

Welcome to *TEKTOK*
December 9, 2016

*TEKTOK will be on vacation for the next three weeks.
Merry Christmas to all!*

*“Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile”
“Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value”
-Albert Einstein*

Web Sites

Panama Canal

The Panama Canal is a man-made waterway, completed in 1914, linking the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans through the Isthmus of Panama. An eight-hour trip through the fifty-mile Panama Canal saves a ship 5,200 miles on a voyage from Los Angeles to New York. Without it, to get from one U.S. coast to the other, a ship would need to travel around Cape Horn, at the southern tip of South America.

[PanCanal: Know Details About The Canal](#)

From the official Panama Canal site, these how-the-canal-works animations (complemented by the sounds of rushing water and ship horns) offer a more detailed look at the physics of the canal than the previous animation site. "The three sets of locks of the two-lane Canal work as water elevators that lift the ships to the level of Gatun Lake, twenty-six meters over sea level, and later lower them again to sea level on the other side of the Isthmus of Panama."

<http://www.panacanal.com/eng/general/howitworks/>

[Panama Canal History Museum](#)

Dedicated to the men and women who "made the heroic dream of over 400 years come true," the Panama Canal History Museum records the canal's history in photos, documents and stories. Unfortunately the exhibits are not laid out in storyline fashion, but are simply listed chronologically. This makes the site an excellent resource for school reports, but rather tedious to browse.

<http://www.canalmuseum.com/>

[Smithsonian: Make the Dirt Fly!](#)

Click through the introductory slide show (with your speakers on) to reveal the meat of this Smithsonian exhibit. It is my pick-of-the-day canal history site for

high school students and adult learners. Reasons to visit include the extensive, illustrated canal history, a reading list of recommended books (including one for elementary school students), and interesting canal factoids (titled Did You Know?) To bypass the intro when returning to the site, use this URL.

<http://www.sil.si.edu/Exhibitions/Make-the-Dirt-Fly/>

Hardware/Software

Aurora HDR 2017

Even though the most impressive HDR photos come from merging multiple exposure brackets, the special image processing algorithm was designed to handle single images equally well. Load your TIFF, JPEG, PNG or a single RAW and let Aurora HDR 2017 do its magic.

- Polarize Tool
- Batch Processing
- HDR Noise Reduction
- Top and Bottom Adjustments
- Luminosity Masking
- Radial Masking
- Advanced Tone Mapping

Mac requirements for Aurora HDR 2017:

- Processor Core 2 Duo from late 2009 or newer
- Minimum 4 GB RAM
- OS X 10.10.5 or newer
- 2 GB free space on hard drive
- Display resolution 1280 x 800 or higher
- Retina displays supported

Supported formats:

- JPG, JPEG, PNG, TIFF, RAW (NEF, CR2, RAF, ARW, etc)
- With the basic export function you can create an image file and save it in the following formats: JPEG, PNG, GIF, JPEG-2000, TIF, PSD (Photoshop), PDF

Can be used as a plug-in for:

- Lightroom 4,5,6 and CC;
- Photoshop Elements 10-14
- Apple Aperture 3.2
- Adobe Photoshop CS5, CS6 or CC 2014, CC 2015, CC.
- Photos extensions support – for 10.11 OS X or newer.

<https://aurorahdr.com>

Famous People from American History

Color blindness filter

For the first time, the iPhone can help you if you're color-blind. The Color Accommodations now lets you turn on special screen modes that substitute colors you can see for colors you can't.

To set this up, open Settings -> General -> Accessibility -> Color Accommodations -> Display Filters, and turn on the kind of color-blindness you have (red/green, for example).

The phone's colors may now look funny to other people, but you should have an easier time picking out the colors when it counts.

Riddles You Can Tell in Class

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve!

If Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus had a child, what would he be called?

A subordinate Claus

What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month?

The letter "D"!

This Day in History

Birthdates which occurred on January 3:

0106 -BC-Marcus Tullius Cicero Rome, statesman/author (Academica)

1905 Ray Milland Neath Wales, actor (Lost Weekend-Academy Award 1945)

1909 Victor Borge [Borge Rosenbaum], Copenhagen Denmark,
pianist/comedian

1921 John Russell Los Angeles CA, actor (Pale Rider, Rio Bravo)

1922 Bill Travers Newcastle-on-Tyne England, actor (Born Free, Gorgo)

1930 Robert Loggia Staten Island, actor (Officer & a Gentleman, THE Cat)

1939 Bobby Hull NHL forward (Chicago Blackhawk 1957-72)

1945 Victoria Principal Fukuoka Japan, actress (Earthquake, Pamela-Dallas)

1945 Stephen Stills Dallas TX, singer/songwriter/guitarist (Crosby Stills &
Nash)

1946 John Paul Jones rocker (Led Zeppelin-Stairway to Heaven)

1956 Mel Gibson Peekskill NY, actor (Mad Max, Mrs Soffel, Lethal Weapon)

1960 Joan Chen [Chen Chung], Shanghai China, actress (Last Emperor)

1963 Jim Everett NFL quarterback (Los Angeles Raiders, New Orleans Saints,
San Diego Chargers)

1964 Cheryl Miller Riverside CA, basketball player (Olympics–gold–1984)

1967 Helena Bonham Carter London England, actress (Getting it Right)

On This Day:

1431 Joan of Arc handed over to the bishop

1521 Martin Luther excommunicated by Roman Catholic Church

1777 Washington defeats British at Battle of Princeton, New Jersey

1847 California town of Yerba Buena renamed San Francisco

1870 Brooklyn Bridge construction begins; completed May 24, 1883

1871 Oleomargarine patented by Henry Bradley, Binghamton NY

1872 1st patent list issued by US Patent Office

1876 1st free kindergarten in US opens in Florence MA

1920 New York Yankees purchase Babe Ruth from Red Sox for \$125,000

1924 British Egyptologist Howard Carter finds sarcophagus of Tutankhamun

1925 Mussolini dissolves Italian parliament/becomes dictator

1938 March of Dimes established to fight polio

1952 "Dragnet" with Jack Webb premieres on NBC TV

1957 1st electric watch introduced, Lancaster PA

1958 Edmund Hillary reaches South Pole overland

1959 Alaska admitted as 49th US state

1961 US breaks diplomatic relations with Cuba

1962 Ground is broken for the Houston Astrodome

1962 Pope John XXIII excommunicates Fidel Castro

1964 Jack Paar Show, shows a clip of the Beatles singing "She Loves You"

1971 Baltimore Colts beat Oakland Raiders 27–17 in AFC championship game

1973 George Steinbrenner III buys Yankees from CBS for \$12 million

1977 Apple Computer incorporated

1980 Gold hits record \$634 an ounce

1987 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inducts 1st female artist Aretha Franklin

1988 Margaret Thatcher becomes longest–serving British PM this century

1990 Panamá's leader General Manuel Noriega surrenders to US authorities

1991 Los Angeles King Wayne Gretzky scores his 700th goal against New York Islanders

1997 Bryant Gumbel co–hosted his final "Today" show on NBC–TV

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<http://www.nettrekker.com/us/>