

2012—January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Sosigenes of Alexandria (-10)** 1</p> <p>Mathematician, astronomer, creator of Julian calendar, With minor variations this became the Clavian calendar.</p>	<p>Rudolph Clausius (1822) 2</p> <p>Physicist: Using inputs from Carnot and others, formulated 2nd Law of Thermodynamics. Probably most fundamental law of nature.</p>	<p>Lucia Elizabaeth Vestris (1797) 3</p> <p>Opera singer, dancer, actress, stage manager, she set new standards in stage decor and costumers.</p>	<p>Louis Braille (1809) 4</p> <p>Developed a system of printing & writing consisting of raised dots, enabling blind people to read. Coding developed by Charled Barbier.</p>	<p>Antoine de Chézy (1718)* 5</p> <p>Engineer, he was the author of the basic forumula for calculating the velocity of a fluid stream.</p>	<p>Jacques-Etienner Montgolfier (1746) 6</p> <p>With brother Joseph-Michel he was a pioneering developer of the hot air balloon, opening way to upper-air exploration.</p>	<p>Johann Philipp Reis (1834) 7</p> <p>The inventor of the telephone. In 1861 he demonstrated a telephone capable of transmitting music.</p>
<p>Thursday, January 8th 8</p> <p>Alfred Russell Wallace (1823)</p> <p>Developed theory of evolution independent of and before Darwin, although not as well illustrated.</p>	<p>Friedrich Esmark (1823) 9</p> <p>Surgeon, noted for introduction of the “band-aid,” & first-aid manuals that were the best in their field.</p>	<p>Galina Ulanova (1910) 10</p> <p>A “prima ballerina assoluta” of Russia, she excelled in classical ballets that displayed her skill as a dancer.</p>	<p>Juan Sánchez Coltán (1561)* 11</p> <p>Considered a pioneer of Baroque realism in Spain, known for his visual harmony and illusion of depth.</p>	<p>Luigi Galvani (1717) 12</p> <p>His investigation of the effects of what he thought was “electricity” in human tissue led to Volta’s development of the battery.</p>	<p>Gowin Knight (1713) 13</p> <p>His work in the field of magnetism led to significant improvements in the magnetic compass.</p>	<p>Uvedale Price (1747)* 14</p> <p>With Gilpin and Knight, he was one of the chief aestheticians of the Picturesque movement in landsaping.</p>
<p>Isaac Avicenna (980)** 15</p> <p>His “Book of Healing” & “Canon of Medicine” are a vast encyclopedia of medical knowledge, & among the most famous books in medicine.</p>	<p>Johannes Schöner (1447) 16</p> <p>In 1515 he is the first to construct a globe showing the Americas, although Martin Behaim will make the first globe of the earth in 1492.</p>	<p>Antonio del Pollaiuolo (1432) 17</p> <p>Sculptor, painter, engraver who produced a myriad of works having major influence on Florentine art.</p>	<p>Leonhard Fuchs (1501) 18</p> <p>Botanist, noted for fuschia, named after him. He described more than 400 plants, including peppers, pumpkins & maize from the New World.</p>	<p>William Keen (1837) 19</p> <p>One of the first surgeons to successfully remove a brain tumor (1888). tapped lateral ventricles of the brain to reduce intracranial pressure.</p>	<p>Ruth Saint-Dennis (1877) 20</p> <p>Choreograher, dance innovator who influenced almost every aspect of American dance, particularly through Denishawn School.</p>	<p>Joseph Justis Scaliger (1540)* 21</p> <p>Comparing time computations for various civilizations, he corrected errors & for first time placed historical chronology on a firm footing.</p>
<p>Thales of Meletus (-636) 22</p> <p>Noted for predicting the solar eclipse of -585/5/28, but none of his writings seem to have survived.</p>	<p>Francois Monsart (1598) 23</p> <p>One of the most brilliant architects of his generation, he played a leading role in shaping French Baroque architecture.</p>	<p>John Vanbrugh (1664) 24</p> <p>Dramatist/Architect: “The Relapse” (1696) was highly successful. Architectural work culminated in Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire.</p>	<p>Robert Boyle (1627) 25</p> <p>Noted for pioneering work in the property of gases. Corpuscular view of matter was forerunner of modern theory of chemical elements.</p>	<p>Henry Briggs (1561)* 26</p> <p>Invented “common” logarithms, instrumental in easing calculation burden on astronomers & other using long, tedious calculations.</p>	<p>Carlo Maderno (1556) 27</p> <p>Leading Roman architect of 17th century, his work foreshadowed the style of early Baroque architecture.</p>	<p>Giovani Borelli (1608) 28</p> <p>First to explain muscular movement & other body functions according to the laws of statics and dynamics.</p>
<p>Thomas Paine (1737) 29</p> <p>Author of <i>Common Sense</i>, father of the American revolution. His <i>The Age of Reason</i> is one of the most important books written on religion.</p>	<p>Carlo Maderno (1556) 30</p> <p>Leading Roman architect of 17th century, his work foreshadowed the style of early Baroque architecture.</p>	<p>Andre Garnerin (1769) 31</p> <p>Created first successful parachute, parachuting from a hydrogen-filled balloon on October 22, 1797.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>

* Exact birth month & day unknown; month & day of death used with actual year of death.

** Month, perhaps not even year of birth is known for sure, thus an arbitrary birth date has been chosen.