

May Madness Word Search

NWIXRLKQRUQUEENVICTORIAUNA
 EYADRUOHTHGIEDAMAYDEWAJCD
 DFAILAROLFGARLANDDAYIAMFF
 WALPURGISNACHTAPGNCQCHDQG
 CASWPOOISGVMHZCWABAKYCWOW
 FYEFPVHBSCHARTISTSDIBGJZDF
 JMCPPMSSLEYETKZMBGNSPQUURY
 JPVGBOFUDTYMILHNTKATVKEFJ
 ZCJEYEIISEZNWPAXHERRJO TDGL
 XTPBAALIPYUAYIEEIIYQSWYAE
 CMBZDWXTZMQOLGRSXIISIAYNLC
 BOMCXXMAALEKRGKGCENWNWADOQF
 JHSMBJINGNBEEO NTDNWDEPN SU
 RGM DRYQIJUESMEEAAASRYERSL
 WOVOWPEANNIMQREBSRYAVMPSSH
 CTVKHRLLB TUYNQRWEEMYDNRGB
 THLTKAGPNNEAKEEYHYXNSZCNMV
 UEKWMMGVEATKGR TKDOIJVRY Y
 DDWMSAFUYITOTOROJWDOORAMQGX
 QIIALSXVOARSMA BHNGVOVMDUT
 BGD FIVXNFKDUINWMMIAAMLIEEA
 YGDQSSJAKCTLESISYHYNVHBKSE
 GECXQLYXHPVWYWMAYDAYL FET
 RRFCEVOYAMEDOCNICHTWPUQKG
 PSJQEQNUANNEBOL EYNEUQECJB

WALPURGISNACHT
 BELTANE
 MAYPOLE
 MAIA
 JACK IN THE GREEN
 OBBYOSS
 FLORALIA
 MAY DEW
 CINCO DE MAYO
 HAYMARKET
 ANNE BOLEYN
 THE DIGGERS
 PARIS COMMUNE

SEMAYNES ANGLANTE
 WINSTANLEY
 RED FLAG
 INTERNATIONALE
 EIGHT HOUR DAY
 VE DAY
 BLOODY WEEEK
 CHARTISTS
 LUSITANIA
 QUEEN VICTORIA
 EMPIRE DAY
 GARLAND DAY
 ROGER BANNISTER
 CHIMNEY SWEEP
 PADSTOW
 MAY DAY



May Dew



In Scotland and Ireland, washing your face in the morning dew on May 1st was guaranteed to make you beautiful for the year. This involved crawling through wet grass at dawn. Romantic.

Aye, makes sense...

Named After a Goddess (Obviously)

May is named after Maia, Roman goddess of fertility. Her job was essentially to make things grow. Romans celebrated with the Floralia - six days of getting their kit off and dancing in fields. A reasonable response to spring.



Marry in May, Rue the Day

Ancient superstition, possibly Roman. May was the month of the dead - Lemuria festival, honouring restless spirits. Weddings were considered catastrophically bad luck. Statistically, May marriages are no more doomed than others. Statistically.



Walpurgisnacht (April 30th / May 1st)



The night before May Day, German witches were believed to fly to the Brocken mountain for a massive party with the Devil. Locals would light bonfires and make noise to scare them off. The witches presumably turned up anyway. Fair play to them.

Haymarket Affair, May 4, 1886 - Chicago

Workers demanding an 8-hour working day. A bomb went off at the rally. Nobody knows who threw it. Eight anarchists convicted. Four hanged. The 8-hour working day eventually happened anyway - several decades later.

Obby Oss, Padstow, Cornwall

Every May 1st, the small Cornish town of Padstow fills with people following a man in a terrifying black horse costume dancing through the streets. The "horse" tries to catch women under its skirt for luck. This is considered normal. In Cornwall.

The Maypole: Not Subtle



Ancient fertility symbol. The Puritans banned it in 1644, calling it "a heathenish vanity." They were not wrong. Restored with Charles II in 1660. A tall pole. Ribbons. Make of that what you will.

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