

Trivia

A group of hippos is called a "bloat." The term first appeared in Juliana Berners' 15th century book "The Book of St Albans," to which we also owe gems like a "swarm of bees" and a "gaggle of geese."



The city known as Bangkok isn't actually named Bangkok; that's a nickname. Its full name is Krung Thep Mahanakhon Amon Rattanakosin Mahinthara Ayuthaya Mahadilok Phop Noppharat Ratchathani Burirom Udomratchaniwet Mahasathan Amon Piman Awatan Sathit Sakkathattiya Witsanukam Prasit. It holds the Guinness World Record for the city with the longest name.

Some of the first editions of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" by J.K. Rowling were shipped off with misspellings and mistakes on the cover and inside. One such copy sold in 2019 for almost \$90,000.

Vending Machines are deadlier than sharks. According to a 2015 U.S. report by the National Electronic Surveillance System, the machines cause four deaths a year on average! Compare that to sharks, who cause just 0.6 deaths a year on average.

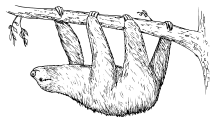
Mr. Potato Head used to be made of actual potatoes. The toy consisted of the hands, feet, eyes, nose, mouth, facial hair, and other decorative pieces. For the body, kids were expected to provide their own potato.

A coin toss doesn't have a 50-50 chance of landing on either side! According to math professor Persi Diaconis, the chances are 51-49 that the coin will land on the side that was initially facing upwards.

Older maps included fake places to prevent plagiarism. Examples dating back to the 1800s show that cartographers would add fake streets, towns, or other landmarks to prove whether a competitor was copying their work.

In 2008, a British teen changed his name from George Garratt to "Captain Fantastic Faster Than Superman Spiderman Batman Wolverine Hulk And The Flash Combined."

Only 1% of corn in the U.S. is sweetcorn, the kind you eat on the cob. The remaining 99% is field corn, which is used as livestock feed, ethanol, and processed foods like cereal.



Sloths can hold their breath for up to 40 minutes. Four times longer than dolphins.

buzzfeed.com

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Dates in History

1911 On May 30, Ray Harroun won the first Indianapolis 500, driving his single-seat Marmon Wasp at the newly built Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The track was created to test automobile performance, and organizers designed the 500-mile race to attract national attention with the richest purse in racing. Forty cars started the inaugural event.

Harroun won with an average speed of 74.59 mph and a time of 6 hours and 42 minutes. His car featured the first rear-view mirror, allowing him to compete without a riding mechanic. In the years that followed, rapid advances in engineering and design transformed the Indy 500 into one of the world's premier motorsports events.

1931 On May 1, President Herbert Hoover officially dedicated New York City's Empire State Building by symbolically turning on its lights from the White House. Completed in just over a year during the Great Depression, the 102-story, 1,250-foot Art Deco skyscraper was built under budget and became the world's tallest building at the time.

Constructed by thousands of workers, the project provided jobs and a much-needed boost of pride for New York City during a difficult economic period. The Empire State Building held the title of world's tallest until 1972, when it was surpassed by the World Trade Center. Today, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai holds that distinction.

1941 On May 15, the Gloster-Whittle E 28/39 made the first successful flight of an Allied jet-powered aircraft in England. Its turbojet engine was developed by Frank Whittle, an RAF pilot and engineer, considered the father of the jet engine.

Despite early skepticism and limited support, Whittle patented his design in 1930 and continued refining it after Germany achieved the first jet flight in 1939. Backed by the British government during World War II, his work led to operational jets like the Gloster Meteor. Whittle retired in 1948, was knighted, and died in 1996.

history.com

On the Lighter Side

Why do people say, "I saw it with my own eyes." Do they use other people's eyes sometimes?



If I could choose one super power it would be invisibility. I just want to make myself clear.

For maximum attention, nothing beats saying something stupid.

I felt like a real gentleman when I opened the door for my mother-in-law. Mind you, I was going 60 mph at the time.

I was going to cook alligator for dinner, but I realized I only have a croc pot.

It turns out that the answers to my problems didn't lie at the bottom of this pint of ice cream, but the important thing is I tried.

The hardest part of making skim milk must be throwing the cows across the lake.

Don't worry about your smart phone and your TV spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been gathering dirt on you for years.

If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?

What's Harry Potter's way to get to the bottom of a hill? Running...JK! Rolling.

The best murder weapon would be a Tupperware lid, because no one could ever find it.

During labor, the pain is so great that a woman can almost imagine what a man feels like when he has a fever.



Never coax an old drummer out of retirement or there will be repercussions.

inews.co.uk