 2005, Chao Lu of China holds the world record for most digits memorized with 67,890; it took him 24 hours and 4 minutes to recite them.

In 2010, Daylight Savings Time began on March 14 (3.14).

On Pi Day 2010, Google doodle banner celebrated pi.

Mid July 2010, the ferris wheel in Dublin known as the Wheel of Dublin opened to the public. It has been nicknamed "the pi in the sky".

Many countries do not get to officially celebrate Pi Day. Their dates are written in their calendars as Day Month Year (ex. March 14, 2011 = 14 March 2011). They do still celebrate Pi Day, and also Pi Approximation Day (July 22nd).