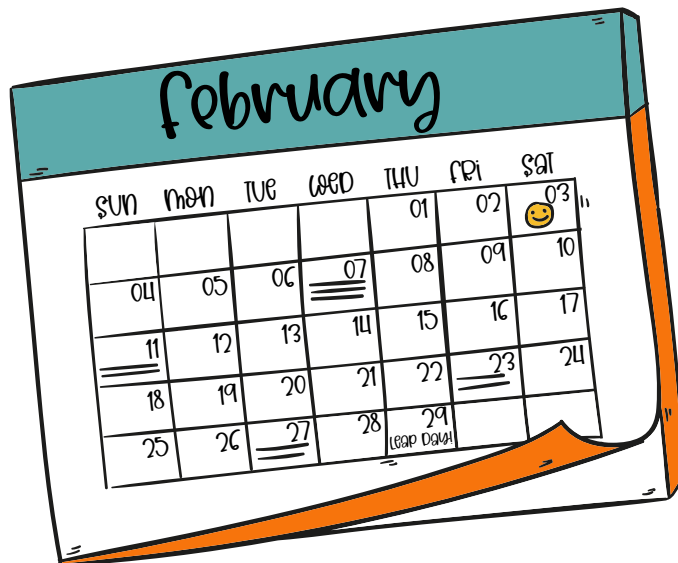


# Curious Quest Kits

LEARNING ABOUT

# Leap Years



## Definition of Leap

In everyday language, "leap" means to jump or move quickly. But when we talk about a "leap year," we're not talking about jumping physically. Instead, we're talking about a special year that doesn't follow the usual pattern.

## Leap Year Word Search

A N D K J L L E A P G L G L W  
 Z Z R Q P Z V U B M S I C G M  
 E Y E U U J B O I Q Z G B W S  
 H F J A O F E B R U A R Y X S  
 P J S D G V L P X A J E T S P  
 L U X R A W I M S H W G R H Y  
 I L O E I Y J N X J O O R G D  
 W I H N D P I C I W M R T V Y  
 B A R N X C K A H R W I S I V  
 Y N V I T I A L G P R A F I U  
 M S P A Z T A E C N I N Y K Z  
 Q L X L S J L N W W B A Q V Z  
 U A O A R G S D S I M N I V G  
 H E P M X R X A N R O U Z V C  
 F P U E B P A R K J N D I K U

FEBRUARY CALENDAR JULIAN  
 LEAP QUADRENNIAL GREGORIAN

## Why We Have a Leap Year

Imagine you have a calendar to keep track of the days, like the one on your wall. Now, our Earth takes about 365.25 days to go all the way around the sun. But regular calendars have only 365 days. So, to catch up with that extra 0.25 day, we add an extra day to the calendar every four years. This extra day is what we call a "leap day," and the whole year is then called a "leap year."

So, a leap year is like a little adjustment in our calendars to make sure they match up with how long it really takes the Earth to go around the sun. That's why we have an extra day in February every four years!

$$\begin{aligned} & 365 \quad 365 \quad 365 \quad 365 \\ & \textcircled{.25} + \textcircled{.25} + \textcircled{.25} + \textcircled{.25} \\ & = \textcircled{1} \text{ Extra Day for Leap Year!} \end{aligned}$$

## Countdown to Leap Day

FEBRUARY 1ST 29   FEBRUARY 2ND 28   FEBRUARY 3RD 27   FEBRUARY 4TH 26   FEBRUARY 5TH 25   FEBRUARY 6TH 24   FEBRUARY 7TH 23   FEBRUARY 8TH 22   FEBRUARY 9TH 21   FEBRUARY 10TH 20  
 FEBRUARY 11TH 19   FEBRUARY 12TH 18   FEBRUARY 13TH 17   FEBRUARY 14TH 16   FEBRUARY 15TH 15   FEBRUARY 16TH 14   FEBRUARY 17TH 13   FEBRUARY 18TH 12   FEBRUARY 19TH 11   FEBRUARY 20TH 10  
 FEBRUARY 21ST 09   FEBRUARY 22ND 08   FEBRUARY 23RD 07   FEBRUARY 24TH 06   FEBRUARY 25TH 05   FEBRUARY 26TH 04   FEBRUARY 27TH 03   FEBRUARY 28TH 02   LEAP DAY! LEAP DAY! LEAP DAY! LEAP DAY! 01

## Once upon a time, a long, long time ago...

### Early Calendars

Back in ancient times, people noticed that the seasons and the length of days were a bit like a puzzle. They started creating calendars to help them keep track of time and know when to plant crops or celebrate special events.

### The Problem

As smart as they were, they realized that the Earth takes about 365.25 days to travel around the sun, but regular calendars only had 365 days. That tiny extra part, the 0.25, might not seem like much, but over the years, it added up!

## Enter the Leap Year

To fix this, a long time ago, the clever Romans decided to add an extra day to their calendar every four years. This extra day was like a bonus day, making up for that small part we missed each year. This was the start of what we now call a "leap year."

## Julius Caesar's Role

Later on, a super important Roman leader named Julius Caesar took charge and made a calendar called the Julian calendar. He introduced the idea of a leap year to keep things in order.

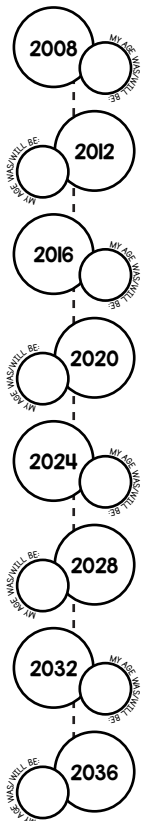
## The Gregorian Calendar

Fast forward to the 1500s, and another smart guy named Pope Gregory wanted to fine-tune things a bit more. So, he made a few more adjustments and gave us the Gregorian calendar, which is the one we use today. It also has the leap year every four years, but with some rules to keep things more precise.

## Today

And that's how leap years came to be! Now, every four years, we add that extra day to our calendars, making sure our days, months, and seasons stay in sync with the incredible journey of our planet around the sun. It's like a little time-traveling trick to keep everything running smoothly!

## Leap Year Timeline



## Bonus Day

In a leap year, we get an extra day in February, making it 29 days instead of the usual 28. This extra day is called a leap day, and it happens every four years.

## Birthday Surprise

If someone is born on February 29, they only get to celebrate their "real" birthday every four years. They might call themselves a "leapling" or "leap year baby."

## Leap Day Proposals

In some traditions, particularly in Ireland, it's a custom for women to propose to men on Leap Day. This tradition is often called "Bachelor's Day," and it dates back to the 5th century.

## Famous Leap Year Babies

Some well-known people were born on February 29, like rapper Ja Rule and singer Dinah Shore. It's like they have a special, rare birthday.

## Unlucky Day?

In some cultures, there's a superstition that it's not a good idea to get married or do important things on a leap day. It's like a day that doesn't quite belong!

## Math Magic

Leap years are a bit like a math puzzle. The Earth takes about 365.25 days to go around the sun, so we add that extra day every four years to keep our calendars in sync with the Earth's journey.

## No Time for Legal Contracts

In certain cultures, leap day is considered unlucky for legal matters and marriages. The superstition suggests that agreements made on this day may not be as binding.

## Leap Seconds

Just like leap years, scientists sometimes add a "leap second" to our clocks to account for tiny changes in the Earth's rotation. It keeps our timekeeping super accurate!

## Celestial Synchronization

Leap years help us keep our calendars in harmony with the Earth's orbit around the sun. Without leap years, our seasons and calendars would slowly drift apart over the years.

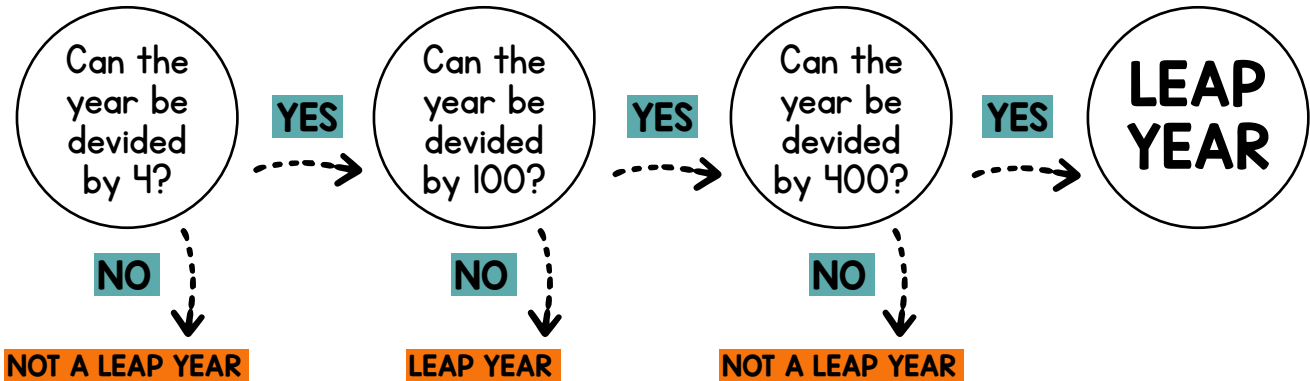
## Leap Year Capital

There's a place called Anthony, Texas, that proudly calls itself the "Leap Year Capital of the World." They throw a big celebration every leap year.

## Movies and Leap Years

The movie "Leap Year" is a romantic comedy where a woman follows an Irish tradition of proposing to her boyfriend on February 29. It's a fun take on the leap year tradition.

# The Leap Year Test



## Leap Year or Not a Leap Year?

Use the Leap Year test to determine if the year is a Leap Year or not.

|| **2000**

NOT A LEAP YEAR

LEAP YEAR     

|| **1985**

NOT A LEAP YEAR

LEAP YEAR     

|| **2012**

NOT A LEAP YEAR

LEAP YEAR     

|| **2024**

NOT A LEAP YEAR

LEAP YEAR     

|| **1992**

NOT A LEAP YEAR

LEAP YEAR     

|| **2022**

NOT A LEAP YEAR

LEAP YEAR     

|| **2036**

NOT A LEAP YEAR

LEAP YEAR     

|| **1995**

NOT A LEAP YEAR

LEAP YEAR



# Leap Year in Different Cultures

## Ireland - Bachelor's Day



In Ireland, there's a tradition called "Bachelor's Day" on Leap Day. It's a special day when women are encouraged to propose to men. This tradition dates back centuries, and it adds a bit of fun to the idea of leap years.

## Greece - No Weddings



In Greece, some people believe that getting married in a leap year, especially on Leap Day, is not a good idea. It's a superstition that has been passed down through generations.

## Scotland - Birth of the Leaping



In Scotland, there's a saying that says, "Leap year was ne'er a good sheep year." This reflects an old belief that sheep born in a leap year bring bad luck. However, it's all just a bit of fun folklore!

## Sweden - February 30?



In Sweden in 1712, they attempted a unique solution to adjust their calendar. They added an extra day to February and called it February 30. However, this system didn't last, and they eventually switched to the Gregorian calendar that we use today.

## Japan - Leap Year as a Lucky Year



In Japanese culture, leap years are sometimes considered lucky. Some people believe that children born in a leap year will have special talents and good fortune. It adds a positive twist to the idea of a leap year.

## Scotland - Leap Year as a Time for Women



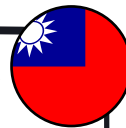
In Scotland, alongside the belief about sheep born in a leap year, there was a tradition allowing women to propose to men during leap years. If the man declined, he had to compensate the woman with a kiss, a fine, or a pair of gloves.

## USA - Anthony, Texas: Leap Year Capital of the World



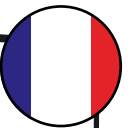
Anthony, a town on the Texas-New Mexico border, claims the title of Leap Year Capital of the World. Every February 29th, "Leapers" born on this rare day gather in Anthony to celebrate their unique birthdays in style. It's the go-to place for those looking to make their leap year birthdays truly special.

## Taiwan - Unlucky for Elderly



In Taiwan, leap years are often considered unlucky for the elderly. To counter this belief, daughters prepare a special dish of pig trotter noodles for their parents on leap day. This meal is believed to bring good health and fortune, serving as a remedy against the perceived bad luck associated with leap years.

## France - Least Frequently Published Newspaper



"La Bougie du Sapeur," a French satirical newspaper, claims the title of the world's least frequently published, coming out once every four years on leap day since 1980. Despite its scarcity, it consistently outsells other papers on the same day, generating anticipation and excitement due to its unique schedule.

# Leap Year Creative Writing Prompts

## Leap Day Adventure

Imagine you wake up one morning, and everything is different because it's Leap Day! Write a few paragraphs about the adventures you have and the surprises you encounter on this special day.



## Time Travel Tale

If you could time travel to any leap year in the past or future, where would you go and why? Describe the people you'd meet, the places you'd visit, and the things you'd do during your leap year adventure.

# A Leap Year Time Capsule

**Name:**

**Date:**

Hey Time Travelers! Get ready for a cool adventure with the Leap Year Time Capsule! We're creating a snapshot of our lives right now, and in four years, you'll open it up to see how much you've changed. Inside, there are questions about your favorites, dreams, and more. It's like sending a letter to your future self! Let's make this time-traveling journey unforgettable!

## About me now

Write a short letter to your future self, to be read on the next leap day. Include your current interests, hobbies, and goals.

## Favorites

List your current favorite book, movie, song, and TV show. Explain why you love each one.

## Predictions

Make predictions about the world, your life, or society in general. What do you think will be different in four years?

## Bucket List

Create a mini bucket list of things you want to do or achieve by the time you open the time capsule in four years.