

Trivia



When the dinosaurs were alive, there were 370 days in a year. The Earth's spin is getting slower because the moon's gravity is acting as a drag, so days are getting longer, by about 1.7 milliseconds per century.

Point Nemo in the Pacific Ocean is the farthest place from land on Earth. It's so isolated that if you were there, you'd be closer to astronauts on the ISS than to any human on land (over 2,688 km away from the nearest landmass!).

A piece of brain tissue the size of a grain of sand contains 100,000 neurons and 1 billion synapses. However, damage to neurons can have great impact. For example, during a stroke, blood cannot get oxygen to the brain. As a result, brain cells can die, and abilities in that particular area of the brain can be lost. Similarly, Parkinson's disease occurs when cells in a part of your brain called the substantia nigra start to die.

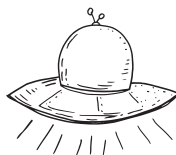
In 1963, major league baseball pitcher Gaylord Perry remarked, "They'll put a man on the moon before I hit a home run." On July 20, 1969, an hour after Neil Armstrong set foot on the surface of the moon, Perry hit his first, and only, home run while playing for the San Francisco Giants.

If you sneeze too hard, you can fracture a rib. If you try to suppress a sneeze, you can rupture a blood vessel in your head or neck and die. If you keep your eyes open by force, they can pop out.

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

The phrase "the whole 9 yards" came from WWII fighter pilots in the South Pacific. When arming their airplanes on the ground, the .50 caliber machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet before being loaded into the fuselage. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got "the whole 9 yards."

Title 14, Section 1211, of the Code of Federal Regulations, implemented on July 16, 1969, makes it illegal for U.S. citizens to have any contact with extraterrestrials or their vehicles.



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Dates in History

1809 On February 12, Abraham Lincoln was born in Hodgenville, Kentucky, and grew up in poverty with little formal education, largely teaching himself through reading. After moving to Illinois, he worked as a shopkeeper, surveyor, postmaster, and lawyer before entering politics, serving in the state legislature and later in Congress.

Elected president in 1860, Lincoln inherited a deeply divided nation as Southern states began to secede, leading to the Civil War. Although initially cautious on slavery, his views evolved during the conflict, and in 1863 he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which reshaped the war and the future of the nation. Remembered as the Great Emancipator and the leader who preserved the Union, Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth on April 14, 1865.

1884 On February 1, the first section of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) was published, launching what would become the most comprehensive record of the English language. Begun by members of London's Philological Society in 1857, the project took over 40 years to complete, far longer than originally planned.

Unlike typical dictionaries, the OED traces each word's history through dated quotations and detailed etymologies, eventually growing to hundreds of thousands of entries. First completed in 1928, it has been continually updated and was digitized in the late 20th century, with an online version available since 2000.

1958 On February 28, Cambridge scientists James Watson and Francis Crick announced they had discovered the double-helix structure of DNA, revealing how genetic information is stored and passed on. Their work was heavily informed by Rosalind Franklin's X-ray images, though she was not credited in the announcement or Nobel Prize.

Published in Nature in April 1953, the discovery transformed biology and medicine, leading to advances such as genetic testing, forensic DNA analysis, and disease research. Franklin, who died in 1958, never learned how critical her work was to the breakthrough.

history.com

On the Lighter Side

The invention of the shovel was ground breaking, but the invention of the broom was the one that swept the nation.



Writing my name in cursive is my signature move.

There was a big paddle sale at the boat store.
It was quite an oar deal.

I can hear music coming out of my printer.
I think the paper is jammin' again.

I have a poor knowledge of Greek mythology.
It's always been my Achilles elbow.

I don't want to retire, I just want a six month vacation twice a year.

Some folks remind me of an old TV set. You have to hit them a few times before they get the picture.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.

My father invented the side car mirror. I won't get any royalties because we're not as close as we appear.

Of course you can go to a 50 cent concert. Here's a dollar.
Take your brother.

I saw that show, 50 Things To Do Before You Die. I would have thought the obvious one was "Shout For Help".

I can't find my friend Marco. Every time
I call him some jerk hollers "Polo!"

Red meat is not bad for you.
Fuzzy green meat is bad for you.



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