

Inside This Issue

Primaries and Caucuses: Here We Go!

In some ways, everything you have seen so far in the Presidential campaign is just a warm-up to the “real” Presidential race, which begins with the first state-wide within-Party elections (called *primaries* in some states and *caucuses* in others) early in 2016. Now is when American voters will narrow the list of candidates down to one Republican and one Democrat. The choice of the candidate will not be official until the national nominating conventions this summer. But in fact, we will probably know who the final candidates will be long before that. Here is why:

The US Constitution does not describe how candidates will be chosen. Historically, a small group of Party leaders simply met in secret and picked a candidate. This was not popular in a country that valued listening to “the will of the people.”

Starting in 1832, both Republican and Democratic Parties began to hold national nominating conventions, to open the process to the people. *Delegates* (citizens) to these conventions had the chance to tell the Party leaders their opinions. But Party leaders still had a lot of control because, in many cases, they had chosen the delegates in the first place. This took years to change. As late as the 1968 election, more than half the delegates had been chosen by Party leaders. Changes in the system continue today, as Parties look for a way to balance the will of the people with the will of the leaders.

Each national Party decides how many delegates will be at its summer convention: Democrats will have about 4750, Republicans about 2500. States with more registered Party

members and more active Parties get more delegates.

In recent decades, most states have held a primary or caucus to decide how their delegates will vote at their summer convention. In most (but not all) states, registered party members vote in their party’s primaries and those registered as Independents cannot vote in a primary at all. In other states, voters can choose either party’s ballot. State rules about these elections vary widely and change often.

Primaries are different from caucuses mostly in how voting happens. In a primary, the votes are by secret ballot. The results determine how the state’s delegates will vote at the summer national convention -- in some states, it will be proportional to the primary vote; in other states, all state delegates must vote for the one winner.

Caucuses, held in 10 states instead of primaries, are group meetings, held throughout a state in public buildings or homes. Voters stand up to show their support for their favorite candidate (and so voting is not secret).

Each state’s Party makes its own rules about when and how these primaries/caucuses happen, with input from the national party headquarters. This year, there will be four primaries or caucuses in February (Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada). Others will be held in March through June.

You have probably heard a lot about the candidates spending time in Iowa and New

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Presidential Facts

- ◆ We say that Barack Obama is the 44th President of the US, but in fact he is only the 43rd person to serve as President. Grover Cleveland was President twice, as the 22nd and as the 24th President.
- ◆ One Presidential term lasts four years. Presidents cannot be elected more than twice.
- ◆ As you surely know, Obama is the first African American president. In fact, of the 42 other Presidents, all were white and of northern European ancestry: 37 were of English, Scottish, or Irish ancestry (or a combination of these); three had Dutch roots, and two were from Swiss-German families.
- ◆ All US Presidents were raised Christian and/or were members of a Christian church. All but one (John F. Kennedy, a Catholic) were Protestants. The most common denomination has been Episcopalian, followed by Presbyterian.
- ◆ Since 1999, the salary of the President of the US has been \$400,000. The last raise before that was in 1969, when it was set at \$200,000. If that salary had been adjusted every year since 1969 for inflation, it would now be more than \$1,300,000. George Washington was offered \$25,000, but he worked for free. So did John F. Kennedy.
- ◆ The White House, the President's home, has a tennis court, putting green, bowling alley, movie theater, swimming pool, and jogging track. Air Force One, the President's

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President's Day

Most states observe a holiday on the third Monday in February (this year, February 15). The federal government calls it George Washington's Birthday. Many states call it Presidents' Day (or President's Day or even Presidents Day) instead, and honor Abraham Lincoln (born February 12, 1809) as well as Washington (born February 22, 1732). Still other states say the holiday is to honor all Presidents of the US. And, well, a few don't observe it at all (see article below on state vs. federal holidays).

George Washington was the general who led the colonists' army during the American Revolution against England. Later, he was elected to be the first President of the US, unanimously (no one ran against him, as he was such a popular figure). Some call him the "Father of the United States." He is remembered as an honest man with good judgment. Find his

picture on one-dollar bills.

Abraham Lincoln was President during the US Civil War between the northern and southern states. He made slavery illegal in 1863 and was the first President to be assassinated (killed), just after the end of the Civil War in 1865. He is also remembered as Honest Abe. Find his picture on five-dollar bills.

Stories about these two popular Presidents tell a lot about American values. See *Cherry Trees and Log Cabins* on page 6 of this newsletter.

There are no special celebrations or traditions for this holiday. Many schools and government offices will be closed, but many businesses will be open. Stores consider this a good chance to have a sale! Cards and gift-giving are not expected.

State vs. Federal Holidays

Did you know that there are no "national" holidays in the US? The federal government has 10 holidays*. These apply to people who work and live in Washington, DC, and to employees of federal agencies in any state (like the US Postal Service or US Social Security offices). Each state makes its own rules about which holidays it will observe. These state rules then apply to employees of state agencies (like state and local government, public schools, and libraries) and most (but not all) businesses.

In 1968, some holidays were set always to occur on a Monday, so employees get a three-day weekend. Other holidays always occur on the same date because they are tied to a particular calendar day (New Year's Day and Independence Day — or Fourth of July) or to a date with historical or religious meaning (Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas).

* *The federal holidays are: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas.*

Groundhog Day

February 2 is Groundhog Day, a light-hearted tradition in which people watch to see if a groundhog, coming out of its hole in the ground, sees its shadow. If so, according to the legend, there will be six more weeks of winter weather. If there is no shadow, spring will come sooner. On TV you will see Punxsutawney Phil, a Pennsylvania groundhog who, they claim, has not been wrong in 90 years. Scientific records show a much less impressive record...

Br-r-r-r

Winter can be hard enough, without having to deal with the fact that the US uses Fahrenheit instead of Centigrade. Maybe this will help:

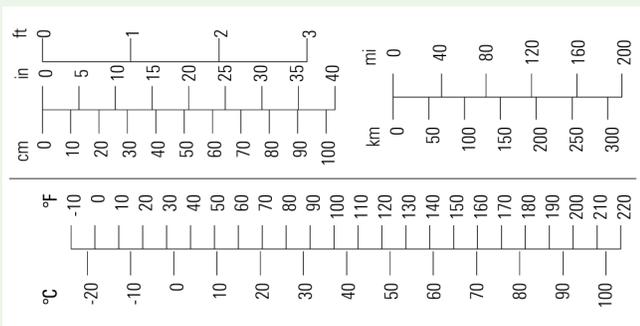
If you enjoy arithmetic:

To convert Fahrenheit to Celsius (Centigrade), subtract 32 and multiply by 5/9.

To convert Celsius (Centigrade) to Fahrenheit, multiply by 9/5 and add 32.

Or memorize a few key points on the scale:	C	F
Water Freezes	0	32
Comfortable room temperature	20	68
Normal body temperature	37	98.6
High Fever	40	104
Water Boils	100	212

Or cut this out and keep it in your wallet or on your refrigerator, for easy computing:



Or check these well-reviewed smartphone apps:

Accuweather (free; Android or iOS; or get the Platinum version for \$4 and avoid the ads)

The Weather Channel (free; Android or iOS)

WeatherBug (free; Android or iOS)

Weather Underground (free; Android or iOS) - uses a network of 30,000 users to crowdsource local weather information

Hi-Def Radar (\$1.99) or Perfect Weather (2.99) - both from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Know these terms (from the Federal Emergency Management Agency - FEMA):

Winter Weather Advisory: Cold, ice and snow are expected.

Winter Storm Watch: Severe weather such as heavy snow or ice is possible in the next day or two.

Winter Storm Warning: Severe winter conditions have begun or will begin very soon.

Blizzard Warning: Heavy snow and strong winds will produce a blinding snow, near zero visibility, deep drifts and life-threatening wind chill.

And if all else fails, remember that these are the lowest recorded temperatures in the US:

United States	Prospect Creek, Alaska	Jan. 23, 1971	-80F	-62C
U.S. (excl. Alaska)	Rogers Pass, Montana	Jan. 20, 1954	-70F	-56.5C

It could be worse...

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airplane, has 4000 square feet of floor space, including a dining room, a conference area, private quarters, office space, and two kitchens.

- ◆ Only one US President, Ronald Reagan (1981-88), has been divorced. Only one president, James Buchanan (1857-60), was never married.

- ◆ Ronald Reagan was the oldest US President to begin office. He turned 70 two weeks after his term began. The youngest President to be elected was John F. Kennedy who was 43. Theodore Roosevelt was 42 when he became President after William McKinley was assassinated.

- ◆ To *impeach* a President means to charge him with serious misconduct in office, and to put him on trial in the Senate. If he is found guilty, he must resign from office. Only two Presidents, Andrew Johnson (1868) and Bill Clinton (1999), have been impeached. Both were allowed to complete their terms. Richard Nixon was the only President ever to resign from office, in 1974. Several days earlier, Congress had threatened to impeach him for his role in the Watergate affair.

- ◆ Eight Presidents have died while serving as President. Four were assassinated. The other four died of natural causes.

- ◆ If the President dies in office, the Vice President becomes President. If the Vice President then dies, the Speaker of the House of Representatives becomes President (but this has never happened).

Black History Month

February is Black History month in the US. You cannot really understand US society today without knowing something about slavery, the post-slavery period of 1865-1960s, and the Civil Rights movement of the mid-20th century.

The US is in the middle of a nationwide re-examination of racism and implicit bias. Here are some resources to help you understand this part of US history:

African American Lives. A TV series from PBS (now available on youtube) that explores the ancestry, roots, race and identity of actors who grew up in the mid-20th century: Oprah Winfrey, Morgan Freeman and Whoopi Goldberg, historian Henry Lewis Gates, Jr., poet Maya Angelou, and more:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6JTxb7KMSE

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuWF5W7RG4k

12 Years a Slave: Movie based on the true story of a free black man sold into slavery before the US Civil War. Available on Netflix or amazon.

Selma: Movie about an important civil rights march in Selma, Alabama. Available on Netflix or amazon.

Eyes on the Prize. A documentary series on the Civil Rights movement from 1954-1965. A sequel continues to cover 1964-1980s. www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiWX0r0wzM.

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Valentine's Day

Red hearts with white lace. Heart-shaped candy boxes. Cards that say "Be mine." Red-dyed food. Fat babies (called cupids) carrying arrows. These are the symbols of Valentine's Day (February 14), the day to celebrate love and affection. This is not a legal holiday. Businesses and schools will not close. But Americans who ignore the holiday may end up with an angry and hurt spouse or lover!

The origins of Valentine's Day are not clear. There were several Saint Valentines in early Christian history, each with a feast day on February 14. But none of them was linked to love in any clear way. Somehow, by the 14th century in England, Chaucer was writing about Valentine's Day as a day for lovers. Another story (popular but not based in much fact) says that St. Valentine was in jail and fell in love with the jailer's daughter. He sent her a letter, signed, "From your Valentine," perhaps the first Valentine card. Other historians think that the holiday grew out of a Roman cel-

ebration, Lupercalia, held in February. At Lupercalia, names of young women were put in a box. Young men picked a name. The two were considered a "pair" for a year. Early Christian leaders tried to replace the names of young women with names of saints. Young men would pick the name of a saint, and try to be like the saint for a year. The custom of picking young women's names was always more popular..

Today's Valentine's Day is a light-hearted, non-religious holiday in the US. The link to an early Christian saint is gone. On February 14, it is traditional to give the love in your life a card or gift. Chocolate candy and pink or red flowers are common. Stores will urge you to buy more expensive, personal gifts. Young school children often send classmates small Valentine cards. Friends, grandparents and children may also send cards to each other.



Wiki-How on Valentine's Day

Have you discovered "Wiki-How" (www.wikihow.com) yet? It is trying to be the "world's largest, highest quality how-to manual." So far, I have learned how to draw Escher's impossible cube, never lose at tic-tac-toe, take good photos from an airplane seat, organize my iPod, write a song, open a beer bottle with a dollar bill...you get the idea.

Anyway, check it out. There's a good search tool, so use it for something you actually want to know how to do (re-upholster a chair? land an airplane in an emergency? make chocolate chip cookies? fold a fitted bed sheet neatly?). Or add your own entry to the almost 30,000 how-to articles already there.

Or use it to make your Valentine's Day more special:

www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Pop-up-Valentine's-Day-Card
www.wikihow.com/Make-Chocolate
www.wikihow.com/Sweep-a-Girl-off-Her-Feet
www.wikihow.com/Type-a-Heart-Symbol-in-Windows
www.wikihow.com/Be-Happy-Being-Single-on-Valentines-Day
www.wikihow.com/Make-an-Origami-Heart

These aren't quite "you?" Try www.wikihow.com/Category:Valentines-Day

The Other Side of Love

This month on Valentine's Day, people around you will be talking a lot about love. But if you have recently moved to the US, you may not be feeling so happy with your spouse or partner all the time! Moving to a new country can be difficult for couples, because:

(1) Moving here means being away from family and friends. Husbands and wives may depend on each other more, for advice and friendship. Even in the happiest marriages, this change can be hard because it is so different. In couples who have some problems, the increased time together often raises problems that were always there, but now come to the surface.

(2) Because they are away from those who know them best, some people try new ways of behaving. This can be a wonderful — or a difficult — change for a couple.

(3) The amount of time spouses spend in the family may have changed a lot — sometimes it increases, sometimes it decreases. Either way, family roles have to change. Who cooks dinner? Who talks to the children? Who notices that the sink is broken? Who makes social plans? These may also be big changes for a marriage.

(4) Husbands and wives may have very different day-to-day experiences. Maybe one spouse goes to a job every day where he/she meets new people, practices English, and has interesting work that he/she is good at. Of course, that spouse may feel the responsibility for moving here, and therefore guilty if some in the family are unhappy.

The other spouse may not have a job. Meeting people and practicing English is harder then. That spouse may spend more time doing things that have very different customs — like understanding new school systems, housing, and shopping. If that spouse had a job or other important responsibilities at home, the

loss of identity (as “a teacher” or “a community leader”) can be very difficult. The simple fact that the spouses made different sacrifices means that they face different kinds of adjustment.

So - some advice: Do not expect that you and your spouse will always feel the same way at the same time. Most people who move to a new country go through times of liking their new lives, and other times of being unhappy. It is rare for two people to adjust at exactly the same rate. If your up and down cycles are short, try not to feel abandoned if your spouse is happy when you are sad. And try not to feel discouraged if you are happy when your spouse wants to go home. With time, you will probably meet often at points in the cycles where you both feel fine.

Try not to get stuck into “The Happy One” and “The Unhappy One” roles. When adjusting to a new country feels too difficult, it is common for spouses to split their emotions like that. But in couples that adjust most easily to an intercultural move, both spouses agree that there are both good and bad things about living in the new country. They may disagree about what is good and bad but they both have some things they like, and are allowed to dislike others. If your spouse always seems to talk about how great the US is and you disagree, try talking about something you do like in the US. With time, your spouse may say, “Yes, but this part is not so good...”

In the same way, if your spouse seems more unhappy than you, try talking about something in the US that you do not like. It may sound backwards. But remember that if both of you can speak to each other about the good and bad parts of living here, you will feel less lonely. And you will return more quickly to the natural cycles of adjustment.

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Hoop Dreams (1994). A simple but compelling documentary about two African American boys who hope their basketball playing will lead to a good education and life out of the city. www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTcdLKa1nol

Here is a source for children's TV shows, websites, movies and materials about Black history in the US. www.readingrockets.org/calendar/blackhistory/

And here are links about some of the most famous moments in this Civil Rights era:

- ◆ Rosa Parks, a black woman, refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, sparking a year-long bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5qvNPWSuKM

- ◆ Emmet Till, a black teenage boy from Chicago visiting in Mississippi, flirted with a white woman and was lynched (murdered)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qsauS-k6y4

- ◆ Nine black students attended a previously-all-white high school in Little Rock, Arkansas

www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGjNqrQBUno

- ◆ Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. was a powerful speaker. Listen to his most famous *I Have a Dream* speech here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0yP4aLyq1g

Birthday Biography: Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass was born into slavery in about 1817, in about February. (It was common for there to be no formal or informal note of slaves' birth dates, so we are not sure of the exact date.) His mother was a slave, his father a white man — possibly his owner, although he never knew for sure.

Douglass escaped to the North and became one of the most important abolitionists (person who worked for the end of slavery). He was a powerful writer and journalist, and an eloquent speaker about the evils of slavery and about his own life.

Interesting Presidential campaign note: During the 1860 Presidential election, Douglass first supported Gerrit Smith, who held a stronger anti-slavery position than his rival, Abraham Lincoln. Douglass later decided that Smith could not win and switched his support to Lincoln.

Douglass' autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, would be a fascinating way for you to learn about this period of US history. In just 69 pages, he describes the conditions of slavery, his own dramatic escape, and his ideas about morality.

In both his own time and now, Frederick Douglass was an American hero. His story is that of the power of moral conviction, education, and personal strength.

Happy Birthday, Mr. Douglass.

Cherry Trees and Log Cabins

George Washington, the first US President, chopped down a cherry tree when he was a little boy in the 1730s. When his parents asked him if he had done it, he said, "I cannot tell a lie — yes, I did."

Abraham Lincoln, the 16th US President, was born in a log cabin. He taught himself to read, lying on the floor, by the light of the fireplace. He only went to school for one year. One day a book he had borrowed from a neighbor got wet. He worked three days in the neighbor's field to pay for it.

Every school child in the United States knows these "facts" about these two US Presidents. Actually historians agree that the cherry tree story is completely false. But the lessons told in the stories are important anyway.

Lincoln's log cabin is a well-loved symbol of American opportunity. It says, "You can start from a very poor family, and rise to an important position in life and history." The picture of him stretched out in front of the fireplace, reading, says, "Even if life is difficult, you should get an education." Lincoln's borrowed book and Washington's cherry tree say, "Honesty, above all else, is what is important." You may have been surprised by Americans' reactions to past scandals in which politicians are held to a high standard of honesty; these stories explain the roots of their reactions.

Stories about heroes teach children about a nation's values. You can continue to teach your children about your country's values while liv-

ing in the US. Tell them stories of your national heroes. Who were the famous people in your country's history? What did they do that was important? What do their stories say about their character and personality? (Bravery? Loyalty? Integrity? Fairness? Wisdom?) If you keep these heroes alive in your family, the values will stay alive too.

In the same way, stories about parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents teach children about a family's values. In her book *Black Sheep and Kissing Cousins: How Our Family Stories Shape Us* (Penguin), Elizabeth Stone reports on interviews with more than 100 Americans about their families' stories. Some stories were long and detailed. Others were really just a phrase, told over and over about a person. Some gave the family an identity (as "rebellious people," or as "a family that is loyal to each other even in hard times," for example). Others taught warnings (like "don't be too interested in making money," or "stay away from strangers").

For example, Stone told of her own great-grandmother who was the daughter of a rich man in Italy. She married the poor town postman who was "able to play any musical instrument he laid eyes on." Stone then describes all her family members who were more interested in the arts than money.

What stories do you tell about your family? What do they teach? Tell these stories to your children, especially now while you are far away. You will keep the link with your family alive.



Storytelling Ideas for You

Try these sites to help you begin to tell family stories:

www.storyworth.com - helps you write or record stories and invite others in your family to tell theirs, then share them with each other on line or in a book

www.facebook.com/StorytellingforInterculturalReflection - my Facebook page for people who want to share ideas about how to tell stories about their intercultural lives

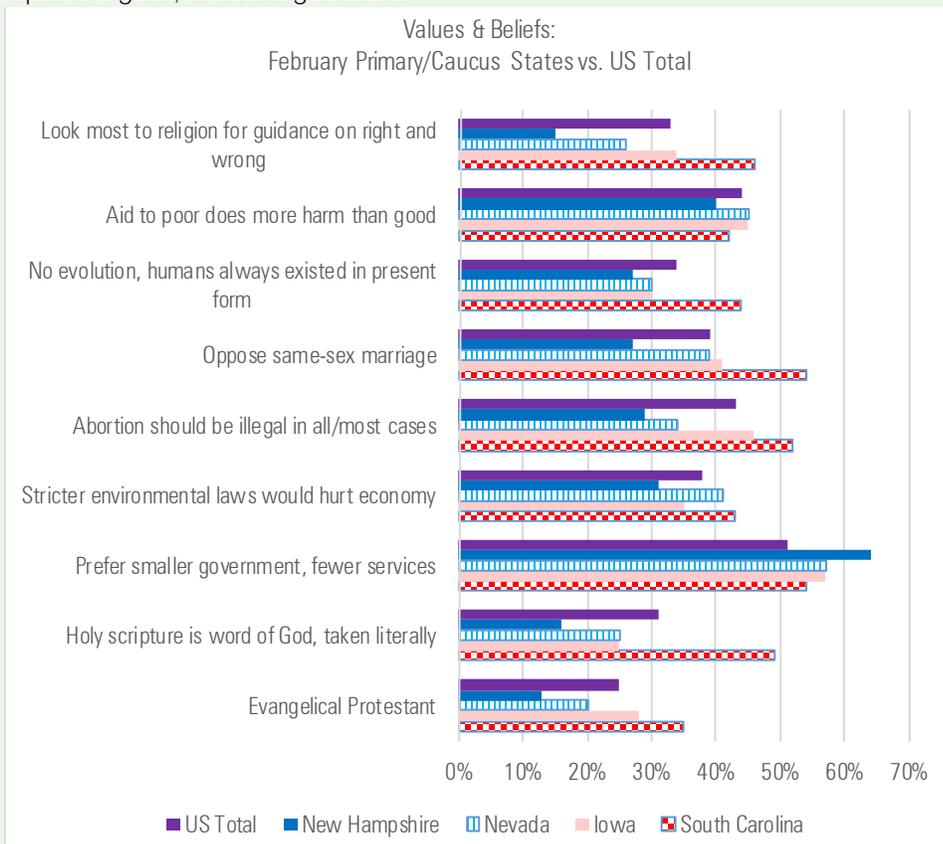
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PRIMARIES AND CAUCUSES: HERE WE GO!

Hampshire, and now you know why. For many years, these two states' elections have been the very first ones. The citizens feel good about being important in the national campaign. Winning early makes a candidate a "front runner" and so, more popular and more likely to get more donations. Which brings us to the money factor. Candidates (and the reporters who cover them) spend a lot of money in those states with early primaries— one economist estimated a \$50-60 billion impact on the state of Iowa alone.

You might ask whether these traditional early states are a good predictor of how the country will vote as a whole. Are these voters "typical American voters?" See the chart below; some of the February primary/caucus states are more conservative and religious than the US total; others are more liberal.

In the 16 Presidential elections since 1952, the Republican winner of the New Hampshire primary has become the final candidate 13 times, the Democratic winner 9 times. Nine of these 13 Republican candidates and 7 of the 9 Democrats went on to win the presidency. So winning in New Hampshire is good, but it's no guarantee.



This chart shows some of the values and beliefs of residents of the four states who will be getting so much attention this month. Compare their views with the US total on: whether they turn most to religion (as opposed to philosophy/reason, science or common sense) for moral guidance; whether government aid to the poor is, on balance, a good thing; whether they think humans evolved by natural processes, or evolved by God's design or have always existed in their present form; whether they oppose or support same-sex marriage; whether abortion should be illegal vs legal in all/most cases; whether stricter environment laws are worth the economic cost or not; whether they prefer smaller government with fewer services or a larger one with more; whether they think the holy scriptures are the word of God to be taken literally or not, and whether they identify as Evangelical Protestant.

Source: Pew Research Center Religious Landscape Study

Primaries and Caucuses Schedule

- Feb 1 Iowa
- Feb 9 New Hampshire
- Feb 20 Nevada (D), South Carolina (R), Washington +
- Feb 23 Nevada (R), South Carolina (D)
- Mar 1 Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts*, North Dakota (R), Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont*, Virginia, Wyoming (R)
- Mar 5 Kansas, Kentucky (R), Louisiana, Maine (R), Nebraska (D)
- Mar 6 Maine (D)
- Mar 8 Hawaii (R), Idaho (R), Michigan, Mississippi
- Mar 15 Florida, Illinois*, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio
- Mar 22 Arizona, Idaho (D), Utah
- Mar 26 Alaska (D), Hawaii (D), Washington (D)
- Apr 5 Wisconsin*
- Apr 9 Wyoming (D)
- Apr 19 New York
- Apr 26 Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania*, Rhode Island
- May 3 Indiana
- May 10 Nebraska (R), West Virginia
- May 17 Kentucky (D), Oregon
- May 24 Washington (R)
- Jun 7 California, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota (D), South Dakota
- Jun 14 Washington, DC

+ Washington (R) will hold a caucus in March but will select delegates in May.

* May change

Newcomer's Almanac is published monthly by The Interchange Institute, for people who have recently moved to the United States. Its goal is to promote international understanding by providing information about the American holidays, customs, values, social issues, and language that often confuse and surprise newcomers. It is written by Anne P. Copeland, PhD, who is a clinical psychologist and the Director of The Interchange Institute. She is an American and has lived and worked overseas with her family.

The Interchange Institute is a not-for-profit organization that studies the impact of intercultural transitions on individuals, their families, and the organizations for which they work. From the results of this research, the Institute offers seminars and workshops, produces publications, and provides consultative services to the international newcomers, their organizations, and to host communities, recognizing that change and insight on both sides facilitates smooth transition.

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That Crazy English: Have a Heart!

There are dozens of idioms that use the word *heart*. These mostly refer to some deep emotion (or lack of it):

When I asked her, she said "yes" but she said it *half-heartedly*. (When I asked her, she said "yes" but she said it *without enthusiasm*.)

Don't be so *hard-hearted* when your sister asks for help. (*Be kinder and more sympathetic* when your sister asks for help.)

He remembered his teacher as *cold-hearted*. (He remembered his teacher as *cruel and mean*.)

They met us with a big, *open-hearted* smile. (They met us with a big, *welcoming* smile.)

I opened the newspaper *with a heavy heart*, knowing what I would see. (I opened the newspaper *with great sadness*, knowing what I would see.)

As he reached for his speech, he realized *with a sinking heart*, that he had left it at home. (As he reached for his speech, he *gradually and painfully* realized that he had left it at home.)

Come on! *Have a heart!* Let them join us if they want to. (Come on! *Be generous and kind!* Let them join us if they want to.)

BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU'RE A POET

Read *Valentine's Day* on [page 4](#). The most traditional poem for a Valentine's card is this:

*Roses are red
Violets are blue
Sugar is sweet
And so are you.*

Children often have fun writing new versions of this poem (Roses are red/Violets are blue/ When you are with me/ You smell like a shoe.). Try making a few new ones yourself:

1. Roses are red
Violets are blue

2) Roses are red
Violets are blue

Adults used to write their own love poetry on Valentine's cards. Here are the first lines of some Valentine poems from the 1800s. Add your own lines:

3) Oh! come my love, my own delight, 4) Fly Cupid, fly, and wing thy way,*

(*fly away, go on your way)

5) Doubt not - believe each word you see, 6) _____
And treasure up each sacred* line, _____

And I love you.

(*holy, special)

Now write a 4-line poem in your own language, then translate it into English.

HOMEWORK

WITH A PEN

1. Read *Cherry Trees and Log Cabins* on [page 6](#). Write a brief story that has often been told in your family about you, a parent, sibling or grandparent. What does this story say about what your family thinks is important?

2. Read *Cherry Trees and Log Cabins* on [page 6](#). Write a list of 3-5 national heroes in your home country. What is the most famous thing about each? What do children in your country learn about the family or history of each? What lessons do these stories teach?

3. Read *State vs. Federal Holidays* on [page 2](#). Write a list of national holidays in your home country, and a brief description of why that day is celebrated. Which, if any, are religious holidays? Are businesses and government offices closed for all of them?

4. Read *Wiki-how on Valentine's Day* on [page 4](#). Write a step-by-step set of instructions on how to make a holiday decoration from your home country.

5. Read *That Crazy English: Have a Heart!* on [page 8](#). Write a list of idioms used in your home language that refer to the heart or other body part. Write a word-for-word translation of each, and use each one in an English sentence.

DOUBLE MEANINGS

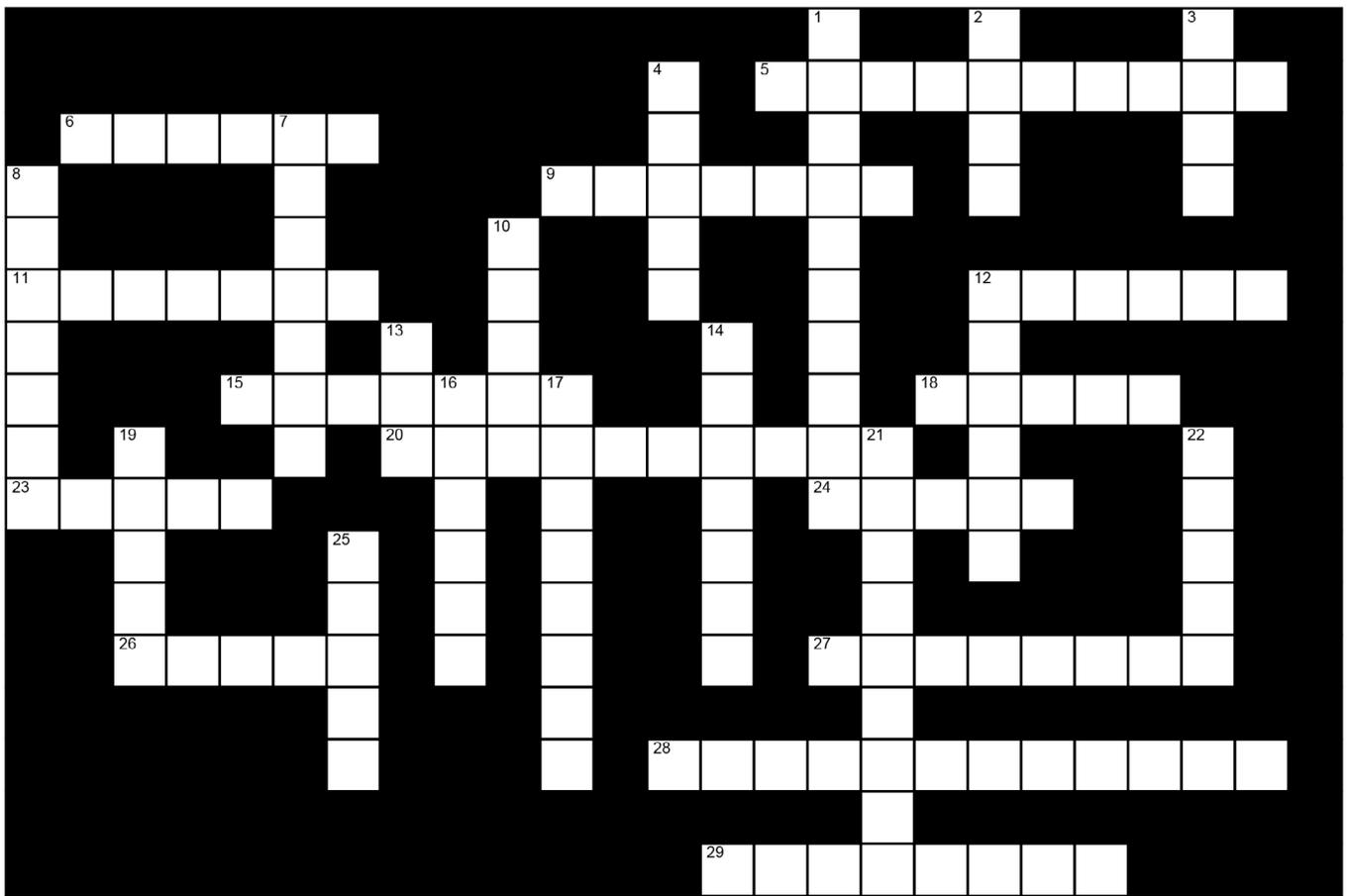
Read *Cherry Trees and Log Cabins* on [page 6](#). The article uses several words that have more than one meaning. Choose the correct meaning, as it is used in the context of the article. The number in parentheses shows which paragraph the word is in.

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. lie (1) | a) rest | b) say something that is not true |
| 2. lying (2) | a) resting | b) saying something that is not true |
| 3. light (2) | a) not heavy | b) glow |
| 4. field (2) | a) area to grow crops | b) an area of study |
| 5. symbol (4) | a) metal drum | b) sign |
| 6. poor (4) | a) having little money | b) pathetic |
| 7. value (5) | a) what something costs | b) morals or beliefs |
| 8. character (5) | a) important person in a story | b) personal values or qualities |
| 9. hard (6) | a) difficult | b) not soft |

FUN, USEFUL, COLORFUL, GREAT AND IMPORTANT ADJECTIVES

Adjectives describe and give meaning to nouns. Read *The Other Side of Love* on [page 5](#). In the left-hand column below, write the adjective used in the article to describe the noun. (The number after the noun refers to the paragraph number in which the noun is found.) In the right-hand column, think of another adjective that could describe that noun.

<u>happiest</u>	marriages (2)	<u>longest</u>
_____	change (3)	_____
_____	work (5)	_____
_____	rules (5)	_____
_____	customs (6)	_____
_____	country (8)	_____
_____	cycles (10)	_____



Across

5. George ___ was the first US President.
6. husband or wife
9. ___ was made illegal during the presidency of Abraham Lincoln.
11. a state-wide election to pick a Party's candidate for president
12. a non-secret state-wide way of picking a presidential candidate
15. another word for "national" in the US
18. ___ is a movie about an important Civil Rights march in Alabama.
20. There will be more delegates at the ___ National Convention than at the other Party's Convention.
23. with a ___ heart, with great sadness
24. Barack Obama is the forty-___ person to be President of the US.
26. Have a ___! Be kind!
27. an important figure in American history who worked to end slavery
28. the most liberal of the states holding primaries and caucuses this month (two words)
29. a person chosen to go to the national Party convention to officially pick a presidential candidate

Down

1. Water freezes at 32 degrees ___.
2. Go to ___-how.com to learn how to do almost anything.
3. a state with an early caucus
4. February is ___ History Month in the US.
7. Telling family ___ is a good way to teach values.
8. to charge an elected official with serious misconduct
10. Martin Luther King's most famous speech, I Have a ___
12. A famous story says that George Washington chopped down a ___ tree but did not lie about it.
13. the traditional color of Valentine's Day
14. About half of all Americans think a ___ government is best.
16. The only US President to have been divorced was ___.
17. A famous story says that Abraham Lincoln was born in a ___ (two words).
19. the month in which most primaries and caucuses will be held
21. a traditional Valentine's Day gift
22. Rosa ___ refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man.
25. In a Winter Storm ___, snow and ice are possible in the next day or two.

OUT AND ABOUT

1. Read *Valentine's Day* on [page 4](#). Go to a store that sells greeting cards. Find an example of a Valentine's card that: (a) is for a young child, (b) is for one's spouse, (c) is funny, and (d) is serious.
3. Read *Groundhog Day* on [page 2](#). Watch a national TV news show on February 2 to learn whether Phil saw his shadow.
4. Read *State vs. Federal Holidays* on [page 2](#). On February 15 (Presidents Day), make note of what is closed in your community. Schools? Post Office? Businesses?
5. Read *Valentine's Day* on [page 4](#). In the week before February 14, count the number of red and pink things you see in store windows and restaurants. Do they look good enough to buy?

IF YOU USE THE WEB

1. Read *Valentine's Day* on [page 4](#). Go to www.wikihow.com and search for how to make a pop-up Valentine's Day Card. Then search for something you actually want to know how to do (!), or something you know how to do well so you can compare advice.

2. Read *Black History Month* on [page 4](#). Watch each of the youtube clips mentioned in the article.

3. Read *Primaries and Caucuses: Here We Go!* on [pages 1](#) and [7](#). For a more complete description of the primary and caucus system, listen to this talk:

www.khanacademy.org/humanities/history/american-civics-parent/american-civics/v/primaries-and-caucuses

4. Read *Groundhog Day* on [page 2](#). If you happen to miss the big event, here's a recording of the ceremony a few years ago; the action starts at minute 3:00:.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovYgqL4-R4Y



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WITH A FRIEND

1. Read *Presidential Facts* on [page 2](#) and 3. Discuss two or three facts that surprised you. Going through them point by point, note any that are very different from your home country.

2. Read *Valentine's Day* on [page 4](#). With a friend or partner, compare how people behave when they are "in love" in your home culture with what they do in the US. If you have Valentine's Day in your home country, how is it similar to and different from what you see in the US? When do men and women exchange gifts?

3. Read *Cherry Trees and Log Cabins* on [page 6](#). Tell a friend or partner a story that you have heard others tell about someone in your family. What is the underlying message about the people in the story? What stories will you tell about the time you lived in the US? What will listeners conclude about your experience or about you, from these stories?

4. Read *That Crazy English: Have a Heart!* on [page 8](#). Tell a friend or partner about a very kind or a very mean person you know, using as many heart idioms as you can.

5. Read *B-r-r* on [page 3](#). Describe to a friend or partner what the weather is probably like today in your home country. What is the coldest it ever gets there? The hottest? Discuss how it has been for you to live in the US climate.

IDIOMS

Read *That Crazy English: Have a Heart!* on [page 8](#). Match the idiom on the left with the situation on the right when the idiom might be useful.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. half-hearted | a. someone refuses to help an old man on to a bus |
| 2. hard-hearted | b. you have to share some very sad news with your family |
| 3. cold-hearted | c. you agreed to do something, but don't really want to do it |
| 4. open-hearted | d. you thought you would win but now it seems you will lose |
| 5. heavy heart | e. a teacher is delighted to have a new student join the class |
| 6. sinking heart | f. a politician ignores a group of hungry children |



ANSWER CORNER

DOUBLE MEANINGS

- 1b 2a
3b 4a
5b 6a
7b 8b
9a

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1b
2b
3a
4a

FUN...ADJECTIVES

wonderful (or *difficult*) change
interesting work
cultural rules
different customs
new country
natural cycles

IDIOMS

- 1c 2a or f
3f or a
4e 5b 6d