THE MONTHLY GAZETTE

"Hail bounteous May that doth inspire Mirth and youth, and warm desire Woods and groves, are of thy dressing, Hill and dale, doth boast thy blessing."

~ John Milton, "Song on May Morning"



Bird of the Month - Nightingale

The nightingale is a European songbird with a rather plain appearance but possessing a particularly lovely song. In fact, these special birds, which feast on a diet of invertebrates like beetles and flies, can produce over 1,000 different sounds. This is remarkable considering that many other birds of similar size can make only one-third to one-tenth as many noises. They're able to do this because the part of their brain dedicated to making sound is much larger than is typical. Interestingly, despite their name, nightingales most often sing during the day. They primarily sing at night



only during their mating season. Doing so can attract predators, which is why they usually don't risk it unless they have a chance to attract a mate. The light brown birds can be quite aggressive during this time and will defend their territory if they feel threatened or encroached upon. They are shy and elusive birds, preferring thick, tangled habitat.

Special Days

May Day May 1

Cinco de Mayo May 5

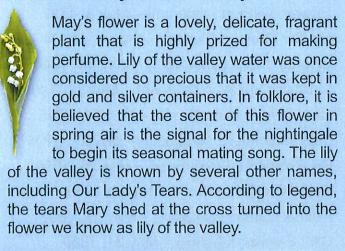
Mother's Day May 14

Armed Forces
Day (U.S.)
May 20

Victoria Day (Canada) May 22

Memorial Day (U.S.) May 29

Flower – Lily of the Valley



Birthstone - Emerald



Emeralds are considered the gemstone of spring due to their rich green color, but officially, they are the birthstone of May. These beautiful

stones have long been a favorite of royalty; Cleopatra favored them and had them mined extensively during her reign. Shah Jahan, the builder of the Taj Mahal, wore an emerald talisman inscribed with holy text for luck and protection. Emeralds are the gift associated with a couple's 55th anniversary and are said to symbolize enduring love.

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The Animal in You: Birthday Critters

May 1-7: Dog

You are loyal, loving, and fiercely protective of your friends and family. You have the uncanny ability to know how to cheer people up. While you love to be active, you're also a pro at relaxing.

May 8-16: Monkey

You love having a fast-paced lifestyle; even a bit of boredom drives you crazy. You tend to enjoy being the center of attention but can also laugh at yourself. Always upbeat, your personality wins people over every time.

May 17-23: Turtle

Your happy-go-lucky approach keeps you centered no matter what life throws your way. Even when times get tough, you are upbeat and spread joy wherever you go. You are a very good listener and are known to give good advice.

May 24-31: Lion

With your peaceful but intense nature, you feel most at home when you are outside. You exude strength and kindness. A born leader, your gentleness helps you earn others' trust. You make friends easily.

Eye Love May

Now is the perfect time to take care of your eyes, as May is Healthy Vision Month. According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, age-related vision impairment can be reduced by getting regular eye exams.

May Zodiac

Taurus (the Bull) May 1–20

Gemini (the Twins) May 21–31

May is the fifth month of the year and one of seven months with 31 days. There are several theories about how May got its name. The most widely accepted explanation is that it was named for Maia, the Greek goddess of fertility, spring, and growth. The name Maia also means "mother" in Greek. The Roman poet Ovid, however, provides a second etymology in which he says that May is named for the maiores, Latin for "elders" or "ancestors," who were celebrated during this month.

May Openings

Brooklyn Bridge: May 24, 1883

Lincoln Memorial: May 30, 1922

Empire State Building: May 1, 1931

Golden Gate Bridge: May 27, 1937

What's Lucky in May?

Lucky Colors: Teal and Pink

Lucky Animal: Seal

Lucky Letters: N and W

Lucky Day: Tuesday Lucky Plant: Begonia



May Birthdays

Frankie Valli (singer) – May 3, 1934

Nellie Bly (journalist) – May 5, 1864

Bob Seger (singer) – May 6, 1945

Edward Gibbon (historian) – May 8, 1737

Martha Graham (dancer) – May 11, 1894

George Lucas (filmmaker) – May 14, 1944

Margaret Sullavan (actress) – May 16, 1909

Cher (singer and actress) – May 20, 1946

Fats Waller (jazz composer) – May 21, 1904

Bill Robinson (tap dancer) – May 25, 1878

Sally Ride (astronaut) – May 26, 1951

Rachel Carson (biologist) – May 27, 1907

Clint Eastwood (actor) – May 31, 1930