

PI DAY

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/03/pi_day.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Pi Day is on March 14. This is the day when mathematicians and geometry enthusiasts around the world get together and celebrate the mathematical constant of Pi. There are two good reasons to hold Pi Day on March 14. The first is that in the American date format, it is 3/14 and Pi, to two decimal places, is 3.14. The other reason is that March 14 is Albert Einstein's birthday, and he knew a thing or two about numbers. Pi Day started in 1988 at the San Francisco Exploratorium. The museum staff walked around the circular spaces in the building eating fruit pies. Cherry and apple pies have very little to do with Pi, unless you want to calculate the circumference of your fruity treat.

Pi is a letter of the Greek alphabet. The symbol was first used in mathematical calculations in 1737 by the Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler. It is used for the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Computers have calculated Pi to over one trillion digits. It has countless numbers of digits. Perhaps more impressive is the feat of British autism sufferer Daniel Tammet. He holds the European record for reciting Pi from memory to 22,514 digits in just over five hours. He also suffers from a condition in which he sees numbers as colours. He says Pi is particularly beautiful. The worlds of science, engineering and mathematics would be lost without it. Celebrate today with your favourite pie!

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. geometry enthusiasts around | a. two about numbers |
| 2. There are two good reasons to hold | b. places |
| 3. ...to two decimal | c. the circular spaces |
| 4. he knew a thing or | d. the world get together |
| 5. staff walked around | e. circumference |
| 6. calculate the | f. Pi Day on March 14 |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Pi is a letter of | a. circle to its diameter |
| 2. The symbol was first used in | b. to 22,514 digits |
| 3. the ratio of the circumference of a | c. mathematical calculations |
| 4. It has countless | d. beautiful |
| 5. reciting Pi from memory | e. the Greek alphabet |
| 6. He says Pi is particularly | f. numbers of digits |

LISTENING GAP FILL

Pi Day is on March 14. This _____ mathematicians and geometry enthusiasts around the world get together and celebrate the mathematical constant of Pi. There are _____ hold Pi Day on March 14. The first is that in the American date format, it is 3/14 and Pi, _____ places, is 3.14. The other reason is that March 14 is Albert Einstein's birthday, and he _____ two about numbers. Pi Day started in 1988 at the San Francisco Exploratorium. The museum staff walked around _____ in the building eating fruit pies. Cherry and apple pies have very little to do with Pi, unless you want to calculate the circumference _____.

Pi _____ Greek alphabet. The symbol was first used in mathematical calculations in 1737 by the Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler. It is used _____ circumference of a circle to its diameter. Computers have calculated Pi to over one trillion digits. It has _____ of digits. Perhaps more impressive is the feat of British autism sufferer Daniel Tammet. He holds the European _____ Pi from memory to 22,514 digits in just over five hours. He also suffers from a condition in which he sees _____. He says Pi is particularly beautiful. The worlds of science, engineering and mathematics would be _____. Celebrate today with your favourite pie!

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Pi Day is on March 14. This is the day when mathematicians and geometry _____ around the world get together and celebrate the mathematical _____ of Pi. There are two good _____ to hold Pi Day on March 14. The first is that in the American date format, it is 3/14 and Pi, to two _____ places, is 3.14. The other reason is that March 14 is Albert Einstein's birthday, and he knew a thing or _____ about numbers. Pi Day started in 1988 at the San Francisco Exploratorium. The museum staff walked around the _____ spaces in the building eating fruit pies. Cherry and apple pies have very _____ to do with Pi, unless you want to calculate the circumference of your fruity _____.

circular
constant
decimal
treat
enthusiasts
two
little
reasons

Pi is a letter of the Greek alphabet. The _____ was first used in mathematical calculations in 1737 by the Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler. It is used for the _____ of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Computers have calculated Pi to over one trillion _____. It has countless numbers of digits. Perhaps more impressive is the _____ of British autism sufferer Daniel Tammet. He holds the European record for _____ Pi from memory to 22,514 digits in just over five hours. He also _____ from a condition in which he sees numbers as colours. He says Pi is _____ beautiful. The worlds of science, engineering and mathematics would be _____ without it. Celebrate today with your favourite pie!

particularly
digits
reciting
symbol
lost
feat
suffers
ratio

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

Pi Day is on March 14. This is the day when mathematicians and geometry *enthusiasm / enthusiasts* around the world get together and celebrate the mathematical constant of Pi. There are two *well / good* reasons to hold Pi Day on March 14. The first is that in the American *date / dating* format, it is 3/14 and Pi, to two decimal places, is 3.14. The other *reasons / reason* is that March 14 is Albert Einstein's birthday, and he knew a thing or *two / things* about numbers. Pi Day started in 1988 at the San Francisco Exploratorium. The museum *stuff / staff* walked around the circular spaces in the building eating fruit pies. Cherry and apple pies have very *lot / little* to do with Pi, unless you want to *calculation / calculate* the circumference of your fruity treat.

Pi is a letter of the Greek *alphabet / alphabets*. The symbol was first used in mathematical calculations in 1737 by the Swiss *mathematics / mathematician* Leonhard Euler. It is used for the ratio of the circumference of a *round / circle* to its diameter. Computers have calculated Pi to over one trillion digits. It has *countless / counts* numbers of digits. Perhaps more impressive is the *feat / feet* of British autism sufferer Daniel Tammet. He holds the European record for reciting Pi from memory to 22,514 *digital / digits* in just over five hours. He also suffers from a condition in which he sees numbers as colours. He says Pi is *particular / particularly* beautiful. The worlds of science, engineering and mathematics would be *lost / loser* without it. Celebrate today with your favourite pie!

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Pi Day is on March 14. This is the (1) _____ when mathematicians and geometry enthusiasts around the world get together and celebrate the mathematical constant of Pi. There are two good (2) _____ to hold Pi Day on March 14. The first is that in the American date format, it is 3/14 and Pi, to two (3) _____ places, is 3.14. The other reason is that March 14 is Albert Einstein's birthday, and he knew a thing or (4) _____ about numbers. Pi Day started in 1988 at the San Francisco Exploratorium. The museum staff walked around the (5) _____ spaces in the building eating fruit pies. Cherry and apple pies have very little to do with Pi, unless you want to calculate the circumference of your fruity (6) _____.

Pi is a letter of the Greek alphabet. The (7) _____ was first used in mathematical calculations in 1737 by the Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler. It is used for the ratio of the circumference of a (8) _____ to its diameter. Computers have calculated Pi to over one trillion digits. It has countless numbers of (9) _____. Perhaps more impressive is the feat of British autism sufferer Daniel Tammet. He holds the European record for reciting Pi from memory to 22,514 digits in just over five hours. He also (10) _____ from a condition in which he sees numbers as colours. He says Pi is particularly beautiful. The (11) _____ of science, engineering and mathematics would be lost without (12) _____. Celebrate today with your favourite pie!

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) daily | (b) daytime | (c) day | (d) days |
| 2. | (a) reasonable | (b) reasoning | (c) reasons | (d) reason |
| 3. | (a) decimal | (b) dual | (c) digital | (d) decibel |
| 4. | (a) duo | (b) pair | (c) twice | (d) two |
| 5. | (a) circling | (b) circular | (c) circles | (d) circulate |
| 6. | (a) treat | (b) threat | (c) teat | (d) tweet |
| 7. | (a) symbolic | (b) symbol | (c) symbolize | (d) symbolism |
| 8. | (a) circular | (b) circled | (c) circle | (d) circus |
| 9. | (a) digital | (b) dig it | (c) digit | (d) digits |
| 10. | (a) suffering | (b) suffers | (c) suffered | (d) suffers |
| 11. | (a) worlds | (b) planets | (c) globes | (d) stars |
| 12. | (a) them | (b) him | (c) these | (d) it |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. get erhogtte
2. two good rsoasen
3. American date ofmrat
4. about esunrmb
5. walked around the iurcaclr spaces
6. lauectcla the circumference

Paragraph 2

7. The osmybl was first used
8. the oiatr of the circumference
9. one trillion itdgsi
10. the European redroc
11. he sees nsmuebr as colours
12. eincsec, engineering and mathematics

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () together and celebrate the mathematical constant of Pi. There are two good reasons to hold Pi Day
- () mathematics would be lost without it. Celebrate today with your favourite pie!
- () the circular spaces in the building eating fruit pies. Cherry and apple pies have very little to do with
- () its diameter. Computers have calculated Pi to over one trillion digits. It has countless numbers of
- () reason is that March 14 is Albert Einstein's birthday, and he knew a thing or two about
- () digits. Perhaps more impressive is the feat of British autism sufferer Daniel Tammet. He holds the European
- () on March 14. The first is that in the American date format, it is 3/14 and Pi, to two decimal places, is 3.14. The other
- () record for reciting Pi from memory to 22,514 digits in just over five hours. He also suffers from a condition in which he sees
- () Pi, unless you want to calculate the circumference of your fruity treat.
- (**1**) Pi Day is on March 14. This is the day when mathematicians and geometry enthusiasts around the world get
- () numbers. Pi Day started in 1988 at the San Francisco Exploratorium. The museum staff walked around
- () numbers as colours. He says Pi is particularly beautiful. The worlds of science, engineering and
- () Pi is a letter of the Greek alphabet. The symbol was first used in mathematical calculations
- () in 1737 by the Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler. It is used for the ratio of the circumference of a circle to

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. the get geometry around world together enthusiasts

2. 14 March on Day Pi hold to reasons good two are There

3. numbers about two or thing a knew he

4. walked staff museum The spaces circular the around

5. to pies do have with very Pi little apple

6. letter a is Pi alphabet Greek the of

7. digits to Computers over have one calculated trillion Pi

8. numbers countless has It digits of

9. 22,514 Pi from memory digits to reciting

10. your with today Celebrate pie favourite

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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THE PI DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about Pi Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Pi Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Pi Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about Pi Day. Write about will happen on this day around the world. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.