



## Friday the 13th

January 13, 2023 is a Friday. Do you find that creepy? Some people do. Some people think bad things will happen on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Thinking that Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> brings bad luck is a superstition. That is a belief that bad things will happen even if there's no reason for it. You might have heard of other superstitions too.

Trying not to step on a sidewalk crack is a superstition. So is not wanting to open an umbrella in the house. None of these actions will really bring bad luck. But sometimes if you are looking for bad luck you will find it.

How did people come to link Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> with bad luck? It might have to do with the number 13. Some people say that 13 represents the unknown. That's because a lot of things, like months of the year or inches in a foot, end at 12.

The superstition also might be related to Friday. In the Bible, a lot of bad things happened on Friday. So Christian people may think that Friday is an unlucky day.

Believing that Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> is unlucky is pretty common in the United States. But other countries have different beliefs. In Spain, Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> is the day to beware. In Italy, it's the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month.



Sometimes people are so worried about the number 13 that they skip it. Many buildings do not have a 13<sup>th</sup> floor. Unfortunately you can't skip over Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. You will have to live through two or three every year, no matter if you're afraid or not!



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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is an example of a superstition mentioned in the passage?
  - a. Not eating fruit
  - b. Not opening an umbrella in the house
  - c. Not going to sleep before 10:00
  - d. Not sleeping on the left side of the bed
  
2. What is an example of something that ends at 12 mentioned in the passage?
  - a. Months in a year
  - b. Days in a week
  - c. Eggs in a carton
  - d. Cookies on a cookie sheet
  
3. Why don't some buildings have a 13<sup>th</sup> floor?
  - a. Because the builder couldn't count
  - b. Because people think it is unlucky
  - c. Because the builder forgot to add it
  - d. Because they were built on Fridays
  
4. What would someone in Italy think about Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>?
  - a. They would be afraid
  - b. They would think it was a lucky day
  - c. They would think it was a regular day
  - d. They would want it to be the 17<sup>th</sup>

Instructions for teachers:

These questions can be used to assess understanding of the reading passage.

The item in bold is the correct answer for each question.

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