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## Welcome to Wikipedia,

the [free encyclopedia](#) that [anyone can edit](#).  
6,564,460 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](#)?

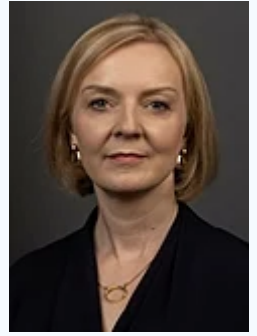


Sri Lankan elephants at Minneriya Tank

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## In the news

- Amid **a government crisis**, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom **Liz Truss** (*pictured*) announces her resignation, becoming the **shortest-serving** prime minister in British history.
- **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.



Liz Truss

**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

- **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**.



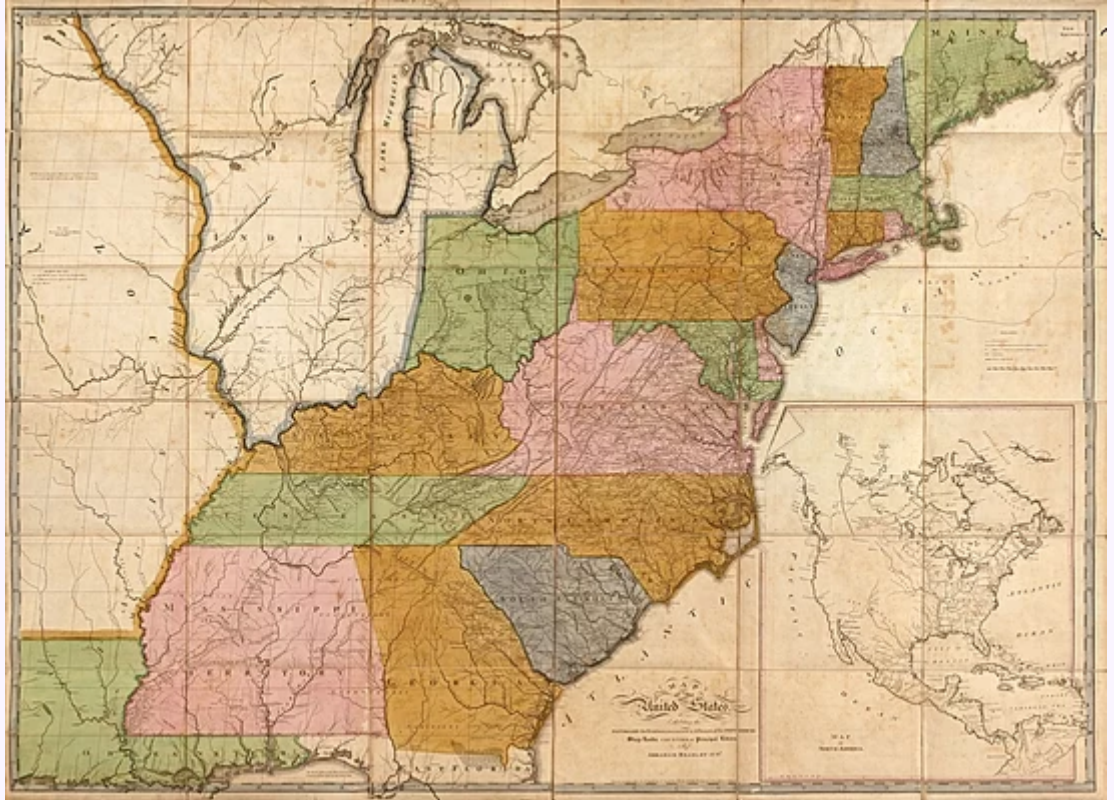
Maria Theresa

**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.](#)

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- [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.



## Wikipedia's sister projects

Wikipedia is written by volunteer editors and hosted by the [Wikimedia Foundation](#), a non-profit organization that also hosts a range of other volunteer [projects](#):



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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

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### Wikiquote

Collection of quotations



### Wikisource

Free-content library



### Wikispecies

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### 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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