Trivia

While most chicken eggs are white or various shades of brown, certain breeds, primarily those originating from South America



like Araucana, Ameraucana, and Easter Egger chickens, lay eggs with blue or green shells. This unique coloration is due to a pigment called oocyanin, which is deposited on the eggshell while it's still in the hen's oviduct. Unlike brown pigments, which are just on the surface, oocyanin permeates the entire shell, meaning the inside of a blue or green eggshell will be the same color as the outside.

The Anglo-Zanzibar War, fought between the United Kingdom and the Zanzibar Sultanate on August 27, 1896, is officially the shortest war ever recorded. The conflict arose after the Sultan of Zanzibar died and a new sultan, not approved by the British, took power. The British issued an ultimatum, demanding he step down. When he refused, the Royal Navy bombarded the Sultan's palace. After just 38 to 45 minutes of shelling, the Sultan's flag was shot down, and a new, pro-British sultan was installed.

For centuries, before the invention of the rubber eraser, people used wads of stale bread to rub out pencil and charcoal marks. The pliable nature of the bread allowed it to absorb the graphite particles. It wasn't until 1770 that English engineer Edward Nairne accidentally discovered that a piece of rubber could also erase pencil marks. He began selling "rubber" erasers, though they were expensive and perishable, unlike the durable, inexpensive erasers we use today.

While clouds appear light and airy, they are composed of millions upon millions of tiny water droplets or ice crystals. Scientists estimate that a typical cumulus cloud (those fluffy, white ones you often see) can contain around 550 tons of water. Given that an adult elephant weighs about 6 tons, that's the equivalent of over 90 elephants! Even more massive storm clouds can weigh hundreds of thousands of tons. This incredible weight is supported by air currents, keeping the clouds aloft.

Canned baked beans aren't actually baked. Despite the name, most commercially canned baked beans are stewed, not baked. The "baked" in their name is a historical reference to traditional preparation methods.





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Dates in History

1609

On November 30, Galileo Galilei began observing the Moon with his improved telescope, revealing its surface was not smooth but filled with mountains and valleys, much like Earth. His detailed report, Sidereus Nuncius (1610), challenged the prevailing Aristotelian belief that heavenly bodies were perfect spheres and that Earth was the center of the universe. Though his observations of the Moon brought him fame, his continued studies supporting heliocentrism (Earth orbiting the Sun) led to conflict with the Roman Catholic Church, resulting in his forced recantation and house arrest.

1921

On November 11, exactly three years after World War I, on Armistice Day, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was dedicated at Arlington Cemetery in Virginia by President Warren G. Harding. An unidentified American soldier, brought from a French battlefield, was laid to rest with full honors, with soil from France placed beneath his coffin. This site, considered America's most sacred military grave, later welcomed unknown soldiers from other 20th-century conflicts and has been under permanent guard ever since. Notably, a Vietnam War unknown was identified through DNA in 1998 and reinterred in his hometown.

1922

On November 4, British archaeologist Howard Carter and his team made a monumental discovery: a step leading to the tomb of King Tutankhamen in Egypt's Valley of the Kings. After years of searching for the little-known boy-king's resting place, Carter finally uncovered the hidden burial site. Inside, he and Lord Carnarvon found the tomb miraculously intact, filled with thousands of priceless artifacts, including Tutankhamen's mummy preserved within three nested coffins, the innermost made of solid gold. Many of these treasures are now displayed at the Cairo Museum.

On the Lighter Side

After eating an entire Thanksgiving meal, I'm proud to say that my socks still fit.



The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

I've found the secret to eternal youth: lying about my age.

Some people are like clouds. When they disappear, it's a beautiful day.

Apparently, 'stressed' spelled backward is 'desserts.' Coincidence? Probably not.

The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you get into the office.

I've been taking steps to overcome my hiking addiction, but I'm not out of the woods yet.

Nothing is better than spending time with family. That's why I'm doing nothing at Christmas this year.

My parents said, "Marry a man with strong convictions." So, I married an inmate.

You gotta love daylight savings time. There's nothing like watching the sunset while you're eating your lunch.

It's never too late to start exercising. That's why I'm waiting until later.

inews.co.uk

My friend handed me a peach. I said, "I prefer pears." So he handed me another one.

