

Trivia



The long shelf life of honey is attributed to an enzyme found in the stomach of bees. The bees mix glucose oxidase with expelled nectar they previously consumed, creating two byproducts, gluconic acid, and hydrogen peroxide, which are partially responsible for honey acidity and suppression of bacterial growth.

Adult cats tend to meow almost exclusively to humans and rarely meow at other cats. Cats have evolved to make their meows more pleasant to human ears, and their high-pitched, kitten-like meows are less threatening. Humans are more likely to respond positively to these sounds, similar to how they would respond to an infant's cry.

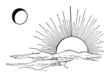
Beijing has an underground city called "The Dungeon" that includes 10,000 atomic bunkers, warehouses, factories, restaurants, theaters, and sports facilities. The doomsday tunnels, which are three stories below ground and believed to sprawl across 85km (52 miles), are mostly inhabited by low-income and migrant workers.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain. It's the largest eye of any living land animal, measuring two inches.

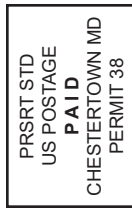
Acacia trees in Africa can communicate with each other by releasing chemical signals to warn neighboring trees of danger. When a giraffe eats acacia leaves, the tree releases ethylene gas as a distress signal. Neighboring acacia trees detect the gas and respond by pumping tannins into their leaves. Tannins are polyphenolic biomolecules that can make large herbivores sick or even kill them if consumed in large quantities.

The ancient Egyptian word for cat, miu or miut, likely sounded like the sound a cat makes, which is similar to "mew" or "meow"

Sunsets only exist because Earth's atmosphere acts as a prism for light. In scientific terms, it's called "scattering". Molecules and particles in the atmosphere (which are more numerous at sunset) scatter short-wavelength violet and blue light away from your eyes, so we can see the other colors on the spectrum, like yellow and orange.



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Dates in History

48 B.C.

On September 28, upon landing in Egypt, Roman general and politician Pompey was murdered on the orders of King Ptolemy of Egypt. Pompey the Great displayed exceptional military talents on the battlefield. He fought in Africa and Spain, quelled the slave revolt of Spartacus, cleared the Mediterranean of pirates, and conquered Armenia, Syria, and Palestine. Pompey hoped that King Ptolemy, his former client, would assist him, but the Egyptian king feared offending the victorious Caesar. Pompey was invited to leave his ships and come ashore at Pelusium. As he prepared to step onto Egyptian soil, he was treacherously struck down and killed by an officer of Ptolemy.

1620

On September 16, the *Mayflower* sailed from Plymouth, England, bound for the Americas with 102 passengers. The ship was headed for Virginia, where the colonists, half religious dissenters and half entrepreneurs, had been authorized to settle by the British crown. However, stormy weather and navigational errors forced the *Mayflower* off course, and on November 21 the "Pilgrims" reached Massachusetts, where they founded the first permanent European settlement in New England in late December.

2013

On September 2, Diana Nyad became the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida without the use of a shark cage for protection. Nyad completed the 110 mile swim from Havana to Key West, through the jellyfish and shark infested waters of the Straits of Florida. After nearly 53 hours in the open water, the 64 year old successfully made it to Key West, where she staggered ashore onto Smathers Beach and was greeted by a crowd of supporters.

On the Lighter Side



What do you call a belt made out of watches?
A "waist" of time!

The past, present, and future walk into each other.
Things got a little tense.

The CEO of Ikea was appointed Prime Minister of Sweden.
He's currently assembling his cabinet.

I used to play the piano by ear, but now I use my hands.

What has keys but can't open locks?
A keyboard.

What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?
The letter "M".

Why was the math book feeling down at work?
It had too many problems to solve.

What's a photocopier's favorite food?
Paper jams!

What did the clock do when it was hungry?
It went back four seconds!

What do you call it when a cow grows facial hair?
A moo-stache.

