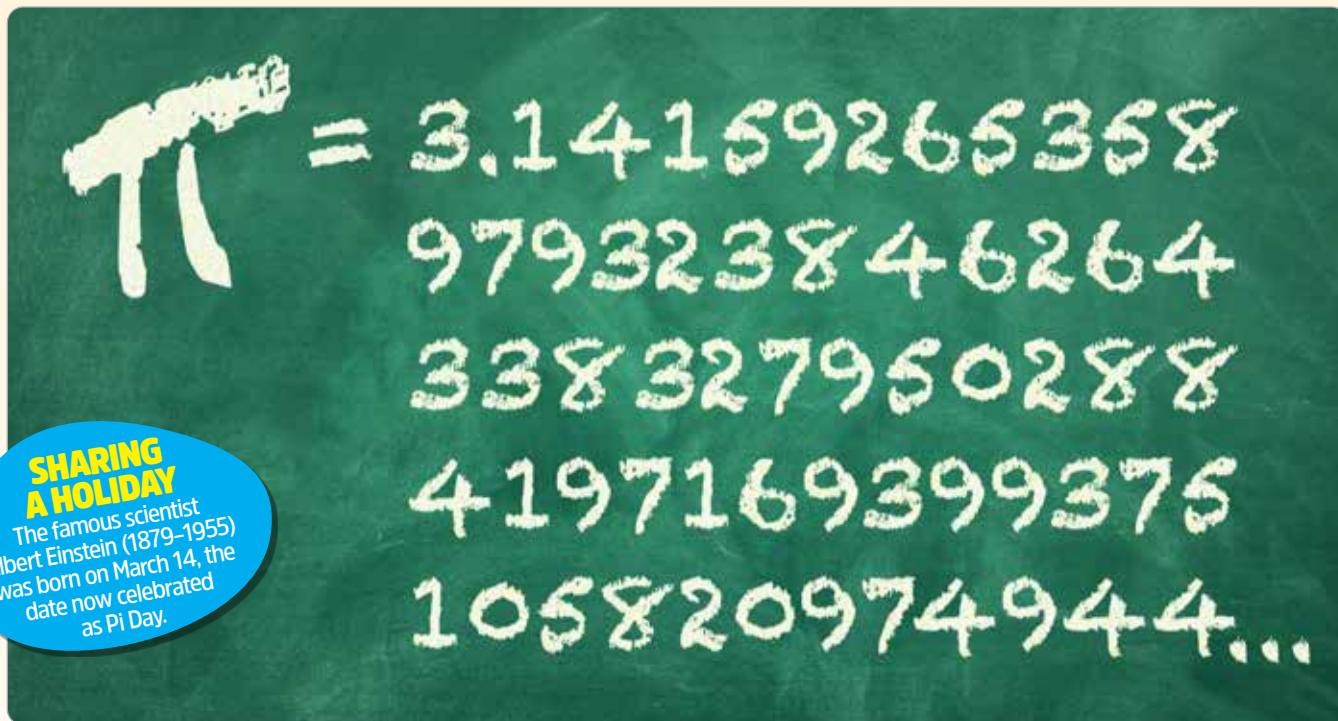




How to...



SHARING A HOLIDAY
 The famous scientist Albert Einstein (1879–1955) was born on March 14, the date now celebrated as Pi Day.

Do fun activities on Pi Day

Check out the ideas on these pages for a memorable celebration on March 14!

Pi Day is marked every year on March 14 by scientists, mathematicians, and schools. The first Pi Day celebration was launched in 1988 by scientist Larry Shaw at the Exploratorium, a museum in San Francisco, California. In 2009, the US House of Representatives officially designated March 14 as National Pi Day. Here's what to know about the day and how you can celebrate.

Find out about pi

Pi is a special number that tells how the circumference (distance around the edge of a circle) of an object compares to its diameter (distance across a circle). That number, or ratio, is represented by the symbol π . No matter how big or small the circle, the ratio is always the same. Pi is a never-ending number, with approximately 105 trillion known decimal places. The first three digits of pi are 3.14, which is why the holiday is celebrated on March 14.

Do the math with everyday objects

One activity that can help you learn about pi starts with finding circular objects around your home, such as plates, cups, clocks, and coins. Gather the items

together and then use a ruler to measure each object's circumference as well as its diameter. To get pi, divide the circumference by the diameter. See how close the pi measurement of each object is to 3.14.

Play pi games

You can challenge yourself to see how many digits of pi you can memorize. The first 16 digits, which NASA engineers use to make accurate calculations, are

3.141592653589793. You could also play a beanbag game. Draw a giant circle on the ground in chalk and label it with the first few numbers of pi: 3, 1, and 4. Toss beanbags (or use rolled-up socks) and try to land them on the digits of pi in order, starting with 3.



Enjoy pizza on Pi Day!

Have a feast

Get into the spirit of Pi Day with a special meal that incorporates round objects. For example, at breakfast you might have bagels, doughnuts, pancakes, or citrus fruit slices. At dinner, the options could include pizza, tortillas, or burgers. Another fun way to celebrate Pi Day is to bake a pie to share with family and friends. See the next page for our recipe for chocolate whoopie pie.

Pi in everyday life



Humans have used pi to build, explore, and advance technology. Here are a few examples of pi in practice.

Architecture Engineers use pi to ensure safety and stability when designing curved bridges and tunnels and in design elements like arches and round columns.

Space exploration Scientists use pi to map the surface area of planets, keep the wheels of rovers on Mars turning, and measure craters on moons.

Navigation Global positioning systems (GPS), like you might find in apps that give directions, use pi to calculate specific locations on Earth.