

POW 1: Happy Birthday!

The seven-day week is used throughout the world, and many cultures have sayings about how the day of the week on which a person is born might affect that individual's personality. Often people use as role models specific individuals born on the same day of the week they were born.

Here are some famous people born on each of the days of the week:

- Sunday: Louis Armstrong (Aug 4, 1901)
Amelia Earhart (July 24, 1898)
Whoopi Goldberg (Nov 13, 1949)
Katharine Hepburn (May 12, 1907)
Michael Jordan (Feb 17, 1963)
- Monday: Henry "Hank" Aaron (Feb 5, 1934)
Michelangelo Buonarroti (Mar 6, 1475)
Bill Clinton (Aug 19, 1946)
Jodie Foster (Nov 19, 1962)
Kristi Yamaguchi (July 12, 1971)
- Tuesday: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Jan 15, 1929)
Golda Meir (May 3, 1898)
Marilyn Monroe (June 1, 1926)
Michelle Pfeiffer (Apr 29, 1958)
Mao Tse-tung (Dec 26, 1893)
- Wednesday: Maya Angelou (Apr 4, 1928)
Corazon Aquino (Jan 25, 1933)
Anwar Sadat (Dec 25, 1918)
Dr. Seuss (Mar 2, 1904)
Bishop Desmond Tutu (Oct 7, 1931)
- Thursday: Louisa May Alcott (Nov 29, 1832)
Marie "Madame" Curie (Nov 7, 1867)
Nelson Mandela (July 18, 1918)
Stephen Spielberg (Dec 18, 1947)
Laura Ingalls Wilder (Feb 7, 1867)
- Friday: Fidel Castro (Aug 13, 1926)
Madeleine L'Engle (Nov 29, 1918)
Jesse Owen (Sept 12, 1913)
Jerry Seinfeld (Apr 29, 1955)
Oprah Winfrey (Jan 29, 1954)

Saturday: Mahatma Gandhi (Oct 2, 1869)
Madonna (Aug 16, 1958)
Eleanor Roosevelt (Oct 11, 1884)
Mother Teresa (Aug 27, 1910)
Booker T. Washington (Apr 5, 1856)

This raises an interesting question:

Do you know what day of the week you were born on? How would you figure it out if you didn't know?

Your POW is to develop a system for finding out the day of the week on which someone was born, based on the date when the person was born. You should go through these three steps:

1. Use only a calendar for the current month and the "Basic Information About Calendars" below to figure out what day of the week you were born on. Do not look at calendars for any other month of this year or at any calendars for other years.
2. Develop general directions so that someone else could apply the method you used in Question 1 to determine the day of the week on which he or she was born.
3. Have someone try to use the directions you created in Question 2, and have that person tell you how well your directions worked. Based on this feedback, make changes to correct or clarify your directions.

Basic Information About Calendars

Except for February, the number of days in each month is the same every year. The month of February gets an extra day in leap years. Leap years are those that are multiples of 4 - 1904, 1908, 1912, and so on. (For this POW, you will only consider birth dates for the years that are after 1900 and prior to 2100. There are special rules for years that are multiples of 100.)

Here is a table of the number of days in each month:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
31	28*	31	30	31	30	31	31	30	31	30	31

*29 in leap years