



THE DAILY CHRONICLE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2022

On This Date

1754 – Horace Walpole, 4th Earl of Oxford, wrote a letter to American educator Horace Mann, in which he invented the word *serendipity*, meaning a happy accident. The word was inspired by the fairy tale *The Three Princes of Serendip*.

1866 – Scottish explorer David Livingstone began his search for the source of the Nile. No one heard from him until 1871, when reporter Henry Morton Stanley finally located him. Stanley greeted him with the famous remark, “Dr. Livingstone, I presume?”

1958 – Godtfred Kirk Christiansen, son of the LEGO inventor, patented the plastic toy bricks in Denmark. The original bricks are still compatible with those made today.



Did You Know?

The word *LEGO* is the fusion of two Danish words: *leg* for “play” and *godt* for “good.”

Quote of the Day

“I want men who will come if there is no road at all.”

~ *David Livingstone*

Happy Birthday!

Jackson Pollock (1912–1956) was one of the leading forces behind the abstract expressionist movement in art. Pollack was an artist who enjoyed considerable fame during his lifetime, but his childhood was turbulent. Pollock was expelled from two high schools. He developed a fierce independence—and an addiction to alcohol, which became a lifelong struggle. In 1943, he got his break when he was exhibited by art collector Peggy Guggenheim. Pollock was famous for his unique



painting technique, where he would place his canvas on the floor and use his body to splatter, pour, and drip paint in chaotic patterns.



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Today is International Lego Day. On this day in 1958, Danish inventor Godtfred Christiansen filed his patent for the Lego brick, which contained the all-important “clutch tubes” to improve the gripping power between bricks.

Picture of the Day



How was my poker game? Up and down for most of the night.

Now it's your turn to come up with a good caption.

Who Said So?

This French priest and philosopher of both the natural and the divine said, “The world is round so that friendship may encircle it.”

ANSWER: Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Root of the Matter

Let your hair down

If someone urges you to *let your hair down*, it means you should relax and enjoy yourself. This phrase comes from the 17th century, an era when women who went out in public were expected to keep their hair held tightly in place. Only when they returned to the privacy of their homes could women finally unpin their hair to wash and comb it. This was known as *disheveling*, which led to the term *disheveled*, which now means “unkempt or untidy.”

Word Wise

Which word is not like the others?

Fuji

Vesuvius

Denali

Tambora

ANSWER: Denali is a mountain that is not a volcano; the others are volcanoes.