



June Horoscopes and Birthdays

In astrology, those born June 1–21 are Twins of Gemini. Perhaps because twins are born with a companion, Geminis love to communicate with others. They are clever extroverts who can make persuasive arguments. Those born from June 22–30 are Crabs of Cancer. Crabs are very intuitive and sensitive to their environment. Their home is their sanctuary, and they are committed to family and loved ones.

Morgan Freeman – June 1, 1937
 Angelina Jolie – June 4, 1975
 Prince – June 7, 1958
 Joan Rivers – June 8, 1933
 Judy Garland – June 10, 1922
 Gene Wilder – June 11, 1933
 Burl Ives – June 14, 1909
 Venus Williams – June 17, 1980
 Phylicia Rashad – June 19, 1948
 Lionel Richie – June 20, 1949
 Wilma Rudolph – June 23, 1940
 Derek Jeter – June 26, 1974
 Kathy Bates – June 28, 1948

Notable Quotable

“Cheese is milk’s leap toward immortality.”

~ Clifton “Kip” Fadiman, radio and television host



Milk’s Shaky History *cont. from pg. 1*

within 24 hours, but the glass bottles are environmentally friendly, reducing the need for plastic jugs and paper cartons. Better yet, they are also delivering fresh eggs, butter, cheese, and yogurt. If you’re lucky, you can even receive chocolate milk! Signing up for modern milk delivery is helping local farms flourish.

Despite these innovations, the future of dairy is a bit foggy. Anyone who has ventured into the

milk aisle at the grocery store now sees several plant-based milk options: nut milk, coconut milk, and soy milk. Dairy executives might object to using the term *milk* to describe the white, milky, liquid that comes from crushing nuts, but such beverages have been drunk as “milk” for centuries by cultures around the globe. Many people who cannot enjoy dairy for health reasons are lucky to have these plant-based alternatives.

A Day for Dad

The very first celebration of Father’s Day was on June 19, 1910, at a YMCA in Spokane, Washington. Sonora Smart Dodd had watched her father single-handedly raise six children. After hearing a sermon about the virtues of Mother’s Day, Dodd approached her pastor and suggested a comparable holiday for fathers. Her pastor agreed and set the date for the third Sunday in June.

Father’s Day became an annual observance in Spokane, but once Dodd left home to attend school

at the Art Institute of Chicago, the holiday was quickly forgotten. Upon her return to Spokane, Dodd embarked upon a crusade to recognize Father’s Day on a national level. She sought the help of trade groups that would benefit from such a holiday: tie and tobacco pipe manufacturers. Decades passed, and members of the U.S. Congress resisted founding a national holiday. It wasn’t until 1972 that President Richard Nixon made Father’s Day a permanent national holiday by signing it into law.

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Celebrating June

Give a Bunch of Balloons Month

Men’s Health Month

Camping Month

Go Barefoot Day
June 1

Pet Appreciation Week
June 5–11

Iced Tea Day
June 10

Family History Day
June 14

Father’s Day
June 19

Public Service Day
June 23

Summersgiving
June 25

“Happy Birthday to You” Day
June 27

Milk’s Shaky History

June was declared Milk Month in 1937 as part of a campaign to help dairy producers sell excess milk produced during warm summer months when grazing was plentiful for dairy cows and milk production was at its peak. Dairies were keen to increase sales because the industry was grappling with significant change.

Where milk was once delivered daily door-to-door by milkmen, by the 1930s and ’40s, home milk delivery was nearly obsolete. Thanks to the invention of home refrigeration, families were now able to store milk and perishable goods in their homes for long periods. Grocery stores, which had previously sold mostly dry

goods, now had vast refrigerated sections that kept everything from milk to ice cream cold. The whistling milkman became a thing of the past, a piece of precious nostalgia.

Yet some modern families have embraced the return of daily milk delivery. Milkmen (and women) are once again making their rounds, delivering fresh milk in glass bottles. Not only is the milk fresh, often bottled and delivered

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Juneteenth for All

June 19, better known as Juneteenth, was established as a federal holiday in 2021, but it has been observed as the date commemorating the end of slavery in the United States since 1865. It was on June 19, 1865, that U.S. General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with a force of federal troops to declare that “in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive

of the United States, all slaves are free.” That proclamation was President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, which had been signed a full two-and-a-half years earlier. Texas had been considered a haven for slavery, as it had been spared from much of the Civil War’s fighting and the presence of Union troops. That all changed with General Granger’s arrival.

Here, There Be Dragons

On the fifth day of the fifth month of the Chinese calendar, which arrives this year on June 3, dragon-shaped boats take to the water during China's annual Dragon Boat Festival.



The racing of dragon boats began 2,500 years ago along the Yangtze River.

One legend explains that the festival originated around 300 BC when poet and politician Qu Yuan was exiled from his royal house for arguing against an alliance proposed by the emperor. Qu Yuan was forced to live in exile, composing poetry and never forgetting his love for his dynasty. Years later, when the emperor was betrayed by his new ally and the capital was overrun, Qu Yuan despaired and drowned himself in the Miluo River. Locals raced out in their boats to save him. It is said that the dragon boat races honor those who raced out in their boats to find Qu Yuan, and it is traditional to eat *zongzi*, or balls of sticky rice, during the festival.

Why do the boats resemble dragons? The water was believed to be the domain of water dragons, powerful and benevolent spirits. Water dragons also controlled the rain. During the start of summer, and especially near the summer solstice, offerings of *zongzi* were made to water dragons in return for adequate rainfall for the summer crops. Dragon boats reflect a devout reverence of water dragons.

The Dragon Boat Festival is far more than the worship of water dragons and old dynastic legends. The fifth day of the fifth month is considered extremely unlucky. Five poisonous creatures appear: snakes, scorpions, centipedes, toads, and spiders. It is traditional to hang a sachet of five protective herbs over the doorway. Offerings to the water dragons ensure protection from these malevolent creatures.

On Eagle's Wings

On June 20, 1782, a picture of a bald eagle with wings outstretched was proposed to the U.S. Congress as the Great Seal of the United States. Not everyone accepted the bald eagle as the national bird, and a debate raged for years after its selection. Benjamin Franklin famously objected:

"I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country; he is a bird of bad moral character;

like those among men who live by sharping and robbing, he is generally poor, and often very lousy. The turkey is a much more respectable bird and withal a true, original native of America."

Franklin's objections would be overruled, and in 1787, the eagle was officially adopted as America's national emblem. America was not the first country to use an eagle as its symbol: many cultures used eagles to denote strength and glory.



An early design of the Great Seal featured a white eagle, but the U.S. Congress opted instead for the native bald eagle.

You May Now Lick the Bride



The most expensive pet wedding on record cost a whopping \$158K.

It is well known that June is a popular month for weddings, but did you know that the second week in June is Pet Wedding Week, a week dedicated to the lasting union between animals? This unique holiday was designed for pet owners who believe that their pets should be suitably paired and partnered into loving relationships for the purposes of

companionship and breeding. There is even a National Pet Association of Ceremonies, a nationally recognized body of pet ceremony officiants, that will conduct official pet weddings. Like human weddings, costs tend to grow exponentially, with some paying thousands for flowers, live music, bridal gowns, and catered buffets serving fresh kibble.

Marrying Traditions

Wedding bells will be ringing all through the month of June. After all, it is the most popular month for couples to be married. Some say it is because June's pleasant weather is best for a wedding, but this tradition has roots far deeper than any meteorologist could predict.

The month of June was named for the Roman goddess Juno, whose domain was marriage, childbirth, and family. As the patron goddess of Rome and all the Roman Empire, she was called *Regina*, or "Queen," and was part of a powerful triumvirate of gods that included Jupiter, king of the gods, and Minerva, goddess of wisdom, justice, and military strategy. Of the three, Juno was worshipped as the protector of the empire, and particularly as a protector of women. Roman women went so far as to call their souls *junos*, believing that they each possessed a small bit of their beloved *Regina's* spirit. June, unsurprisingly, was considered

the most auspicious month to be married.

Historical evidence suggests that June might have been a popular month for marriage even before the time of the Romans. The Celts celebrated their springtime fertility ritual of Beltane on the cross-quarter holiday of May 1. Cross-quarter days were astronomical holidays that fell between quarter days, the equinoxes and solstices. It was a Beltane tradition for young couples to pair and plan for a wedding on the next cross-quarter day, which would not arrive until August three months later. Impatient young couples, eager to wed, would often not wait until August and instead marry in mid-June on the following quarter day, the day of the summer solstice. In this way, June became a traditional month for marriage. It might come as no surprise that the following spring often coincided with a baby boom.



Juno may have been the Roman goddess of marriage, but she was often depicted as having marital troubles with Jupiter.