

### **On This Date**

**1909** – Toronto-born actress Mary Pickford made her motion picture debut in *The Violin Maker of Cremona*. Director D. W. Griffith agreed to pay her an astronomical \$10 a day. "Keep it to yourself," he advised. "There will be a riot if it leaks out." She became one of the biggest (and best paid) movie stars of her time.

**1929** – Vatican City gained independence from Italy and became a sovereign state. At approximately 110 acres and with a population of around 850, it is the smallest country in the world by both population and area. The city-state contains some of the world's most famous artwork.



## **Daily Trivia**

While many believe Hydrox cookies are an Oreo knockoff, Hydrox came first, in 1908—four years before the Oreo premiered.

# **Quote of the Day**

"We love because it's the only true adventure."

~ Nikki Giovanni

# Happy Birthday!

**Yolanda Cornelia "Nikki" Giovanni**, born in 1943, is an acclaimed writer, activist, and educator. She graduated with honors from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1967. After teaching stints at Queens College, Rutgers, and Ohio State, Giovanni became a Virginia Tech University Distinguished Professor.

A renowned Black poet, Giovanni's writing heralds racial and gender equality. Her poetry album was nominated for a Grammy Award.



She has won the Langston Hughes Medal and seven NAACP Image Awards for her work, which includes *Love Poems, Acolytes,* and *Hip Hop Speaks to Children.* 



#### Monday, June 7, 2021

**On this day** in 1929, the Lateran Treaty was ratified by the Italian parliament, creating Vatican City as an independent state within Italy. In return for sovereignty, the Pope pledged to remain neutral in international affairs.

### Wild Kingdom

A researcher in Japan was studying sea slugs when he noticed something

eerie—a slug had cut its own head from its body, detaching itself from its heart and every other



organ. Amazingly, over the course of a few weeks, the sea slug's head had grown an entirely new body complete with all its vital organs. Why would a sea slug do such a thing? Researchers believe that when sea slug bodies become overrun with parasites, they leave the infected bodies behind in favor of growing new ones. How do they survive in the meantime, without their vital organs? When they eat algae, they get their energy from photosynthesizing chloroplasts.

### **Punny Business**

German sausage jokes are the wurst.

# 50 Years Ago Today

On this day 50 years ago, Philippine government official Manuel Elizade announced that authorities had discovered a "Stone Age" tribe living in isolation on the island of Mindanao. The indigenous tribe was known as the Tasaday people, and over the next many decades, several researchers attempted to study them and their origins. Some concluded that the entire scheme was a hoax, while others believe that while the Tasaday were not a Stone Age culture, they were an extremely isolated group of hunter-gatherers.

