

Happy National Chess Week!

National Chess Day History

In 1976, President Gerald Ford declared Oct. 9th to celebrate National Chess Day.

Now, National Chess Day is celebrated on the 2nd Saturday of October. Except for this year. October 12th is also Yom Kippur, a solemn Jewish Holiday so the US Chess Executive Board has extended it to National Chess Week, running from Oct. 5th to Oct. 12th.

Benefits of Chess

- brings people together
- teaches you how to cope with loss
- teaches actions have consequences
- helps you to focus
- help develop creativity
- builds confidence
- develop problem solving skills
- exercises both sides of brain
- helps you to learn how to be calm under pressure

Chess Fun Facts

- chess is a required school subject in Armenia
- in 1 game of chess, there are 400 possible moves after each move played
- its proven to improve memory function
- archeologist have found chess artifacts in Uzbekistan dating back to 760 AD
- there are 10^{120} possible games of chess, which is more than there are electrons in the visible universe!
- There's a World Chess Hall of Fame here in STL! We are the chess capital of the United States!

Play Chess at Home!

Besides playing a traditional game of chess, you can also do these chess activities with your Junior Kindergartener...

- play minigames such as Kings & Pawns
- invite your child to make their own chess pieces (drawing or sculpting)
- print out each piece twice, cut and lay them face down for a matching game
- have your child teach you how each piece moves
- practice setting up a board
- have them move like each chess piece
- play online vs a computer

