If a man neglects education, he walks lame to the end of his life.
– Plato

Web Sites

Vernal Equinox

Everyone is eager to get back to warm weather, so find out when spring starts—and enjoy vernal equinox facts and folklore.

Specifically, the Northern Hemisphere marks the spring equinox on Monday, March 20, 2017, at exactly 6:29 A.M. EDT.

WHEN DOES SPRING BEGIN?

- Astronomically speaking, the equinox (March 19 or 20 every year) marks spring's beginning in the Northern Hemisphere (whereas it announces fall's arrival in the Southern Hemisphere). The equinox happens at the same moment worldwide, even if our clock times reflect a different time zone.

- Meteorologically speaking, in the Northern Hemisphere, the official spring season always begins on March 1 and continues through May 31. Summer begins on June 1; autumn, September 1; and winter, December 1. Weather scientists divide the year into quarters this way to make it easier to compare seasonal and monthly statistics from one year to the next. The meteorological seasons are based on annual temperature cycles rather than on the position of Earth in relation to the Sun, and they more closely follow the Gregorian calendar. Using the dates of the astronomical equinoxes and solstices for the seasons would present a statistical problem because these dates can vary slightly each year.

[National Geographic Video: Equinox Balances Day and Night](http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/equinoxes-sci)
Video features the autumnal and vernal equinoxes and explains how and when they happen. Also, learn more about how ancient cultures learned to incorporate this astronomical event into their beliefs. Requires Adobe Flash.
http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/equinoxes-sci

[Electric Sky: Vernal Equinox](#)

This site, created by an amateur who has studied astronomy for thirty years, provides a scholarly explanation of the vernal equinox. Links to definitions of significant terms.
http://www.glyphweb.com/esky/concepts/vernalequinox.html

Montana State University: Spring and Fall Equinox
This Montana State University site provides a simple chart on the spring and fall equinox and a description of the process.
http://solar.physics.montana.edu/YPOP/Classroom/Lessons/Sundials/equinox.html

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Hardware/Software

Luminar: The only photo-editing tool most Mac users need
Mac users seeking a powerful photo-editing tool that's capable of transforming average images should try Macphun's bargain-priced Luminar.

When it comes to photo editing, users should be careful what they wish for. Creating striking images can quickly become a complex task that requires mastering difficult image-manipulation programs, and understanding layers, filters, and numerous other components, as well as appreciating how those elements impact and depend upon one another. Fortunately, photo-editing applications simplify the process and make it easier to create compelling images.

Macphun's Luminar photo-editing program has an adaptive contextual interface, and users can quickly apply presets, tweak colors, add filters, crop images, make simple lighting and shadow adjustments, and complete other frequently performed actions. Powerful filter treatments can be performed within 10 or 20 seconds. Users who want to accommodate specific looks and treatments, and test and adjust numerous other options can do so, thereby significantly customizing photos using advanced settings.

For example, load a photo within Luminar, and you'll find a variety of filters listed at the bottom of the screen. Selecting a filter applies the preset, and the main window immediately displays the results of applying that preset. Change your mind? No worries, just click the Undo icon. Or, you can pick from several other filter categories, each of which possesses its own unique presets.

Mac users seeking to dig deeper and customize settings have two immediate options—Luminar presents adaptive tools within the right contextual menu.

For example, applying the Travel preset's Impressive filter to an image results in four filters appearing. Scrolling down through these filter settings enables adjusting 14 slider bars that change tone, color contrast, polarization, and highlights and shadows. Selecting an alternative preset, such as the Basic Vivid filter, updates the right contextual menu to enable adjusting 11 slider bars in four categories: Tone, Saturation/Vibrance, Polarizing Filter, and Clarity.

Photos and images can be saved as Luminar files, which receive a .lmnr file extension. Photos and images can be exported as JPEG, PNG, GIF, TIFF, JPEG-2000, Photoshop, and PDF files.

With support for RAW images, direct plug-in integration with Apple Aperture, Adobe Lightroom, and Adobe Photoshop, an Apple Photos extension, non-destructive editing, numerous preset filters, color toning, masking, and layers support, Luminar offers a compelling bargain for $69. The program also includes black-and-white and bulk processing capabilities, as well as object removal features.

Even though Luminar has limited options compared to competitors such as Photoshop, it's easy to see how Macphun's app might replace many Mac users' need for any other photo- and image-editing tool.
https://macphun.com/luminar
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Hints/Tips

How to type accent marks on iPhone and iPad keyboards
Using accent marks, iOS users can more easily type in different languages. Here's how.

These days, a lot of important communication is conducted on our phones. That means we often can't get away with simple replies anymore, and may need to type complicated sentences, or words in another language.

For iOS users, accent marks make it easy for you to type in languages like Spanish or French. And, these alternative characters are pretty easy to find...if you know where to look. To start, unlock your iPhone or iPad, and open any application that utilizes the keyboard.

Once you have a keyboard-enabled application open, find the letter you want to accent. To add an accent (or to choose an alternate version of that letter), place your finger on the key and leave it there until a popup appears with all of the alternate options for that letter. For this example, we'll look at the letter "E."

Once the popup appears, simply slide your finger onto the alternate form of the letter you want, and release it. The selected accent will be highlighted in blue. Currently the letters A, E, I, O, U, Y, C, L, N, S, and Z have available accents.

Alternative characters aren't just available for letters—they work with certain symbols and emoji as well. For example, place your finger on the "$" to get different symbols for other forms of currency. Symbols like the percent symbol and many others can also be changed. Additionally, the skin tone on emoji like the high five or thumbs up symbol can also be changed using this method.

It's important to note that, if you're using a device with 3D Touch, like the iPhone 6 or later, or if you're using the iPad Pro with its pressure-sensitive display, you want to touch the text very lightly. If you have one of these devices, and put too much pressure on the letter, it will engage a different functionality.

While typing, if an iOS user with 3D Touch or an iPad Pro puts too much pressure on the keyboard, the keys will all turn grey, and the user will be able to move their finger around to position the cursor wherever they would like in the body of the text they were writing. This is especially useful when crafting long business emails. If you have an older iPhone or iPad model without the aforementioned features, you will not be able to use the cursor feature.

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Riddles You Can Tell in Class

Why did the teacher wear sunglasses?
Because his class was so bright!

Two silk worms were in a race. What was the result?
A tie

How do you find a lost rabbit?
Make a noise like a carrot.

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This Day in History

Birthdates which occurred on March 21:
1685 Johann Sebastian Bach Eisenach Germany, composer (Matthäus-Passion)
1713 Francis Lewis signed Declaration of Independence
1806 Benito Pablo Juárez Oaxaca Mexico, President of México (1858-72)
1869 Florenz Ziegfeld producer (Ziegfield Follies)

1906 John D Rockefeller III billionaire philanthropist (oil)
1916 Harold Robbins US, novelist (The Carpetbaggers) [or 0521]
1918 Howard Cosell Winston-Salem NC, sportscaster (Monday Night Football)
1937 Tom Flores Fresno CA, NFL quarterback/coach (Raiders)
1945 Rose[mary] Stone Dallas TX, vocalist/pianist (Sly & the Family Stone-Everyday People)
1946 Timothy Dalton Colwyn Bay Wales, actor (James Bond-Living Daylights, License to Kill)
1957 Sabrina Le Beauf New Orleans LA, actress (Sondra-Crosby Show)
1958 Gary Oldman actor (Sid & Nancy, Criminal Law, State of Grace)
1962 Matthew Broderick New York NY, actor (Inspector Gadget, Ferris Bueller's Day Off, WarGames, Biloxi Blues)
1962 Rosie O'Donnell comedienne (League of Their Own, Flintstones, Rosie)

On This Day:
1610 King James I addresses English House of Commons
1790 Thomas Jefferson reports to President Washington in New York as Secretary of State
1851 Yosemite Valley discovered in California
1865 Battle of Bentonville ends, last Confederate effort to stop Sherman
1874 US Grant's daughter Nellie marries in the White House
1891 A Hatfield marries a McCoy, ends long feud in West Virginia; it started with an accusation of pig-stealing & lasted 20 years
1918 During WWI Germany launches Somme offensive
1924 Mass Investors Trust becomes 1st mutual fund set up in US
1935 Persia officially renamed Iran
1946 Kenny Washington signs with Rams, 1st black NFLer since 1933
1947 President Truman signs Executive Order 9835 requiring all federal employees to have allegiance to the United States
1952 Alan Freed presents Moondog Coronation Ball at old Cleveland Arena, 25,000 attend 1st rock & roll concert ever
1963 Alcatraz federal penitentiary in San Francisco Bay closed
1964 26th NCAA Men's Basketball Championship: UCLA beats Duke 98-83
1964 Beatles' "She Loves You" single goes #1 & stays #1 for 2 weeks
1964 UCLA completes undefeated NCAA basketball season (30-0)
1965 Martin Luther King Jr begins march from Selma to Montgomery AL
1970 32nd NCAA Men's Basketball Championship: UCLA beats Jacksonville 80-69
1985 Arthur Ashe (UCLA) is named to International Tennis Hall of Fame
1994 Wayne Gretzky ties Gordie Howe's NHL record of 801 goals

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Doug Yonce
Apple Distinguished Educator

Apple Teacher – 2016
STAR Discovery Educator
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TEKTOK uses *netTrekker* to explore the internet
netTrekker delivers the industry-leading digital learning resource library with only the best content from the web — 360,000+ curated digital resources tagged, organized, and aligned to standards so that teachers, students, and parents can find just what they need, all in one place, in a fraction of the time. Learn more about this tremendous resource at:

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