



Poker Trivia

Ever wondered how many people regularly play poker? In a deck of cards who do the kings represent. When playing cards were invented? Below you will find these answers and more. For instance did you know that 40 to 50 million Americans regularly play poker, and the figure is growing daily.

It is said that former president Richard Nixon financed his run for congress from poker winnings he earned in the Navy during WW2.

It is believed that playing cards were invented in China in 1120 AD.

It is reputed that the kings on a deck of cards, represent the following. the king of spades, David, King of Israel; the king of Clubs, Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia; the king of Hearts is Charlemagne, King of France; and the king of Diamonds is Caesar Augustus, Emperor of Rome.

The playing card suites originated in France and represent the four classes of men. Spades equals nobility, Diamonds, merchants, Clubs, peasants, and Hearts the clergy.

Did you know that the Sandwich was invented through playing cards, John Montague, Earl of Sandwich, was a compulsive gambler he lived in England during the 1700s. He loved playing cards that much that he wouldn't leave even for meals, so he had a servant bring him a piece of meat between two slices of bread, this enabled him to play cards with one hand and eat with the other, this new meal was named after his title, hence the Sandwich (lets face it the Montague would never have caught on.)

Wild Bill Hickok who was shot in the back of the head while playing poker in Deadwood by Jack McCall. It is reputed that Hickock's last hand contained Ace of Clubs, Ace of Spades, Two Black eights plus various other cards ever since then this hand has been known as the dead mans hand.

The 52 cards of the ordinary playing deck are said to symbolize the 52 weeks of the year. It is also thought that the 4 suits relate to the 4 seasons:

Spades = Winter
Clubs = Spring
Hearts = Summer
Diamonds = Autumn

More year-related card Trivia

The Ace in each suit rules the first week of it's corresponding season. The Kings rule the second, the Queen rule the third, Jack rule the fourth, Tens rule the fifth ... and so on with the Twos ruling the last week.

The first week of a cartomancy year is March 1 to March 7th and is ruled by the first card in the deck : the Ace of Diamonds. The last week of the year being February 22 to February 28th and ruled by the lowest and last card of the deck : 2 of Spades.

The extra day in a leap-year is under the rulership of the Joker.

It is said the 365 days appear in the ordinary cards in at least 2 ways:

A) When any 3 cards are chosen, they give a possible combination of 7 possible meanings. 7 being the number of days in the week, of course, and when multiplied by the number of cards [or weeks in year] then you have 364. When you add the Joker the total will be 365.

B) add the number of total pips on all the numbered cards (including the Ace). Add in the number of court cards, plus their total value on the basis of 10. Now add in the number 13 (number of cards in each suit) and you should have the following:

220 (number of pips on the 40 numbered cards)
plus 12 (number of court cards)
plus 120 (value of court cards)
plus 13 (number of cards in each suit)
which, when tallied together, equals 365!

When Columbus landed on U.S. shores in 1492, his men plucked wide leaves from trees, marked them with images, and played cards.

The Curse of Scotland,

No it's not the soccer team. It is the nine of diamonds, there are various explanations though none of them are believed to be completely true.

1. That in the once popular round game 'Pope Joan', the 9 of diamonds was called the Pope, the anti-christ of Scottish Reformers.
2. That the 9 of diamonds was the chief card in the game 'cornette', introduced into Scotland by the unhappy Queen Mary.
3. That 'Butcher' Cumberland wrote the orders for the Battle of Culloden, 1746, on the back of the card.
4. That the order for the Massacre of Glencoe (1692) was signed on the back of this card.
5. That the dispositions for the fatal field of Flodden (1513) were drawn up on it by James IV of Scotland.
6. That it is derived from the nine lozenges that formed the arms of the Earl of Stair, who was especially loathed for his connection with the Massacre of Glencoe and the union with England (1707).

We've probably all heard the Mark Winkendales song 'a deck of cards'. well it had its origins in Glasgow

Richard Middleton, a soldier, attending divine service, with the rest of the regiment at a church in Glasgow, instead of pulling out a Bible, like his brother soldiers, to find the parson's text, spread a pack of cards before him. This singular behaviour did not long pass unnoticed, both by the clergyman and the serjeant of the company to which he belonged; the latter in particular requested him to put up the cards, and on his refusal, conducted him after church before the Mayor, to whom he preferred a formal complaint of Richard's indecent behaviour during divine service. 'Well soldier!' (said the Mayor) 'what excuse have you for this strange scandalous behaviour? If you can make any apology, or assign any reason for it, it's well; if you cannot, assure yourself that I will cause you, without delay, to be severely punished for it.' 'Since your honour is so good,' replied Richard, 'I will inform you, I have been eight days on march, with a bare allowance of sixpence a day, which your honour will allow is hardly sufficient to maintain a man in meat, drink, washing, and other necessaries that

consequently he may want, without a Bible, Prayer Book, or any other good book.' On saying this, Richard drew out his pack of cards, and presenting one of the aces to the Mayor, continued his address to the magistrate as follows:

"When I see an Ace, may it please your honour, it reminds me that there is only one God; and when I look upon a Two or a Three, the former puts me in mind of the Father and Son, and the latter of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A Four calls for remembrance the Four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. A Five, the five wise Virgins who were ordered to trim their lamps; there were ten, indeed, but five, your worship may remember, were wise, and five were foolish. A Six, that in six days God created heaven and earth. A Seven, that on the seventh day he rested from all that he had made. An Eight, of the eight righteous persons preserved from the deluge; viz., Noah, and his wife, with his three sons and their wives. A Nine, of the Nine lepers cleansed by our Saviour; there were ten, but only one returned to offer his tribute of thanks. And a Ten, of the ten commandments that God gave Moses, on Mount Sinai, on the two tablets of stone.' He took the Knave and put it aside.' When I see the Queen, it puts me in mind of the Queen of Sheba, who came from the furthestmost parts of the world to hear the wisdom of Solomon, for she was as wise a woman as he a man, for she brought fifty boys and fifty girls, all clothed in girls' apparel to shew before King Solomon, for him to test which were boys and which were girls,--but he could not until he called for water to wash themselves; the girls washed up to their elbows, and the boys only up to the wrists of their hands, so King Solomon told by that. And when I see the King, it puts me in mind of the great King of Heaven and Earth, which is God Almighty, and likewise his Majesty King George the Fourth, to pray for him.'" Well,' said the Mayor, 'you have given a good description of all the cards except one, which is lacking.'" Which is that?' said the soldier. 'The Knave,' said the Mayor.

"If your honour will not be angry with me,' returned Richard, 'I can give you the same satisfaction on that as any in the pack?' 'No,' said the Mayor. 'Well,' returned the soldier, 'the greatest knave that I know is the sarjeant who brought me before you.' 'I don't know,' replied the Mayor, 'whether he be the greatest knave or no; but I am sure that he is the greatest fool.'

"The soldier then continued as follows; 'When I count the number of dots in a pack of cards, there are 365, --so many days as there are in a year. When I count how many cards are in a pack, I find there are 52, --so many weeks are there in a year. When I reckon how many tricks are won by a pack, I find there are 13, --so many months are there in a year. So that this pack of cards is both Bible, Almanack, and Prayer Book to me.'

"The Mayor called his servants, ordered them to entertain the soldier well, gave him a piece of money, and said he was the cleverest fellow he ever heard in his life."