

Bathroom Reader

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Facts about the Holiday Season

20.8 million trees or 447,000 acres of **Christmas trees** were cut in the US in 2002. Tree farmers received \$506 million for the trees. Wisconsin sold over one million trees.

China produced the most **ornaments** valued at \$561 million and the most **artificial trees** valued at \$69 million.

Malls and shopping centers in the US = 47,835, an increase of about 10,000 since 1990.

The **US Postal Service** handles 20 billion letters, packages and cards between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

US Census Bureau

Camp Randall, of UW Badgers football fame, was once a prisoner-of-war camp during the Civil War.

The first National Wheelchair Games were held at Adelphia College in Garden City, New York in 1957.

Calendar for December

1 World Aids Day 10 Human Rights Day

15 LAST DAY OF CLASSES

18-22 FINAL EXAMS

Tips for surviving Final Exams

1. Get plenty of rest
2. Prioritize
3. Take breaks
4. Pick the right place to study
5. Join/start a study group



Movie Reviews-Everyone's a Critic!

A film that's a "hit" in Houston, may "bomb" in Buffalo. Read reviews from newspapers and magazines from around the country. Use the Movie Review Query Engine @ www.mrqe.com.

Fireworks were fired by Capt. John Smith in Virginia to entertain the Native Americans. Newport, RI was the first city to use them for the Fourth of July celebrations.

Water skis were the brainchild of Benjamin Franklin who theorizes that a swimmer could wear barrel staves and be towed along by a kite. In 1922, Ralph Samuelson bent two pine boards and took the first ride behind a motorboat.

Poinsettias, the Holiday Plant

The poinsettia is native to Mexico and was introduced to the US by Joel Poinsett, the US ambassador to Mexico in the 1820's. The Aztecs used the milky sap of the plant to control fever. Red plants are preferred by 74% of the US population, white by 8% and pink by 6%. 85% of all flowers sold during the holiday season are poinsettias, for a total of \$220 million dollars.

