American History Event

Date of Story:­ July 20, 1969

Moon Landing

On July 20, 1969, millions of people gathered around their televisions to watch two U.S. astronauts do something no one had ever done before. Wearing bulky space suits and backpacks of oxygen to breathe, Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin became the first human beings to walk on the moon. After the two stepped onto the lunar surface, Armstrong proclaimed these famous words: “That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."

*Question: How often do you look at the moon?*

American History Event

Date of Story: ­November 4, 2008

Barack Obama elected President

On November 4, 2008, Barack Obama is elected the 44th president and becomes the first African-American chief executive of the United States. In his victory speech, President Obama remarks that "change has come to America."

*Question: How many Presidents can you name?*

American History Event

Date of Story:­ 1968

Seatbelts required in all American cars

When people started driving, there was no such thing as seatbelts, but sometimes people would make their own home-made seatbelts. In the 1930s doctors tried to tell car makers to put them in all new cars, but that didn’t happen until 1950—and that was only in 2 kinds of cars! There were no seatbelt laws until 1968, but that law only said that cars had to have them—not that drivers had to use them. In 1984, New York had the first law to make drivers use a seat belt.

*Question: What is another thing that makes cars safer?*

American History Event

Date of Story:­ November 10, 1969

First episode of Sesame Street on TV

Joan Ganz Cooney created “Sesame Street” to use TV as a way to help 3- to 5- year-olds prepare for kindergarten. The show was set in a fictional New York neighborhood and included diverse characters and positive messages that taught many, many young children the alphabet and how to count. It became the most widely viewed children’s program in the world. It has aired in more than 120 countries.

*Question: Have you ever watched “Sesame Street?” Can you name something you learned from the show?*

American History Event

Date of Story:­ 1945

Microwave oven was invented

The microwave oven was invented by accident! In 1945, Percy Spencer was working on a radar machine when he noticed that a chocolate bar that he had in his pocket was melting. The first microwave cooking oven was patented on October 8, 1945. The first microwave used by the public was in January 1947 in a Speedy Weeny vending machine in Grand Central train station that sold freshly cooked hot dogs. The first microwave oven sold for the home was in 1947 and it cost $5,000 which would be the same as $52,000 today. Prices fell rapidly in the 1970s and microwave ovens became a standard part of households.

*Question: Do you know how to make popcorn in a microwave oven?*

American History Event

Date of Story:­ 1911

Avery County becomes a county in North Carolina

Avery County was founded in 1911 out of parts of Mitchell, Watauga and Burke counties. It is the youngest county in North Carolina. The county seat was originally in Elk Park when the county was first formed, but was moved to Newland when the courthouse was completed in 1912.

*Question: Can you name 3 towns in Avery County?*