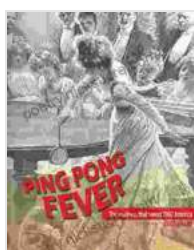


# Ping Pong Fever: The Madness That Swept 1902 America

In 1902, America was gripped by a craze that swept the nation like wildfire: ping pong fever. From coast to coast, people of all ages and backgrounds were captivated by the new game, which quickly became a national obsession.



## Ping Pong Fever: The Madness That Swept 1902

**America** by Steve Grant

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 77822 KB  
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 269 pages  
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Ping pong, also known as table tennis, had been around for decades, but it was in 1902 that it suddenly exploded in popularity. The game was simple to learn and could be played anywhere, making it a perfect pastime for people of all ages and abilities.

The ping pong craze was fueled by a number of factors, including the game's novelty, its accessibility, and its affordability. Ping pong was also

seen as a healthy and wholesome activity, which made it appealing to parents and educators.

Soon, ping pong tables were popping up everywhere, from homes and schools to YMCA's and churches. People were playing ping pong on their lunch breaks, after dinner, and even late into the night.

The ping pong craze also had a significant impact on American culture. The game was featured in newspapers and magazines, and it even inspired a number of songs and poems.

At the height of the craze, there were even ping pong tournaments held all over the country. The most famous of these tournaments was the National Ping Pong Tournament, which was held in New York City in 1902. The tournament attracted over 1,000 players, and it was won by a young man named Harry Golden.

The ping pong craze eventually died down, but it left a lasting legacy on American culture. The game helped to introduce a new sport to America, and it also helped to break down social barriers.

Today, ping pong is still a popular game, and it is enjoyed by people of all ages around the world.

## **The Origins of Ping Pong**

Ping pong was invented in England in the late 1800s. The game was originally called "whiff-whaff," and it was played on a table with a net in the middle.

In 1900, an American named Henry Higginson brought ping pong to the United States. Higginson was a businessman who had been living in England, and he was immediately impressed with the new game.

Higginson introduced ping pong to his friends and family in New York City, and the game quickly caught on. Within a year, ping pong was being played all over the country.

### **The Ping Pong Craze**

The ping pong craze reached its peak in 1902. That year, there were an estimated 10 million ping pong players in the United States.

Ping pong was played by people of all ages and backgrounds. The game was especially popular with young people, who were drawn to its fast-paced and competitive nature.

Ping pong was also popular with adults, who saw it as a healthy and wholesome activity. The game was often played in churches, YMCA's, and other public places.

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## The Decline of the Ping Pong Craze

The ping pong craze eventually died down, but it left a lasting legacy on American culture. The game helped to introduce a new sport to America, and it also helped to break down social barriers.

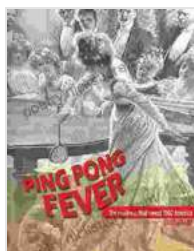
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## The Legacy of Ping Pong

The ping pong craze was a brief but intense phenomenon that had a lasting impact on American culture. The game helped to introduce a new sport to America, and it also helped to break down social barriers.

Today, ping pong is still a popular game, and it is enjoyed by people of all ages around the world.

The ping pong craze is a reminder that even the most popular fads can eventually fade away. However, the game's legacy continues to live on, both in the United States and around the world.



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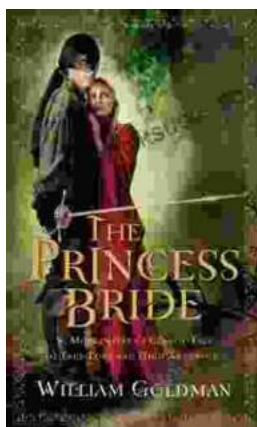
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