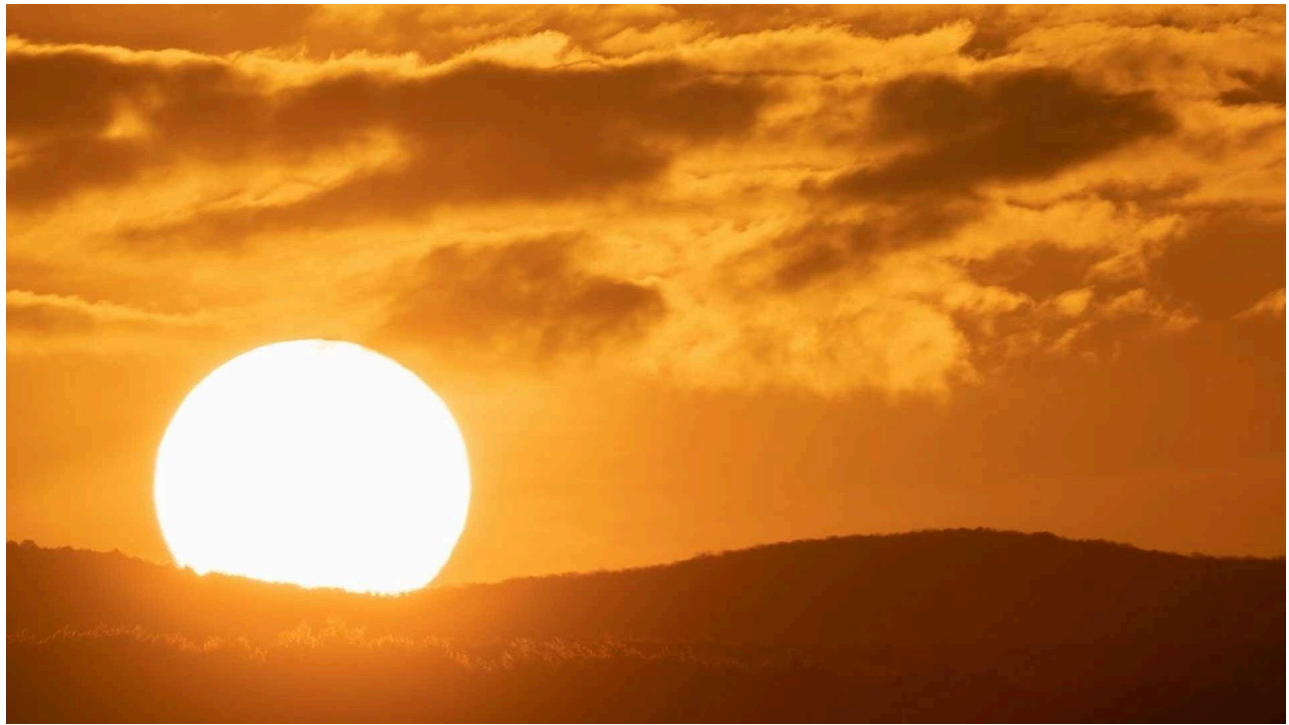




3/10/2025: The World From A to Z with Carl Azuz

Mr. Lautzenheiser - 8th Grade American History - Crestview MS (Convoy, Ohio)

The monarch butterfly, one of the most famous butterflies in North America, might be making a comeback! This good news comes from Mexico, one of the butterfly's natural homes. The Reuters news agency reports that the monarch butterfly population has dropped by a whopping 85% since the 1990s. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) currently lists it as a "vulnerable" species, which is an improvement from its "endangered" status in 2022. A Mexican government official says that the area where the butterflies hibernate doubled in the 2024-2025 season. This is a hopeful sign for the species, which has been threatened by habitat destruction, pesticides that kill off their food source, and climate change. The official credits international cooperation for helping to improve things for this beautiful creature.

Hey there! Welcome back to "The World from A to Z." I'm Carl, and it's great to have you watching. Before we dive into our next topic about time, let's talk about what day it is. The day after Daylight Saving Time begins is known as National Mapping Day. It was established in 1999 to encourage naps and help people recover from lost sleep. This is the famous (or infamous) time of year when the US and some other countries move their clocks forward one hour from Standard Time to Daylight Saving Time. Unless you went to bed an hour earlier on Saturday night, you probably felt that missing hour of sleep on Sunday morning.

The idea of Daylight Saving Time has been around for centuries, but the official practice in the US started with the Standard Time Act of 1918. This act established time zones and aimed to save energy during World War I by making nightfall an hour later. Daylight Saving Time came and went over the decades. It became permanent with the Uniform Time Act of 1966, although Arizona and Hawaii don't observe the change. Many news reports criticize the time switch, blaming it for decreased productivity, disruption to our natural sleep cycles, and even some car accidents.

So why do we still have Daylight Saving Time? Much of North America is far enough north of the equator that the amount of daylight changes significantly between summer and winter. The time change helps keep the hour of sunrise closer to when people wake up. The US tried to eliminate the time change before switching to permanent daylight saving time in the early 1970s. But this made winter mornings so dark that it quickly became unpopular, and the time changes resumed. Since then, lawmakers and the people they represent haven't agreed on whether Standard Time or Daylight Saving Time should be permanent. So, falling back and springing forward remains a part of our lives.

How does time move forward and backward? Is it a line? A 3D shape? Turns out, there are many ways people view time. Albert Einstein's theory of relativity proposed that the passage of time is perceived differently depending on where you are and how fast you're moving. But the language you speak, and surprisingly, the direction you read, also affects how people think about time.

For example, English speakers read from left to right, so they typically view time as moving from left to right as well. But a Stanford University study found that Hebrew speakers, who read from right to left, view time as moving in that direction. Mandarin speakers read top to bottom, so they think of time vertically. For example, "next week" in Mandarin literally translates to "down week."

Most languages, especially Western ones, view the future as being in front of us and the past as behind us. In Swedish, the future literally translates to "front time." But there are exceptions. The Imara people in South America view the future as behind them because you can't see the future. That's a difference in direction, but the shape of time also differs across languages. While English and Swedish speakers tend to think of time as a line, Greek and Spanish speakers think of it as a three-dimensional shape. Instead of calling a span of time "short" or "long," Spanish and Greek speakers would call it "big" or "small."

These small language differences often don't make a big difference in everyday life, but some do. Many languages, including English, rely on the future tense to talk about the future. But in other languages, the future tense doesn't even exist. You just say what you'll do and when you'll do it. The difference in how time is viewed also changes people's behavior. Some studies indicate that speakers who use the future tense think of the future as more distant and therefore prepare less for it than speakers of languages without a future tense. A 2018 Stanford experiment found that German-speaking kids were more likely to pass up a smaller reward and wait for a bigger prize than Italian-speaking kids.

Now, no language, Italian, German, or otherwise, can control time or what we do with it. But it does influence our way of thinking. Another reminder of the unique perspectives in different languages.

* **March 10, 1876:** "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you." Maybe not the most revolutionary words ever spoken, but they were the first ones ever spoken over the telephone. On this day, Alexander Graham Bell made his first successful test of the device he had invented. * **March 10, 1906:** Tragedy struck at a mine in northern France. Workers at the Courrières mine, named after the company that owned it, had tried to seal off and suffocate an underground fire. But flammable gas in the walls then caused a massive explosion, leading to the deaths of almost 1,100 people. Hundreds of others survived, but the Courrières disaster was the worst mining accident in European history. * **March 10, 1959:** People in Tibet revolted against the occupying forces of China. This communist country had invaded in 1950, believing Tibet was part of China

and that its actions were justified. However, Tibetans were afraid China would try to kidnap their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. So, 300,000 of them surrounded his palace to protect him and later evacuated him to India. China then attacked the palace and cracked down on Tibet, officially making it an autonomous region of China.

****Word of Knowledge:**** Tropical cyclones that form in the South Pacific are known as what? Typhoons? Monsoons? Cyclones? Hurricanes?

With the exception of monsoons, these are all different names for the same type of storm. In the South Pacific, they're called cyclones. Hundreds of thousands of people in eastern Australia were affected by a storm named Alfred. It was a Category 2 cyclone before it weakened and made landfall on Saturday, leaving behind widespread flooding and wind damage. It hit a part of the country that's far enough south that it usually doesn't see cyclones. This would be like a hurricane hitting Delaware instead of Florida. The Australian states of Queensland and New South Wales bore the brunt of Alfred, with at least one death being blamed on the storm and more than 316,000 people losing power. Electricity companies said it could be days before power is restored in all the impacted areas. Authorities reported that numerous rescues had been made.

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We've been hearing from a lot of schools in Canada lately. Today, we're visiting the province of Alberta, where Mr. Baran's class is watching from Heritage Heights School. It's in the community of Foothills.

Stateside, in the Pacific Wonderland of Oregon, we've got Miss Geron's class with us from Portland. Hello to Benson Polytechnic High School from Ohio. We welcome Mrs. Slac's class, where the Eagles are flying over. Finley Liberty Benton Middle School is there, and in Rogers, Arkansas, a big hello to Mr. Reese's class. The Cougars are at Kiry Middle School.

How much would you pay for a Cheeto? Considering that a bag costs around four bucks, your answer probably isn't nearly as much as this one sold for. It was auctioned off for the flaming hot price of almost \$888,000! And that's because it's shaped like a Pokemon, Charizard. Someone decided that this "Cheetozard" was worth the price of a luxury electric car. The snack bite is 3 inches long and comes with a Pokemon card. If you're thinking, "No Cheeto is so needo too that I'd Fredo lay all that fre D on it," you're not the only one. It's nothing to Snickers about, y'all.

I'm Carl, getting punger on "The World from A to Z." Can't wait to see you tomorrow. You mean the world to me.

Reading Summary

- The monarch butterfly population is recovering in Mexico, which is good news for the species that was once endangered.
- Daylight Saving Time is a controversial practice in the US, with many people arguing that it disrupts sleep cycles and causes productivity issues.
- The way people view time is influenced by the language they speak, with some languages viewing time as a line and others viewing it as a three-dimensional shape.

Vocabulary

Term	Definition	Example Sentence
hibernate (verb)	To spend the winter in a state of inactivity, like some animals do.	The bear hibernates in a cave during the winter months.
autonomous (adjective)	Having self-government or independence.	The country declared its independence and became an autonomous nation.
evacuate (verb)	To move people away from a dangerous place.	The city was evacuated because of the hurricane.
cyclone (noun)	A type of storm with strong winds that rotate around a center.	The cyclone caused widespread damage to the coastal areas.
widespread (adjective)	Affecting or covering a large area.	The drought caused widespread crop failure.

Multiple Choice Questions

Question #1	Question #2	Question #3
What is the main reason why Daylight Saving Time was first implemented in the United States?	What is the main reason why the United States has not permanently switched to either Standard Time or Daylight Saving Time?	According to the text, how does the direction people read affect their perception of time?
A. To help people adjust to the changing seasons. B. To save energy during World War I. C. To encourage people to take naps. D. To make it easier for people to travel across time zones.	A. There is no scientific evidence to support either time system. B. People can't agree on which time system is better. C. The government is afraid of changing the time system. D. The time system is too complicated to change.	A. People who read from left to right see time as moving forward. B. People who read from right to left see time as moving backward. C. People who read from top to bottom see time as moving vertically. D. All of the above.