

Daylight Saving Time Trivia

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- Benjamin Franklin first suggested the idea of DST on a visit to France in April 1784, as a way to save candles.
- Germany was the first country to enact Daylight Saving Time on April 30, 1916 with Great Britain following in May 1916. Today, about 70 countries around the world observe it although not all on the same day.
- DST was used as part of an effort during World War I to conserve fuel. In theory, using daylight more efficiently saves fuel and energy because it reduces the nation's need for artificial light.
- In an effort to conserve resources, U.S. Congress placed the country on Daylight Saving Time for seven months starting March 1918. The law was repealed but then reinstated during World War II.
- Contrary to popular belief, American farmers did not lobby for daylight saving to have more time to work in the fields; in fact, the agriculture industry was deeply opposed to the time switch. The sun, not the clock, dictated farmers' schedules. Farmers had to wait an extra hour for dew to evaporate to harvest hay, hired hands worked less since they still left at the same time for dinner and cows weren't ready to be milked an hour earlier to meet shipping schedules.
- Two states - Arizona and Hawaii - don't observe daylight saving time. Indiana adopted DST in 2006.
- The Energy Policy Act of 2005, signed into law by President George W. Bush, extended the length of daylight saving time by four weeks. It now begins at 2 a.m. on the second Sunday in March. It ends on the first Sunday in November.
- Since countries close to the equator already have more daylight hours than most, many don't feel the need to change the clocks.
- People are safer drivers during daylight hours and researchers have found that DST reduces fatal car and pedestrian accidents.

