April Fool’s Fact File

What is April Fool’s Day?

April Fool’s Day is taken place on the 1st April every year. It is about people playing pranks/jokes on each over and the person having it done to them is considered a fool.

How did the day come apart?

Up until 1582, the first day of a new year was 1st April. In 1582 though, Pope Gregory XIII changed the calendar to the Gregorian calendar (the one we have today). Some people didn't know this, so they still celebrated the New Year on the 1st April, Pope called them fools.

How is it celebrated?

United Kingdom, France, Scotland, Portugal, India, Iran and Germany all have different ways of celebrating this and what they call it.

United Kingdom

In the UK, people play jokes/pranks on people, usually unexpecting ones. However, you can only play these in the morning, any pranks played in the afternoon will consider you a fool.

France

April Fools' Day in French is Poisson d' Avril meaning April Fish. April Fools' comes during Lent in France, so instead of eating meat, you eat fish. The joke is made by taping a paper fish on the back of someone and wait for it to be noticed!

Scotland

In Scotland, April Fools' is Hunt the Gowk, Gowk is a Scottish word that means cuckoo. Gowk is the butt of any practical joke. On April 2nd though, Scottish people do what British people do, play jokes!

Portugal

In Portugal, April Fools' is two days before Lent. During Lent you normally throw everything away, so people in Portugal make the most of this and they throw all of their flower on people, acting as the joke.

India

In India, April Fools' isn't celebrated on 1st April, it is celebrated the day before that, 31st March. They don't call it April Fools' either, they call it Holi. This is the day to play jokes and throw coloured, fun powder at each other to celebrate the coming of spring.

Iran

In Iran, on the 13th day of the Persian New Year is called Sizdah Bedar, which is their April Fools'. Pranks have been played on this day since 536BC, making it the oldest joke day in the world. It is traditional to play games and have a picnic, after the picnic, all the leftovers of green vegetables are thrown away, getting rid of bad look for the coming year.

Germany

In Germany, people call this day Aprilscherz, the day where you play jokes on family and friends and even lie to them. The media also spread fake news to the German public to play a trick on them.