

Leap Day

ALL ABOUT A

LEAP YEAR



February 29



Leap Day

What is a Leap Year?

2

A normal year has 365 days, but every four years the year has 366 days. This is called a Leap Year. In a Leap Year, the extra day is always on February 29th.



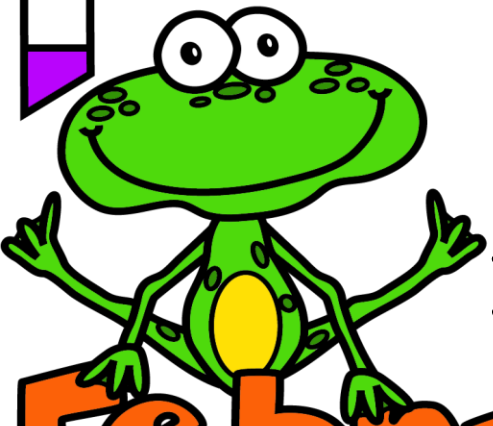
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Why is there a Leap Year?

3 A normal calendar year is 365 days long. However, it takes the earth 365.242 days to orbit the sun. Rather than having a quarter of a day extra each year, it was decided many years ago to put the four extra quarters together every four years, to make up the extra day.



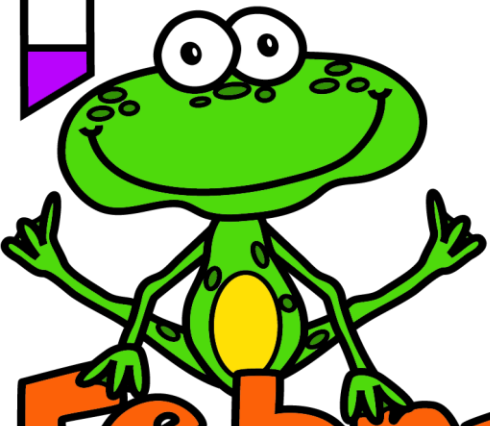
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Why is there a Leap Year?

4 By adding this extra day every four years, the calendar year and the solar year (the length of time it takes for the Earth to orbit the Sun), are kept in line with each other.

It also means that the months are kept in sync with annual events like equinoxes and solstices.



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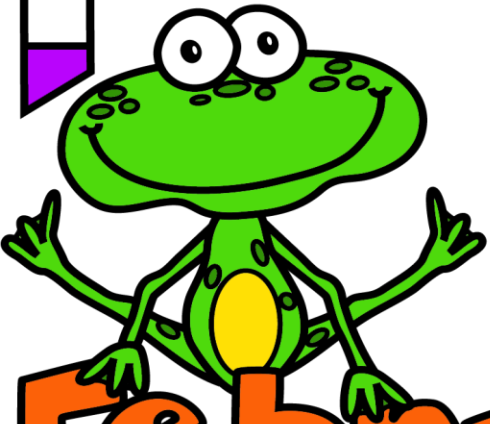


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Why is there a Leap Year?

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However, the length of the solar year is slightly less than $365\frac{1}{4}$ years by 11 minutes. To make up for this, a Leap Year is skipped three times every 400 years, leading to a Century Years rule.



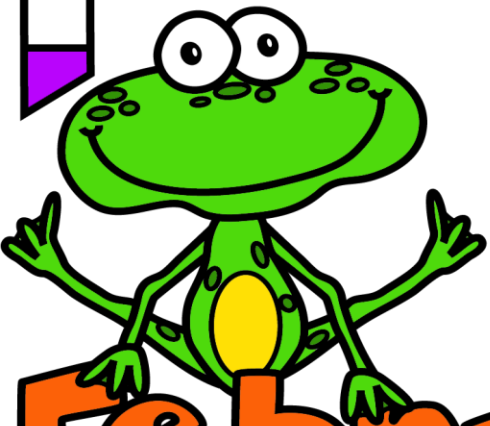
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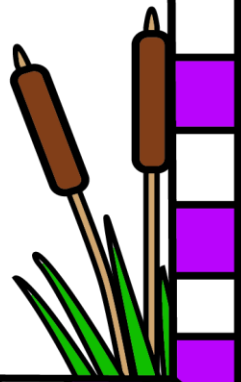
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Century Years

6 Century years may not always be a Leap Year. The rule is that if the year can be divided by 100, but not by 400, the Leap Year is skipped. For example, the year 2000 was a Leap Year but the years 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not. The next time a Leap Year will be skipped will be the year 2100.



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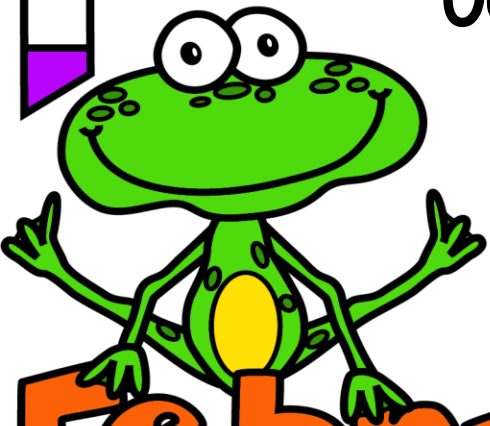


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Leap Years

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The last three Leap Years occurred in 2012, 2016 and 2020. The next three Leap Years will occur in 2028, 2032 and 2036.



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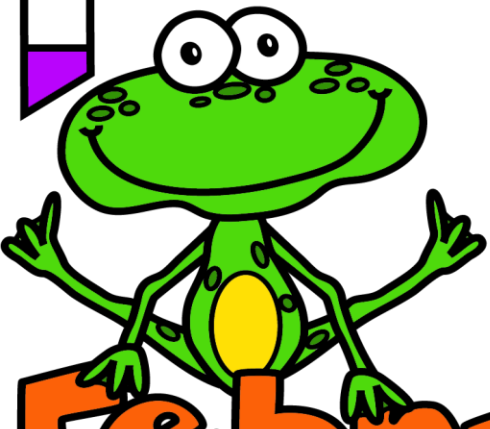
Born on February

29th?

8

People born on February 29th are sometimes called a “leapling” or “leaper”. If you are born on this date, this means that you only have a real birthday every four years.

However, these people usually celebrate their birthday on either February 28th or March 1st in the other years.



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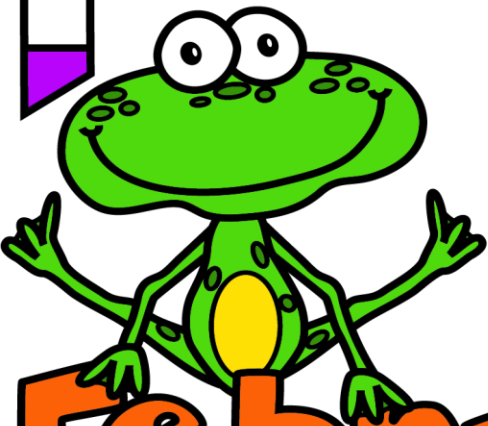
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Leap Year Tradition

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According to tradition, women may only make a marriage proposal to their partner in a Leap Year. Many women will propose marriage on Leap Day itself, February 29th.

In some countries, an old tradition was that if a man refused a marriage proposal, he had to pay compensation to the woman.



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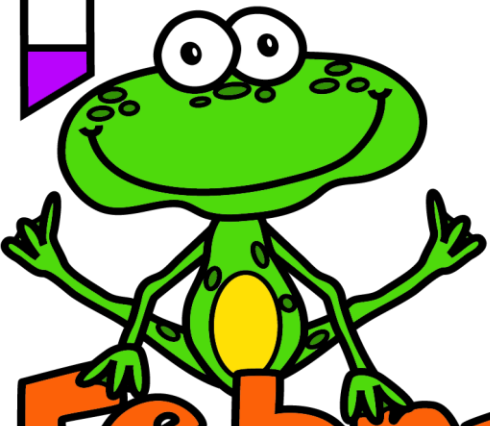


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Leap Year Traditions

10 In Finland, if a man refuses a woman's Leap Day proposal, he should buy her fabric to make a skirt in compensation!

In Greece, it is thought be unlucky to get married in a Leap Year, so many couples will avoid getting married in a Leap Year.



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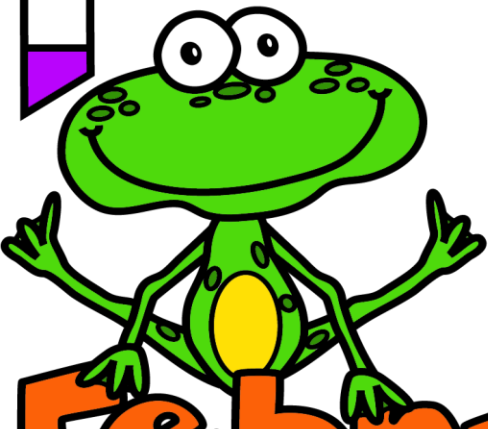
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Interesting Fact

11

If a Leap Year begins on a Monday, Wednesday or Thursday, it will have two Friday 13ths in that year.

Since 2024 began on a Monday, the two Friday 13ths this year will be in September and December.



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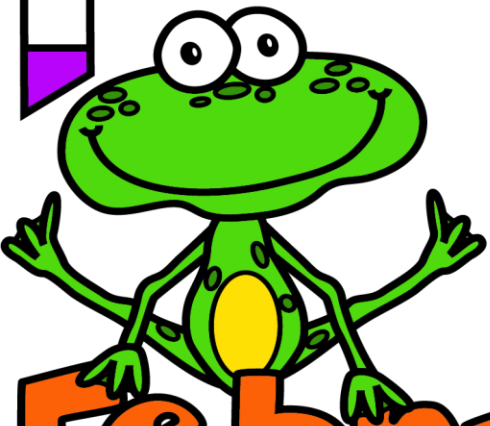
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Interesting Fact

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If a Leap Year begins on Monday January 1st, it will end on Tuesday December 31st. 2024 is an example of this happening.

The last time this happened was 1996 and the next time it will happen will be 2052.



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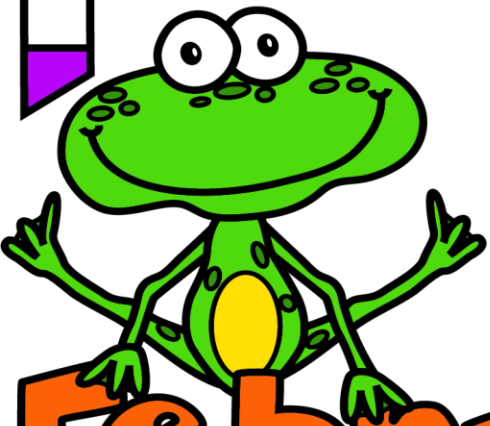


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Interesting Fact

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It is estimated that there are about five million people worldwide who were born on February 29th, Leap Day, out of about eight billion people on the planet.



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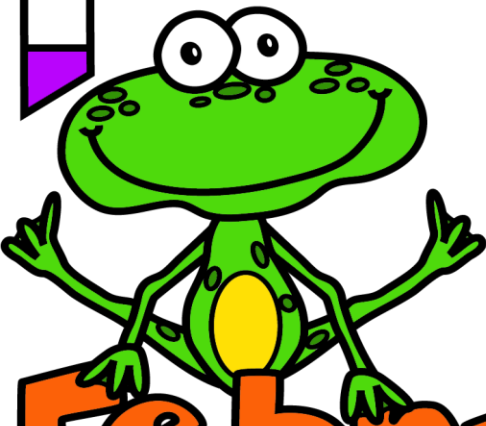
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Kind regards, Seomra Ranga



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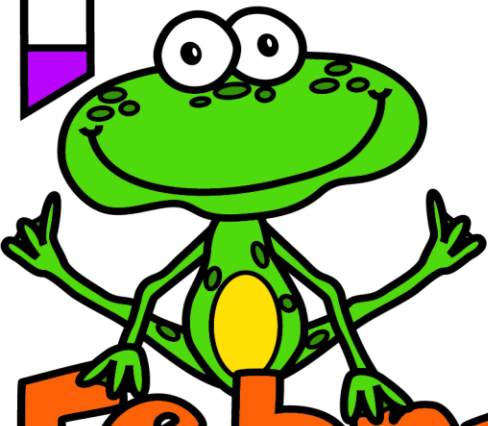
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