March 14 - Happy Pi Day!
(and Albert Einstein’s birthday)

Larry Shaw created Pi Day in 1989. The holiday was celebrated at the San Francisco Exploratorium, with staff and public marching around one of its circular spaces, then consuming fruit pies. Read more here and here

If we use 3.14 as the value for $\pi$, this explains why March 14 is designated Pi Day in America, as in the American month/date system it is written as 3/14. Pi Approximation Day is held on July 22 (or 22/7 in day/month date format), since the fraction $\frac{22}{7}$ is a common approximation of $\pi$.

Sometimes the so-called Pi Minute is also commemorated. This occurs twice on March 14 at 1:59 a.m., and 1:59 p.m. If $\pi$ is truncated to seven decimal places, it becomes 3.1415926, making the Pi Second occur on March 14 at 1:59:26 a.m./p.m. If a 24-hour clock is used, the Pi Second occurs just once yearly, on March 14 at 01:59:26.

**Pi music**
If you want to hear what $\pi$ sounds like, click here. YouTube offers many other $\pi$ videos!

**Pi crop circles**
The most complex crop circle ever to be seen in Britain was discovered in a barley field in Wiltshire. The formation, measuring 150ft in diameter, is apparently a coded image representing the first 10 digits, 3.141592654, of pi. Read more

**Maths Club**
Strategy Games
Splitting Piles

Start with two piles of, say, 7 and 15 matches. A move consists of removing one pile and splitting the other pile into two smaller piles. The first player unable to do this loses.

**Wikipedia** has some really interesting examples in several languages. Why not ask your students to invent some Pi Mnemonics of their own? The longest or most original will be included in the April newsletter. Please email entries to sue.owen@mei.org.uk

Just for fun
What is the volume of a pizza with radius z and depth a?

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