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But officer, I did yield
When driving in Japan, don't expect to see familiar octagonal stop signs.



Hey, this side's not dark

The crew of Apollo 8 were the first to orbit the moon and gave our planet its first full portrait.

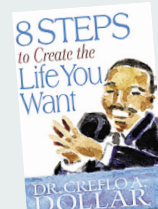


Stand in the corner!
Between 1773 and 1851, more than 100 octagonal schoolhouses were erected in the Delaware Valley. A few of these "ink bottle" structures still stand in Bucks, Chester and Delaware counties.

Edifying eights

Less is more when it comes to self-help. For those too busy to commit to 10 or 12 steps, here are some titles:

- "8 Minute Meditation"
- "8 Weeks to Optimum Health"
- "Eight Lessons for a Happier Marriage"
- "The Eight Essential Steps to Conflict Resolution"



- "The 8th Habit — From Effectiveness to Greatness"
- "8 to be Great"
- "The 8 Traits of Championship Golfers"



To infinity!

On its side, the numeral eight becomes a lemniscate — an algebraic curve that represents infinity.



Misnomer

October was the eighth month until Julius Caesar and Augustus Caesar inserted two eponymous months before it.



Today's date is awash in eights. The number represents completeness and regeneration. In China, it is the luckiest of numbers because, when pronounced, it sounds like the Cantonese word for "prosper." Besides this phonetic link, the numeral 88 resembles the Chinese character meaning "double joy."



With these talismanic benefits, no wonder the Beijing Olympics opening ceremony is scheduled for tonight at 8 p.m.

Octopuses

Although it doesn't appear to have any feet at all, the 8-armed cephalopod's name means "eight-footed" in Greek. Because its derivation is Greek and not Latin, the plural "octopuses" is preferred over "octopi." "Octopodes" (oc•TOP•o•dez), the Greek plural, is also used among marine biologists and people who don't care if anyone else understands them.



Amish Achter

8-pointed stars appear often in Amish quilts and Pennsylvania Dutch hex signs.



Captain Flint

Long John Silver's avian sidekick squawked "pieces of eight, pieces of eight," in the story "Treasure Island."



Piece of eight

A widely circulated, now-obsolete silver Spanish coin worth 8 reales. It was legal tender in the U.S. until 1857.

Holy eights

- The sum of the letter values that spell "Jesus" in Greek is 888.
- The star of Bethlehem is represented as eight-pointed.
- In Islam, eight angels support the throne of Allah.
- Baptismal fonts are usually eight-sided.



- There are eight cyclical Sabbats of Wiccan tradition.
- Ancient Babylonian Gods inhabited the 8th floor of the Ziggurats.



If one is good...

Since 1999, Dale Earnhardt Jr. has raced in car #8. This year Dale had announced a new race-car number for the 2008 Sprint Cup Championship — #88.

Crazy Eights

To Flyers fans it's not a card game, it's the trio of Mark Recchi (8), Eric Lindros (88) and Brent Fedyk (18).

Really crazy eights

In neo-Nazi parlance, "Heil Hitler" is represented as 88. As the eighth letter of the alphabet, the H's are substituted with 8's.

9-4-9-15-20!



0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21 ...

Eight, the sum of 3 and 5, is the 7th Fibonacci number. Fibonacci introduced this sequence to the West in his book *Liber Abaci*, in which he illustrated how to determine how many pairs of rabbits would be produced in a year starting from a single pair.



In music

An octave is the eight spaces between any two notes where the lower note is 1/2 the frequency of the higher one. There are 88 keys on a piano and an octachord is any 8-stringed instrument.



The essential eight

The atomic number of oxygen is eight.



The Ploughshares Eight

Anti-nuke dissidents of this moniker broke into a King of Prussia defense plant in 1980 and hammered some nuclear war-head nose cones.

