

MARCH 2013

◆ IDES OF MARCH, COME AND GONE AT TRANSLATION ACES! ◆

We come to praise, not to bury...



The *Ides of March* (Latin: *Idus Martii*) is the name of **March** 15 in the Roman calendar, probably referring to the day of the full moon. The term "*ides*" was used for the 15th day of the months of **March**, May, July and October as well as for the 13th day of the other months.

Since the *Ides of March* was a festive day dedicated to the god Mars, a military parade was usually held; however, in more modern times, the term has been best known as the date in 44 BC when Julius Caesar was stabbed (23 times!) to death in the Roman Senate by [Marcus Junius "*et tu*"] Brutus, Cassius and 60 other conspirators. En route to the theater (should Lincoln have been forewarned?), Caesar saw a fortune-teller who predicted that harm would come to him not later than the *Ides of March*. Caesar, a kibitzer like Sid, joked, "Well, the *Ides of March* have come," to which the seer replied, "Ay, they have come, but they are not gone." William Shakespeare is the reason we're wary of this dramatic date thanks to his play *Julius Caesar*, wherein our hero is cautioned to "Beware the *Ides of March*."

Now that they have indeed come and gone, let us **march** on amidst various other 'holidays' to other **March** stuff, without the lion-and-lamb thing



March 1 began the numbered year in Russia until the end of the 15th century. Great Britain and its colonies continued to use **March** 25 as the first day of the calendar year until 1752, when they finally adopted the Gregorian calendar. Many other cultures and religions still celebrate the beginning of the New Year in **March**.

September 1752 in the British Isles

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Right: Thursday 14 follows Wednesday 2 to compensate for the 12 days lost in the conversion to the Gregorian calendar.

◆ FEATURE ◆ Lingua Quiz!

1. MIX & MATCH other famous references to **March**

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| (a) Acting | (1) Protest March |
| (b) Dance | (2) March Madness |
| (c) Different Drummer | (3) St. Patty's Day |
| (d) Hot Cross Buns | (4) Henry David Thoreau's March |
| (e) Equinox | (5) Lewis Carroll's March |
| (f) Canada | (6) Commonwealth Day |
| (g) NCAA | (7) John Philip Sousa's March |
| (h) Mad Hare | (8) First March Day of Spring |
| (i) Million Moms | (9) Frederic's March |

2. MIX & MATCH names for the month of **March** with the language and meaning

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| (a) <i>Maaliskuu</i> | (1) Turkish for Mars |
| (b) <i>Березень</i> | (2) Slovene, for the month when earth becomes dry enough to be cultivated |
| (c) <i>Rhed-monat</i> | (3) French Post-Revolution name for March |
| (d) <i>Sušec</i> | (4) Ukrainian, for birch tree |
| (e) <i>Mart</i> | (5) Finnish (originating from "early month" emerging from snow) |
| (f) <i>Geminal</i> | (7) Saxon |

3. TRUE OR FALSE

- March** always starts on the same day of the week as November and February
- Spring always starts on **March** 21st
- March** comes from *Märzen*, a strong German beer brewed in the spring
- March** 1 in the Julian calendar is **March** 14 in the Gregorian

ANSWERS:

- (a) = (9); (b) = (7); (c) = (4); (d) = (3); (e) = (8); (f) = (2); (g) = (5); (h) = (1); (i) = (1).
- (a) = (5); (b) = (4); (c) = (7); (d) = (2); (e) = (1); (f) = (3).
- (a) = T, but same as Feb only in non-leap years; (b) = F, mostly it has been March 19th or 20th since 2001; (c) = F, it's for Martius, or Mars, the Roman god of war; (d) = T, they are 13 days apart until 2100.