

Memorial Day Fun Facts and Inventions

Summer may not officially begin until June 21st, but everyone in the U.S. knows the unofficial start to the season is Memorial Day weekend! We observe this day to remember and honor the men and women who have given their lives in military service. Many celebrate with parades and other outdoor activities such as camping trips, parties and cookouts.

#1 Memorial Day is the second most popular grilling day of the year, it follows closely behind the Fourth of July in the number 1 spot.

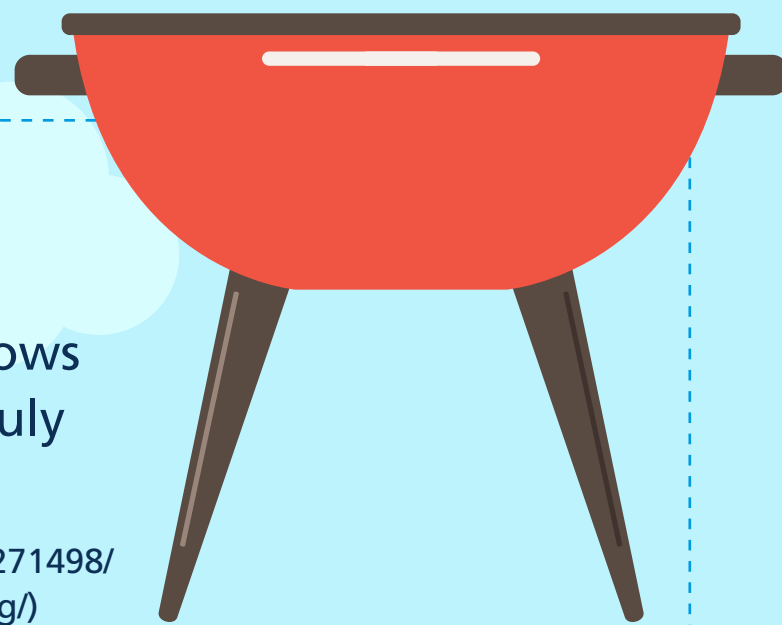
(Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/271498/americans-most-popular-holidays-for-grilling/>)

Who invented the grill?

George Stephen

Stephen was a welder that worked for a metal fabrication shop primarily concerned with welding steel spheres together to make buoys. Stephen was tired of the wind blowing ash onto his food when he grilled so he took the lower half of a buoy, welded three steel legs onto it, and fabricated a shallower hemisphere for use as a lid. He took the results home and following some initial success, started the Weber-Stephen Products Co.

(Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbecue_grill)



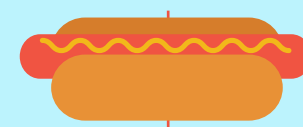
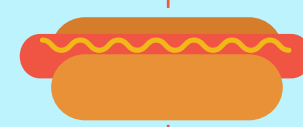
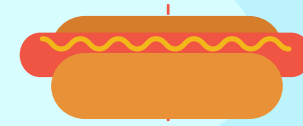
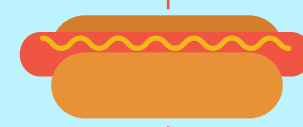
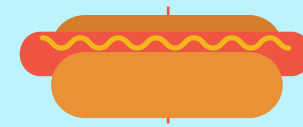
#2 From Memorial Day to Labor Day (peak hot dog season), Americans typically consumer 7 billion hot dogs. That's 818 hot dogs consumed every second during that period.

(Source: <http://www.hot-dog.org/index.php/media/consumption-stats>)

Who invented the hot dog?

Two European towns believe that they are responsible for the hot dog, Frankfurt and Vienna. People of Frankfurt say the hot dog was invented there in 1487, and the people from Vienna say that the hot dog was invented by two Vienna immigrants who moved to Chicago where they sold their hot dogs at the 1893 world fair.

(Source: <http://www.hot-dog.org/culture/hot-dog-history> and <http://mentalfloss.com/article/58785/who-invented-hot-dog>)



#3 Memorial Day weekend is time to hang out by the pool, swimming for an average of 60 mins can burn around 500-900 calories.

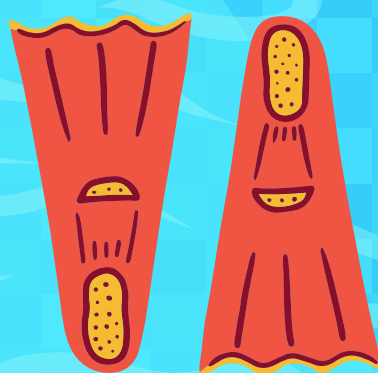
(Source: <https://www.active.com/triathlon/articles/how-many-calories-does-swimming-burn>)

Who invented the swim fins?

Benjamin Franklin

When he was an 11-year-old in Boston, Franklin's first invention was a pair of oval planks with holes through their centers. Grasping the two planks with his hands, Franklin used the "fins" to give him a bit of extra thrust underwater.

(Source: <http://www.ushistory.org/franklin/science/swimfins.htm>)



#4 According to AAA, more than 41.5 million Americans will travel this Memorial Day weekend, nearly 5 percent more than last year and the most in more than a dozen years.

(Source: <https://newsroom.aaa.com/2018/05/nearly-42-million-americans-will-kick-off-summer-memorial-day-getaway/>)

Who invented the seatbelt?

George Cayley/Edward Claghorn

Seat belts were invented by English engineer George Cayley in the mid-19th century, though Edward J. Claghorn of New York, was granted the first US patent for a Safety-Belt for tourists, painters, firemen, etc. who are being raised or lowered. (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seat_belt)