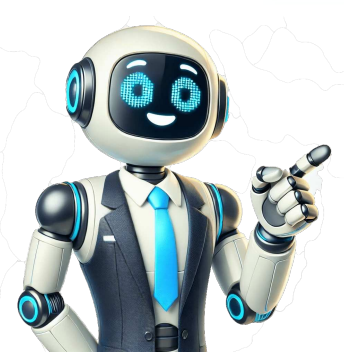


I'm not a robot



The following is from the introduction to LIFE's special tribute issue, Jimmy Carter: A Noble Life, which is available online and at newsstands. When James Earl Carter died at his home in Plains, Georgia, on December 29, 2024, he was 100, and many people who as 18-year-olds had voted for or against him in the 1970s were contemplating retirement/unthinkable concept for Carter. To the end, the nations longest-lived President remained passionately engaged in American life and global affairs, his body buffeted by illness but his intelligence undimmed, Jimmy Carters protean career saw soaring triumphs and crushing defeats, but one theme ran through it like a rivera call to service, deeply rooted in devout Christiane actualy, Hed risen meteyorically to the White House, suffered a precipitous fall, then rebuilt his legacy through good works at home and abroad, whether it was promoting public health and welfare or safeguarding the environment or protecting human rights. His dogged resilience was a lesson in the human capacity for renewal. It seemed Jimmy Carter would go on forever. He was 96 when he and his wife, Rosalynn, appeared with three other former Presidents and their first ladies/the Clintons, Bushes, and Obamas in a two-ad campaign urging Americans to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine in March 2021. One spot showed clips of the couples receiving their shots; in the other, the ex-Presidents stood together, each addressing the camera. It was Carters second time in the news that week. Days earlier, hed released a statement blasting Georgia Republicans for a slate of measures restricting absentee ballots and eliminating Sunday voting, widely seen as a reaction to GOP losses in his traditionally red home state. Georgia had favored Joe Biden in the 2020 election and sent Democrats Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock to the U.S. Senate, partly on the strength of mail-in and Sunday votes from majority Black districts. I am disheartened, saddened, and angry, said Carter, who had backed both senators and endorsed Biden. We must not promote confidence among one segment of the electorate by restricting the participation of others. Carter became such a fixture in public life, it was hard to believe hed burst onto the national scene seemingly out of nowhere in 1976 to wrest the presidency from Gerald Ford. A polarizing war, racial division, and Watergate had left the nation starving for changeand the unrepentuous governor/peanut farmer from Plains, Georgia, fit the bill. Physically unprepossessing, Carter was hardly magnetic in stump speeches, but he won 297 electoral votes, 50 percent of the popular vote, and on Inauguration Day became the first incoming President to walk from the Capitol to the White House. In the Oval Office, Carter saw himself as a technocratic problem solver, but he was an insular President, reliant on a tight inner circle of friends and advisers nicknamed the Georgia Mafia. Bluntly honest, he seemed incapable of schmoozing legislators. Still, backed by a Democratic Congress, Carter could claim substantial achievements, including enacting strong new pollution controls, bolstering consumer protections, establishing the Energy and Education departments, and appointing many female and Black federal judges. And then there was his crowning foreign policy triumph, brokering peace between Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian president Anwar Sadatthe Camp David Accords. But other crises overwhelmed Carters presidency: runaway inflation, energy shortages, and the humiliating hostage standoff with Iran. In 1980, Carter lost to Ronald Reagan in an epic landslide, 489 electoral votes to 49; he returned to Plains depressed, and roundly dismissed as a failure. As it turned out, he was just getting started. Other one-term Presidents have enjoyed distinguished second acts. John Quincy Adams served 18 years in the House as a fierce abolitionist; William Howard Taft became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. But Carters four-decade post-presidency, the longest in American history, was unmatched for its breadth and depth of accomplishment. Much of it sprang from the Carter Center, the nonprofit he and Rosalynn started in 1982, which has launched programs in 80 countries to promote health, sanitation, economic justice, and democracy. Carter became a leading authority on election integrity, roaming the globe to monitor voting. His most visible humanitarian work, though, was when he rolled up his sleeves and built houses with Habitat for Humanity, helping to provide some 4,400 families with safe, affordable shelter. Carter won hearts around the world with his grace in the face of a 2015 cancer diagnosismelanoma had metastasized and spread to his brain. He thought he had weeks to live but recovered and kept going. Social media immortalized him as a humanitarian action heroa viral meme depicted him on the job with Habitat, hammer in hand, captioned, You May Be Badass, but Youll Never Be 91-Year-Old Jimmy Carter Battling Cancer While Making a House for the Unfortunate Badass! Even in his final years, Carter continued to show up for his convictions and his community. In May 2022, he filed a friend of the court brief to prevent a road being built through an Alaskan refuge. The following year, he and Rosalynn surprised attendees of the annual Peanut Festival in Plains when they waked to the crowd from a car. It would be the beloved couples last appearance at the event; Rosalynn died on November 19, 2023, at age 96. Carters tribute to his wife of 77 years summed up his own character as well. She gave me wise guidance and encouragement when I needed it. As long as Rosalynn was in this world, I knew someone loved and supported me. Here are a selection of photos from LIFE's special tribute issue to Jimmy Carter. Carter met with Israels Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat of Egypt at Camp David, 1978. The agreements that resulted from the meetings, known as the Camp David Accords, led to a historic peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. Everett/Shutterstock Even before his Habitat for Humanity days, Jimmy Carter enjoyed building things. Here the former President made use of the woodworking tools given to him as a going away gift from his Cabinet and staff. Carter was sanding a table he built for Rosalynn to use as a typewriter stand. Bettmann/Getty Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, visited children suffering from schistosomiasis during their Feb. 15, 2007, trip to Nasarawa North, Nigeria. The Carters traveled to the community to bring national attention to the countrys need to make disease prevention methods and treatments with the medicine praziquantel more accessible in its rural and impoverished communities. Emily Staub/The Carter Center Jimmy Carter helped an Egyptian voter to cast his ballot at a polling station in Cairo on May 24, 2012, during the countrys second day of the countrys first free presidential election. Representatives from the Carter Center came to the country to serve as election monitors. Wissam Saleh/AFP/Getty The following is from LIFE's new special issue Garfield: Greatest. Cat. Ever. (Just ask him!), available at newsstands and online. Ever since Garfield swaggered onto the pages of 41 American newspapers on June 19, 1978, the rotund feline famous for his love of lasagna, naps, and sarcastic asides has occupied a special place in the cultural consciousness. Lazy, self-centered, and an unrepentant grump, the cat turned out to possess enough deadpan charm to entertain generations of audiences. Trends might come and go, but Garfield is no fad; fan club, hell be back on the big screen in 2024s animated feature The Garfield Movie, voiced by none other than Chris Pratt. The character has enjoyed a remarkable run. As creator Jim Davis, precisely because hes both reliable and relatable, routinely expressing familiar feelings and frustrations. After all, who among us hasn't wanted to eat pasta and nap all day? And does anyone actually like Mondays? I hold a mirror to the reader and show them [their lives] back with a humorous twist, thats all. Daviss says. Were made to feel guilty for overeating, not exercising, and over-sleeping. Garfield relieves our guilt by enjoying all of those things. More often than not, when someone laughs at a Garfield gag, its because theyre thinking, Isnt that true? In an age when attaining a satisfying work-life balance seems virtually impossible, and at a time when everyone is constantly asked to do more, achieve more, be better or risk feeling less than, Garfield serves as a potent reminder that some days, the healthier option is just going back to bed. The furry protagonist was clearly ahead of his time when it came to the idea of self-care. But Garfield was also very much a creature of the 1980smaybe the creature of the 1980s, a decade that celebrated conspicuous consumption in all its myriad forms and transformed the character into an A-list superstar. During the greed is good era, Daviss comic-strip cat could be found not only in daily newspapers around the globewhen daily newspapers were a thriving concern and most households were subscribersbut also on the New York Times best-seller list, the cover of People magazine, and as a balloon in the Macys Thanksgiving Day Parade. Thats in addition to headlining his own Emmy-winning animated TV specials and a Saturday morning cartoon. Garfield and Friends, not to mention the onslaught of merchandise featuring the feline. T-shirts, posters, coffee mugsyou name it, Garfield was on it. At the height of the Garfield craze, people simply couldnt get enough of the obnoxious yet imminently lovable cat. Garfield was all over the place, says Robert J. Thompson, professor of popular culture at Syracuse University. It was a user-friendly comic strip, which means not a whole lot of words and plenty of white space in between. And if you missed [Garfield] in the paper, you saw [him] in the licensing products and in the back windows of peoples cars or the TV specials. Garfield was pretty much everywhere. Although one could have anticipated just how successful Garfield would become, Davis had high hopes for how the cat might fare. He designed Garfield to appeal to the widest possible audience. In dreaming up the chubby character, Davis studied comic strips that were popular in the late 1970s and took notes. He noticed numerous high-profile offerings centering on dogs, most obviously Peanuts, with its anarchic beagle hero Snoopy. So he chose to create something for the worlds many cat lovers, taking inspiration from the felines who lived on his parents farm in Fairmount, Indiana. I pulled Garfield a little bit from several cats I knew, but more from the fat housecats that lived with my grandparents and friendscats who had their own chair. Davis told Entertainment Weekly in 2014. It was the indoor cats that most influenced [Garfield]. He was also influenced by a lot of people. Basically, Garfield is a human in a cat suit. He exists in a cats body and moves like a cat and does many cat-like things, but really his basic personality is hopefully a lot like we all are, way down deep, with just our basic animal urges. To flesh out the strip, Davis developed charactersnearly owner Jon Arbuckle, clueless dog Odie, obnoxious feline Nermalwho could serve as foils for Garfield. As he explained to EW: Jon has my eternal optimism. Thats me. Im the guy whose glass is half full, always looking on the bright side of things. Hes a daydreamer, easygoing, puffy cheeks. I have that. As Garfield is bright and cunning, Odie is not so bright, very accepting. Odie is a free spirit. Its in the contrasts and the conflicts in the characters that humor is derived. If everybody looked alike and got along, there would be no humor. Additionally, Davis decided to omit timely political and cultural references. Garfield exists in a space where years dont pass, characters dont age, and no one ever argues about current events. If you were to mention the football strike, youre going to be excluding everyone else in the world that doesnt watch pro football. Davis explained to the Washington Post in 1982. Although critics sometimes groued that the cartoonist played things too safe, the public loved Garfield, and once it took off, Davis almost never wavered from his gag-a-day approach. The comic strips visual style was simple, the humor grounded in universally relatable day-to-day experiences, all the better to translate for international audiences. I dont use any proper names, I try to use as few colloquialisms as possible, and abate the only spot I recognize is golf, which is easily translatable. Daviss not very imaginative. Theyre not very interesting. I really like Jim Davis [is] not sitting in a garage someplace scratching the shit out on Bristol board, but its still a fresh strip every day. Its a new piece. That freshness is vital in attracting new readers to Garfield, though, given the precipitous decline in print newspaper circulation and the fact that young and old have long since begun keeping up with the cat in other media. Daviss strips can be found on such sites as GoComics, and in 2023, Random House published the 75th Garfield book, Garfield Fully Caffeinated. Meanwhile, other creators are penning adventures for the characterpeople like Judd Winick, the New York Times best-selling creator of Hilo, who grew up on Daviss comic strips. Winick told the website Comic Book Resources that it was a dream come true to be invited to contribute a short to BOOM! Studios 2017 graphic novel Garfield: Unreality TV, as hed loved Garfield since childhood. When I was 9 or so, it first started to run in my local paper, Winick told Comic Book Resources. It was around the same time that the second Garfield collection came out, Garfield Gains Weight. I was just nuts for it. I cant tell you exactly what it was, but when I was little, I just thought it was so damn funny. Maybe it was because Garfield is so mean, maybe because it was kind of slapstick, but it just hit me in the right sweet spot back then. Its easy to forget just how revolutionary the notion of Garfield as a kind of lovable antihero was back when the cat first exploded onto the scene, Thompson notes. A protagonist who proudly embraces his flawswho is, in fact, defined by themfelt entirely new and delightfully subversive. We were just beginning to see those kinds of characters in the culture, Thompson says. Now, of course, its commonplace to have non-heroic [protagonists], from Mad Men to Breaking Bad to The Sopranos. Theyre all [series about] antiheroes. But Garfield was coming out when that was still relatively new, and there was something appealing about his unapologetic, cynical, sarcastic, lazy, hedonistic, apathetic personality, Thompson continues. We had all certainly known cats like that, but we also recognized humans like that. In fact, I think a lot of us recognize portions of ourselves in [Garfield]. If we had someone else feeding us and providing a roof over our head like Garfield did, we would probably be happy to lie around all day, dreaming of lasagna and complaining about Mondays. And even though the sassy cat, who celebrated his 45th birthday in 2023, has entered middle age, he remains as witty and wily (and hungry) as hes always been. Times may change, Daviss notes, but Garfield remains the same. Whether we read the comics over breakfast or after school or work each day, comic strips and their characters become a part of our lives, Daviss says. They entertain us and make us feel a little better every single day. We can count on the comics. In a world where life is changing almost daily, Garfield still loves lasagna and hates Mondays. Here is a selection of the many images in LIFE's new special issue Garfield: Greatest. Cat. Ever. In The Garfield Movie (2024), Chris Pratt voices the title character, while Nicholas Hoult plays pal Jon Arbuckle and Harvey Guillén is Odie. Courtesy of DNEG Animation Garfield creator Jim Davis posed with Cathy Kothe in her Long Island home in 2014. Kothe holds the Guinness record for the largest collection of Garfield memorabilia, with more than 6,000 objects. Courtesy of Cathy and Robbery Kothe For more than 30 years, plastic Garfield phones like this one had been mysteriously washing up on French beaches; the riddle was solved when a shipping container full of them that had been lost during a storm was found in a sea cave. Fred Tanneau/AFP via Getty Images In 1947 America was in the midst of an ongoing wedding boom, owing to soldiers returning from World War II. LIFE decided to pay tribute to this burgeoning romanticism by dispatching staff photographer Nina Leen to document a particularly lavish wedding, with a focus on all the preparations leading up to it, for a nine-page story headlined June Wedding: Kansas City Girl Marries With All the Fixings. The bride was Barbara Winn, the 23-year-old daughter of a well-to-do contractor, as LIFE put it. The groom was Thomas Ferrell Bailey, 23, a former Air Force cadet and student at the University of Kansas. The couple met at a New Years Eve party back in 1945 and started on the road to their wedding to remember. The total number of guests at their wedding: 750. Why so many people? When Barbara and Tom announced their engagement, they decided they wanted a big wedding to entertain all their friends. Barbara's mother particularly liked the idea because she had eloped herself and missed the excitement of a big church ceremony. And since Barbara was his only daughter, her father was anxious to make the wedding a resounding success. LIFE described the planning of the wedding as a full-time job, and Leen documented all that went into it. That included the dress shopping, the cake selection, the addressing of the invitations, and more. Leen was there when the groom bought white gloves for his ushers, and she was there when the bride went for her Wasserman test, which checked for venereal diseases and was a prerequisite to obtaining a marriage license in Missouri and many other states back in the day. Leen also documented the pre-wedding partiesof which there were many. In the last three weeks before the wedding Barbara was entertained at two showers and nine luncheons given by her bridesmaids and mothers friends. In addition she and Tom where honored at three dinner parties. LIFE reported. When the big day arrived, Leen made sure to capture every element of the brides outfit that corresponded to the classic wedding rhyeme: something old (for Winn, a lacy doily on the sleeve), something new (the dress itself), something borrowed (a petticoat), something blue (a garter) and a sixpence in her shoe (yes, the bride had an actual coin in there). The ceremony and reception were marathon affairs. The newlyweds stood in a receiving line for two and a half hours, while guests consumed 30 cases of Cooks Imperial dry champagne and were finally reduced to drinking Rhine wine, LIFE wrote. The couple had planned a two-week honeymoon in Colorado Springs, after which they would move to Oklahoma City, where Tom was going to work for an oil company. Leens photos included one of the garbage that had been created from all the discarded wrapping for the many wedding gifts, with a caption that noted, Special trucks were obtained to haul it all away. Tom Ferrell Bailey and Barbara Winn consulted with their church minister before formally announcing their engagement three months before the wedding. Kansas City, 1947. Nina Leen/Life Picture Collection/Shutterstock Women wrote invitation cards to the wedding of Barbara Winn and Tom Ferrell Bailey in Kansas City, Missouri, 1947. Nina Leen/Life Picture Collection/Shutterstock Tom Ferrell Bailey purchased white gloves (\$6 a pair) for the eight ushers at his wedding. Kansas City, 1947. Nina Leen/Life Picture Collection/Shutterstock Bride Barbara Winn and her mother shopped for a wedding cake, she eventually went with a five-layered cake from a specialty caterer which cost \$100. 1947. Nina Leen/Life Picture Collection/Shutterstock Barbara Winn and her mother made selections for their \$1,500 florist order for Barbaras wedding. Kansas City, 1947. Barbara Alvin and her mother buying the flowers for her June wedding. Bride Barbara Winn tried on her bridal petticoat that was to be worn under her ivory slipper-satin wedding dress. For the dress, the bride and her mother selected a sample at Herzfeld department store and had the dress made for about \$200. 1947. Nina Leen/Life Picture Collection/Shutterstock Before her wedding Barbara Alvin took the Wasserman test, which was at the time a requirement in the state of Missouri and ensured she did not have any venereal disease. 1947. Barbara Winn and Ferrell Bailey swore that they were telling the truth as they went for their marriage license. Kansas City, 1947. Nina Leen/Life Picture Collection/Shutterstock At the bridal dinner of Barbara Winn and Tom Ferrell Bailey, held at the Kansas City Club, the main course was pheasant a la Barbara. 1947. Nina Leen/Life Picture Collection/Shutterstock Barbara Winns wedding veil was adjusted by one of her bridesmaids before the wedding ceremony. Kansas City, 1947. Nina Leen/Life Picture Collection/Shutterstock Garbage that consisted mostly of wrapping from wedding gifts was piled high. Special trucks were obtained to haul it all away. LIFE wrote. Kansas City, 1947. Nina Leen/Life Picture Collection/Shutterstock July 25, 2025July 25, 2025 by Bill Syken As American corporations go, few have a history that runs as deep as General Electric. Its roots trace back to Thomas Edison; GE was formed in 1892 when a conglomerate built around Edisons inventions merged with another conglomerate. GE was one of the original 12 companies in the Dow Jones Industrial Average back in 1896. The company has had its hand in many technological advances over its storied history. General Electric was behind the first television broadcast in 1928. The first night baseball game, in Cincinnati in 1935, was played under GE lights. During World War II the company made the turbojets for Americas first jet aircraft. Aerospace, health care and information systems are part of a long list of fields in which the company has made a mark. The breadth of the GE operations underlines the great variety of activity that legendary LIFE photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt documented when he gained access to the General Electric operations back in 1937. What he captured is visually amazing, and also obscure in its details; these photos were for a story that never ran in the magazine, so we dont know precisely what is happening in every picture. But we do know what was happening in a broad sense: these workers were shaping the future. Looking back from the vantage point of the 21st century, what stands out about this GE manufacturing operation is how physical it was. This was 1937, and there is not a computer in sight. It was at the forefront of technology, but people were doing everything with their hands. Some of the coolest photos are the ones that Eisenstaedt took of a man handling a light bulb. Its fitting. Not only was the light bulb one of the companys foundational products, but those bulbs are a place where consumers today can still see the General Electric logo. Billions of lighting products carrying the GE brand are still bought every yeareven if GE actually sold its light bulb business to a smart home company called Savant in 2020. That General Electric name still means a lotas you would expect, given its long history. Categories History Tags Alfred Eisenstaedt, General Electric, technology July 17, 2025July 17, 2025 by Bill Syken The 2025 summer blockbuster movie F1, starring Brad Pitt, includes several races in Europe, which has a grand history with auto racing. During the heyday of LIFE magazines original run racing was pretty much the top sport on the continent, and in 1953 the magazine sent staff photographer Frank Scherschel to cover one of its marquee races, 24 Hours of Le Mans. As its name suggests, 24 Hours of Le Mans is an endurance event, where victory is about who goes the furthest in the allotted time, rather than who reaches the finish line first. Drivers switch off with teammates during the eight hours of the race, which takes place on a mix of roads and city streets. The mix of surfaces means that Le Mans cars were designed in a way that made them look more like everyday vehicles than race cars. In your average race car, Le Mans was once characterized by Sports Illustrated as more a happening than a race. The spread-out nature of the course and also the duration of the competition, the LIFE effect that. The scene looks like a music festival as much as it does a sporting event. In addition to capturing the action on the track, he took in the entire scene, including the tracks popular La Maison du Cafecoffee was going to be the drink of choice for many at a 24-hour event. Although the track also had a Le Vin de Bordeaux concession stand, a reminder that this was, after all, France. Scherschel was sure to capture the most distinctive element of the race back then, which was known as the Le Mans start. Drivers stood opposite where their cars were lined up, and then when the starters pistols fired they ran to their cars, hit the ignition and pulled out. That style of start was phased out for safety reasons in 1969. While the start has changed, the 24 Hours of Le Mans continues today, and it stands as the oldest endurance race in the world. In June 2025 the 93rd running of the race was won by a Ferrari team for the third year in a row. Alberto Ascari (second from right), who would win the Formula One season championship that year, hung out with group of racers in the dugout at the Le Mans road race, 1953. Frank Scherschel/Life Picture Collection/Shutterstock Categories Arts & Entertainment, Destinations Tags 24 Hours of Le Mans, auto racing, France, Frank Scherschel, Le Mans July 11, 2025July 11, 2025 by Bill Syken In 2010 the PBS program Nature visited what remained of the legendary Cabo Blanco Fishing Club in Peru. The club was known for the massive fish that its members once pulled from the nearby waters. Those waters teemed with marlin and tuna and other big fish because that was where two major ocean currents came together, the chilly Humboldt Current and the warmer Pacific Equatorial Current. This meeting had the effect of driving plankton to the surface and creating an all-you-can-eat buffet for its larger predators. People had such an easy time finding trophy fish that the spot gained the nickname Marlin Boulevard. In 1953 Alfred C. Glassell Jr., a Texas oilman who was one of the founders of the Cabo Blanco Fishing Club, reeled in a black marlin that weighed a record 1,560 pounds. His catch still stands as the mark for that kind of fish. Glassells long wrestling match with his marlin was so momentous that footage of it was used in the 1958 film version of Old Man and the Sea. That catch was obviously extreme, but it was also representative of the kind of mammoth fish that lived in historic numbers at Cabo Blanco. Back then, at least. When Nature went to Cabo Blanco nearly 60 years after that record catch, reporters found a club that had been abandoned and its fishing waters depleted. Here was the explanation for what happened: In the years that followed Glassells record-breaking catch, a dramatic increase in the commercial fishing of anchovies, which are often used for fishmeal or bait, led to a significant decline in this important billfish food source. According to some, a particularly severe El Nio event in the Pacific likely compounded their scarcity. In 1970, the Cabo Blanco Fishing Club finally closed its doors, due to the military rule of General Juan Velasco Alvarado and the hostile environment toward North Americans his policies engendered. The giant billfish were gone, and so were the tourists. LIFE magazine was fortunate enough to visit Cabo Blanco in 1959, when the club was still in its heyday. Staff photographer Frank Scherschel captured the fisherman out at sea and along the shore. He documented one boat bringing in a 337-pound tunawhich was no record-still, but still plenty big. Scherschel showed the collection of marlin tails in the club parking lot, and the clubs board of big catches. The club also had on display its first thousand-pound catch, reeled in by Glassell in 1952 (his record-setting marlin the next year was donated to the Smithsonian). Cabo Blanco was enough of a hot spot that it reportedly attracted the likes of Marilyn Monroe, Ernest Hemingway, John Wayne, Paul Newman down to Peru to fish and/or enjoy the scene. While that heyday is long gone, some people still head to Cabo Blanco where, according to the travel blog Trans-American journey, the main recreational activity is now surfing. When people do fish, they are mainly coming away those little anchovies, which can fit in the palm of your hand. Categories Destinations Tags Cabo Blanco, Cabo Blanco Fishing Club, Fishing, Frank Scherschel, Marlin Boulevard, Old Man and the Sea July 10, 2025July 10, 2025 by Bill Syken The following text is also copied from the introduction to LIFE's new special issue The Smurfs, available at newsstands and online. In 2011, people around the world donned white caps and pants and painted their faces (and in some cases entire bodies) blue in celebration of the Smurfs. Dozens of Smurf figurines appeared in the Champ de Mars in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. The small Spanish town of Jazar was painted blue and filled with Smurf-themed murals and statues. And in New York, a giant inflatable Smurf made its way around the city, appearing in Central Park and South Street Seaport. By the end of the day, the event, dubbed Global Smurfs Day, broke the world record for Largest Gathering of People Dressed as Smurfs Within a 24-hour Period in Multiple Venues, with nearly 5,000 people participating. This happened more than 20 years after the heyday of the television show and more than 50 years after the Smurfs first appeared in a Belgian comic series about the adventures of a medieval pageboy and his jester sidekick. The word Smurf has been translated into 55 languages, and the brand has a 95 percent global awareness. The Smurfs are ubiquitousyou can find their faces on everything from keychains to billboards around the worldand they have attracted some pretty big star power through the years. The 2025 animated musical film Smurfs will star Octavia Spencer, Nick Offerman and James Corden, and the soundtrack will feature original songs by global pop superstar Rihanna, who is also playing Smurfette. I hope this gives me a little bit of cool points with my kids one day, she joked at CinemaCon 2023, when she announced her role in the movie. Designed by Belgian comic writer and artist Pierre Cullifordbetter known by his nickname Peyothe Smurfs first appeared in Peyos comic series Johan et Pirlouit (Johan and Pewwit in English). In a 1958 story called The Smurfs and the Magic Flute, the series title characters track down the creators of a magic Flute: 100 tiny blue gnomes who live in an idyllic forest village. Readers instantly fell in love. From their bright-blue skin to their delightful adventures and straightforward personalities (Hefty is smart, and so on), the Smurfs had an appeal that proved timeless. Since their debut, the Smurfs have appeared in more than 50 comic volumes, 256 episodes of the NBC animated show, three (soon to be four) feature films, more than 100 episodes of a reboot show, and on thousands of pieces of merchandise. So whats so special about these tiny blue creatures? Walt Disney was Peyos biggest inspiration. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was one of the only American movies that he was able to see while living in Nazi-occupied Belgium, so its no surprise that Peyos Smurfs seem akin to Disneys dwarfs. According to animator Philippe Capart in the documentary From the World of Peyo to Planet Smurf, Peyo adopted Disneys style of creating round characters. To draw a Smurf, you almost only need curves. There are no angles at all, so we have something really round and friendly. The Smurfs most distinguishing feature, their color, also charmed fans. The hue was actually selected by Peyos wife, Nine, who served as his colorist. After ruling out other colors, like red, because it would look angry, or green, because it would blend into the foliage, Nine settled on blue. Largely associated with positive feelings like calmness, trustworthiness, and stability, blue is a beloved color worldwide. It is the most popular favorite color for both men and women, and studies have found that it can have physiological effects like lowering heart rate. Blue is also widely accepted globally and considered positive in most cultures. These days, many childrens characters are blue (think Blue from Blues Clues, Stitch, Bluey, and Sully), but Peyo led the charge, creating a creature that is inviting and adorable to children (both boys and girls) and also adults. The Smurf visage is so popular that even if youve never seen a minute of The Smurfs or read a single page of the comic, you recognize them. This is in part thanks to the robust collectibles market that sprang up almost immediately after their debut when a popular cereal brand began putting Smurf figurines in its boxes. Indeed, toy versions of the Smurfs made their way stateside long before the comic or the TV show, and American television executive Fred Silverman was inspired to create the Smurfs show after purchasing a stuffed Smurf for his daughter in the resort town of Aspen, Colorado. With new figurines released annually, more than 300 million have been sold worldwide by now. For kids, Smurf figurines are cute small toys with special personalities and accessories, akin to Lego minifigures or Polly Pockets. For adults, they make for the perfect collectibletheyre nostalgic and can be found at a range of prices (newer figurines cost around \$6, but rarer vintage ones can cost more than \$200). Each Smurf is simultaneously uniform and unique. Beyond their design, the Smurfs world is timeless. Taking place in a medieval wonderland, the stories and ideas resonate just as much with audiences in 2025 as they did in the 1960s. The Smurfs are jolly (even when the evil wizard Gargamel tries to sabotage them, there is always a happy ending), they live in a blissful community that values collaboration and friendship, and they speak in Smurf, a charming and easily mimicked dialect. The simplicity possessed by The Smurfs is not childish, but childlike, wrote Felix James Miller, cohort of the podcast Truth, Beauty, Comics. They rejoice in the world that surrounds them, just as we readers are meant to do. Since that first Global Smurf Day in 2011, there have been many more, celebrated each year on the closest Saturday to Peyos birthday, June 25. Decades after their first appearance in a Belgian comic, people still dress up like Smurfs, speak in Smurf, and consume Smurf content on Global Smurf Day and every day. Whats so special about the Smurfs? Maybe we want to be them, living in harmony in an idyllic village in the forest. Maybe the company has perfectly nailed the changing trends in media consumption and kept us hooked. Or maybe theyre just really, really cute. By Ava Erickson Here are a selection of images from LIFE's new special issue The Smurfs. As a child, Smurfs creator Peyo escaped the real world through theater (opposite, third from left in a production of Puss in Boots). Courtesy Peyo 2025. Licensed through I.M.P.S./Lafig Belgium www.smurf.com Peyo with some Smurfy toys in 1984. By the 1980s, the brand had expanded into all kinds of merchandising, including theme parks, toys, and breakfast cereal. Photo by Marc DEVILLE/Gamma-Rapho via Getty Images Categories Arts & Entertainment Tags Nick Offerman, Rihanna, Smurfs, Smurfs Movie July 3, 2025July 3, 2025 by Bill Syken Anyone who has spent much time at the beach knows of the special appeal of low tide. That is when the water pulls back its cover and beachcombers walk along the shore to see what has been revealedthe clams or a special seashell, a cool-looking rock, or anything else that might inspire the finder to say, Hey, look what I found. LIFE wrote about this rite of summer in a story titled Low Tide: Odd Creatures Fill Pools. The particular setting of this story was Kennebunkport, Maine, but the phenomenon it described is familiar to beachlovers everywhere. High tide along the coast of Maine is magnificent. The sea surges in, roaring over the rocks and beating fierce spray into the air. Low tide along the coast is not nearly so grand but it is much more interesting. After the water gurgles out of the rocky coastal pools, the tiny creatures of the shore and sand can be seen in shallow puddles: scurrying crabs, the dawdling snails, the immovable barnacles, the curious starfish and see urchins. The LIFE story featured images from staff photographer Bernard Hoffman which focussed primarily on the children enjoying the tidal pools, and also close-up images of the sea creatures taken by nature writer Rutherford Platt. His pictures of starfish, crabs and more can be seen in the original magazine story. Hoffmans images are in this online gallery. Both have their appeal. But for anyone who spent their childhood summers exploring at low tide, Hoffmans images capture the spirit of what it was like to be at the beach, feet in the wet sand, eyes focussed on the ground, in search of the next amazing discovery. Categories Destinations, Lifestyle Tags beach, bernard hoffman, Kennebunkport, low tide, maine, Rutherford Platt June 27, 2025June 27, 2025 by Bill Syken In 1946, in that moment after World War II when people were looking to get back on the road, LIFE photographer Andreas Feininger documented one of the most beautiful highways in North America. He headed to Canada and travelled the Icefields Parkway, which hugs the Continental Divide as it goes through Banff National Park and Jasper National Park. That 145-mile stretch of road, which is part of Alberta Highway 93, takes its name from the Columbia Icefield, which is the largest such field in North Americas Rocky Mountains. Traveling the road today requires a park permit. LIFE magazine never actually published Feiningers story, so we dont have any observations on the trip from back in the day. But contemporary travel blogger Alec Sills-Trach says of the Icefields Parkway, Its 145 miles of pure brilliance with never-ending lakes and stunning peaks that will make your jaw drop and cause a constant oh my god to come out of your mouth. Feiningers pictures quietly affirm that assessment. The Columbia Icefield is featured in a few of the photos, but Feininger also captures the many of the other outdoor activities that draw people to Banff and Jasper, which include horseback riding, fishing, wildlife viewing, and simply taking in the awesomeness of the landscape. Feininger also photographed the civilization that exists amid the wildness, including stopping in Chateau Lake Louise, which has as spectacular a location as any hotel on the planet, and which still welcomes guests today. A site along Canadas Icefields Parkway, which runs through Banff National Park and Jasper National Park, 1946. Andreas Feininger/Life Picture Collection/Shutterstock Categories Destinations Tags andreas feininger, Banff National Park, Canada, Jasper National Park, nature, Travel Post navigation Travel back in time with treasured photos and stories, sent right to your inbox The following is adapted from the introduction to LIFE's newspecial issue 100 Photographs: The Most Important Pictures of All Time and the Stories Behind Them, available at newsstands and online: Photos are proof. We know this from our own lives. Heres what dad looked like when he was in high school. Look at this cake I baked. I ran into Taylor Swift at the mallsee, here we are in a selfie. A telling taunt of our age is photos or it didnt happen. The same holds true for the wider world. The pictures that really matter are the ones that prove something, that show us a definitive truth, that make us understand. Heres what a human fetus looks like. Heres the glory of Muhammad Ali. Heres the shock we felt when the World Trade Center Towers collapsed. In our quest to select the most important 100 photographs ever, we looked for pictures that demonstrated something important and meaningful. Some capture a news event or show the brutality of war. Others crystallize a particular cultural moment. Some take us on a fantastic voyageup into space, perhaps, or inside the human body. Some photographs matter because they showed what cameras are capable of and illustrate the extraordinary power of photography as a medium. The oldest photo we chose was the first one ever taken, of a French landscape in the 1820s. The process involved chemical applications and a multi-hour exposure that left an impression on a pewter plate. That grainy photo of the view outside the photographers window signaled our species transition to the world of cameras and our smartphones, where their built-in cameras, now see more images each day than the people who lived in a world of paintings and prints saw in a lifetime. Most of these photographs we flip past and forget. Others linger. The best recent ones we featured in this special issue show how we see the world. Here are a few selections from LIFE's new special issue 100 Photographs: The Most Important Pictures Ever and the Stories Behind Them (clockwise from top left) Joe Rosenthal/AP/Shutterstock; Robert Beck/Sports Illustrated/Getty; Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA/OWI Collection, [LC-DIG-fsa-8b29516]; NASA Regarded as the first photo ever taken, this image of a French countryside was achieved when Joseph Nicéphore Niepce placed a thin coating of light-sensitive phosphorus derivative on a pewter plate and then placed the plate in a camera obscura and set in on a windowsill for a long exposure. Joseph Niepce/Hulton/Getty Les Hines photos such as this one of breaker boys who picked pieces of slate from conveyor belts as freshly broken pieces of coal rolled by, helped raise support for child labor laws. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, National Child Labor Committee Collection, [LC-DIG-nclc-01130] In a defining image of the Vietnam war, the wounded Marine Gunnery Sgt. Jeremiah Purdie (center, with bandaged head) reached toward a stricken comrade after a fierce firefight south of the DMZ, October 1966. Larry Burrows/Life Pictures/Shutterstock Egged on by the bogus claims of the outgoing 45th president, a mob stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021 in an historic attempt to disrupt the tallying of electoral college votes. Tayfun Coskun/Anadolu Agency/Getty The Hubble Space Telescopes photo known as Pillars of Creation captured the conditions in which new stars are born. NASA, ESA, and the Hubble Heritage Team history arts & entertainment history Travel back in time with treasured photos and stories, sent right to your inbox Travel back in time with treasured photos and stories, sent right to your inbox Thanks to a new partnership, you can now have the highest-quality prints of LIFE's greatest photos in your home. The new LifePhotoStore.com allows you to order prints of photos by Alfred Eisenstaedt, Nina Leen and the rest of LIFE's great photographers. The shop is a collaboration between LIFE and ArtPhotoLimited, a leader in print-on-demand artworks. Nicolas Laurent, the companys CEO, believes his company is perfectly suited to create prints from LIFE's wanted archive of photographs. These photographs capture powerful moments in history, from cultural milestones to world-changing events, making them highly desirable for collectors and art lovers. Laurent says. With their strong storytelling and artistic quality, LIFE images work beautifully as premium, limited-edition prints. The LIFE store features a curated collection of more than 600 photos, with many of the best-selling images coming from the worlds of movies, music and sports. Many of the most popular photos are seen in this gallery. The collection also includes LIFE's most iconic covers. Customers can order prints in various finishes and sizes, from as small as 12 by 8 inches to museum-size prints at 60-by-40 inches. What makes the LIFE collection unique is above all its photographers that usually had rare access to pivotal eventsfrom wars to cultural revolutionsgiving us first hand views of history, Laurent says. Their technical mastery, combined with a deep understanding of human emotion, created timeless visuals that still resonate. LIFE's images didnt just document history; they shaped it. In an era before digital saturation, these photos stood as powerful, singular snapshots of the world. I also believe, in a world where AI is more and more visible, human taken/made pictures have even more value. LIFE pictures surf above trends, they are timeless. Take a look around the store and see which photos you can have printed for your home, so they can amaze and inspire you every day. Presidential candidate John F. Kennedy conferred with his brother and campaign organizer, Robert Kennedy, in a hotel suite during the 1960 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles. Hank Walker/Life Pictures/Shutterstock

Life cycle of plasmodium vivax. Life cycle of plasmodium species. Explain the life cycle of plasmodium with diagram. Life cycle of plasmodium in short. Malaria plasmodium life cycle. What is the life cycle of plasmodium. Plasmodium parasite life cycle. Life cycle plasmodium falciparum.

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