

Did You Know?

- In a year, a person's heart beats 40,000,000 times
- A great reason to smile: You use an average of 43 muscles for a frown. You use an average of 17 muscles for a smile. And then every two thousand frowns creates one wrinkle.
- Fit people can burn more fat for longer periods of time than unfit people.
- We call the hot, muggy days of summer "Dog days." This expression may have originated with the Romans who associated such weather with the influence of Sirius, the Dog Star, which is high in the sky during summer.
- The largest item on any menu in the world is probably the roast camel, sometimes served at Bedouin wedding feasts. The camel is stuffed with a sheep's carcass, which is stuffed with chickens, which are stuffed with fish, which are stuffed with eggs.
- You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching TV.
- If you were in Kiribati at the stroke of midnight on January 1, 2000, you got to be one of the first to welcome in the new millenium in the world. Kiribati is located in Oceania, a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean, straddling the equator, about one-half of the way from Hawaii to Australia; note—on 1 January 1995, Kiribati unilaterally moved the International Date Line from the middle of the country to include its easternmost islands and make it the same day throughout the country.
- John Harrison, works as the Official Taster for Dreyer's Ice Cream and his tastebuds are insured for one million dollars.
- His tastebuds, have tasted 100 million gallons of ice cream from around the world. The tongue is comprised of 9,000 tastebuds; each bud has 10 to 15 receptacles that send messages to the brain to let you know whether you are eating something bitter, sweet, salty, or sour.
- The top five cities in supermarket sales of ice cream are: (1) Portland, (2) Omaha, (3) Seattle, (4) St. Louis, (5) Buffalo/Rochester.
- In 1900 there were 38 National Forests with 46.52 area (million acres). In 1997 there are 155 National Forest with 187.42 area (million acres)
- When John Glenn squeezed applesauce into his mouth from a toothpaste tube, about 36 years ago, he became the first human to eat in space
- The crew of Apollo 13 have and still are the men considered to traveled furthest from the earth.
- Learning the sentence "My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas" will help you remember the planets in order: Mercury Venus Earth Mars Jupiter Saturn Uranus Neptune Pluto)
- Our Solar System is made up of the 9 "major planets" and lots more "minor planets."

- Pizza Hut has purchased the right to put its logo on the world's largest proton rocket. The logo is 30 feet tall and will be located on the fuselage of a 200 foot rocket. The rocket will be used to launch the permanent living capsule of the International Space Station, a joint venture of 16 countries. It is estimated that five-hundred-million viewers worldwide will tune into the launch.
- These materials will be distributed to more than 800,000 classrooms across the U.S. reaching nearly 20 million elementary school children.
- The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.
- The Navajo Indian language was used successfully as a code by the United States in World War II.
- The Boston University Bridge (on Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts) is the only place in the world where a boat can sail under a train driving under a car driving under an airplane.
- M&Ms are "The Official Candy of the New Millennium"? M&M is the Roman numeral representation of 2000, get it?
- First novel ever written on a typewriter.....Tom Sawyer.
- $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 123,456,789$
- Mel Blanc (voice of Bugs Bunny) was allergic to carrots.
- It is estimated that you'll spend a year of your life looking for lost objects.
- A torchbearer for this Olympics can buy their torch for \$208.00
- Did you know the word telegraph comes from the Greek words tele, which means "afar" and graphein meaning to "write".
- "HOLEY COW", how does swiss cheese get those holes in it? These holes, also called "eyes," are caused by the expansion of gas within the cheese curd during the ripening period. So much for the holey cow theory!
- Johnny Appleseed's last name was Chapman.
- The name Wendy was made up for the book "Peter Pan"
- The Irish wolfhound is the tallest of all dogs, standing about 32 inches high.
- The earth's atmosphere is only about 21 percent oxygen. Seventy-seven percent is nitrogen.
- To reduce pollution, don't let your car idle for more than a minute at a drive-through window or for a drawbridge to come down.
- At 870 degrees Fahrenheit, Venus has the hottest average surface temperature of any planet in the solar system. The coldest average temperature is that of Pluto (-370 degrees Fahrenheit).
- With the majority of miners having little success in making money finding gold, it would have been easier for those miners to sell services to other miners. It is known that some miners, having VERY dirty clothes, sent their clothes off to Hawaii to be washed.
- November is National Peanut Butter Lover's Month!
- Crossing one's fingers for luck started as a way of simulating a cross--a symbol which was believed to ward off evil spirits.

- How do homing pigeons find their way back? Homing pigeons find their way back by being trained. They have no instinctive desire to return to their place of origin. Birds' migratory movement, (Weber's learn about bird flyways) is innate, the homing behavior is learned. Homing pigeons have a natural desire to return to the nest. The trainer starts by teaching the bird to return over a distance as short as fifty feet and then increases the distance until homing is achieved.
- Joseph Cundall of London is said to have published the first Christmas cards in 1846. Less than 1000 were sold that year, but nearly a decade later, it had become a tradition. It's not Christmas without Christmas cards, is it?
- Dogs see only black, white and gray. They can hear much better than humans, though. They can hear sounds ten times farther away than we can.
- One out of every 144 people in America has the last name of Smith.
- When you have difficulty hammering small nails, you can use an ordinary comb to hold the nails while you start them.
- One out of every 21 people in the world is an American.
- The original graham cracker was developed in 1829 by Sylvester Graham, a clergyman.
- Just how big is the world's biggest ball of twine? Well stop in at Cawker City, KS to see. Look at these figures: 17,000 pounds, 40 foot circumference, Over 6,000,000 feet of sisal twine
- Frank Stoeber started this ball of twine on his farm in 1953. By 1957 it weighed 5,000 pounds, stood 8 feet high, and had 1,175,180 feet of twine on it. Stoeber gave the ball to Cawker City in 1961 before his death in 1974.
- Sir Francis Galton, , began his observations of fingerprints as a means of identification in the 1880's. In 1892, he published his book, "Fingerprints", establishing the individuality and permanence of fingerprints.
- Why do you yawn? You yawn because oxygen levels in our lungs are low. The brain prompts the body to yawn to get more air into the lungs.
- Samuel Morse designed the first telegraph. On May 24, 1844, the first telegraph message, "What hath God wrought," was successfully sent and received along the first telegraph wire system.

Bug & Animal Facts

- Millions of years ago, dragonflies had a wing span that was about the same size as a mallard duck's is today.
- The African egg-eating snake uses a saw-like bone in its throat to break open the shells of the eggs it eats.
- There are more than 12,000 different varieties of ants in the world.
- The roundworm lives for only 12 days; the lake sturgeon (a fish) can live more than 150 years.
- Crickets have hearing organs in their knees.
- An ant can lift 50 times its own weight-with its mouth.
- The common snail has close to 10,000 teeth--all on its tongue.
- A frog must close its eyes in order to swallow.
- Texas horned toads can squirt blood from the corners of their eyes.
- The praying mantis is the only insect that can turn its head without moving any part of its body.
- Scientists have determined that the common housefly hums in the musical key of F.
- To make one pound of honey, bees must collect nectar from approximately 2 million flowers.
- Most mammals live for about 1 1/2 billion heartbeats.
- A mosquito has 47 teeth.
- A kangaroo cannot jump if its tail is lifted off the ground. It needs its tail for pushing off.
- An earthworm doesn't breathe through a mouth or nose like you; he breathes through his skin.
- Australian tree frogs give off a chemical that helps heal sores when it's put on human skin. Doctors expect to find lots of other ways the chemical can be used.
- Fish have no eyelids. They can't blink, wink, or close their eyes to sleep.
- Blink your eyes. That's how long it takes a scorpion to stab its stinger into prey and squirt its poison. Sometimes when a scorpion is threatened, it sprays poison several feet into the air.
- Sea spiders bodies have very little room inside them, so their intestines are in their legs.
- A hummingbird may get nectar from 2000 flowers in one day.
- The smallest tree in the world is the dwarf willow. In some places, it grows only two inches (5 cm) tall.
- Each big eye on a dragonfly is made up of many little eyes--up to 28,000 of them! Dragonflies can spy moving objects up to 40 feet (12 m) away.
- One kind of termite queen can lay more than 86,000 eggs every day!
- The deadliest animal in the world is the mosquito.

Mosquitoes carry diseases such as malaria that may kill more than a million people each year.

- Honeybees make a total of 10 million trips between their hive and flowers for each pound (450 g of honey they make.)
- Some bats can eat 500 mosquitoes every hour.
- An elephant may use a leafy branch or plant stalk as a fly swatter.
- The world's smallest mammal is probably the bumblebee bat of Thailand. The little creature is about the size of a large bumblebee, and it weighs less than a penny.
- Cockroaches can go without eating for three months, as long as they have water. And they can eat many different foods, including your peanut butter sandwich, your fingernail clippings, and especially your math book (they like the glue in the binding).
- The longest insects in the world are stick insects from Asia. They can grow to be over a foot (30 cm) long.

State Facts

- In California it is illegal to set a mousetrap without a hunting license.
- It is illegal to use lassos to catch a fish in Tennessee.
- If a man is wearing a striped suit, you cannot throw a knife at him in Natoma, Kansas.
- The state of Delaware accepted the Constitution on December 7, 1787. Delaware is the second smallest state in the Union, but can claim that it is the "First State."
- Places I'd rather not live:
 - Paradox, New York
 - Crapo, Maryland
 - Boogertown, North Carolina
 - Spasticville, Kansas
 - Purgatory, Maine
 - Rudeville, New Jersey
 - Boring, Oregon
 - Dulls Corner, Maryland
 - Bowlegs, Oklahoma
 - Volcano, Hawaii
 - Fleatown, Ohio
 - Burnt Corn, Alabama
 - Two Guns, Arizona
 - Tarzan, Texas
 - Chicken Head, Florida
 - Scarface, California
 - Latex, Louisiana

Facts of Water

- Watermelon isn't called that for nothing? It's 97% water.
- During a lifetime, you will drink about 16,000 gallons of water.
- If all the valleys and mountains on land and on sea were leveled, water would cover the entire earth two miles deep.
- Waterpower is no idle phrase. Water flowing at 10 miles an hour can move a rock 10 feet thick.
- Water helps regulate climate: It absorbs heat in summer and releases it in the winter.
- A birch tree releases about 70 gallons of water into the atmosphere each day, almost the amount a person uses in his home each day.
- National Water Quality Month--August 1-31
- Earth's oceans are home to 90% of our planet's living creatures
- Americans consume about 55,000 tons of food from the oceans each year and dump 90 per cent of their garbage into landfills.
- 97% of the water on the earth is salt water; only 3% is fresh water

Environmental Facts

- When an aluminum can is recycled, the energy used to make a new can is only 10% of the energy used to make aluminum from raw bauxite.
- Indoor air is often polluted by every-day substances which can build up over time such as: radon, paint, cigarette smoke, plastics, cleansers, pesticides, dry cleaning fumes, and wood refinishing chemicals. Periodically let in fresh air, especially during the winter.
- Nationally, the biggest polluter of our air are automobiles. Cars are a major source of the gases and vapors which have been linked to acid rain, smog and global warming.
- A water faucet with a small leak can waste 50 gallons of water a day?
- April 22, 1970 was the first Earth Day, and has been celebrated every year on that date. Local Earth Day festivals are usually on the weekend before or after April 22.
- The Midwest and the Northeast consume more candy per region than the South, Southwest, West or Mid-Atlantic states.

American Trivia

- The eagle was adopted as an American symbol during the American Revolution. The first use was on copper pennies minted in 1776, but the American bald eagle gained official status in 1785 when Congress proclaimed it a national emblem and included it on the great seal of the United States.
- The name United States of America was first used in the Declaration of Independence that was adopted July 4, 1776. Before that our country was called by other names, such as the United Colonies. On September 9, 1776, the Continental Congress resolved to replace all other terms and officially named our country the United States of North America. In 1778 the Continental Congress shortened the name to the United States of America.
- At the Lincoln Monument, Lincoln's hands form the sign language for A and L.
- The USS Constitution is the oldest commissioned ship in the US inventory. It was restored and rebottomed by a collection of pennies from school children over the US. Every Fourth of July it is towed out into Boston Harbor reversed, and towed back into its berth so it will weather

evenly on both sides.

- The Tomb of the unknown soldier has an unknown set of remains from WWI, WWII, Korea, but not one from Viet Nam since DNA identification is so good that almost every set of remains have been identified.
- Both President and Mrs. Grant are buried in Grant's Tomb.
- No one is buried in the Lincoln Memorial - Lincoln was transported back to Illinois for burial.
- The Smithsonian has a zoo. A small insect zoo.
- The first paper money the United States issued on March 10, 1862. The denominations were \$5., \$10 and \$20.

Flag Facts

- Nepal: This is the only flag that isn't rectangular. It is a zigzag shape--much like the shape of two triangles.
- Cyprus: This is the only flag that has an outline of the country.
- Libya: This is the only single-color flag. green.

Plant Trivia

- The leaves of a Venus flytrap can close over an insect in less than half a second.
- The largest seed in the world is the coconut.
- Lemons have more sugar in them and melons or peaches do.
- Modern chewing gum had its beginning in the late 1860s when chicle was brought to the United States. Chicle comes from the milky juice (latex) of the sapodilla tree, which grows in the tropical rain forests of Central America.
- If a tree leaves look like needles it's a conifer. If they are flat and broad they are deciduous.
- Dendrochronology is the study of tree rings
- Banana trees are the largest herbaceous plants in the world. They are not true trees because they do not develop woody stems. Their "trunks" are actually the overlapping bases of the leaves.
- The bark of the redwood tree is fireproof. Fires in redwood forests take place inside the trees.
- Oak trees do not have acorns until they are fifty years or more.
- The Swiss Family Robinson tree house in Disneyland has 300,000 fake leaves on it which are changed twice a year to reflect the different seasons.

International Trivia

- Some of the first forms of currency in China were made of

- shell, satin, or Jade.
- There are 55 official minority nationalities, and 206 listed languages.
 - China has approximately a 75% literacy rate.
 - Only Imperial dragons embroidered on the robes of the Emperor or his personal attendants could display five claws.
 - The Chinese women have won medals at the Olympics for their outstanding ability of weight lifting!
 - In China, Tiger body parts are sought for use in traditional Chinese medicine and exotic recipes.
 - In China, snake is a delicacy. Some dishes include roast boa and five-step snake, snakeskin with peppers, and snake lemon liqueur, which is "good for a person with a weak body". Some Chinese even check into a sanitarium for extended snake-diet therapy.
 - Even though there are French and Italian eateries popping up in southern China, Barbecued rat and dog are still favorites. Others include silkworms and black beetles.
 - The ancient Chinese consider the peach a symbol of long life and immortality. These "Persian apples" actually had their beginning in China, but were developed in Persia and went from there to Europe and then to America with the colonists.
 - Ladies in the high society in China once made black dye from dark eggplant skins and used it to stain their teeth to a black luster, a fashionable cosmetic use.
 - Chinese is the oldest and the greatest of the world's literature.
 - Acupuncture originated in China more than 5000 years ago.
 - The Great Wall is the only man-made structure that can be seen from the Space Shuttle and is used by scientists to study earthquakes.
 - Japanese children goes to school for 5 1/2 days a week, 240 days a year for at least nine years.
 - To give an unwrapped gift in Japan is considered rude.
 - The Japanese imported Valentine's Day from the West. But put a little different spin on it. The boys give the girls chocolate on Feb. 14, and then the girls give the boys batches of homemade cookies on March 14, White Day.