
The Monthly Gazette

AUGUST

The eighth month of the year was named for Augustus, nephew of Julius Caesar, first Roman Emperor. According to common belief, Augustus stole two days from February to ensure that his month would be as long or longer than the other months. Although Augustus *was* a fairly self-important man, it's not clear if this rumor is true.



Birthstone - Peridot

Peridot takes its name from the French word for “unclear,” probably due to inclusions (tiny crystals of other minerals that were caught up in the growth of the larger host crystal). The beautiful green luster of this stone often causes it to be mistaken for emerald; it is even thought that many of Cleopatra’s beloved “emeralds” were actually peridots. This pretty gem is associated with light. Ancient folklore posits that these stones were mined in the dark because they emitted their own light and were easy to find in the night. Peridot is said to help those with self-esteem issues see their inner light and gain confidence. It also helps alleviate scotophobia, or fear of the dark.

Throughout history, peridot has been held in high esteem. One of the jewels on the Christian high priest Aaron’s breast plate was said to be peridot, and the Greek scholar Pliny devoted a great deal of time describing this stone’s mythical properties. Napoleon once made a gift of peridot to his beloved Josephine as a symbol of his undying affection and admiration. Therefore, a gift of peridot jewelry for your special someone is sure to be well received.



Flower of the Month - Gladiolus

August’s birth flower comes in many varieties and colors and is grown throughout the world, but it is native to Africa and the Mediterranean. It derives its name from the Latin word for “sword” because of its spear-like shape. Not surprisingly, the gladiolus was the symbol for Roman gladiators and often thrown into the arena to show approval. It has long been a symbol of moral integrity and strength, and can be a symbol of deep respect when given as a gift. The flower has a romantic meaning as well – that of an attraction so strong that it feels as if one’s heart had been pierced. These pretty petals can also symbolize remembrance and so make a great gift for anniversaries.

LUCKY STATS

Lucky Color: Yellow
Lucky Days: Sunday & Wednesday
Lucky Numbers: 5 and 7
Lucky Letter: “R”



August Zodiac Signs



Leo (August 1 – 22)

Folks born under the sign of the lion are much like their feline counterparts. They have a “my way or the highway” attitude that would be irksome if they weren’t so adorable. They are excellent leaders.



Virgo (August 23 – 31)

Virgos are quiet and modest but don’t let that fool you – they tend to have very strong, well-thought-out opinions. If they let their formidable intelligence run free, they can tend to overanalyze and worry too much.

Famous August Folks

Some famous people born during the month of August include the following:

Dom DeLuise – August 1, 1933
 Myrna Loy – August 2, 1905
 Martha Stewart – August 3, 1941
 Barack Obama – August 4, 1961
 Mata Hari – August 7, 1876
 Alfred Hitchcock – August 13, 1899
 Julia Child – August 15, 1912
 Mae West – August 17, 1893
 Patrick Swayze – August 18, 1952
 Connie Chung – August 20, 1946
 Yasser Arafat – August 24, 1929
 Mother Teresa – August 26, 1910



August Moon Phases

Full Moon – Aug. 6
Last Quarter – Aug. 13
New Moon – Aug. 20
First Quarter – Aug. 27

August’s Crown

“Whilst August yet wears her golden crown,
 Ripening fields lush-bright with promise;
 Summer waxes long, then wanes, quietly
 passing

Her fading green glory on to riotous Autumn.”
 ~ Michelle L. Thieme

A Swimmingly August First

Gertrude Caroline Ederle was the first woman to successfully swim across the English Channel, completing the feat on August 6, 1926. It took her 14 hours and 39 minutes.

Eyes to the Skies



The Northern Hemisphere is the place to be in August if you want to catch a glimpse of one of the year’s most splendid meteor showers. The earth passes through the Perseid meteor stream from August 8 through 14 and peaks on August 12 with an average of 60 visible meteors an hour!

In the Good Old Days of August

In August of 1940, the average worker took home \$1,725.00 a year in wages. A new house was \$3,920.00, and the average car would run you \$850.00. To keep that car running, you’d be paying 11 cents a gallon.. If all these calculations gave you a headache, a bottle of aspirin would have set you back 76 cents.