

# Poisson d'avril

*April Fool's Day*

avril / April

## **Background information**

In France, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, children stick paper fish to the backs of other people for a joke. When the fish is discovered, they shout 'Poisson d'avril!' (April fish). They also play practical jokes, like we do in the United Kingdom.

Some believe that April Fool's Day originated in France. April 1<sup>st</sup> was the beginning of the new year according to the pre-Gregorian calendar. When the Gregorian calendar was introduced, the new year's celebrations changed to January 1<sup>st</sup>. Those people who resisted the date change and still celebrated on the first of April were known as 'Poisson d'avril' and people would play practical jokes on them.