October, November December 2025

# Lebensraum

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#### The Bright Side of October

Orange is one of the most iconic colors of the fall season. From the changing leaves to ripe pumpkins and Halloween decorations, it's everywhere in October. But beyond its seasonal spotlight, orange has an interesting history and set of associations that make it stand out year-round.

The word *orange* didn't appear in English until around the 1300s, borrowed from the Old French *orenge*, which came from Arabic *nāranj*—originally referring to the fruit. Before that, people in English-speaking areas would describe the color as "yellow-red." It wasn't until the fruit became common in Europe that the word was used to describe the hue. In many cultures today, it represents creativity, change, and enthusiasm.

In nature, orange often signals warmth and energy. It's the color of fire, sunsets, and autumn leaves. In October, orange becomes especially visible. Pumpkins, perhaps the most famous fall symbol, take center stage during Halloween. Originally, jack-o'-lanterns were carved from turnips in Ireland, but when the tradition came to America, pumpkins were more plentiful and easier to carve. Their natural orange color made them perfect for the holiday's spooky glow. Orange also pairs well with black, Halloween's other signature color. While black represents darkness and mystery, orange balances it with brightness and warmth, making the two a striking seasonal combo.

Aside from Halloween, orange pops up throughout fall in decorations, wreaths, seasonal foods, and clothing. It evokes the cozy, crisp feel of the season and reminds us of harvest time. Even sports teams and schools often use orange in their autumn promotions and uniforms to reflect that seasonal energy.

While orange is not everyone's favorite color year-round—only five percent of people choose it as their favorite—it has certainly carved out a place in October's spotlight. Whether you're admiring the leaves, carving a pumpkin, or just sipping something cinnamon-spiced, you're likely soaking in a little bit of orange this season.

#### Street Eats Hit the Road

While Oscar Mayer's hot-dog-shaped Wienermobile may be the best-recognized food-themed truck around, it's the food made on trucks that brings customers to the curb. Rather than make a reservation at a fancy restaurant, hungry foodies visit parking lots to find open-sided trucks serving sushi, tacos, Brazilian barbecue, Jamaican chicken, brick-oven pizza, pancakes, cupcakes, cookies, and even vegan and gluten-free menus. October is a great time to visit your favorite food trucks before they close or reduce hours for the winter.

It's no wonder chefs have turned to restaurants on wheels. Even small restaurant spaces can cost millions of dollars to build and maintain, while a truck costs a mere fraction of the price. Even better, food trucks can go where the people are, sometimes making many stops over the course of a day. Food truck owners often post their locations and menus on social media to notify fans. Once you know a truck's location, just plan your lunch hour accordingly and step outside. Food trucks truly are a food revolution.

### The Peanut Gallery



Folks.

On October 2, 1950, cartoonist Charles Schulz debuted his *Peanuts* comic strip. Schulz actually hated the name *Peanuts*. He had originally named the strip *L'il* but his publishers feared that

this title was too similar to a comic strip called *Little Folks*. Schulz then decided to call it *Good Old Charlie Brown* after its lead character, but once again his publishers intervened. Without even seeing the strip, they named it *Peanuts*, which was a common term for children in the 1950s, thanks to *The Howdy Doody Show's* "Peanut Gallery." The name stuck, and Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, Linus, Sally, and the whole *Peanuts* gang have become international stars,

#### **Birthdays**

October Birthdays

11<sup>th</sup> ~ Jimmie K

15<sup>th</sup> ~ Connie O

22<sup>nd</sup> Linda S

November Birthdays

19<sup>th</sup> ~ Ginny S

29<sup>th</sup> ~ Sharlene R

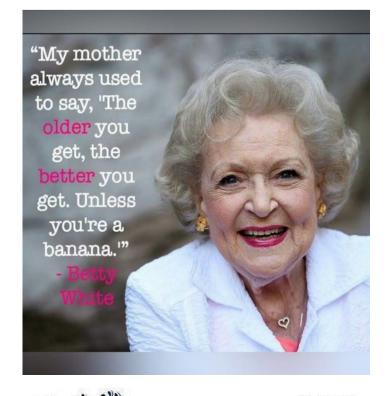
December Birthdays

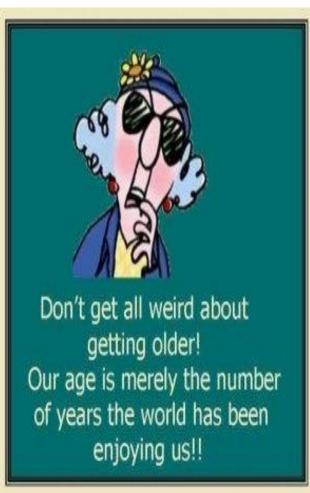
31<sup>st</sup> Marlene W



## The Funnies









#### **Leafy Legend**



Kale is no ordinary leafy green. It's one of the healthiest foods on the planet. It's so dense with nutrients that one cup, at only 33 calories, has vitamins A, K, C, B1, B2, B3, and B6, as well as minerals calcium.

manganese, potassium, magnesium, copper, and more iron per ounce than beef. With all this good news about the vegetable, it's no wonder kale has its own holiday, Kale Day, which falls on October 1 this year.

Why else is kale hailed as a superfood? It's high in antioxidants, which provide powerful anti-inflammatory benefits and can lower blood pressure. Kale has also been studied for its effects on lowering cholesterol and is loaded with substances known to fight cancer. Perhaps this is why kale is taking kitchens by storm. People have even taken to putting "Eat More Kale" bumper stickers on their cars and wearing kale T-shirts.



But kale is no passing fad. The healthiest way to enjoy kale is raw—in a salad or as a wrap for hot foods. But for those who may not like the slight bitterness of the greens, there

are other ways to enjoy kale's many benefits. Steaming it softens the leaves. Baking the leaves in the oven with olive oil and spices produces kale chips. Or you can hide the kale. Blend it with fruit for a nutritious smoothie. Mince it finely, and add it to hamburgers or meat loaf. Do you like pesto with your pasta? Substitute kale for half of the basil.

Kale is also easy to grow in the fall, since it thrives in cool temperatures. It became a staple in Britain during World War II as a supplement to rationed diets. Today, kale enjoys its place as the centerpiece of many dinner tables.







