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Welcome to Wikipedia,

the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.
6,564,508 articles in English

From today's featured article

Campus of Amador Valley High School

Amador Valley High School is a public school in Pleasanton, California, a city east of San Francisco. Amador Valley is one of three high schools in the Pleasanton Unified School District, which includes Foothill High School and Village High School. The school was founded as Amador Valley Joint Union High School and opened in 1922. Major construction and renovations were undertaken after district voters approved bonds in 1922, 1965, 1997, and 2016. The school has been named a California Distinguished School and a National Blue Ribbon School. Amador Valley offers its students Advanced Placement courses, varsity sports, vocational training, and a variety of extracurricular activities. The school placed second in RoboSub, an international robotics competition, and first in We the People, a national civics competition, in 2022. The Amador Theater, one of Pleasanton's performing arts facilities, has been hosted at the high school since 1932. (Full article...)

Recently featured: Yusuf I of Granada · Offham Hill · *Megalograptus*
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Did you know ...

- ... that Sri Lanka's ancient **tank cascade system** of irrigation reservoirs creates habitats for the island's elephants *(examples pictured)*?
- ... that "**Like as the hart**", a setting of Psalm 42 for a cappella choir, was composed by Judith Weir, Master of the King's Music, for the state funeral of Elizabeth II?
- ... that **Rebeca Delgado** created Freedom of Thought for Bolivia after being told by her previous party that she should leave if she wanted to be a "freethinker"?
- ... that *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* character **Amy Santiago** has straight hair because the show's two Latina regular cast members feared that one of them would be fired?
- ... that **Adam Kingsmill,** who is missing most of his right leg, played stand-up ice hockey until 2016?
- ... that a 28-year-old tire store manager **drowned his four children** in the same station wagon in which his father fatally shot himself in the head?
- ... that writer **Malcolm Neesam** was awarded the Freedom of the Borough of Harrogate, England, by the town council for services to local history?
- ... that "perhaps the most notable wedding gown in existence" within the United States was once worn in **St. Mary's-in-Tuxedo**?
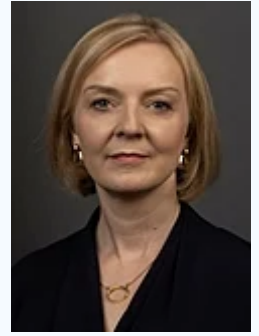
Sri Lankan elephants at Minneriya Tank

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In the news

Liz Truss

- Amid **a government crisis**, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom **Liz Truss** *(pictured)* announces her resignation.
- **Ulf Kristersson** is elected Prime Minister of Sweden following a four-party agreement.
- **Hurricane Julia** leaves more than 80 people dead across South and Central America.
- After **an explosion** damages the Crimean Bridge, Russia **attacks** many Ukrainian cities with missiles.

Ongoing: Mahsa Amini protests · Russian invasion of Ukraine

Recent deaths: Charles Duncan Jr. · Bernardo Adam Ferrero · Horst Metz · Younoussi Touré · Carmen Callil · Roberto Rojas

Nominate an article

On this day

October 20

Maria Theresa

- 1740 – Under the terms of the Pragmatic Sanction, **Maria Theresa** *(pictured)* ascended the Habsburg throne.
- 1969 – Experimental results from the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center were published showing that protons were composed of smaller particles, the first evidence of **quarks**.
- 1977 – Three members of the American rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd died when **their chartered plane crashed** in Gillsburg, Mississippi.
- 1982 – During a UEFA Cup match between FC Spartak Moscow and HFC Haarlem, a large number of attendees trying to leave the Central Lenin Stadium resulted in **a stampede** that caused 66 deaths.
- 2011 – First Libyan Civil War: Muammar Gaddafi, the deposed Libyan leader, was captured by rebel forces during the **Battle of Sirte**, and **was killed shortly thereafter**.
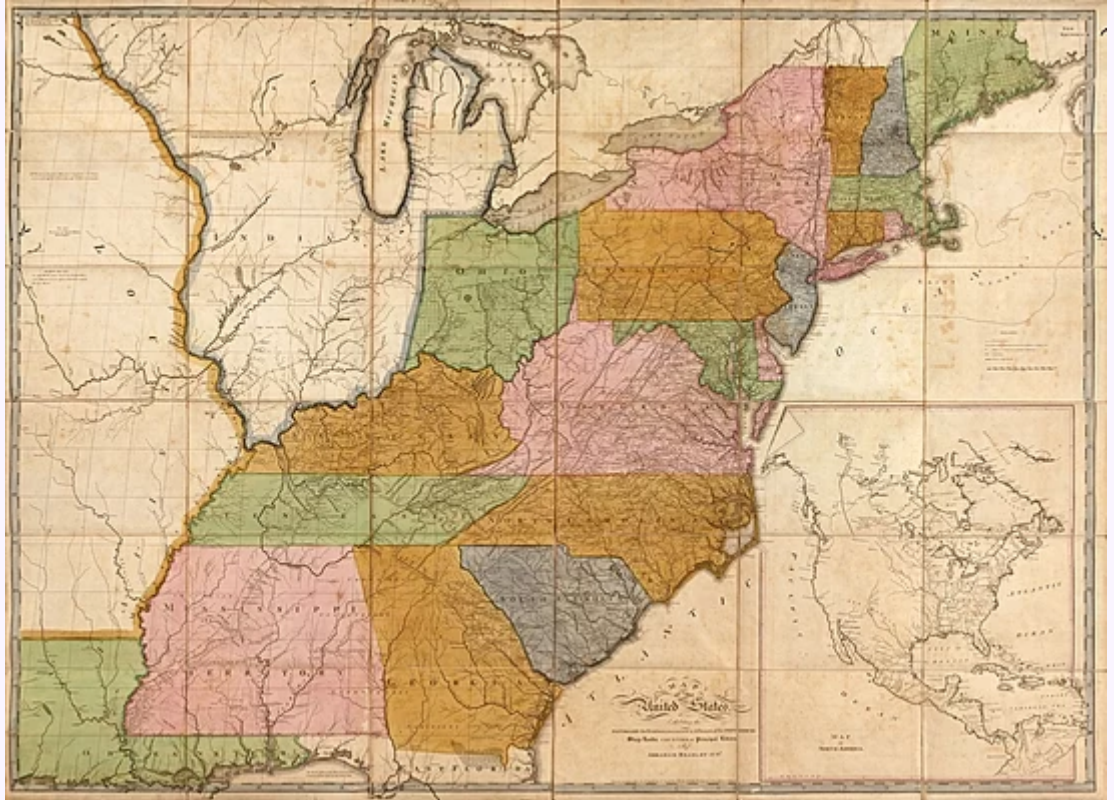
James Chadwick (b. 1891) · **Chen Liting** (b. 1910) · **Kamala Harris** (b. 1964)

More anniversaries: October 19 · **October 20** · October 21

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Today's featured picture

Abraham Bradley Jr. (1767–1838) was an American lawyer, judge, and cartographer who served as Assistant Postmaster General for 30 years during the earliest history of the United States Post Office Department. He was responsible for moving the federal government's post office from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to the new capital at Washington, D.C., and briefly hosted the national post office in his own home. The continuity brought by Bradley's long employment during the tenures of five United States postmasters general helped establish the budding postal service as a reliable provider; he also drew detailed and innovative postal route maps that built the office's efficiency. He drew one of the first comprehensive maps of the United States in 1796; it "represented the first clear cartographic break in European-dominated map making and introduced a new, more distinctly American style of cartography to the United States". In 1804, Bradley drew this map of American post roads and post offices, spanning the Orleans Territory (now Louisiana) in the southwest to Maine in the northeast. The hand-colored map measures 98 by 132 centimeters (39 in × 52 in).

Map credit: Abraham Bradley Jr.

Recently featured: Girvan Yuddha Bikram Shah · Government House, Baku · Purple roller

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Other areas of Wikipedia

- **Community portal** – The central hub for editors, with resources, links, tasks, and announcements.
- **Village pump** – Forum for discussions about Wikipedia itself, including policies and technical issues.
- **Site news** – Sources of news about Wikipedia and the broader Wikimedia movement.
- **Teahouse** – Ask basic questions about using or editing Wikipedia.
- **Help desk** – Ask questions about using or editing Wikipedia.
- **Reference desk** – Ask research questions about encyclopedic topics.
- **Content portals** – A unique way to navigate the encyclopedia.

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Free media repository

MediaWiki
Wiki software development

Meta-Wiki
Wikimedia project coordination

Wikibooks
Free textbooks and manuals

Wikidata
Free knowledge base

Wikinews
Free-content news

Wikiquote
Collection of quotations

Wikisource
Free-content library

Wikispecies
Directory of species

Wikiversity
Free learning tools

Wikivoyage
Free travel guide

Wiktionary
Dictionary and thesaurus

Wikipedia languages

This Wikipedia is written in English. Many other Wikipedias are available; some of the largest are listed below.

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