

## NATIONAL UMBRELLA DAY

Today is National Umbrella Day which honours one of the world's most useful inventions, the umbrella! Not only does the umbrella help keep us dry from the rain, but it also protects us from the heat of the sun. Umbrellas can also be used as a fashion accessory.

Umbrellas have also found their way into the art world. Their colour and shape make sharp silhouettes. They also serve as the canvas for art. In movies, umbrellas play a role, too. For example, they played vital parts in both Singing in the Rain in 1952 and in Mary Poppins in 1964.

The word umbrella comes from the Latin word *umbra*, meaning shade or shadow. Brolly is a slang word for umbrella, often used.

The basic umbrella was invented over four thousand years ago. There is evidence of umbrellas in the ancient art and artifacts of Egypt, Assyria, Greece and China.

We can credit the Chinese for being the first to protect us from the rain. Their paper parasols received a layer of wax followed by lacquer that made the umbrella withstand the elements.

One of the first umbrella shops in existence opened in 1830 at 53 New Oxford Street in London, England. The shop, operated by James Smith and Sons, still operates regular hours at the same location today.

In 1928, Hans Haupt's pocket umbrellas appeared. In 1969, Bradford E. Phillips, the owner of Totes Incorporated of Loveland, Ohio, obtained a patent for the first "working folding umbrella."

Umbrellas have also been fashioned into hats as early as 1880 and as recently as 1987. Photographers use umbrellas with a reflective inside as a diffusion device when employing artificial lighting and as a glare shield and shade, most often in portrait situations. Many street markets use umbrella 'ceilings' to protect shoppers from the rain.



### ACTIVITIES

\*Watch a movie with a scene famous for its umbrella scenes.

\*Look at **The Umbrellas** by Renoir showing a bustling Parisian street scene. The raised umbrellas suggest that rain is falling, although the woman in the centre with the raised profile and lowered umbrella, shows that the rain has either just stopped, or is about to begin. Can you paint/draw your own interpretation of this painting?



<https://video.link/w/fieQb>

**\*Strike a pose with your favourite umbrella and take a colourful photograph.**

**\*Edible Umbrella Craft**



Make an umbrella design healthy food plate.



**\*Button Rain Craft**



**\*3D Umbrella Rainy Day Card**



**\*Umbrella Valentines Day Card**