



GENERAL

- It is estimated that the fear of Friday the 13th afflicts between 17-21 million people in the USA alone.
- Fear of Friday the 13th - one of the most popular myths in science - is called paraskavedekatriaphobia as well as friggatriskaidekaphobia. Triskaidekaphobia is fear of the number 13.
- The number 13 suffers from its position after 12, according to numerologists who consider the latter to be a complete number - 12 months in a year, 12 signs of the zodiac, 12 gods of Olympus, 12 labors of Hercules, 12 tribes of Israel, 12 apostles of Jesus, 12 days of Christmas and 12 eggs in a dozen.
- In some countries, the number 13 is considered unlucky and building owners will sometimes purposefully omit a floor so numbered.

POLITICAL

- In the Great Seal of the United States there are 13 olive leaves (with 13 olives), 13 arrows, and 13 stars. These form a triangle over the eagle with the number 13 on each point. On the reverse the pyramid has 13 levels.
- The number of colonies that formed the United States. The original flag had thirteen stars, one for each state. New stars have since been added whenever a new state joins the union, but the idea of adding stripes for new states was soon dropped, so the American flag to this day has

thirteen horizontal stripes: six white ones and seven red ones.

- President Franklin D. Roosevelt would not travel on the 13th day of any month and would never host 13 guests at a meal. Napoleon and President Herbert Hoover were also triskaidekaphobic, with an abnormal fear of the number 13.

MISCELLANEOUS

- There are thirteen letters in macabre-fiction writer Edgar Allan Poe's name.
- The number of cards in a single suit of a standard deck of playing cards.
- The number of Plutonium slugs in "Fat Man", the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki.
- Many hospitals have no room 13, while some tall buildings skip the 13th floor and some airline terminals omit Gate 13.
- There are traditionally thirteen steps leading up to a gallows. It is, however, an urban myth that there are thirteen turns in a hangman's noose (there are most commonly eight turns.)
- Tarot Card 13 is generally the Death Card, the Grim Reaper.
- It is very unlucky to have a dinner table set for 13 people. It is believed that the first person to leave the table will die within a year. Some people believe the death of Jesus proves this.
- Several mass murderers have 13 letters in their name. Jeffrey Dahmer is one of them. Black Sabbath is said to have released their debut album on Friday the 13th, 1970. Lizzy Bordon reputedly only uttered 13 words at her trial.
- You may remember the disaster that befell NASA's space shuttle, Apollo 13. Did you know that Apollo 13 left our planet on the 13th hour? An explosion in the fuel cells of the service module severely crippled the spacecraft. The number 13 may have brought good luck for the 3 Astronauts who returned safely to earth on Friday 17 April 1970.
- Mark Twain once was the 13th guest at a dinner party. A friend warned him not to go. "It was bad luck," Twain later told the friend. "They only had

food for 12." Superstitious diners in Paris can hire a quatorzieme, or professional 14th guest.

RELIGIOUS

- The "unlucky 13" is the reason why the thirteen loaves that bakers once supplied were never called by the number, but described as "a baker's dozen." The thirteenth loaf was regarded as a special bribe for the devil not to spoil the sale or the bread.
- Mayas worshipped the 13 gods of the upper world.
- The Aztecs climbed 13 steps to their sacred places.
- Buddhists paid homage to 13 Buddhas.
- In Jewish faith, God revealed Himself by 13 attributes of bountiful mercy (Exodus 34: 6-7).
- In Sikhism, the number thirteen is a number devoted to the remembrance of God, therefore it is also considered lucky by people who practice the Sikh faith.
- According to the Torah, God has 13 Attributes of Mercy.
- In modern day Wicca, thirteen is considered the maximum size of a coven, and in some traditions is the ideal number of members, and there are also 13 goals of a witch.