

Today's Date

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Learn fun facts about the number in today's date!

Note: This completes this series of articles. In this issue will be 25 – 31. The author welcomes suggestions to add to each number. Please send your ideas to her at the email listed above or to your *TOMT* editors. I hope your students have enjoyed this number trivia as much as mine have. Thanks to those of you who have sent in suggestions for extending the list.

Lesson Goal: To develop a meaning for numbers

Materials: None needed except a chalkboard or overhead.

Instructions for

this Activity: Write on the board or overhead (or verbally share) a fun fact about the number in today's date. This idea can be extended if you wish to take advantage of the opportunity to explore further the math vocabulary/concept, related science mentioned, or historical point introduced by the number fact.

25

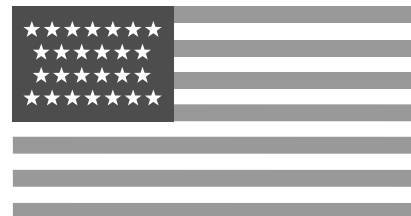
It's a fact that...

- Twenty-five is a square number ($5 \times 5 = 25$).
- The first minimum wage, set at twenty-five cents per hour, was established by Congress in 1938.
- Twenty-five is a square number which is the sum of two square numbers ($3^2 + 4^2 = 25$).
- December 25 is Christmas Day.
- Twenty-five is the sum of the first five odd numbers ($1 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 9 = 25$).
- In the USA, a quarter is a twenty-five cent piece worth a quarter of a dollar.
- A silver anniversary celebrates twenty-five years.

26

It's a fact that...

- There are twenty-six letters in the English alphabet.
- Precipitevolissimevolmente, with twenty-six letters is the longest word in the Italian language. It means "as fast as possible."
- The official flag of the United States, as of July 4, 1837 (and which lasted for eight years) had 26 stars. (The 26th star was added for Michigan, which became a state on January 26, 1837.)



27

It's a fact that...

- Twenty-seven is a cube number ($3 \times 3 \times 3 = 27$).
- Van Gogh started to draw at the age of twenty-seven.

28

It's a fact that...

- There are twenty-eight days in February, except in leap years.
- Twenty-eight is a triangular number ($1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 = 28$).
- There are twenty-eight digits in one cubit. The ancient Egyptians had their own system for measuring length based on body lengths. A digit was based on the width of one finger. A cubit was the distance measured from the elbow to the tips of the fingers, and this equaled twenty-eight digits.
- Twenty-eight is a perfect number because it equals the sum of all its factors, apart from twenty-eight itself ($1 + 2 + 4 + 7 + 14 = 28$).

29

It's a fact that...

- Twenty-nine is a prime number.
- There are twenty-nine days in February in a leap year.
- On February 9, 1929 (2/9/29), Charles Lindbergh was approved for a Congressional gold medal for his 1927 trans-Atlantic flight.



30

It's a fact that...

- There are thirty days in April, June, September and November.
- Thirty is a pyramidal number — the sum of the first four square numbers ($1 + 4 + 9 + 16 = 30$).
- Dodecahedrons and icosahedrons both have thirty edges.
- A pearl anniversary celebrates thirty years.
- A blue whale weighs as much as thirty elephants.
- Thirty gallons of water are used for the average shower in the United States.

31

It's a fact that...

- Thirty-one is a prime number.
- There are thirty-one letters in the Cyrillic (Russian) alphabet.
- Thirty-one is a card game.
- There are thirty-one days in most months (January, March, May, July, August, October, December) 🗓️