

THE CRAZY STORIES BEHIND
THE WORLD'S MOST INTERESTING FACTS

THE FUN KNOWLEDGE ENCYCLOPEDIA



TRIVIA BILL'S GENERAL KNOWLEDGE VOL.3

Bill O'Neill

The Fun Knowledge Encyclopedia 3

**The Crazy Stories Behind the World's Most
Interesting Facts
Trivia Bill's General Knowledge**

BILL O'NEILL

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Introduction

We all love a good story connected to different facts and this encyclopedia is full of juicy stories that will leave you stunned in absolute amazement. From costly items, to animals that save lives, to the origins of a whole host of terms and words that we now use in our daily lives without giving them much thought, we have them all covered.

Our facts are intended to amaze you, make you laugh, leave you puzzled and shocked that you were blissfully unaware of such things until this very moment. Our stories are designed to pack a punch and will take you through different aspects of human history and also allow you to visit an array of cultures and countries at the same time.

This is supposed to be fun. Learning about the crazy things that us humans can get up to at different times will show you just how absolutely crazy it really all is. So, sit back and enjoy the ride as it is going to be fabulous.

How Much is that Lipstick in the Window?

Women have been wearing lipstick for thousands of years. Yes! Even the ancient Romans. The problem with lipstick in the 'good old' days was that most of the lipsticks were made from toxic ingredients like lead for example. No wonder they didn't live for very long. Lead poisoning could lead to vomiting, loss of weight and irritability which could explain why some Roman beauties were slim and often of bad temperament.

Lipstick these days are not so toxic and come in millions of shades and textures, from the glossiest to the most matt and seasons also influence fashion and lipsticks. The French favor red, Italians like it glossier and pale, so countries and towns also have their favorites.

Some lipsticks are more expensive and some less expensive so there is always a lipstick for every budget, but if you are part of the super-rich and want an exclusive lipstick look to be spending up to \$64 000.00 for one tube. The lipstick in question is Guerlain's Kiss Kiss Gold. The real Kiss Kiss Gold is a mere \$35.00 a pop, but this exclusive version has made the case tubing in gold and encrusted with diamonds. One suspects that this is certainly for the 'girl that has everything' perhaps. There are so many strange facts about lipstick that one could write a book, but one of the sweetest facts is when during World War II, Winston Churchill ruled that not only was lipstick still in production but was easy to get hold of, simply because it boosted the morale of the females that wore it and the men that beheld it!

Why is a Hedgehog Called a Hedgehog?

Have you ever wondered why hedgehogs are called hedgehogs? These cute critters have such bad eye-site that whenever they are foraging for food they make grunting noises similar to a pig!

They love nothing better than a slimy slug to eat as well as other mites and pesky insects that litter gardens in the warmer weather, so they are welcomed in most gardens during this time of year.

When the temperature drops and the food is less available, hedge-hogs hibernate and love to snuggle down in warmer holes in the garden, under a pile of leaves or even special hedge-hog houses that have become quite popular now by wildlife lovers. Just fill it with straw and your gardens best friend will be warm and sleep all winter long.

They have the cutest faces and sweetest natures, but they certainly are not cuddly. Their bodies are covered in long hard spines which protect them from enemies and keeps them safe. Each spine will last over a year and there are more than 4000 spines on each hedgehog. They use them to maximum effect by rolling into a ball thus presenting themselves as a spiky 'no touch' ball.

In ancient Rome, they were kept mostly for dinner and their quills used in various ways. One should be very respectful to them since they have inhabited the earth for nearly 50 million years, long before we did. Plus, they really haven't changed that much or needed to. Some hedgehogs are even domesticated particular to certain breeds and their tiny babies are called hoglets.

Pass the Almost Silver Tableware

Have you ever visited someone for dinner and had to put up with them making a huge deal over passing the silver tableware? They may have even gone as far as to stress that it is solid silver, and you will have a tendency to believe them.

Well, strictly speaking they are not telling the truth.

Instead, silver in its natural state is simply too soft and it would lead to bashes and dents in your fancy tableware. So, what they do is they mix it with a base metal, which is usually copper, but only in small amounts in order to give it that firmness. Generally speaking, you are looking at 92.5% silver and the rest made up of the other metal.

So, the next time they boast about their solid silver items, you can fire back that they are only 92.5% solid silver and see what kind of a reaction you then get from them.

Get Your Head Out of the Sand!

Are you familiar with the idea that an ostrich has a habit of sticking its head in the sand? You may have even heard of a number of explanations as to why they do this, so here is a fact that is probably going to just stop you in your tracks.

Several years ago, a large-scale study was carried out to see if this concept of the ostrich sticking its head in the sand was correct. In total, over 200,000 of the birds were observed for a period of time. How many did indeed stick their head in the sand?

Absolutely none.

Yes, all of those birds watched carefully and not one of them even made an attempt or even appeared to be remotely interested in sticking their head in the sand. It seems that when it comes to this act that we are merely projecting what we would do if we were in certain situations, so stop blaming the ostrich.

So That is Why the Photocopier is Broken

You have to admit that there is something extremely annoying about a broken photocopier. Of course, machinery and equipment are going to break at some point, but the surprising thing about the photocopier is the way in which they tend to break.

You would like to think that it was due to the number of components that are required in order to pull the machine together and to get it to do what you want, and that does account for some of it. However, worldwide it is estimated that 1 in 4 call-outs to a broken photocopier is as a direct result of an individual deciding that they want to sit on the machine and take a copy of their butt.

Yes, that does not just refer to those individuals that think it is a cool thing to do at an office party. It seems that this particular act is far more common than we realized

and people are apparently doing it pretty much all of the time. Of course, it can then go wrong in some instances leading to it breaking, but then it begs the question as to what they then go on to say in order to explain it away.

The Crocodile and its Tongue

The crocodile is a terrifying animal with its ability to kill and devour in an instant. The speed at which it can launch its attack is astonishing, but there is one small fact about this killing machine that somehow manages to partly diminish the terror surrounding it. So, what is that fact?

Well, unlike its close relative, the alligator, it seems that the crocodile does not have the best of relationships with its own tongue. In fact, it cannot stick it out and it is actually held in place on the roof of its mouth where it effectively sealed by a membrane. The main role for the tongue is to protect the airway of the crocodile as it does spend a vast amount of time under the water. Unlike us, and most other animals, the tongue has no role to play at all in the feeding of the crocodile so it has very little need to stick its tongue out anyway. After all, it's hardly going to do so just to be cheeky to other crocodiles.

The Origins of Tea

There are literally hundreds of varieties of tea leaves around the world, but do you know when and where it was ‘invented’? Of course, thinking that tea was invented is a strange choice of words, but there is a particular legend surrounding the drink that will kind of explain what is meant by the use of that individual phrase.

To understand the legend, we have to go to China, which may not come as a surprise to many. The year is approximately 2737BC and we are in the presence of the Chinese Emperor.

They say that the Emperor was sitting by an open window with a bowl of hot water by his side. A wind picked up and, via a miracle, it blew some tea leaves in through the open window and it landed in the bowl of hot water. Whether or not the Emperor was initially aware of this, he still went on to take a drink and was taken aback by the taste that he experienced. From that moment on, he would place the leaves into his hot water and a cup, or bowl to be more precise, tea was born.

However, we did have to wait a considerable period of time before we then saw the tea bag emerging, which made life easier, as that did not appear until 1908. The inventor of the tea bag was an American in New York by the name of Thomas Sullivan, and we are pretty sure that he had no idea that his invention would take off in the manner that it did.

The Wastage of Food

This is quite a sad and horrifying fact surrounding food, but at the same time it is probably something that you are already familiar with, at least to a certain extent.

We all know that a huge amount of food is wasted in certain parts of the world, but are you aware of just how much? Well, even though there are no exact figures available, the Economic Research Service has at least made an attempt to come up with something that is pretty shocking.

According to their own research, Western nations are guilty of throwing around 27% of all food production in the trash. In other words, more than a quarter of what we buy is just never eaten and thrown away. Now, forget about the amount of money that we are wasting as a direct result and instead just think about the piles of food that this is then going to equate to.

But then it gets worse.

While the west is throwing away all of that food, there is believed to be a total of 1.2 billion people that are underfed in the world. By a rather ironic twist of fate, that is pretty much equal to the number of people that are also overweight in the world. So, there is the solution to world hunger, stop wasting food and send it to those individuals that need it rather than those that have too much of it.

Imagine Being Buried on the Moon

We have all looked at it at some point and marveled at its presence, but after reading this fact you might have a slightly different opinion the next time.

Did you know that the lunar surface is actually a graveyard? Well, that is pushing things a bit far, but to provide you with an explanation, we need to look at the story of a Dr Eugene Shoemaker.

Dr Shoemaker was a US Geological astronomer and a pretty big deal in his field. In fact, he even spent a considerable amount of time involved in the moon projects including educating the Apollo astronauts on craters and everything that they would ever need to know about them. So, when he died, it was perhaps no surprise that he would have a rather unique and different request when it came to what was to be done with his ashes.

The poor doctor had wanted to be an astronaut but he was unable to get into the training program because of an outstanding medical issue. However, while he may have been unable to get into space while he was alive, he certainly managed to do it when he was dead.

After his death in 1997, it just so happened that NASA was preparing to launch a probe to the moon called the Lunar Prospector. So, to pay homage to the astronomer, some of his ashes were placed in a special canister and attached to the Prospector. This vial was then effectively blasted off the Prospector at a huge speed and it was smashed directly into a crater, therefore, burying a small amount of his ashes on the moon.

So, next time you look at the moon just remember that there really is a ‘man on the moon’ at least in some sense of the word anyway.

That Fossil Called Lucy

When it comes to the theory of evolution surrounding mankind, then one of the key names that you will hear is 'Lucy'. Now, that is perhaps not what you were expecting, but the story behind Lucy is certainly a lot cooler than you would have imagined.

Lucy was discovered by a family of archaeologists that specialized in evolution called the Leakey's. They tended to work in various parts of Africa, but primarily in parts of Ethiopia. It was there that they would uncover one of the most remarkable finds ever in the history of archaeology, the skeleton of an early hominid.

The year was 1974, and during an excavation, they discovered fragments of bone which would end up leading to around 40% of the skeleton being uncovered. The skeleton belonged to an early hominid and was actually over 3 million years old. Lucy was very small, not much bigger than a chimpanzee, and was clearly in between species. For the time, and still to this day, she was regarded as being a very special discovery.

But why was she called Lucy? Well, we clearly have no idea as to what her real name was as she would not have had one, but it turns out that the Lucy moniker was simply due to the favorite song of the individuals that made that first discovery. The song? 'Lucy in the sky with diamonds' by The Beatles.

Are Your Dentures Radioactive?

Teeth, we all need them but is there the potential for us to be damaging our own health even when it comes to having dentures to replace those teeth that have decayed or broken for a whole host of reasons? Well, the answer to that question is potentially both yes and no.

Back in the 1940's companies involved in the manufacturing process of dentures had to come up with ways to make them look as realistic as possible. They stumbled across using small amounts of uranium in the mix to give it a color that was similar to our own teeth. People loved the color, so the idea, and the manufacturing process, kind of stuck. This all worked as the uranium was fluorescent under various lights, so it did then mimic our own teeth.

However, the good news is that this practice pretty much fell out of favor by the 1990's when they started to use a form of plastic rather than porcelain, so there was no need to alter the color in the same manner.

Now, we don't want you to be worried if you have teeth that are pretty old because the amounts that were used would have been extremely small and certainly nowhere near enough to cause you any potential problems. Instead, it is just quite a cool fact, in a strange way, that your teeth may very well be radioactive.

Your Hot Room Could Be Making You Less Safe

If your security system is elaborate enough to include motion sensors, then you could be making life harder for yourself if you plan on keeping your rooms nice and warm. The reason for this comes down to the physics of how this entire creation works since these sensors are activated because of the presence of body heat.

Of course, the problem comes when your walls or floor are too hot because while the camera will not exactly switch on just because of your walls or floor being there, it does use them as a reference temperature. If they are too warm, then when an individual enters a room, the sensor will be unable to pick up the difference and it will, therefore, remain off.

So, if you are planning on going out or on vacation, remember to avoid turning off your air-con or putting your heating up too high or you could come back to a rather nasty surprise that you were just not expecting.

That Shark Doesn't Have Cancer

The animal world is pretty cool and it is full of some very interesting facts that make you really marvel at what it is capable of doing. Look at the shark and the ray as a prime example because they are the only two animals that we know about that do not get cancer in any way.

It is shocking to think that every other living thing can, in theory, develop cancer so it then begs the question as to why a shark or a ray is seen as being rather special in avoiding this horrible disease.

It appears to be the case that they do not get it because they have no bones in their body. Instead, they have cartilage and scientists have only been able to effectively guess that this may very well be the reason as to why they end up being cancer free. Of course, this is simply the only explanation that they can come up with at this moment in time, so there is no guarantee that they will be correct.

Check Out That Lazy Gorilla

There is something both majestic and scary about the gorilla, but you are probably unaware of just how lazy this huge creature is on a daily basis. The surprising fact is that it is not unknown for the gorilla to sleep up to 14 hours in a single day, which is right up there as being one of the laziest animals on the planet.

Also, the gorilla will make a new bed to sleep in every single night even if it is next to where they slept the previous day. It seems that they like everything to be fresh and new, and don't think that they just sleep on the ground as they have also been observed sleeping high up in the canopies of trees as well.

To be honest, as long as they are able to just sleep the day away then it seems that the gorilla is perfectly content with life in general.

Open Wide to Sex You

This is one of those facts where you wonder why on earth somebody decided to come up with it to begin with, but here we go.

Have you ever wondered how you can sex a horse, minus the obvious differences that exist and are very visible between the two? Nope, well you can easily do so just by checking out the teeth of the horse.

Due to structural differences, and also space that is available, the male horse has 40 teeth while the female only has 36. So, count them and you will have your answer right before you. However, that does rely on the horse being quite content to allow you to count its teeth, so the actual task is, in all reality, much harder than it needs to be. The next time you want to tell the sex of a horse, just go for the easier method as it is certainly a lot less stressful on you.

Is This Your Child?

Giving birth to your child is one of the most amazing and treasured moments that you will ever experience in your life, but what if it then turned out that the child you were given later on was not actually your own?

That has to be one of the scariest thoughts that could ever enter the mind of a mother, but the scary thing is that it does happen across the world. In fact, it is believed that a mother is given the wrong baby at least 12 times a day around the world, so while the number is not huge by any means, it is still worrying enough to hear that it can happen at all.

Of course, there are a number of reasons as to why this is the case and it is just an admin error, but then you are talking about the birth of a new life. So then, making such a huge mistake might very well make you question the staff in the hospital the next time that you are there to welcome your new child into the world.

Why is it Upper and Lower Case?

We are all used to the term upper case and lower case, but do you know what the term means and where it comes from?

To answer this question, we have to delve back into the past and the early days of printing and a point where anything had to be done letter by letter. This was clearly very time-consuming, but that is not why we developed these two terms.

Instead, it is all to do with the way in which the printer organized his print shop so he could find what he was looking for in as short a period of time as possible. Ultimately, upper case letters were stored in the upper part of his case, or the upper shelf in some instances, while the lower-case letters were stored, yep you guessed it, on the lower case or the lower shelf.

When you discover that this is the reason as to why these terms exist, it does then make you wonder about what else it may have been called if printers centuries ago had not been so intelligent as to come up with this rather simple solution.

And the Wooden Oscar Goes To

Managing to claim an Oscar has to be the high point of the career of anybody that is involved in the movie industry, and the goody bags that they get even just for turning up goes above and beyond the realms of what most of us could imagine. However, it has not always been like that when it comes to this particular awards ceremony.

Instead, things were understandably not as ostentatious when World War 2 was in action. The movie industry was still working away and the Oscars were still being held every single year, but the last thing that they wanted was to be seen to be spending huge sums of money on awards. However, as the show must indeed go on, they thought of an alternative that would hopefully still mean something to those individuals that won, but could not be seen by outsiders as them wasting precious money.

So, what was this amazing solution that they all came up with? Well, during the period of World War 2, they opted to make the Oscars out of wood. There was enough of it available and people were certainly not as concerned about the costs of manufacturing a wooden Oscar compared to other options, so everybody literally was a winner in that instance.

That is a Long Red Light

If we are honest, there is nothing more infuriating than being stuck at a red light, but just how long do you think you spend sitting at them and waiting for them to turn green? The answer is more than likely going to be longer than you would have ever thought possible.

According to some very clever people with a lot of spare time on their hands, it is believed that the average driver will spend a total of six months of their entire life sitting at a red light. Just stop and think about that for a second as that is an insane amount of time because what else could you do over the course of six months?

The answer is probably quite a lot, so it is perhaps worth your while thinking about what you can do during that time. Maybe learning a new language while sitting at a red light would be useful?

The Otter with the Pocket

Otters are pretty cool, and yet they do not get the attention that they deserve especially when you consider that they are more intelligent than most people realize. However, one of the coolest things about them is actually part of nature helping them out especially when it comes to the Southern Sea Otter.

If you ever have the opportunity to check under its forelegs, then you will see that there is a special flap of skin. However, the otter does not see it as being an issue because it then goes ahead and uses this piece of skin as its own small pockets. They have been observed in the wild putting rocks and prey that they have caught into them to then eat later on and you have to admit that this must be one of the strangest things to appear in the animal world. At least the humble otter has decided that this spare piece of skin is not going to go to waste.

Oh What a Pig!

The pig, no matter what you may think about it, there is a pretty good chance that you would never dream of copying what happened centuries ago in France. Even if you are not a big fan of this particular animal, you would probably feel that the French went a bit too far.

The year is 1386, and France is quite an unruly place and is often pre-occupied with its wars against the English. However, in towns and cities around the country, they had a tendency to have different ways of looking at things, especially when it came to the law.

That was why there was a rather surprising event including a pig and a young child. In some strange way, the child was murdered, but rather than try to find the actual individual who was responsible for the brutal killing, the inhabitants of the village decided that they already knew the answer to what was going on, and it had everything to do with a pig.

Yes, they decided that the pig was guilty of murder, and as a result they then hung the pig as its punishment. That had to have been a completely bizarre thing to set your eyes on to see them executing a pig for murder, but then back in the 14th century, there were always a number of strange events going on even though, you would be hard pressed to find something to beat this.

You are Not Exactly One in a Million

You will be aware of the phrase, 'one in a million' but are you actually going to be this figure if that is what you genuinely think about yourself?

The short answer is no, because you are far from being alone in having this kind of perception about your own self. Instead, you are going to actually discover that there are just over 7,100 people that are pretty much like you, so while that is still a small percentage when compared to the billions of people that live on the planet, you are still hardly unique.

However, do keep saying it to yourself because it is certainly a lot easier than stating that you are one in seven thousand.

You Cannot Snore and Dream at the Same Time

Sleep, we all need it and yet it can also often be a rather eventful time when you think about what is going on. For example, most of us are going to snore at some point, and we all dream at various times throughout the night even if we do not then remember it. But can you put the two of them together?

The simple answer is that if you are talking about the normal type of snoring, and not sleep apnea which is a completely different issue, then it is impossible for us to both snore and dream at the same time.

So, why is this the case? Well, it's all to do with the stages of sleep because common snoring happens at a different stage from that when we dream. The reason why we mentioned sleep apnea is because that happens at the REM stage of sleep, which is the point where our ability to dream kicks in.

In other words, it has nothing to do with us being unable to perform both tasks at the same time due to our brain struggling, but it is just that the two can never meet thanks to them involving two different things at two different times.

Those Shoes Better Be Made for Walking

During our life, we are able to rack up a number of miles just by walking around doing everyday things. However, even though some individuals are lazy while others are full of life, it is still pretty surprising to discover how far the average person walks during their lifetime.

Even though it is not an exact science, there is the belief that the average person walks enough miles to go around the world three times. Also, we are not talking about up near the North Pole where the distance is shorter, but the equator where it is at its widest.

It might be hard to believe, but all of those short distances that we cover on a regular basis all add up to something pretty impressive. So, if your shoes are not made for walking then perhaps you should invest in a pair that is, simply because you are going to need them.

That Coyote Can Really Hear Well

Coyotes are pretty cool in their own way, but if you are a mouse then you might be in some trouble when you think that you are far enough away that they are simply unable to notice you.

As well as being able to move pretty fast, the coyote also has some supersonic hearing that just takes its ability to hunt prey up to an entirely new level. Thanks to their ability to sense movement, as well as the frequencies at which they can hear that completely wipe the floor with what us humans can do. It is known that a coyote would be able to pick up the sounds of a mouse moving under 1 foot of snow.

Just think about that for a second because it seems impossible to hear anything under that much snow and yet the coyote can pick up the movements of a mouse? Now you can see why you would be in trouble if you were that rodent as there is just literally no way to avoid getting their attention.

That Hard-Working Mole

A mole can be an annoying creature if a molehill suddenly appears on your lawn or in the middle of your garden. It often ends up that there is then a network of tunnels under the ground that you are blissfully unaware of, and yet are you aware of how hard they work just to make a mess of your garden like that?

It turns out that the rather humble mole is a bit of a friend when it comes to digging those tunnels. In fact, it has been shown that a single mole is able to dig around 300ft of tunnel in just a single night, and all with those small hands.

Now, if you think of the size of the mole and compare it to the size of us humans, then you would probably find it difficult to match it for its ability to work because could you ever contemplate being able to dig 300ft of a tunnel that is big enough for you in a single night? Of course not, so the next time you see a molehill appearing then perhaps just salute it for what it is, which is one of the best diggers around in the animal kingdom.

Hate Cutting Onions?

While an onion can be a useful addition to a variety of dishes, how many people hate cutting them in preparation simply because it does not take long until those tears start to flow and your eyes just sting like absolute crazy. So, what do you do?

Well, one potential solution for you is to chew gum while you are peeling and cutting the onion. Yes, by just doing this simple and straightforward thing, you can stop those chemicals in the onion that ultimately trigger that tear response from getting that far into your body.

The reason why this works is very simple to understand. As we breathe through our nose, the chemicals from the onion attack the glands that are responsible for tear production. By chewing gum, it forces us to breathe through our mouth so those glands are not being hit to the same extent and those tears are then unable to flow.

In other words, there is no complex science behind this approach. Instead, it is all about changing how we breathe when we cut up those onions.

Drying Fruit is Not So Good

Dried fruit is put across as being a healthy alternative for a snack, and while that is not exactly wrong it does not tell you about the nutritional value that is ultimately lost because of the drying out process.

On average, and this does depend on the fruit in question, you are going to end up losing anywhere between 30% and a staggering 80% of the antioxidants and vitamins that were initially contained within the fruit in its natural state. In other words, the benefits that you would have been getting from the fruit are pretty much no longer there simply because it is dried.

So, if you are torn between fresh or dried at any point then always choose the fresh option as it is certainly a lot healthier for you and will be able to boost your health, while the dried version is going to always struggle.

Avoid Those Soda Fountains

We tend to like to think of ourselves as being clean creatures, but are we as clean as we would like to make out? Well, it seems that the answer to that has to be no. One area where we can see that this is certainly not the case is with soda fountains.

Rather disturbingly, a study that has looked at soda fountains and checked out what is in them from a scientific point of view, has come up with some results that we think might very well put you off the idea of using them ever again. Also, it makes you wonder what on earth is going on with these soda fountains at the same time.

So, what did they find that was so disturbing? Well, a staggering 48% of all soda fountains that they checked out contained fecal bacteria while 11% of them had E-coli. Now, that is staggering, and you are more than likely sitting there wondering what on earth you have been drinking as that just does not sound nice at all, which it's not.

Are we clean as people? Maybe in some areas, but we now have to exclude the soda fountain from that list simply because the statistics show that we are throwing all kinds of bacteria in there, including things that we do not want to consume.

Watch Out For That Coconut

The humble coconut is perhaps not as humble as you think. The truth of the matter is; it can be a deadly weapon that is thrust into our path by nature whenever it decides that it wishes to strike.

Of course, the majority of coconuts are growing from a pretty impressive height, and there is always going to be a point where gravity takes control and those coconuts must announce their arrival to the world and plummet to the ground. We all know that it is going to happen but are never sure when that time is going to be, which is why they are deadly.

It is believed that approximately 150 people are killed every single year simply by falling coconuts. When you think about the speed at which they fall and the thud that they make when they land, then it is pretty obvious as to why it could be fatal.

The key here is to just look up, or not walk too closely to anywhere that you know coconuts are growing because you hardly want to become another statistic, do you?

Don't Give the Bird an Avocado

While an avocado can be a useful addition to a number of dishes for us humans, the same cannot be said for birds. You see, an avocado is like a giant piece of poison for a bird, so you would not exactly be helping it out by apparently giving it something to eat.

The reason why it is acting as a poison to a bird is because an avocado contains something called persin which is actually a toxin. However, it is a toxin that is perfectly harmless to us humans and we can eat them all day without it giving us any cause for concern. It is also true that dogs and cats appear to be immune to this poison as well, but sadly the same cannot be said for either birds or cattle where the toxin will attack their system and could prove to be deadly.

Well That was Lucky

Around the world, there are a number of things that are deemed as being lucky to us. It can often be rather surprising as to what is regarded as being lucky when, to others, it just sounds strange.

Take Japan as a prime example. The Japanese love sumo wrestling as it is part of their culture and wrestlers are held in such high regard that they are absolute celebrities across the country. However, that is not the lucky part that we are talking about right now. Instead, it is seen as being lucky if a sumo wrestler is able to make your baby cry when they are holding it. That is not to say that the sumo wrestler is actively going out of his way to make them cry by doing anything to them, but if they start to do so naturally, then something good is going to happen to you.

It is unsure as to where this apparent belief came from, but it has been around for a substantial period of time and even though that means the initial creation is lost to us, the fact of the matter still remains. If you have a baby and you want to have some luck, then better hope that a sumo wrestler is nearby.

A Clever Way to Beat the Telemarketer

Being caught out by a telemarketer has to be one of the most annoying things that can happen to us as humans. How often do you just put down the phone simply because you cannot be bothered in dealing with them and have no desire to even utter a single word?

Well, a man in the United Kingdom came up with a completely different way of tackling this particular problem even though his method was taking things to the extreme. To be honest, you might not want to follow his lead, but if you do then it is still not going to hurt.

So, what did he do? Well, he changed his name. Nothing different or elaborate there we hear you say, but it was how he changed his name that made this out to be completely different.

The man in question went by the name Mr Price. By the time he was finished, he was then called Mr Tim Ppppppppprice for the sole reason that he figured telemarketers would not want to sit there on the other end of the call and make themselves sound a bit crazy when trying to say his name. It is unknown how effective it was as a method, but you have to give him some credit for at least attempting something completely different as a potential resolution for an extremely annoying problem.

Well That was a Miracle Find

When it comes to precious items, there is probably not one single item that can surpass your wedding ring for importance and meaning to you. So, imagine how you would feel if you ended up losing it at some point and just how absolutely devastated you would be when you suddenly realized that this had happened.

Well, it is unfortunately a more common event than you would think, but for a woman in Sweden it turned out that lady luck was on her side, even though she had to wait a considerable length of time to realize that this was indeed the case.

The Swedish woman that we are discussing was indeed unfortunate enough to lose her wedding ring, and she thought that it was gone forever and had moved on and replaced it with another. However, it would turn out that this would not actually be the case. Instead, she would have a miracle as her wedding ring would re-appear 16 years later, but where?

Well, it turned up in the most surprising of circumstances as it was sitting there wrapped around a carrot that she had grown in her garden. It was as if the carrot itself was wearing the wedding ring.

That has to go down in history as one of the most remarkable finds of all time because what are the chances of that happening? Would you wait that long to ultimately get your wedding ring back?

Be Careful About Winning the Lottery

We all want to win the lottery because of the way in which it will completely change our lives. However, you might have a different opinion of it when you suddenly discover that the odds are certainly not in your favor no matter which way you look at it.

In fact, as the chances of you winning the lottery are measured in the millions, it does mean that there are a whole host of other potential eventualities that are deemed to be more likely to happen than scooping that jackpot. So, what do you think would be the scariest thing to happen?

Well, how about the simple fact that you are far more likely to be killed in a variety of ways as you make your way to purchase that lottery ticket, than you are winning it? In other words, you are playing your own living lottery just by trying to enter and win money so you can say that this is like the ultimate gamble that you then end up taking on a regular basis.

Colgate Might Not Be Popular in Argentina

Colgate is one of the most popular brands of toothpaste in the world, but it has faced one or two problems in countries where Spanish is the native language. While it does alter slightly depending on regional variations, and also depending on the Spanish language experts that you talk to, it does seem that the Colgate name is rather unfortunate for these countries.

Why is that the case?

Well, it seems that there are some arguments surrounding the word 'colgate' as it can, at times mean 'go hang yourself' which is not the kind of name that you want to have associated with any kind of product. However, there are some that will argue it does not actually mean this and it is all a rather big mistake, but a number of experts are pretty adamant that this brand of toothpaste is effectively telling people to go kill themselves.

The good news for the company is, that people are not exactly taking it literally and the brand is still the top-selling toothpaste in a number of countries across Latin America in particular. You could argue that it has given them a significant boost when it comes to general awareness that they exist, so perhaps it is good publicity after all?

Why Did Pirates Love Earrings So Much?

Why do pirates love earrings so much? If you pay close attention to them then you will see that they do have a tendency to wear earrings, but surely they were not doing it just because they loved it as a fashion accessory? Of course not, but then it does beg the question as to why they wore them and it seems that there are several theories that are being banded around.

The first theory is that it meant they were always able to pay for their burial as their earrings would be in either silver or gold and both were accepted forms of currency. Also, during the centuries where piracy was rife, the act of wearing earrings was regarded as being a sign of rebellion. There were actually a number of locations where ‘common people’ were banned from wearing any jewelry in public so the fact that they then went ahead and did so showed what they thought of the rules and laws of the time.

Finally, there are some who argue that the wearing of earrings was not as common as we like to think. They argue that it was down to a drawing in the 19th century where a pirate was depicted and the idea of them wearing earrings just grew and developed.

So, which theory do you prefer?

So That's How to Kill a Cockroach

The cockroach has a reputation for being impossible to kill, but that in itself is not exactly true. Instead, there is one way that is going to work for them, but it is not going to be fast in any way at all.

Now, while you may initially think that cutting off its head would do the job, then you might want to know that the brain of the cockroach is in its body, so it will keep on living for several weeks even without their head. However, they would eventually die as a result of this wound, but not for the reason that you would expect.

It turns out that the cockroach would starve to death rather than it being killed due to it being decapitated. Yes, while the chopping of the head does not work, it all boils down to them being unable to eat just like any other insect or animal out there.

The Long-Distance Hamster

A hamster is pretty cute, and that ability to be cute goes up even higher when you see it on its wheel running for its absolute life. You probably sit there and stare at it and are amazed at how fast it can go, but what about the distance that it can travel?

Well, on average, your small and furry friend is going to end up running the equivalent of eight miles on that wheel in a single night. Just think about that huge distance for a moment which is then made even more impressive when you factor in the overall size of your hamster. This small animal is running such an impressive distance that we would need to run several times that distance for our own equivalent and to do so night after night.

So, there is clearly more to your hamster than just being cute as this is one lean and mean running machine that should be admired for what it is capable of doing while we are asleep.

Stop Drooling!!

We all produce saliva without any exceptions, but how much of it do you think you are going to produce throughout your life? Considering the apparently small amounts of the stuff at any given time, you would be forgiven for thinking that it would not add up to much, but you would be wrong.

Instead, the average person is going to create enough saliva to fill two Olympic sized swimming pools. Not one, which would be impressive in its own right, but two of them and no matter the way in which you look at it, that is a lot of saliva.

Of course it all serves a purpose, so it's not as if we are producing it just to give that part of our body something to do. However, you would like to think that our body knows exactly what it is doing with the need to produce so much of it throughout your life.

Getting Around the Equator

The equator is at the heart of a number of different facts, and this one is no different. If you take the length of the equator and imagine people holding hands together, how many hands do you think it would take in order to stretch all the way around the equator?

The answer is not exactly set in stone, and it does involve taking an average size person, but the answer to the question is 33 million people. That does sound like a lot, but then it does mean only a tenth of the population of the United States would be required and they could then go all the way around the world. You must admit that this is pretty impressive stuff.

The Blood-Soaked Temples

When it comes to a country with ornate temples, then you would be hard-pressed to find a country that could beat Japan in that category. However, even with their turbulent past, you are going to still be amazed at a series of five temples in the city of Kyoto, as they have something that is certainly different from anything else that you have seen before.

If you venture into any of this group of five temples, then you should spend some time looking at the ceiling. If you were expecting to see something that is ornate and highly decorative, then think again. Instead, what you will see are ceilings that are covered in bloodstains, which is hardly the kind of thing you would have never thought of encountering.

However, it turns out that the blood that you see on the ceiling, along with footprints as well, is because of the board on the ceiling being reused from a castle where some Japanese warriors were killed in a battle with the enemy. In other words, you are looking at their blood and it is a sign of a deadlier time at a castle nearby. So, it is as gruesome as you were expecting.

Is That Why it's Called Donkey Kong?

When it comes to classic arcade games, you have to admit that Donkey Kong is right up there with those that are still held in such high regard even decades after they were created. However, have you ever thought about why it is called Donkey Kong when it has an ape as the main character? You have to admit that it does sound rather strange to say the least.

Well, it turns out that it is all thanks to a misunderstanding or, to be more accurate, a mistranslation. According to those in the know, the creator of the game, who was not American or even speaking English as his first language, thought that the word 'donkey' actually meant 'stupid.' He had this idea of the main character being referred to as being a stupid ape.

First, you must be sitting there wondering why he wanted the ape to be seen as being stupid to begin with, but to then go ahead and make that mistake and for nobody to correct him is just absolute madness. However, could you now ever imagine the game being called anything else?

They Think They are a Cow

When it comes to different conditions that us humans can suffer from, this one has to go down as being one of the strangest on record. You see, there is a medical condition known as Boanthropy and if you were just going by the name alone, then you might believe that it does not sound as if it would be too bad.

However, it is certainly a lot different than you are perhaps going to expect.

This is a psychological disorder, and individuals that suffer from it believe that they are indeed a cow. Not only that, but they want to then live their life as if they were a cow and you can only imagine how difficult that would prove to be for them. They literally do feel the need to act as if they were a cow and it is difficult to stop them. However, they can break through this disorder and come out of the other side, but it is a prime example of the way in which the human mind can play so many tricks on us.

Why is there a Hole in a BIC Pen?

There is a pretty good chance that you will have used a BIC pen at some point in your life, and if you have one nearby just now, then you might want to pick it up and check it out. If you look closely then you will see that there is a small hole in the side of the pen, and why do you think they have included a hole in the design of the pen?

It turns out that the hole, and there are actually two of them, need to be in the pen as they allow the pressure to be the same both inside and outside of the pen which then, in turn, basically means that it is then able to work. If the pressure was different, then the ink would find it harder to flow to the nib of the pen and you would then be cursing that your BIC pen had all dried up even though it clearly had ink left in it.

So, a simple explanation for such a small thing and yet it plays such an important role that it should never be overlooked at any point.

George Clooney and South Park

George Clooney is one of the most popular, and famous, actors in the entire world, and yet a number of people are unaware of a rather small part that he has had during his career. Actually, it is a part that you would just not link with him and yet it is right there on his resume.

It turns out that this actor with the smooth voice once played a voice role in the hit cartoon show South Park. Not only that but he played the role of a gay dog by the name of Sparky which is just not the kind of thing that you would generally associate with Clooney. However, it just shows that some actors are willing to try out pretty much anything during their career.

They Love a Big Statue

A statue can be pretty cool, but there is one fact about them that stands out from the crowd and it is all to do with the size. It seems that there is one recurring theme that is extremely popular when it comes to creating the ten largest statues in the world and can you guess what that theme is?

The answer is that eight of the ten largest statues in the world are of Buddha in various seated positions. Of course, they are found in different locations around the likes of Thailand and other South East Asian countries where Buddhism is the predominant religion, but they really do appear to take things to a whole new level by insisting on creating these amazing statues.

How Long Did It Take Rubik to Solve His Puzzle?

The Rubik's Cube has to be one of the most famous puzzles to have ever been invented leading to numerous attempts to solve it in the shortest time possible. It was the creation of Erno Rubik who sat down and personally worked out all of the different options and possibilities for the cube. So, with that in mind, you would think that as he must have known the answer that it would have led to him being the best at solving it, well that's not actually correct.

Instead, it is known that after initially creating the puzzle, it took Erno Rubik one month to get to the point where he had actually been able to solve it. Now, if that sounds as if it is a long time then it is, but just to make matters worse we can look at what the current world record is for solving the Rubik's Cube. Currently it stands at just over 5 seconds, which is seriously impressive and it kind of puts what Rubik himself was able to do into some kind of perspective.

Getting High on Honey

Honey is pretty cool, and it can clearly be used in a number of different ways as well as it being known to have a variety of health-related properties attached to it. That being said, there is one type of honey in the world that is completely different from what you would ever expect to find.

The honey in question is created by the Himalayan honey-bee, which just so happens to be the biggest honey-bee in the world. However, that is not the reason as to why their honey is seen as being different from anything else. Instead, it is because their honey contains hallucinogenic properties which makes it pretty valuable to tribes that live in and around the area. Men from the tribes will spend the entire day trying to collect this honey just because of what it does to their mind. It is also regarded as being a useful tool for religious and ritualistic purposes.

Of course, it would also be useful if you just wanted to have a mind-blowing experience. Who would have ever thought that it would be possible to do this via eating honey.

The Dutch Know How to Bury You

When it comes to your funeral, most people realize that they will have family and friends there to mourn their passing and everything will be organized in such a way that it should all go off without a hitch. However, what happens if you have nobody or if you die in a strange place and nobody is there to claim your body?

Apart from it being a sad situation to find yourself in, there is some comfort if you just so happen to be in Amsterdam when that very thing happens. According to a range of sources, if you are indeed alone and die, then a poet based in the city will write something unique for you and then at the burial ceremony that is carried out by the city, the same poet will appear and read it out on your behalf.

At least that way they are making sure that people are getting a good send-off even when nobody even knew their name.

Why is Your Shirt Collar So Dirty?

Nowadays, we have a habit of just throwing anything into the wash whenever we feel like it as we have all of the machinery that allows us to do just that. However, in the past it was an expensive thing to wash your clothes which is why they came up with a rather clever way of dealing with shirts in order to save money.

With a shirt, the collar is always going to be the one area that is exposed to the biggest amount of dirt. As a result, the collar looks filthy way before any other parts of the shirt, so when washing your clothes was expensive, it was decided that it would be a waste of time, and money, to launder the entire shirt every single time the collar was dirty.

So, what did they do?

They decided that the collars of the shirts should all be able to be taken off all on their own. By doing this, it meant that the collar could be washed by itself and save you washing the rest of the shirt when it was certainly still able to be worn. It cut time and also saved money while people were still able to look clean, which was always very important to them. However, when washing your clothes became less expensive, the collar found itself being attached to the shirt once more.

A Double Ice Death

One of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the modern era has to be the iceman called Otzi. Found in the Alps, it turns out that this was a discovery that showed an ancient murder rather than just somebody that had got lost in the wilderness and unfortunately died.

As his body is found close to the border of Italy and Austria, there has also been some debate as to who actually owns his remains, but this international battle is not the rather intriguing fact that we would like to mention here.

Instead, it is more to do with the man that found the body of Otzi back in 1991 where his remains were seen to be emerging from the ice. In a strange twist of fate, the man that found him, called Helmut Simon was also found dead on the ice in 2004. Of course, when you enjoy walking in the Alps in the winter then there is always the chance that this could happen to you, but at the same time you have to admit that it is a strange twist to an already strange story that Simon would end up in the same kind of conditions as his famous discovery.

I've Found Me!

Whenever an individual goes missing, it is common for there to be a search party created in the local area and for people to come together in order to hopefully find the person in question. It can be a scary time since you never know what you might end up finding, and that can just make a number of people nervous.

However, one search party for a missing woman in Iceland in 2014 had a twist attached to it that you could never have ever imagined could happen.

Word had gone out that a woman was missing on the island and considering how wild the weather can be it made sense for them to get things arranged as quickly as possible and see if she could be located. Groups of people were brought together and a plan was created for who would search in which area.

However, the search was then called off very early on as there was a rather surprising success with the search. It turns out that the woman they were looking for was in the search party and suddenly realized that everybody was really looking for her. It is unknown as to how long people were looking until it all started to make sense to her, but you just know that both she and the search party felt rather silly at what had transpired.

I'm Feeling Lucky is Not Lucky for Google

Have you ever used the 'I'm feeling lucky' option when you navigate to the Google search page? If so, then you will be familiar with the way in which you just never know what is going to appear on your screen, but there is something behind the technology that means it is not regarded as being a lucky option for Google.

It turns out that having this feature on their search engine actually costs Google in the region of \$110 million per year. The reason? Using this option means that you bypass the keyword specific advertising which is where Google makes its money.

However, you would like to think that as Google makes so much money that this is just a drop in the ocean for them and they certainly do not have any intention of cutting it from their search page.

Why Do Pizza Bases Have Indents?

If you take some time to study the bottom of a pizza, and who has never done that before, then you will notice that there are some indents across the base. Now, if you thought that this was due to some part of the manufacturing process or is done for the sake of some design feature, then you would be wrong on both counts.

Instead, those small indents are there for a very important reason, which is that they are intended to stop air bubbles from appearing in the dough which would then lead to your pizza just not coming up to the standards that you would expect. Actually, if air bubbles appeared during the cooking process, then it would be ruined beyond any comprehension.

So, just be grateful that they are there simply because you would hate it if they weren't.

Why is it Called Footage?

You have heard of the term ‘movie footage’ or footage being used in a video sense? Do you know why it is referred to as footage in the first place? If you were under the impression that it would be some complicated movie terminology that is difficult to understand or comprehend, then think again. Instead, the actual answer is far more apparent than you would have initially thought.

The actual reason why it is referred to as footage is simply because of the early days in film when the reel of film itself was measured in feet. Yes, it is all to do with a simple measurement and people then spoke in terms of recording footage since they were using up a certain actual measurement of tape.

Even though the way in which things are recorded has now changed due to differences in technology, it seems that this is something that has just stuck because you can hardly imagine referring to it as anything else now.

A Black Albino Animal?

The idea of an albino animal is well known, especially when it involves an animal that is just not meant to be white in any way at all. However, even though an albino is something that we have all heard of, few people are aware that there is an opposite to it when it comes to the animal kingdom.

What we are talking about is that there are animals that end up being completely black when that should not be the case. It, too, is caused by a genetic malfunction, and it is certainly much rarer than the albino type that you just see appearing every now and again in nature. Also, it is known as a melanistic animal, so if you spot something that is black in color and you are confused about it, then that may very well be the reason why.

South Africa and Table Mountain

Whatever your preconceived notions are about South Africa, some of the most well-known facts are that South Africa is often a dangerous place to live. Loads of newspaper articles will point out how chancy it is, however, despite the danger, Cape Town has been voted one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Holidaymakers flock there all year round to enjoy the great weather and even better food.

It is interesting to note that amongst these weird facts, South Africa, being a 3rd World country has been rated as having *the best drinking water in the world*. Well, that would be 2nd or 3rd on some fact lists. Not only does it rate as best tasting water, but also safest to drink.

It seems that despite the dangerous warnings and often negative press South Africa has been the only country to shut down any further nuclear weapons building, believing that nuclear weapons are unfair and unethical.

This country is so vast and varied it boasts not only deserts, but wetlands akin to the rainforests, mountains, and drylands as well as subtropical forests. So, you'd never be bored with the scenery.

If you refer to the country as 'South Africa' you'd actually be wrong. The correct name for this beautiful country is the Republic of South Africa, or RSA for short.

One of the oldest mountains in the world is found here. Can you guess which mountain it is? If you guessed Table Mountain, in Cape Town, you'd be

right. Often a soft formation of cloud sits atop Table Mountain, which locals call the 'table cloth'!

Famous for its wine and fresh water perhaps you didn't know that the Republic of South Africa is also very famous for its high-quality beer, supplying countries worldwide.

Rich in luscious and varied vegetation the RSA is home to over 7 million types of trees, which renders it as having one of the largest man-made forests on earth. South Africans are keen on planting trees and do so for any reason from celebrating events to marking times in history. Perhaps other countries should take a leaf out of their book, excuse the pun!

Your Tongue is More Than Just a Tongue

If you had to hazard a guess at which is the strongest muscle in the body, would you have guessed your tongue?

Probably not! The tongue, which is rich in muscle is in reality not the strongest muscle but a group of muscles that intertwine making the tongue as a whole one of the strongest muscles in the human body. This makes sense when we consider all the talking, chewing and licking we do in a day.

When we go on a diet the last thing we think about it measuring or weighing our tongue. Also both might prove difficult! However, the tongue like the body puts on weight. So a heftier person has a fatter tongue!

Tongues can be great indicators of general health or health issues. It's common knowledge that yeast infections can show up on the tongues surface quite quickly. Also, more rarely known is that a red tongue can signify a vitamin B12 deficiency for example. Perhaps this is why Doctors tell us to stick out our tongues. Good tongue hygiene also can prove to aid the entire body too.

Every tongue is completely unique and can in fact serve to identify a person much like a fingerprint. One would imagine though that asking people to lick ink and stick it on paper would be a messy and rather distasteful business, so fingerprinting is probably the best way to go!

Strange Facts about Goldfish

After reading this perhaps you will look at your goldfish with new eyes, particularly when you realize he or she really looks at you with new eyes. The human eye can only see three colors and variations of these, a goldfish can see four! The fourth color is an ultraviolet color and this helps him find food as well as detect motion in the water. It's a pity about his eye placement though, because his eyes are placed either side of his head he suffers a massive blind spot in the middle.

The good news is your goldfish knows who you are and recognizes you. So, if at times you feel like a hand that simply feeds him, take heart, he actually knows who cares for him.

One sad myth is that goldfish have a 3-second memory and this has led many people into believing they need smaller bowls or tanks simply because by the time they swim around it, they have forgotten what they last saw so each moment is brand new. In fact, goldfish have outstanding memories as proved by an experiment in Israel. The scientists trained the goldfish to respond to a dinner bell and found that the fish had remembered the bell five months later! Now that is some memory, even better than some people you know, you might say.

Goldfish will eat anything so long as it fits into their mouths, so be mindful of that when placing smaller fish near to them. Their taste-buds are situated on their lips and their teeth are further down their throat, which enables them to gulp what looks like large objects and not choke to death from lack of breath. This could also be a warning as to what to feed your goldfish, because

a goldfish will happily eat anything.

If you think a goldfish is a second-rate pet, think again, you can teach your goldfish to do tricks. All sorts of tricks including playing soccer. All you have to do is give him treats!

How Long Would It Take to Beat Bill Gates?

Who doesn't want to end up with as much money as Bill Gates? Being the richest man in the world is pretty impressive stuff and it is believed that he has somewhere in the region of \$80 billion to his name. However, how long would it take you to be able to overtake him as the richest person in the world if you were able to earn \$1 a second?

The answer is that it would take you over 2,000 years, which is going to be a bit too long for you to see the end result of your attempt. It also shows you just how much money he has to his name and just how difficult it is for anybody to beat him. Perhaps you would just need to settle on less money even though it's tough to earn \$1 a second and to do so every second of the day.

Being Addicted to Facebook

Can you be addicted to Facebook? The short answer is yes even though there are a number of people that just do not believe that this can be the case. However, it seems that even psychologists are getting in on the act as they are pushing for the concept of addiction to Facebook to be recognized by more individuals in their field.

In fact, some psychologists have now referred to it as Facebook Addiction Disorder where individuals are just unable to stop checking their page or interacting with people via the social media website. They also insist on posting absolutely everything on there and it gets to the point that it dictates their entire life due to them insisting on posting on there.

The cure is along the same lines as any form of addiction. It is all about breaking that chain of thought and dealing with the anxiety that comes when they are unable to get onto Facebook and check out what is happening. Clearly, this is a term that is going to end up spreading far and wide and not just including Facebook as we rely more and more on social media.

Why are Bananas Curved?

Have you ever taken the time to contemplate just why bananas are indeed curved? Is it because of some issue with their genes that make them do this? Is it because that is just the way that they are intended to be in the same way as a pear is in the shape of a pear?

The answer is no to both of those options as it is a lot easier to understand than you may have initially expected. The real answer is because the banana grows towards the sun, but it doesn't start out pointing in that direction. Instead, it starts growing slightly away from the sun and just like plants will lean in a particular direction to get the best light, the same can be said for the banana.

In other words, it has to do with nature, but not what you anticipated and the humble banana just wants the maximum amount of light to help it grow to the best of its ability.

Just Throw That Body Away

The frisbee is a simple piece of fun, and yet it did mean that its inventor ended up with quite a good life thanks to this little bit of fun that he had created. However, it was after he died that things started to get a bit strange.

The man in question was Edward Headrick, and in the weeks leading up to his death he made it very clear as to what his wishes were when it came to dealing with his body. First, he wanted to be cremated rather than being buried, but it's the reason as to why being cremated was so important that makes this story rather different.

You see, after he was cremated, he wanted his ashes to be made into some limited edition frisbees that would then be given out to people. In other words, you could get this frisbee and start throwing it around knowing full well that his ashes were pressed into it.

Some would say that this is a funny thing to do while others believe that it is rather macabre and how could he force himself onto others in that manner. No matter which one you feel is right, there's no doubt that he made sure that people knew what he had managed to achieve when alive.

Why is a Trailer Called a Trailer?

We are all very familiar with the concept of the movie trailer, but are you aware as to why it is referred to as a trailer as opposed to any other term?

In order to answer this, we have to go back in time to the earlier days of people going to the cinema because the way in which they ordered things was different than what we experience today. Previously, trailers were clips of other movies that people could see that would be played at the end of the main feature. This is clearly the opposite to what we now experience as we are shown them before the main movie even begins but then it makes sense why they were called trailers when you hear about the order.

So, even though we have moved things around, people were so used to them being known by this name that it did end up sticking. Could you ever imagine referring to it by anything else anyway?

Watch Out for the Dangerous Selfie

Taking a selfie is now a common event, but are you aware of just how dangerous it can be? It turns out that taking a selfie causes more deaths per year than sharks, and who would have ever thought that this could be the case?

In 2015, there were a reported 8 deaths around the world from shark attacks, and yet a staggering 49 deaths from people taking selfies. The majority of them were in India and then Russia and it has all been connected to people trying to push the boundaries when it comes to the locations where they are taking the selfie. This has led to most of the deaths happening as a result of people falling to their death although there were also four deaths related to gunshots which is even more bizarre that you would even think about taking a selfie under those conditions.

So, if you are ever thinking about whether or not you should take a selfie, just stop and ask yourself what a shark would do in the same situation in order to get your answer.

Is There Anything Strange About this Sentence?

While this may not exactly be a fact in the true sense of the word, it is still something rather cool and peculiar that will stop you in your tracks as you try to figure it out.

Take a look at this sentence. 'Do geese see god?'

Now, pay close attention to it because there is something different, even if you are finding it hard to spot, because this one sentence contains a twist to what you would expect. The clue is in the letters because if you look at it, the phrase can also be repeated backwards and it will still say the exact same.

Suddenly, it is all going to make sense to you, but it is still worth trying it out on people you know to see if they are able to spot it as well.

The French and Surrender

There is somewhat of a running joke that the French and surrendering go together like cheese and wine, or anything else that is a perfect match. It seems that their own language does not help when it comes to trying to put across a different perspective.

According to linguistic experts, the French language has a staggering 17 different words or phrases that, when translated, basically means to surrender. This just feels like the Eskimo having a number of words to describe snow, but you can see why it is unable to contradict the ideas and theories that people have surrounding the French and giving up on things far too easily.

Of course, they do not use all 17 different terms, and you could look at your own language and find that there are variations of sayings, certain terms or words, so this is no different.

The Ice in Antarctica and Penguins

Penguins are cool, but there is one fact about them that might surprise you and it is all to do with Antarctica. Everybody knows that Antarctica is made up of ice and glaciers, but it seems that all of that ice is not the direct result of nature, at least not in the sense that you would have perhaps been expecting.

Instead, it has been estimated by scientists that approximately 3% of the ice that exists in Antarctica is actually made up of penguin urine. To be honest, it does make some kind of sense when you consider the huge number of penguins that are on the continent and they need to pee somewhere. Also, it's cold so all of that liquid is indeed going to freeze up, but it then gives you some kind of an idea as to how many penguins have existed in Antarctica, if they have been able to have such a profound impact on the actual geography.

Hewlett-Packard and its Name

When it comes to various computer related devices, then Hewlett-Packard has to be one of the most famous company names out there. However, even though you may have already guessed most of how it got its name, there is one aspect that you may have overlooked or been unaware of, until now.

The name is clearly derived from the two guys that founded the company, Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard and they opted for using their surnames in order to create the overall name for the company.

But then, it gets you thinking as to how they decided on whose name would go first and there are probably a number of reasons or options that come into your mind as to how this would all be resolved. Maybe one did most of the work? Perhaps one was more the money person so it was decided that they would go first?

Well, it turns out that they were equal in every possible standing, so the reason why it is called Hewlett-Packard and not Packard-Hewlett comes down to a simple coin toss. They had two options and came to the conclusion that the best course of action to take when deciding what to do was just to flip a coin and leave it all up to chance.

You have to admit that it would now feel uncomfortable calling it anything else.

What Time Did the Earliest Alarm Clock Ring at?

The alarm clock is the bane of our life as it wakes us up from a peaceful slumber and reminds us that the day is starting and we better get out of bed. However, the modern-day alarm clock is certainly far more flexible in what it can do when compared to the earliest version that was invented.

Instead, this version designed in 1787 in New Hampshire in the United States was certainly very different and rather restrictive in what it was able to do. The alarm clock in question was invented by a man called Levi Hutchins and it turns out that his mechanical clock was only able to ring its alarm at 4am, and nothing else.

The reason for this was because he was still getting to grips with the entire mechanism and 4am was the time that he had to get up at in order to do his work. Thankfully we have since been able to resolve this issue or else there would really be no point whatsoever in owning an alarm clock if it could only work at this time.

Don't Die in Parliament

The Houses of Parliament in London are famous around the world, but there is some confusion as to whether or not it is legal for you to die within the confines of the buildings. However, the truth is that this is generally put down to a misunderstanding within the law.

While it is illegal for you to wear any armor, or to come armed, into Parliament, it seems that the confusion as to whether or not you can legally die there is because of the status of the Houses of Parliament.

The problem is that they are seen as being a Royal Palace. The reason why they do not want anybody to die within the building is because there is a law that states any individual that dies within the confines of a royal palace is entitled to a state funeral. Now, a state funeral is a large and costly affair, so they wanted to avoid the potential of that happening which ultimately led to the creation of this idea that it was illegal to die there.

So, while it is not against the law, it is certainly frowned upon by many, but then very few are even aware of the prospect of a state funeral or perhaps more individuals would try to time it better just for that fact alone.

Bugs Bunny and Carrots

We all know that Bugs Bunny loves his carrots, but did you know that the man behind his voice was not as keen on eating them as his famous cartoon buddy? There are stories that Mel Blanc was allergic to carrots, but that is not actually true. However, he did have a personal distaste for them and found them difficult to chew and then swallow, and yet he could hardly avoid them due to the nature of his work.

So, considering he had to sound like he was munching on a carrot and talking with a mouth full of the orange vegetable, it did mean he had to eat them during his voiceover. However, he would get to the point where he would spit them out, partly due to being fed up with actually eating them in the first place.

Perhaps he would have preferred for Bugs Bunny to have enjoyed eating something else instead?

George W. Bush and the Cheerleader

When it comes to people that were a cheerleader, it is perhaps fair to say that George W. Bush would not be one of those people that you would put at the top of your list. However, you would be wrong in doing so, and in actual fact he went even further with this cheerleader aspect than you perhaps could have ever imagined.

You see, not only was he the 43rd President of the United States and a cheerleader during his school days, but he was actually the head cheerleader. Apparently it was something that he was pretty good at, and he was also proud of doing it. Also, he continued to be one even when he ended up at Yale, so it was part of his life for a number of years.

Thankfully, he did give it up when he ventured into the White House. That would have been a sight for sore eyes if the President of the United States introduced things via a cheerleader routine.

Watch Out for the Toilet

To be honest, going to the toilet should hardly be a traumatic experience for us since we do it a number of times each day and kind of get used to how everything works. However, it seems that things do not go as smoothly as they perhaps should for a number of people across the United States.

Instead, it is believed that as many as 40,000 people are injured each year as a direct result of injuries related to the toilet. The list of ways in which they are able to hurt themselves is pretty extensive and you just know that there will be one or two rather strange and bizarre reasons, as well.

Humans are Rare

OK, so we all know that us humans are pretty cool with the range of things that we are capable of doing, but are you aware of just how rare we are when it comes to certain things?

Take laughter as an example. Out of all of the different species of animals that exist in the world, us humans are one of only three species in existence that have the ability to laugh. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the chimpanzee is another of the three species, thanks to us being related to them. The third and final option is the rat.

Quite why this is the case is something that science has not yet managed to unpick. At the same time, it is impressive that we can laugh at animals knowing full well that they are unable to do the same in return when they spot us doing something crazy or stupid.

We Hear the Difference Between Water

According to science, humans are able to distinguish the difference between hot and cold water being poured. Now, while that may sound like a piece of useless information. It has been shown that it is important for the sake of advertising so, whenever you see an advert with tea or coffee being poured and there is the sound of water, they really do use hot water for that moment.

It is all to do with the frequency at which the sounds resonate within our hearing, and if you pay close attention to it in a quiet room and carry out a few experiments, then you will understand exactly what we mean. The difference is rather subtle, but it does exist and this is just another rather quirky thing that us humans appear to be capable of doing.

The Party for a Time-Traveller

The theory that we would be able to travel through time has intrigued people for an eternity. It seems that the eminent British physicist, Stephen Hawking, decided to conduct an experiment just to show that we are not quite there yet in our ability to travel in this manner.

Several years ago, Hawking decided that he would throw a party and that the only people that were able to go ahead and attend, aside from himself, would be those individuals that could travel through time. In order to show that this is not possible, he only announced the party the day after it happened since the theory was that only people that could travel backwards would then be able to attend.

You must admit that it was a clever idea, but then it is also not that surprising to hear that nobody then turned up therefore proving his theory to be correct.

That's One Way to Get it Back

Police in Mumbai, India had a rather novel approach to dealing with a thief who was caught stealing a gold chain. Before he could be arrested, he swallowed the chain in the hope that this would then mean there was no evidence and he would be allowed to go free.

However, it turns out that the police had other ideas as they were determined to get that chain back and then charge him with theft.

As a result, they force-fed the thief a total of 48 bananas and then just waited around until they did their trick and forced him to go to the toilet. Ultimately, it led to the gold chain making another appearance, and upon doing so the thief was swiftly arrested and charged.

Now, that is some clever police work.

What Kills Over 2,000 Children Per Day?

The death of any child is horrible, especially when it can be so easily avoided in most cases. However, what do you think is responsible for the death of over 2000 children each and every single day equating to over 750,000 over the course of a year?

You probably think about malaria or even AIDS, but you may be surprised to hear that it is something that we all suffer from at some point in our life, diarrhea.

Yep, diarrhea is the cause of all of those deaths, and it means that on a daily basis it kills more children than measles, malaria and AIDS combined, which is rather scary in itself. The sad part is that it is caused by poor hygiene or sanitation, which is something that can be fixed and would then lead to all of these children being saved and able to go on to live a normal and happy life.

All of Hitler's Family were Not Bad

Hitler has a pretty bad name, and understandably so, because of what he managed to do throughout his life. However, not all of his family was bad and one person in particular managed to go completely against his infamous relative.

The relative in question was the nephew of Hitler who went by the name William Patrick Hitler who eventually changed his surname to Stuart-Houston. His father was Alois Hitler, the brother of the more famous member of the family, and William was actually born in Liverpool, England.

He did live in Germany for some time, but then emigrated to the United States in 1939 after his attempts to blackmail his uncle failed to work out. However, he was also apparently firmly against the Nazi idea. It is known that he then signed up to fight in the United States Navy and the surprising thing was that his surname at the time was still Hitler. He was ultimately awarded the Purple Heart for being wounded in action and then settled down for a relatively quiet life after the death of his uncle and the end of the war.

So, just remember that even though Adolf Hitler certainly did his best to blacken the name of the family, that there were still good people out there that just had the misfortune of being related to him.

A Feathery Dinosaur?

When you think of the skin of a dinosaur, what do you think? The chances are you will immediately think of scaled and a skin that pretty much resembles that of the modern-day alligator. Well, even though you will be right in a number of cases, it is not always true that all dinosaurs had the same kind of skin.

In fact, fossils have been discovered that shows a range of dinosaurs were actually covered in feathers just like our birds of today. These fossils have been found preserved in amber, so a substantial amount of detail has been recovered. It also showed that they would have often been rather colorful and not dull like a crocodile.

You have to admit that the idea of a feathery dinosaur does manage to bring down the ferocity associated with them and they are just not that scary. Well, until you physically come across one on your own.

A Pawn is Not Just a Pawn

The game of chess is enjoyed by millions of people around the world, and you will perhaps be familiar with the various pieces that are placed on the board. The most numerous is clearly the pawn, but did you know that each pawn used to have its own name when we go back in time?

The time we are talking about is the Middle Ages, and it was decided that each pawn should be given a name. Now, don't think for one second that they opted for names such as Derek or Linda because that was not the case.

Instead, they used titles referring to different jobs or industries at the time. That meant you had a pawn that was the agricultural worker, the farrier, an innkeeper, a businessman, and so on. The only problem was that the names just never really made it to the extent that they were hoping and they faded away into relative obscurity. By the end of it all, the pawns were just known as a pawn and nothing else.

What is the Oldest Joke in the World?

Jokes, we all love them even though some of us are better at telling them than others. However, do you know what qualifies as being the oldest joke in the world?

To get the answer, we need to go back to the absolute origins of writing, which means we are in the Middle East and the Ancient Sumerians. They are seen as really inventing writing, so we do have comments that have been translated and relate to daily living. It is within some of these writings that we get the oldest joke in the world, which means it is older than the Pyramids in Egypt.

So, what is this joke? Well, to be honest it probably sounded better in Sumerian and during that phase of history.

The approximate translation of the joke is as follows: “Something which has never occurred since time immemorial; a young woman did not fart in her husband’s lap.”

These Animals Can Drown

It makes sense that various animals can drown in the exact same way as humans. It may surprise you to find out that there are some species on this list that you would perhaps not have expected to find.

For example, would you think that a turtle or an alligator could drown? How about a dolphin? A whale? Perhaps a water snake?

Well, they can all still drown and die if they are kept underwater for long enough, which is why they do need to keep on coming up to the surface even if it is just for a few seconds at a time. Of course, the same rule does not apply to fish in general. However, all of the animal species mentioned above have a distinct need to come up to the surface or they will end up in the exact same kind of trouble as we would in the same situation.

This is Not Good For A Spider Phobia

If you hate spiders and have a phobia surrounding them, then you might want to look away now.

Studies have shown that if you venture out into green areas that it is then believed that in every acre of land there are somewhere in the region of 50,000 spiders. However, even though that does sound like a lot, it's important to remember that the absolute vast majority of them are extremely small. We are not talking about 50,000 tarantulas as that would just be insane.

The reason why there are so many is simply because of the sheer number of insects that are constantly flying around these green areas, so they are undoubtedly going to attract spiders since they feed off them. Of course, this is only a rough estimate as people have not exactly spent time counting and tagging every single spider to make sure that they have not double-counted them, but even if the true number is half of that, then it is still pretty high.

What Does the X Mean in Xbox?

The Xbox has been quite a success for Microsoft since its launch, but have you ever stopped to think as to what the X part means in Xbox?

If you were under the impression that it stood for something cool, then you might be disappointed, to hear that it stands for something a bit more technical and mundane instead. In actual fact, the X part is there to represent the DirectX software that Microsoft uses in order to run the graphics on the console via the Operating System. To be honest, it just seems to work as it would feel strange calling it the Pbox or anything else now.

That Famous Windows Backdrop

When it comes to backgrounds that have appeared on a PC, then the one with the blue sky has to be the most famous of all. It is also seen as being the most widely used background. That is because it takes into an account of people loving it as well as being too lazy to change it to something that they may even prefer.

However, the photograph itself is taken from a real place and is not simply a computer-generated graphic. It was taken in 1996 and the location is in Sonoma County, California. It seems that their intention was never to create something that would, in its own right, become iconic as it was just an image to offer as an option when it came to the background. However, people took to it thanks to its brightness without being too in your face, and it was then able to hang around for a considerable period of time.

What is the Hottest Planet in the Solar System?

The different planets that form our solar system all have various temperatures, but there is more to it than how close they are to the sun. If that was indeed the only contributing factor, then Mercury would be the hottest planet due to its proximity to the sun, but it's not.

Instead, it is Venus that has been shown to be the hottest planet, and it is all to do with the various gases that make up a huge part of the planet.

Ultimately, these gasses that are in the atmosphere surrounding Venus create what is basically its own version of the Greenhouse Effect, so it has less protection from the solar power from the sun, leading to warmer temperatures on the surface than any other planet out there.

What is the Highest Mountain Known to Mankind?

What do you think is the highest mountain known to mankind? To be fair, most people would jump for Mt Everest, but if you just did that, then you would be wrong.

Instead, the highest mountain that we know of is not even on planet Earth. Instead, we need to take a trip to Mars in order to find what we are talking about, because on that planet we have something known as the Olympus Mons.

The Olympus Mons has been measured by scientists to be a staggering 15 miles high, which is approximately 25km high, and that means it is three times the height of Everest. In other words, Everest is nothing more than a molehill to this huge mountain.

Well, That is Annoying

You would imagine that trying to beat some kind of world record would be amazing but spare a thought for a British guy by the name of David Jones.

Back in 2010, he visited South Africa to set a new world record living in a room with 40 deadly snakes and stayed there for 121 days in order to set that record. This meant he sat there, would eat there, stay clean in there, and even sleep there with them although he did have people watching over him in case a snake got too close while he was asleep. The other amazing thing is that he had never even handled a snake before he got into this room with them, and he was sharing this room with some of the deadliest snakes in the entire world.

By the end of it, he had beaten the record by over 8 days, but it seems that there was a mistake and the Guinness world record authority failed to recognize his amazing feat. Now, considering he could have been bitten and died as a result, it has to count as one of the most annoying things to have ever happened to a human being, that you risked your life for months for no reason whatsoever.

When was the First 3D Film Created?

You would like to think that the concept of the 3D movie was relatively new, but you would be wrong.

Instead, to find the first 3D film that was ever created we need to go all the way back to 1922. Yes, that's right 1922. The movie in question was called 'The Power of Love.' Even though it was not up to the more modern-day standards of 3D movies, it was certainly a pioneer within this particular field.

The way in which it worked was that there were two possible endings, and you decided on the ending by closing one eye. The variation depended on the eye that you closed so it was technically in 3D but, as you can imagine it was different to how we view it today. Unfortunately, there are only reports of the film as there is no footage left, but it would have been rather intriguing to check it out.

Where Does the Term Quarantine Come From?

Something going into quarantine is a term that we are mainly all familiar with, but the word in itself is rather strange. Also, who decided what quarantine would mean?

Well, as with every word there has to be an origin, and it is believed in this instance, that the word stems from Italian. The word that may very well be the starting block is Quaranta Giorni and it refers back to a time where there was real concern about the Black Death getting into Europe.

In order to try to stop it from getting off ships that were sailing into Venice, the ships were ordered to stay out at sea for a total of 40 days. Which was seen as being enough time for it to be determined if the ship and the people on there were safe to be allowed to come ashore. That is why the term quaranta giorni is used as it translates as 40 days.

Of course, we do not always put things into quarantine for 40 days but, the concept is still the same where something is stopped in its tracks until we believe it to be safe.

Those Burning Eyes in a Pool

How often have you been in a swimming pool and you feel as if your eyes are just on fire? You will have also come to the conclusion that it is connected to the chlorine in the water and that, in a way, pacifies how we feel about it.

Well, the scary part is that it may not even be the case that those burning and stinging eyes is due to the chlorine. Instead, there are some scientists that believe it is connected to uric acid, which is created by people peeing in the pool and it then reacting with the chlorine. So, yes, the next time you feel that sting just think about all of those individuals that have had to pee in the pool that have caused your eyes to burn and see if that somehow makes you feel better about everything.

There is a Fire Alarm for the Deaf

A fire alarm is clearly a very useful thing to have for safety reasons, but you have probably never thought about the impact that it would have on the deaf because, clearly they are going to be unable to hear it when there is danger. Well, the Japanese have come up with a pretty cool way for a fire alarm to alert those that are deaf, and it led to them winning all kinds of awards for their genius way of approaching a very real issue.

In the fire alarm for the deaf, the alarm releases Wasabi into the air, well it is Japanese, so the deaf person is then able to sense that there is a fire and they need to evacuate. You have to admit that this is a very different way of tackling the issue, but the most important thing of all is that it works and is capable of saving lives.

Raining Diamonds

What would you say if you were told that there is a place where it does indeed rain diamonds? The chances are that you would want to get there immediately to then gather up as many of them as you can, but that is not possible.

You see, the place we are talking about is Saturn, and the exact same phenomenon also happens on Jupiter, so it is slightly out of your reach. The reason why this happens is because of the huge amount of gravitational pressure that exists on the planets, that then drags carbon into the atmosphere. When you place carbon under insane pressure, then it does indeed form diamonds so, on a technical level at least, both of those planets are able to produce rain that is completely different to anything that we could ever hope to experience on our own planet.

You Did Have a Female Gladiator

When it comes to ancient Rome, then the gladiator was held in high regard and the top fighters were famous across civilization. Even today, there is something about them, thanks to various movies and TV shows that depict them in various lights.

However, in all of those shows or movies, they seem to miss out one thing that also existed and yet is almost completely missing from history, the female gladiator.

The female gladiator was known as a Gladiatrix, and her role was the exact same as her male counterparts. They were also held in high regard and they would be fighting one another as well as wild animals in order to entertain the crowds.

It is unknown as to why they exactly fell from grace or have had substantially less coverage. It was even seen by many as being a legend that they existed rather than being the truth. However, new research has shown that this is indeed true.

That Alligator is an Offensive Weapon

It seems that almost anything can be described as being an offensive weapon if you look hard enough. Take the case in 2016 of a man who was officially charged with assault with a deadly weapon after he had the idea of throwing an alligator through a window that was part of a Wendy's drive-thru. Quite why he decided to do this is still up for debate, but at the same time he was also charged with possession of an alligator.

Of course, we are not talking about a full-on adult alligator because he could hardly throw that any distance, but even still the next time you are thinking about using an alligator as a deadly weapon, then just remember that it is indeed against the law.

You Must Speak Russian to be an Astronaut

If you want to go into space and to become an astronaut with NASA, then you are advised to go ahead and start polishing up your Russian. The reason for that is quite simple. You must be able to have a conversation in Russian, and be pretty fluent, before you are ever going to be allowed to get to the International Space Station.

All NASA is doing is being extra cautious. Because even though all nationalities share the space station, there are certain parts that are classed as being the Russian part and other parts are the United States section. Speaking Russian is then required just in case something goes wrong near the Russian part and you are required to speak to Russian command in order to resolve the problem.

See, it does all make sense in the end.

Marrying the Dead in China

Up until relatively recently, there was a process in China whereby the dead would be married. This was all to do with the fear in Chinese culture of the dead being lonely in the afterlife, so they figured that the only way in which this could be counteracted was by going ahead and marrying the dead souls. This was seen as making sure that the dead were quite content, and presumably they would then leave us alone in this world.

However, even though the practice had been going on for generations, the Chinese government decided that it was a waste of time and made it illegal to conduct this service. Even though this is the case, you just know that there will be a number of places where the ritual still occurs because, do you want to take the risk of the dead being unhappy with you?

There are No Adverts on the BBC

Unless you are in the UK, you might not be aware that the BBC has no advertisements and it is unable to push any products or services. The reason for this is broadcast laws that go back to the point where the BBC was created.

They had the intention of making sure that they were completely unbiased in any way so it was made illegal for them to have any form of sponsorship. The idea was that the content would be unbiased so you could feel that you were able to trust everything that they were saying or doing in their programs and not wondering if they were going to be putting a certain slant on things just to appease some company that had given them money.

Instead, they are funded by the public paying a fee to have a television or else there is no way that they would be able to run as a corporation due to having no other form of income.

Where Does the Term ‘Bucks’ Stem from?

Using the term ‘bucks’ when it comes to US Dollars is something that we are all familiar with, but where do you think that the term comes from?

To answer that, we need to go back to the earliest days of the settlers because even though money was in circulation, skins were also regarded as being a currency of the day. Out of the skins, the deerskin was one of the more common varieties, and clearly the buck concept comes from this relation to the use of deerskin.

There is even a note from 1748 which states that 5 bucks were used in order to obtain some alcohol that had been distilled by the Native Americans. It seems that the term has since stuck, and it is certainly a pretty cool way to describe currency.

The Beatle Attacked by the Beetle

When it comes to iconic bands, then the Beatles have to be up there as being one of the more famous to have ever been in the music industry. Ultimately, their members have been commemorated in a variety of ways over the years, but it seems that a rather cruel twist of fate was able to befall one of the ways in recent years.

Back in 2014, it was discovered that a tree that had been dedicated to George Harrison had been ravaged by a rather rampant type of beetle. In fact, it was so bad that the inner part of the tree had become completely hollow as it was that bad an infestation. Ultimately, they had to replace the tree with another one that was resistant to all kinds of bugs in the hope that it will never happen again.

A Pigeon as a Sign of Love?

If someone said to you that they were going to release two pigeons in order to show their love or to display some kind of peace symbol, then your automatic reaction would be that they were mad. However, it would actually be you that would really be the mad one.

The reason for that is we often just associated two doves with this act, but then that ends up taking a different meaning when you look more closely at the exact type of bird that they tend to use in these situations.

When you do this, what you see is that they use a rock dove for the vast majority of ceremonies, and that is where the problem occurs. You see, the rock dove is actually a type of pigeon, so when that individual states that they are going to release two pigeons, then perhaps you should not stress about things the same way because they are actually going to still have two white birds that everybody will know as a dove.

How 'The Sims' was Born

The Sims is not only a cool game, but it is also extremely popular with millions and millions of copies having been sold over the years. However, do you know how it was even created in the first place?

Well it turns out that this is the perfect example of how tragedy can sometimes lead to a more positive outcome, so things may very well have a silver lining. Back in 1991, Will Wright was unfortunate enough to have been involved in a house fire that left his life in pieces. However, from that he started to formulate a plan whereby there would be a virtual dollhouse that could be explored by individuals and also expanded on when they wanted.

From this simple idea came the entire franchise concept, although it did take several years for it to gain a foothold. Now, it is one of the most popular video game ideas out there selling in huge quantities every single year, and to think that it may never have happened if it was not for that fire.

How Old is Malaria?

OK, so this is a bit of a trick question but, how old do you think is the earliest piece of evidence is that shows the presence of mosquitoes that could lead to malaria? The answer is in the tomb of Tutankhamun as research and scientific analysis has shown the presence of parasites preserved in the tomb that had the DNA that would ultimately lead to the development of malaria.

Of course, the disease itself will go back even further in time than 3,500 years ago, but this is undoubtedly the first piece of evidence that archaeologists have come across that can be verified. However, malaria was not the cause of death in the case of the Pharaoh.

Have You Seen Our Nuclear Missile?

You would like to think that any nuclear missiles would be very well looked after since it is clearly going to be dangerous if it gets into the wrong hands. Well, that sounds as if it should be easy, but there is a period in history where it appears to have been harder than you would like to think.

The period in time is between 1950 and 1968 and we are looking at the United States military. It is stated that they somehow managed to lose a total of 8 nuclear missiles during that time, a fact that is absolutely staggering when you think about what is involved.

The military state that none of the missiles had an actual active warhead, but then you could argue that they would hardly turn around and say that it was all primed and ready for action before they lost it. Also, they have a few areas where they believe that the missiles were lost with it ranging from the Mediterranean, to somewhere in the Pacific and even in North Carolina.

So, if you thought that these missiles were completely safe, then perhaps it is time for you to change your opinion on things.

That Banana Flavoring Tastes Nothing Like Banana!

If you ever try a product that states that it contains artificial banana flavoring, then you might be disappointed to discover that it just does not taste like the bananas that you have experienced. Well, there is a very good explanation as to why that is the case.

Pretty much every version of artificial banana flavoring in the world is actually based on a type of banana that was completely wiped out by disease back in the 1950's so, it's no wonder that we have this idea that it does not taste like banana. The truth of the matter is that it does, but we are not used to it leading to our disappointment.

It turns out that it is not the creator of the flavoring that has the problem, but rather us.

What a National Animal

Nations end up being given a national flower, fruit, vegetable, anthem, the list just goes on and on for an eternity, but what about a national animal?

Well, it turns out that the animals that are linked to countries may not have anything in particular to do with the country in question. So, if you think that the Chinese national animal would have to be a Panda, or a kangaroo for Australia, then what would you expect for Scotland?

Most people would be stuck, and their guesses would also often be wrong which is perfectly understandable when you discover what the real answer is for the Scottish national animal. It turns out that it is actually the Unicorn, and that has to be pretty brave to choose a mythical animal rather than something that is real for your national animal.

The Cat Mayor

Being the mayor is often a job that is filled with stress as you try to appease everyone and still maintain a real sense of authority in your city or town. However, the town of Talkeetna in Alaska decided to do things differently from the rest of the world back in 1997.

For a number of years since 1997, the mayor of the town has been called Stubbs. So far there is nothing new or unusual you would like to think, but that is not actually the case because it turns out that Stubbs is a cat. Yes, the residents voted that a cat would become the mayor which must have been the worst decision for the mice of the town.

Clearly, this was a protest vote and showed how they just did not take things seriously enough for them to go ahead and vote into office a real human being. Stubbs stayed there in this position for a number of years so he must have been doing something correctly.

Oh the Poor Sloth

The sloth never comes across as being the luckiest animal in the world, and that impression is only going to get worse when you read about these few facts connected to one of the slowest animals in the world today.

The sloth is so slow and lazy that it leads to all kinds of issues and problems that it then has to face. The problem is that they do tend to live in conditions that are quite moist and humid, and all of that dampness and their lack of movement is only going to lead to various health concerns that have to be addressed.

This dampness has been known to lead to a variety of moss and plants to start growing in the hair on the body of the sloth as they are not active enough to really shake those things off. This moss can grow and develop until it covers vast areas of the arms of the sloth. You also have to factor into the equation the fact that their eyesight is also very, very poor.

What this all leads to is that it is not unknown for a sloth to reach out for what it believes to be a branch on a tree only to discover that it is trying to reach out for its own arm. This then leads to them falling to the ground and unfortunately some sloths have died as a direct result.

In other words, if only they moved faster than none of this would be an issue for them.

Avoid that Polar Bear Meat

Now, you are hardly ever going to be in the position where this could be a potential issue, but it is still a pretty cool fact which is why it is included.

If you are ever given the chance to eat the liver of a polar bear, then turn it down. While a small piece of it is not going to cause you any harm, eating only 30g could result in you dying and it is hardly worth taking that risk if you are honest with yourself.

The reason why it is deadly is because the liver of the polar bear is very high in Vitamin A, and a dose of Vitamin A that is above a certain level will end up being fatal for us humans. However, the exact level that is fatal does vary between people, which is why some people would be able to eat up to 90g of polar bear liver as the liver itself would also have different levels of the vitamin in it. Would you want to take the risk anyway or would you prefer to just avoid eating it entirely?

How About this Strange Festival?

One of the cool things about us humans and the world is that we have a range of customs that are unique to cultures or even individual towns. Take a town in Spain as a perfect example of how strange things can ultimately be.

The village in question is known as Castrillo de Murcia and every June something rather strange happens that does make you sit and wonder what on earth is going on. So, what is this festival or ritual?

Well, the men of the village will go ahead and dress up as the devil. They then run through the streets of the village and leap over every single baby that has been born over the course of the previous 12 months. Yes, grown men dressed as the devil jump over babies.

It is all part of the nationwide Corpus Christi celebrations and yet this village is the only one that carries out this strange ceremony. The reasons as to why it started go back into history. However, the babies don't seem to mind, so perhaps it is not as bad as you may have initially thought.

Why Do Moths Love Your Lights?

Have you ever found yourself sitting there wondering why on earth moths and other night insects feel drawn to any light that you switch on in your room? It seems to be a rather strange phenomenon, but it may actually have a perfectly plausible explanation.

According to science, the theory is that all of those night insects make the mistake of your light source as being the moon. They would have used the moon, and still do, in order to navigate at night, but they clearly do not know the difference when they come across something that is artificial.

So, they are not being as stupid as you think but are merely trying to replicate what they do in nature, and yet it is us that is just confusing them by giving them all of these extra moons that they feel they need to use just in order to get around.

Lobster was Never Always Posh Food

Nowadays, the lobster is regarded by many as being quite posh and expensive food with restaurants charging a fortune to its diners for a range of dishes where lobster is the main ingredient. However, that is a complete turnaround from how the humble lobster used to be viewed.

If you go back in time to before World War II, then the delicacy that the lobster is was actually referred to as being the cockroach of the sea. Now, that is hardly a term that would make you think that it was seen as being a delicacy, but then that is because it was synonymous with the poor.

In history, lobster was often eaten by prisoners, slaves, and those in the lowest echelons of society whereas it is now viewed as being at the opposite end of the social spectrum. It was not until after World War II that attitudes towards the lobster changed and suddenly prisoners were unable to get their lobster.

The Un-Fact of the Mandrake Plant

This is actually an un-fact, but it is such a cool story that it is worthy of inclusion.

The Mandrake plant has a bit of a chequered past, and it is partly due to the way in which the roots of the plant can end up, in the eyes of some, looking like humans. This has led to some stories surrounding the growth of the plant that are even stranger than the roots themselves.

The legend that surrounds the Mandrake plant is that it would only grow on land where either the fat, blood, or semen of a man that had been hanged would drip down, and that is a pretty macabre thought. It would often be seen in a graveyard as well, which is why it has developed a reputation of being linked to the dead.

Of course, it has nothing whatsoever to do with this although you must admit that the idea is different and it is certainly good enough to freak out some people as it just sounds as if it has enough truth about it.

The Strange Case of Jim Sullivan

Back in the 1960's, Jim Sullivan was a musician who ultimately produced an album with the title 'UFO.' in 1969. The album consisted of various rather strange and confusing lyrics that consisted of phrases such as him leaving his family and being abducted by aliens.

The album itself was strange, but it could be argued that things would then take an even stranger turn some six years later when Sullivan went missing in mysterious circumstances. Basically, he vanished without any trace, and all that they eventually discovered was his abandoned car which was recovered from a desert road. Apart from that, there was nothing else to go on, so was his album him telling the future? Was he actually abducted by aliens? Was he just fed up and vanished?

No matter the real reason, there is just something rather appealing about the idea of his album predicting the future.

Why Dog Collars Have Spikes

A dog collar having some form of spikes on it is nothing new. However, it is sometimes the case that the collar with spikes is used by some people to promote the idea that their dog is to be avoided at all costs.

But then, that is not the reason as to why the dog collar with spikes was invented in the first place.

To get to the origins, we need to go back in time to Ancient Greece because, as it turns out, these spikes had a more plausible explanation for their appearance. In fact, the spikes were put onto the collars not to scare people or other dogs away, but to actually protect the dog.

The idea was that these spikes would protect the neck of a dog that was forced to stay outside all evening in order to protect the flock of sheep for the owner. The main reason why they had to be protected was because of the existence of wolves. However, a trained dog is going to be no match for the wolf, so it was decided to put spikes on the collar to offer protection to the neck as that is where the wolf would aim if they were attacking the dog.

Since then, the idea has just stuck around even though most people today are just not aware of the actual reason as to why this idea exists in the first place.

The Surgeon and the Video Game

You would think that a surgeon has enough pressure on their hands for them to play video games, but it turns out that it might very well be a good idea for them to set aside some free time for this very thing.

What studies have shown is that surgeons that play video games for three hours a week are not only more accurate in their work, but they are also faster as well. It is all to do with the way in which video games allow them to work on their hand and eye coordination and it will also speed up their reaction times as well. They have also noted that it boosts their confidence in their decision making, so overall, they ultimately become better surgeons that are capable of doing more than the normal surgeon.

The Blind Man that Communicates Like a Bat

The number of things that the human body and mind can achieve is astonishing. Take the case of Daniel Kish as a prime example. Daniel is blind, and yet you would not think so if you saw him walking around without any help.

The reason for this is very simple and it is all to do with echolocation. For those do not know, echolocation is what bats use in order to avoid flying into things, and it seems that Daniel has managed to perfect that technique for his own self.

As he walks around, Daniel makes a clicking sound with his tongue, and he then reads the sound waves that come back to him, as they change according to any objects that are ahead. From that, he is able to interpret the sound wave and can then move around without bumping into things.

What is Cool About the Word ‘Almost’?

At first glance there appears to be nothing special or different about the word ‘almost’ but that is simply because you are not looking at it in the correct way. If you pay particularly close attention to how the word is formed, then you will see that something will hopefully start to leap out for you.

So, what is this crazy thing that we are mentioning? Well, it turns out that this word is the longest in the English language where all of the letters are in alphabetical order. Now when you go and look at how you spell the word it will all start to make absolute sense, so if you want to try to catch people out over such a simple word, then now you know how to.

The Mark of Lightning

If you are unfortunate enough to be struck by lightning, then it is going to leave its mark on you in a number of ways. However, these are some facts and general information about the physical mark that it leaves on your body.

What generally happens is that the affected area is going to then have a mark that generally looks like the outline of a fern tree. For some, this is known as a lightning tree or perhaps a lightning flower, but it does have a rather distinctive shape.

The reason why it produces this shape is to do with the system of small blood vessels in our body known as capillaries. These capillaries are tiny in nature, but when you are struck by lightning, they rupture in the area that is hit due to the shock from the electric charge. It is just a twist of fate that it ends up making that shape in our body as if nature is giving us a special tattoo for us to remember the occasion.

The Term ‘Deadline’

Having a deadline is something that we all generally hate simply because it puts additional pressure on us and that stress is just not a useful way to live. However, do you know where the term itself comes from?

To get the answer, we need to go back in time to the American Civil War. At that point, prisoners would effectively have a line drawn around them in the dirt and if they ventured over that line then they would be executed immediately.

It did not take too long for both the prisoners and their guards to begin to refer to that line in the sand as the deadline since crossing it did, of course, result in you being killed. Clearly, it does not have the same conditions attached to it today as it did back in the Civil War, but it is still capable of giving us some stress especially when we get closer to potentially stepping over that line.

The Mystery of North Sentinel Island

Now, you can forgive yourself if you have never heard of North Sentinel Island because that is probably for the best. However, there are several curious things about this island that may be able to grab your attention.

The island is off the coast of India in the Bay of Bengal and it has largely remained untouched by human hands aside from the indigenous tribe that lives there. Not only have they never been colonized, but they are known to be very hostile and against the idea of interaction with the outside world. They have also been photographed and filmed trying to fire bows and arrows at aircraft that gets too close.

However, there have been some interactions and it has led to some individuals being taken off the island, but that is something that has never really been met with any success. For some strange and unknown reason, the individuals that have been taken off the island have then died after contracting some strange and unknown disease if they are not returned to the island. Somehow, if they are taken back to their home, then the mystery illness seems to ease somewhat and they manage to pull through.

Now, you have to admit that the entire thing is very weird.

The Crop Circles of the Sea

Crop circles are strange. However, at one point there was the belief that crop circles had been discovered in the sea which would have just taken the strangeness up to an entirely new level.

These circles were found on the ocean floor, and they remained a mystery for 6 years until science was able to come up with an explanation, and it was not aliens. Instead, these 7-foot circular patterns were created by the male puffer fish. What is amazing is that these puffer fish are only five inches long, so that is quite a substantial feat when you consider the sheer size of the fish that is making them.

It turns out that these circles are to attract the opposite sex and they spend a considerable amount of time not only constructing them but also then maintaining them until they do the job that they are intended for. Not only do they attract the opposite sex, but they are also then used as a nesting source for the female to lay her eggs. Somehow, this all sounds even more amazing than if they were created by aliens.

The Population of Mars

The idea of humans populating Mars has been around for decades, and there is the belief that it will happen at some point. However, if we did get to the red planet then we would only be increasing the population from what it is at right now.

OK, so this is a bit of a cheat, but that is because the population of Mars at this moment in time is made up entirely of robots that have been sent there for scientific purposes by us humans. There are several scattered around the planet from different expeditions and even though we may not know the state that they are in, these signs of our exploration are out there just waiting to be joined by humans.

Mammoths and the Egyptians

If you think of a woolly mammoth, then you think of something that died out thousands of years ago, and pretty much close to the time of the origins of modern humans. However, if you did think that this was the case, then you are very, very wrong indeed.

Instead, while they did die out in the majority of the areas where they once thrived, there was one small island off Siberia where it is known that they were able to survive until approximately 1600BC. This is completely different to everywhere else, as it is believed that they did vanish approximately 10,000 years ago thanks to humans hunting them as well as a change in the climate.

The key thing here is that it does mean that the Pyramids in Egypt were built approximately 1,000 years before the mammoth finally did become extinct. The fact that the two of them did indeed overlap is pretty astonishing although it has to be pointed out that the Egyptians had no idea that the mammoth existed.

Well, That's What They Promised

Any product has to be careful with what it promises the consumers or else they will end up finding themselves in court at some point trying to defend themselves. That is exactly what happened to the manufacturers of Red Bull back in 2015.

It seems that a man by the name of Benjamin Carethers took it upon himself to go ahead and sue Red Bull because he stated that he had been drinking it religiously for over a decade and yet he had not been able to grow wings or seen any improvement in his mental or physical ability. His case was inspired by their cartoon adverts that focus on those very things, so his argument was that they were stating that this could be possible if you consumed their product.

The crazy thing is that the company agreed to pay out money in compensation to anybody that could show they had bought the product over the previous decade and that had not grown wings. It meant a change in their slogan and disclaimers being put into place. This is indeed the perfect example of how a company can make a major and costly mistake with their advertising and marketing.

The Queen in World War II?

It might shock some to know that even the British Royal Family took part in World War II, it might shock some even further to learn that Queen Elizabeth II, the current queen, was a mechanic in the war! She was always rather feisty and a very independent thinker it would appear, since not many women were mechanics in those days. She took herself off to the local employment offices at the young age of 16 and was keen to join the army.

This was against the wishes of her father, King George VI. It was noted by other fellow servicemen and women, that Elizabeth loved to get her hands dirty and slide under a car. There are various photographs of her in action during this time and she herself has said that it was one of the happiest times in her life.

Food in the War

Soldiers need their strength and so what they ate was important to them and of course to the country they were serving. What they managed to get for supplies did vary depending on the area, country, and troupe. Daily rations as they were called were given to each soldier daily and these would be kept in a type of rucksack, which was then called a bread-sack. This would include items such as chocolate, cigarettes, and bread as well as tinned food. Tinned food was popular for obvious reasons as it was easy to manage and kept fresh longer.

There were also field kitchens where soldiers not out on the battlefield could eat. The service kitchens had bakeries and even butcheries attached. Some of the remnants of these bread sack contents can be seen today in museums, where leftover or untouched chocolate or cigarettes were not used by the soldier. It's amazing to gaze at such remnants from the past and the eerie silence that surrounds them, as opposed to the chaos that reigned during the actual war.

Oh Those Insane Asylums

Of course, insane asylums don't exist anymore since medical professionals have a better understanding of mental illness and also medicine and the effects on the brain. Sadly there is still a lot of ignorance surrounding mental illness, but not as bad as in the 1960s for example.

One of Britain's largest 'insane asylums', The Whittington Hospital in London was privy to many inhumane treatments of their patients, which included locking them outside in the courtyard all day in freezing weather. The patients were not allowed to bath or wash. The scariest part of this story is that this mental asylum only closed in 1995.

Around the same time, London opened its notorious Broadmoor Prison as it is known as today. Back then, in 1963, Broadmoor was known as Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum. Prisoners who were deemed unfit to plead at trial served their sentences here. Peter Sutcliffe, who was dubbed the Yorkshire Ripper is currently serving his sentence there. Some of the first Broadmoor prisoners were women who had murdered their children.

Going back a little further in time an interesting asylum was the Magdalene Laundries which was an Irish run asylum in the 18th century. Thousands of women passed through Magdalene's doors and were serving time for, having children out of wedlock, prostitution, and other crimes. The women it has been told suffered terrible abuse whilst serving time there. Most shocking of all is that the institution only closed down in 1996 after a mass grave was found outside of the institution's buildings.

That is a Long Documentary

Once in a while there will be a documentary that hits the screens that is longer than the average one that you will be used to watching. However, what do you think would be the longest, and potentially the most boring documentary that has ever been produced?

The answer comes from Norway and yet even though you may think that this documentary is indeed too boring for words, apparently more than half of the population of the country tuned in at some point to catch a glimpse of what it had to offer.

The documentary in question lasted for 134 hours, yes that is correct it really was 134 hours long, and it focused on a cruise ship going between Bergen to Kirkenes. It was screened live and without any interruptions and yet even though it was just a ship sailing along, it does seem that it was a resounding success.

So, would you have tuned in yourself or would you have given it a wide berth?

Look at the Drunk Corgi

You would imagine that working for the Queen in places such as Buckingham Palace would mean that you would always be on your best behavior. However, it does seem that this has not always been the case and there is one particular story whereby a member of staff rather quickly became an ex-member of staff when it was discovered what he was getting up to at different times.

So, can you have a guess as to what he was found to be guilty of doing?

Well, this particular member of staff seemed to take great delight in dealing with the Corgis, even though the thing that he was doing was perhaps not advisable. It seems that he was caught effectively spiking the food of the corgis by adding in some alcohol and would then watch them basically stagger around drunk after they had eaten. To him, this was his party trick and he took great delight in checking out what they were doing but you can imagine that the Queen would not have been best pleased.

It was no surprise that when his party trick was discovered that he was quickly sacked.

This Stew was Past its Sell By Date

In the world today, we are all pre-occupied with the concept of food having a best before or a sell-by date and we get panic-stricken when we think that we might have strayed over that date. However, it turns out that just eating something that is a few days older than it should be is nothing compared to this piece of food that had to be past its best.

Back in 1984, a group of paleontologists decided that they were going to make a stew from some buffalo meat that had been frozen for approximately 30,000 years. They thawed it, cooked it and did indeed eat it, with them describing it as having quite a tough feel to it and a taste that was surprisingly rather like mushrooms.

They all reported no ill-effects from having eaten it, so it does show that we might be taking things a bit too far when it comes to thinking that we have to slap a date on every single thing that we eat.

How About this Smooth Conman?

There are just some people that are perfect for being a conman as they have this smoothness about them that just comes across naturally. So, with that in mind, how about this for potentially being the smoothest conman that has ever existed?

Back in 1935, Victor Lustig was arrested for selling people a machine that he referred to as a currency copier. It was said that it allowed people to print their own \$100 bills, so it was clearly going to be rather popular among people. However, that was not the smooth part that is connected to this story.

This was the same guy that had previously managed to sell the Eiffel Tower to a scrap metal merchant before running away with the money. Even after being caught he was still smoother than you could have ever thought possible.

When in jail, it turns out that he took bedsheets and turned them into a rope ladder. After climbing out of his window, which was on the third floor, he then casually pretended that he was a window cleaner and would wave at the windows as if he was indeed washing them. Even as he dropped lower he would continue doing this and apparently countless people saw him but nobody thought that there was anything untoward going on. Eventually the police went to get him from his cell in order to take him to court only to discover that he was gone.

They Like a Bar in Wisconsin

It seems that there is one type of business that is very popular in Wisconsin, a bar. It turns out that they love a bar so much across the state that it has the same number of bars that they do in the whole state of California, a state that has a far superior population.

You must remember that the population of Wisconsin is approximately 85% less than it is in California, and to show how that does indeed make a difference to the ratio of bars to people, then this may be of interest.

In Wisconsin, there is a bar for every 1,862 residents in the state which doesn't sound as if it is too bad, but then you look at the same statistic for California and you get a completely different perspective. In California, there is one bar for just under every 12,000 residents which does mean that there is a huge difference between the two.

So, if you are looking for a bar the next time you are in Wisconsin, then there shouldn't be too much of an issue.

Those NASCAR Wives

We are all becoming used to reality TV shows that are based on conflict between the main 'characters' but it shows that this is what TV executives are really looking for when you check out something that happened with the channel, TLC.

The executives there had an idea to create another reality show that was focused on NASCAR wives. You can understand why when you look at it at face value, they have the money, the lifestyle, their husbands are famous and doing a cool job, it appears to tick all of the boxes.

However, there was a problem and it meant that they canceled filming and the series before it was even able to air one single episode. The problem was that the different wives that had been chosen actually got on well with one another, to such an extent that there was just no conflict. Considering they need conflict and drama to sell the series, it became apparent to the executives and producers that this was just not going to work as it was just full of happy people. It seems that they would have been able to get their own show if they had been more abusive to one another.

John Lennon and the Astrologer

When it comes to celebrity assassinations, the killing of John Lennon was certainly a shock to many. However, it seems that there was one person that had an inkling that this kind of thing could happen.

It turns out that both John Lennon and Yoko Ono had visited an astrologer some 11 years before his death. During that meeting, the astrologer warned John that he would be shot dead on an island. The couple certainly took it seriously as they then canceled a planned trip to the Greek Islands for a vacation.

However, as it turned out they were wrong, and the astrologer was sadly correct as John Lennon was then shot dead 11 years later while he was on Manhattan Island.

Maybe Read the Terms and Conditions

The idea of reading the terms and conditions on any website seems to bore us, and yet there may be a very good reason as to why we should pay them closer attention than we had perhaps initially wanted to.

To show what we mean, we need to go to the United Kingdom and a video games retailer called Gamestation. They decided to conduct an experiment whereby they would show that people just do not bother to read the terms before they make a purchase online.

To do so, they added in a clause that said they would take control of your immortal soul if you purchased something online and agreed to these terms and conditions. It turns out that they now own over 7,500 immortal souls. They felt that they had managed to prove their point and had no need to continue owning the souls since they had no idea what they would then eventually do with them.

So, if you think that there is nothing to be worried about in the terms and conditions, then perhaps just check them out first as you never know what could be lurking in there.

Einstein was a Plumber?

Albert Einstein is regarded by many as being the most intelligent human being to have ever existed, but it seems that he had other aims and targets in life that he was not quite able to achieve.

Not content with managing to unravel a number of the mysteries of life and the solar system in general, it seems that what he really wanted to do was to become a plumber. There was just something about getting his hands dirty in those situations that really appealed to him, but he was too busy dealing with more pressing matters.

However, it seems that the local plumber's association took note of this and upon hearing of his desire they quickly gave him membership to their association, something that he was apparently pretty proud of. For the sake of humanity, it was probably best that he did not follow through on the plumbing aspect though.

That is Just Fake Water

When you see your favorite celebrities drinking your favorite drink from a can, there is absolutely no guarantee that everything is quite as it seems. Apparently, it is known that a number of these companies have a tendency to go ahead and produce cans that just contain water as they know that the celebrities do not believe in drinking energy drinks due to their health routines. They are then given these cans of water so they are then able to parade around and give publicity to the company.

Clearly, this is cheating, but it is far more widespread than you would perhaps like to imagine. Of course, they would also turn around and say how amazing the drink was and what they love about it. They are meeting their obligations, but it is not always the case that they are completely upfront and honest about it all.

That is a Scary Buddha

Buddha statues are very common throughout the world, but it seems that not every single statue is going to be as you would expect.

Take one example of a statue of Buddha that was 1000 years old. It was decided by scientists to go ahead and check out how it was made. They sent the statue into a CT scanner in the hope that it would reveal the inner workings, and how the Buddhist monks had put it together. It turned out that they had used a completely different way of dealing with the structure of the statue than anybody had ever imagined.

What the CT scanner had shown was that there was a skeleton of an actual Buddhist monk inside. He had died and was then effectively wrapped in the statue as it was made. He had been viewed by countless people since the creation of the statue, with people being completely unaware of what was inside. It is now making people think about what else is inside other statues and whether or not the act of placing a dead monk inside was more widespread than just this one.

Perfect Shoes for Being Drunk

If you have had a few drinks too many, then the idea of trying to get home is something that is confusing and perplexing. There is often the worry that you are just not going to manage it due to your inability to know the direction in which you are heading.

However, it turns out that there is a solution available, and it is all thanks to a shoe designer by the name of Dominic Wilcox. It turns out that he has produced a pair of shoes that have a GPS system built into the heel. If you are unsure as to how you get home, you simply click the heels and it activates the system and will then guide you back to your safe place. Of course, this does mean that you still have to be in a position whereby you can follow simple instructions. You must admit that this does make for a rather cool pair of shoes.

That is a Bad Celebration

In a number of parts of the world, it is common for special moments and celebrations to be marked by gunfire. However, when you are doing this it also makes sense that you will be putting yourself, or others, in some kind of danger as the risk of something going wrong is very high.

One example of this would be a wedding that took place in the European country of Serbia in 2003. At the wedding, there was celebratory gunfire at the end of the service, but on this occasion it was not the people at the wedding that would end up being the unfortunate ones.

As it turns out, at the time of the gunfire being shot into the air, a small private plane was flying overhead. The gunfire hit the plane causing it to fall out of the sky and the two men that were on board were seriously injured as a result.

Eating Your Boogers is Healthy?

We are always being told that eating your boogers is a disgusting habit. That may very well be the case, it is also true that it is not all as bad as you may initially think.

Instead, if you are able to get past the horrible nature of what you are eating, it seems that science believes that it is actually good for you. It is all to do with the good, healthy bacteria that live happily in our boogers. Apparently, this bacteria is going to be able to help your immune system to stay nice and healthy and the same bacteria is also helpful when it comes to looking after your teeth.

So, if you feel that you need a real boost to your immune system, then the answer to it all might actually be less under your nose, but more inside of it.

Why are Pasture Eggs Better?

We are always being told that eggs from hens that are raised in different conditions are going to be better or worse for us, but how is that even possible?

Well, it turns out that the conditions in which they live does have an impact on what is going on with the eggs and from a nutrition and health point of view, it does have a positive change. For example, it has been scientifically proven that eggs from hens that are raised on pasture rather than the more commercial farming on an industrial scale contain more minerals and positive things for our health than their commercial cousins.

The most important changes are that their eggs have been shown to contain double the amount of Vitamin E as well as more Omega 3 and 2.5 times the amount of the healthy fatty acids. In other words, our bodies will be able to take more from these eggs than it would have been able to do with other options that are often cheaper in price.

So, the next time that you read how certain eggs are better for you, then just believe the science behind it as they do actually know what they are talking about.

Just Wait a Moment

Have you either ever told someone to ‘wait a moment’ or been on the receiving end of that particular statement yourself? You must admit that it does sound pretty strange telling someone that because how long is a moment?

Well, it turns out that it is something that has been measured and it goes back to the origin of the phrase and the way in which time was perceived centuries ago.

Back in the Middle Ages, the hour was split up into quarter-hours which were known as punctas, but they were also split up into other times known as 10 minuta and 40 momenta. What this means is that if you asked someone to wait a moment, then you were actually asking them to wait in the region of 90 seconds. So, the next time somebody tells you that, then remind them again in 90 seconds time.

Who was the First American Woman to Become President?

This fact is going to throw a number of people simply because there has never been a female president of the United States. However, that is not to say that there has never been an American woman that has then gone on to become president.

Take the example of Janet Jagan. She was born in Chicago, so is therefore American but she later moved to Guyana. When she was there, she married the man that would go on to become the leader of Guyana by the name of Cheddi Jagan. Later, she herself would take over the role as leader of the country after she won an election.

As an aside, the very first leader of Guyana was somebody who was Chinese, who was also the very first Asian to lead a non-Asian country.

The Town of Mirrors

There are a number of towns in the extreme north of the world where daylight is limited and restricted throughout the winter months. However, a town in Norway has an added issue of there being mountains near it that then block out even more of the low-slung sun for those three months. Ultimately, it means that they are living in nothing more than a shadow making it rather bleak and dull.

But then, the residents of Rjukan have decided that they are not going to settle for this and they have taken action in order to try to rectify things as best they can. Of course, they cannot move the town or move the mountains, so what do you think they then did?

The answer was that they built huge mirrors on the mountains so they could then reflect the little amount of sunlight that appears and it now shines down onto the town. Instantly, it brightens up various areas and it has made a difference when it comes to improving the quality of life that is experienced by the inhabitants.

Edison and His Soup

Thomas Edison was a rather intelligent guy, but it seems that he had a different way of ascertaining as to whether or not an individual would be worthy of a job after meeting them for an interview. Upon them arriving, Edison was known to provide them with a bowl of soup. He would then pay close attention to see if they added some salt or pepper before tasting it.

This does sound rather basic, but it allowed him to see if they were analytical in their thoughts and also as to whether or not they made some assumptions and just believed that there was insufficient seasoning before they even checked it out. If they did go ahead and use salt or pepper before tasting, then they would never get the job.

How Many Japanese are Willing to Fight for the Country?

The Japanese are known in the world today for their pacifist approach to everything, so when you take that into consideration what kind of percentage of Japanese people are actually willing to go out and fight for their country?

The actual figure according to surveys is as low as 11%, which is the lowest in any country in the world. It really is to do with their approach to anything of this ilk so it is perhaps not as surprising as it would be if that figure was seen with other countries.

At the other end of the scale, people in Morocco and Fiji are seen as being the most patriotic in this sense as the same survey showed that 94% of the population were more than happy to pick up arms and defend their country if asked to do so. Clearly, they do not have the same pacifist culture as you find in Japan.

The Whistle Telephone

The invention of the telephone was a huge leap forward when it came to technology. However, there was one problem in the early days of it appearing on the market. That problem was simply that the telephone bell itself had not been invented. So, trying to get the attention of the person you were calling had to involve you doing something else instead of relying on the ring.

So, what do you think people had to resort to doing in order to overcome this particular problem? The answer was that they would 'dial' the number and when they were connected to them they had to then whistle as loud as they could in the hope that the person at the other end would be able to hear the whistle and know that somebody had called them.

You must admit that this is a genius idea, although there was a lot of relief all around when the telephone bell was invented as it certainly took the pressure off people having to improve their whistling skills.

The 2000-Year-Old Graffiti

Graffiti is nothing new, but what do you think graffiti that is 2000 years old would say? Are you of the opinion that it would be along the same lines as today where people would write their name on some public place? Well, if you did think that, then you would be very wrong indeed.

Instead, graffiti that has been discovered in Pompeii was very varied, to say the least. Two such examples that show you how different it is from our modern equivalent are phrases that reflect the times.

For example, one piece of graffiti was found to say, 'On April 19 I made bread', while the other example said 'If anyone does not believe in Venus, they should gaze at my girlfriend.'

To be honest, nobody would have ever guessed at either of those examples, and it does show that even back in the distant past that people were indeed still human even when it comes down to the graffiti that they would leave all over the place.

Why is it the Dashboard?

Understanding the origins of various terms or items that we use on a regular basis does give us a completely different perspective and one such item is the dashboard on a vehicle. Now, it just seems to make virtually no sense whatsoever for it to be called this, but then that is because you do not know where it stemmed from.

To get the answer, we have to go back to before the time of the car because it actually comes from a horse and carriage. Basically, the guy that was steering the horses would tend to have all kinds of horrible stuff thrown up at him, so it was decided that there had to be something done to stop it from happening. As a result, they used a piece of wooden board to block the debris or, as it was put across at the time, to stop anything being ‘dashed up’ and so the idea of the ‘dashboard’ was born.

You see, sometimes the answer is far more straightforward and easier to understand than you would have perhaps previously thought.

What is the Biggest Snake Ever Recovered?

A snake is often quite terrifying for most people, but what do you think is the largest snake that has ever been recovered? The answer to this question is not as easy as it seems, but then we are also cheating slightly with the answer because we have to go back to the time of the dinosaurs and roughly 65 million years ago.

When we do this, we come across a snake that has been called Titanoboa, and it is easy to understand why when you check out its vital statistics. It has been shown via fossils that this snake would have been roughly 48 feet long and it weighed a staggering 2,500lbs. That is substantially bigger than anything that is around today. You can only imagine how scary it would have been to come across this snake if you were unfortunate enough to do so.

What is the Worst Bomb Detector Ever?

Trying to accurately detect a bomb is a serious thing. It seems that there are moments where the equipment is perhaps, not up to the standard that you would expect when you were doing this rather delicate job.

Take a model of bomb detector known as the ADE 651. Its name makes it sound as if it would be a rather impressive piece of equipment, as it sounds official enough. Sadly, you need more than just a name for it to make a difference when it comes to the job that it is intended for.

Basically, it consisted of a metal rod with a plastic hinge and nothing else. However, even though it looked as if it had been made in a garden shed, it was still used in countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan to uncover mines. This lasted for several years, until it was finally discovered by the groups that were using this instrument that it actually did nothing at all to help them find bombs. The surprising thing is that it took them that long to go ahead and discover this.

The Painting Monkey

Just to show how crazy the art world can be, you only have to look at an example from Sweden in the 1960's. Back in 1964, a series of paintings were put on display that were claimed to come from a previously unknown French artist who went by the name, Pierre Brasau. The reaction that the paintings received was astonishing.

Critic after critic exploded with joy at the paintings and there was a real belief that he would take the art world by storm. The truth behind the paintings actually showed just how crazy this entire industry is.

The reason why it showed it is crazy, is simply because it was not a French artist that painted them, but actually a chimpanzee. Yep, they were not even painted by a human hand, and yet the work was being described as absolute artistry by those that had no idea who was actually behind the paintings.

Be Careful of Your Laundry

Have you ever found out a little bit too late that you have done your laundry and something that you required was in the pocket? If so, then you know how annoying it can be. However, it seems that it does not always have to be bad news as can be seen by the case of a Chinese laundryman during the gold rush period in the United States.

The man, who went by the name John-John was quite content offering a service to those individuals that were trying to find gold where he would wash their clothes. When you discover why he was so happy, then you can understand his reasoning behind keeping on going. You see, as he was washing their clothes, he would end up collecting gold dust and would simply repeat this process over and over again. It was so successful, that by the time the rush was over he had collected more than enough gold just from the dust in their clothes to make sure that both he and his family were financially secure for the rest of their lives.

There is a Japanese Philosophy About Broken Items

Too often in the world today we are obsessed by the way in which we throw things away at the very first sign of them being broken. However, the same idea does not apply across the world, as can be seen by an entire philosophy that exists in Japan about this very subject.

In Japan, there is something called Kintsukuroi and it is the art of re-building a broken piece of pottery by using either gold or silver lacquer. They have the belief that the piece of pottery is actually more beautiful because it is broken and that it should be preserved for that very reason.

Ultimately, you do end up with pieces of pottery that resemble a puzzle. It is all about the art of putting it together and effectively being lost in the midst of what you are doing when repairing the item.

A Flight in Helium Balloons

Do you think that you could ever go on a flight using just helium balloons? If so, then how many do you think you would need for it all to work?

To get some kind of an answer, we have to head back to 1982 and the rather crazy example of Larry Walters. It seems that Larry had been denied entry to the US Air Force because his eyesight was not the best. However, good old Larry decided that he was still going to be able to fly, just not in the usual sense.

What this then led to was Larry getting a chair and 45 helium filled balloons and then allowed himself to drift on upwards. He reached a maximum height of 16,000 feet in his chair of balloons before starting to drift on back down. Aside from the fact that this was a completely crazy thing to do, he did show that flying with helium balloons is actually possible if you put your mind to it.

Do You Expect them to be Afraid of Water?

There are times where it can be rather surprising as to who has a certain fear when they seem to put across the complete opposite idea or are involved in an industry where it just would not make sense for them to have that phobia.

Take Brian Wilson, of the Beach Boys as a prime example. Back in the 1960's they were one of the most popular and coolest bands around and they really caught onto a movement with their range of songs. They tied in with the laid-back beach and surfer culture and yet Brian had one major problem that went against the image that the band was trying to show.

It turns out that Brian Wilson actually has a very serious fear of water in general. The idea of trying to swim in the sea or surf would terrify him beyond belief. You have to admit that you would never expect one of the leads of one of the most popular bands of the time to have this exact fear.

Which Country Drinks the Most Wine?

Wine is one of the most popular alcoholic drinks in the world with a number of countries being capable of making their own and then selling it throughout the world. However, which country do you believe is responsible for drinking the most wine when it is broken down to every 100,000 members of the population?

When you do this, you discover that the country which drinks the most wine per capita is actually the Vatican City. If that is not surprising enough, then the actual quantity that they drink per person is far higher than it is for any other country out there, with them drinking double the amount when you compare it to figures from countries such as Italy or France.

They have also worked it out that it comes down to the individual drinking in the region of 74L of wine per year which is over 100 bottles, so approximately 2 bottles per week. Of course, the population is less than 1000 so they have had to multiply things upwards to make sense of it. There are some that argue the small size of the country means that these kinds of stats are null and void.

Perhaps though the reason as to why it is like this is because there is reportedly a shop inside the confines of the Vatican that sells wine that has no tax on it making it substantially cheaper than it would be if you just stepped outside and back into Italy.

What is the Difference with a Paralympic Medal?

If you compare an Olympic medal with a Paralympic medal, then you will notice that there are more differences to them than just the design. Instead, the medal for the Paralympics is rather ingenious in what it is able to do.

In those games, there are a number of individuals that have issues with their sight, so they do not want to have them feeling as if they are missing out on something when they win a medal and just because of their sight. So, it was decided that apart from the design of the medal that there would need to be something rather special.

What this led to was a medal that contained steel balls inside that rattle when you shake them. There are different combinations depending on the color of the medal that you receive, but it allows the visually impaired to tell the difference between the medals. They no longer have to feel as if they are missing out on something as a result of their disability.

Arrest that Coconut

The world, and the people that live in it, can be very strange in what they both believe and then do. For example, would you believe that it could ever be possible for a coconut to be arrested?

On face value it does sound as if it would be a crazy thing to happen, but it is actually true.

Back in 2013, there were elections being held on the Maldives. However, the police on the islands received reports of something strange at one of the polling stations. Upon getting to the scene of the apparent crime they swiftly arrested a coconut. The charge? They said that the coconut was guilty of performing black magic and that it could then have an influence on the election.

However, the police ultimately brought along an expert in black magic who confirmed that it was indeed just a coconut and nothing else. There were no magical powers associated with the coconut and it was effectively released from police custody.

Why is it a Soap Opera?

When you think about it, the concept of the soap opera is strange simply thanks to the name itself as there appears to be nothing connected to soap for this term to be used. While that may appear to be the case today, you need to venture back a few decades to when the soap opera originated to see why it is indeed referred to in this way.

These forms of drama were initially created for the radio and they consisted of episodes that were only in the region of 15 minutes long. The dramas themselves were often sponsored by soap companies as the aim was to encourage women to buy their soap over and above any of the competitors. As a result, the idea of the soap opera was indeed born and even though they have evolved somewhat from these earliest days, the title 'soap opera' has managed to stand the test of time.

That is One Way to Win a Case

There are certainly moments where a lawyer ends up being extremely intelligent when it comes to the way in which they are able to win a case. Take the example of a lawyer in the United States who was asked by a client to represent him in a traffic case. The lawyer in question was unsure as to the reliability of the one and only witness that existed, the police officer that had initially caught them.

To show that the police officer was unreliable, the lawyer actually got somebody else to dress up as the client in question and to sit there in the court. As soon as the police officer was brought into the courtroom to be questioned, the lawyer asked him if he could identify the person in question. Immediately, the police officer pointed straight to the individual and said that they were sitting in the chair only to then be told that this was not the case.

As they were unable to correctly identify the individual, it was deemed that the case was too weak and the real defendant was then cleared of any wrongdoing.

What is the Code in the Matrix Movies?

If you have ever watched any of the Matrix movies, then you will be familiar with the appearance of code falling down the screen before your eyes. However, do you know what the code actually represents or means?

Well, if you were convinced that it would be something highly technical and connected to the movie itself, then that would be a perfectly reasonable thing to assume. However, you would be wrong.

Instead, the code that you see in the movies is actually just connected to recipes for sushi which is more boring than you would have ever been able to guess. It seems that there is nothing futuristic about it or technical because it is just plain old recipes.

Is this Ironic?

The idea that something is ironic is often over-used. Back in 1986 there was undoubtedly one case that showed that irony was indeed alive and well.

In Florida, there was a court case which was held up for over 20 minutes when the 12 jurors found out that they were stuck in an elevator. This is clearly going to be an unfortunate thing to happen, especially when a trial is underway and everyone involved on the jury seems to be stuck in one place. It could, potentially cause huge delays in the trial and cost a huge sum of money, but that is not the ironic part in all of this.

Instead, the irony is that the court case that they were dealing with was a case against the Otis elevator company. Imagine being involved in that case and then one of the very things that the case was about then happened to you. Now, that is indeed, going to be irony on a major scale. It does make you wonder how much of a role it then played in the conclusion of the case itself.

The Idea of Sea Silk

If you have never heard of sea silk before, then you are certainly not alone. In actual fact there is only one woman left in the world that knows how to make it and this does mean that it is highly prized around the world.

The woman in question is Chiara Vigo and she lives on the Italian island of Sardinia in the Mediterranean. She makes a cloth that appears throughout history and it was seen as being the finest fabric that was known to civilizations such as the Egyptians, Romans and the ancient Greeks.

The silk itself comes from a clam that is only found in the Mediterranean, and the silk is actually its saliva that turns into this rather strange and yet wonderful material. She then takes the raw form and creates amazing things with it with it, as it is a stunning fabric that goes far and beyond what you would ever expect to find anywhere else in the world. It literally is like silk and it does come from the sea hence the name. However, it will certainly be a major loss if nobody else seeks to take over from Chiara, for when she dies as this ancient art will be lost forever.

The Dog is Not the Favourite in Iceland

Dogs are certainly not seen as being man's best friend if you live in the Icelandic capital city of Reykjavik. In fact, it is cats that are the absolute leader when it comes to all of this, and it is all to do with something that goes back almost a century.

For over 60 years, pet dogs were actually banned for a whole host of reasons. Even though the ban was ended in 1984, it is still very tough for anybody to go ahead and have a dog as a pet. This is because there are a whole host of requirements including getting a special permit.

It was not because they hated dogs that they banned them. It was brought into action at a time where the town was still very rural and there was a housing shortage to contend with. The authorities came to the conclusion that it would somehow be useful if they went ahead and banned dogs as pets because then you could get more humans into a space rather than it being taken up by a dog.

You have to admit that this is a completely different theory to most places and it is still unknown as to how effective it was as a plan. However, the idea of dogs being guilty of taking up space still holds today which is why they do still prefer the cat over and above any other animal.

Is this the Most Unlucky then Lucky then Unlucky Man Ever?

If you are looking for an individual that is going to be seen as being the luckiest as well as the unluckiest person ever, then it is best that you head on over to China. There you will find someone by the name of Lei Jingxiong who was arrested by the police and beaten to such an extent that they thought he had died.

However, that is not the full extent of his story. His body was taken to be cremated and as it was about to be burnt, when an attendant noticed that he was still breathing. Ultimately, he was rescued from this horrific death only to recover and to then be arrested by the police once again.

This was all because he is part of an outlawed religious movement in China hence him being arrested. You can see how he went from being unlucky to lucky and then back to being unlucky once again. It is unknown of his switching around of luck has continued in this way.

The Spider that Survives Under the Water

Even though it is a country with amazing weather and culture, Australia is home to a number of species that are pretty much going out there in order to kill you. Take the Funnel-Web spider as a prime example. This just so happens to be one of the most dangerous spiders in the world and it can potentially kill you. There is one other fact surrounding this spider that just marks it out as being different from anything else.

This particular breed of spider is capable of surviving underwater for over 24 hours and it is still capable of going ahead and basically killing you at the end. So, you now have a spider that can cause mayhem on land and sea and considering their webs are often hanging up in the air, you can include the air in that equation as well.

Hitler and the Tax Man

It seems that aside from all of the horrible things that Hitler was responsible for, he was guilty of having a major issue with the tax man. In fact, he had a habit of not paying taxes. It even resulted in him getting into trouble with his own party back in 1934 when he had, once again, not paid what he was due to pay.

However, this was something that Hitler was not exactly going to have any difficulty in overcoming. So because of the power that he held in his party and the country in general, he made sure that he was then made exempt from paying tax at any further point in his life, making him pretty much a unique individual.

Is Paris Not Quite What You Thought?

A surprising number of people visit Paris and are then partly disappointed at what they see or how they experience the city. The French government state that this is because they feel that the city has been given this title of being extremely romantic, that people have higher expectations than what should be seen as being normal.

However, it seems that no other country has gone so far in trying to deal with this disappointment than Japan. It turns out that the Japanese have a 24-hour helpline based in France to help those tourists that have visited the city and are feeling rather despondent at what they have experienced.

They refer to it as a Paris syndrome, where there is a distinct culture shock for the Japanese citizens that fully expected to see this artistic and romantic city. If they fail to experience that exact thing, then at least help is at hand from their own embassy.

Newton Pushed Things Too Far

Issac Newton was responsible for making a number of scientific discoveries. It seems that he did have a habit of pushing things a bit too far, as can be seen by one experiment that he is known to have carried out on himself.

Newton had worked on a number of theories regarding optics, so he wanted to check out a few things that were playing on his mind. So, he is believed to have taken a needle and pushed it under his eyeball and continued to push it until it reached the back of his eyeball. All of this in the name of science.

You must admit that this is just crazy and the pain that he experienced would have been unbearable. We do have a lot of things to thank him for so perhaps we should just allow this moment of absolute madness.

A Reverse Conversion

The concept of a Christian missionary heading to a remote tribe in order to convert them to Christianity is nothing new. What is unusual is when there is a twist in what is expected to happen.

In the 1970's an American missionary by the name of Daniel Everett took it upon himself to head to Brazil, in order to try to make contact with one of the tribes in the Amazon that had not yet really interacted with the outside world. It was his intention to not only make contact with them, but to also go ahead and convert them to Christianity and away from what he expected to be their tribal religion.

However, it did not quite work out like that.

Instead, he discovered that the tribe were actually atheists. He initially thought that this would mean life would be so much easier for him, but that was not the case.

What then happened was the tribe he was visiting was able to convert him and turn him into an atheist. Apparently he felt that they were even happier and more at peace with their own selves than he had ever been. They were also far more sincere than any of the Christians that he had come across.

Acting a Bit too Close to Home

There are times where an actor ends up playing a role that is too close to their own lives that it can kind of mask and dampen their ability to act to the standards that they expect. While this example is slightly different, it does show a twist of fate that could not have been predicted.

The actress, Sarah Jessica Parker landed the role of a witch who was actually convicted of being part of the Salem witch trials, for a movie called 'Hocus Pocus' that was produced by Disney. However, after she had finished filming the movie, she then discovered that she actually had an ancestor who had been called a witch during the Salem witch trials and had then been convicted. This is certainly a case of artistry copying real life for her.

Lincoln and the Duel

Abraham Lincoln has to be one of the most famous Presidents of the United States, but it seems that he had a way with more than just running a country. Back in 1842, he was faced with a challenge by James Shields who was a very serious and real political rival. The challenge would be settled by a duel and Lincoln did go ahead and agree to it.

However, Lincoln was a tall man, and the duel never took place simply because he settled on them using broadswords as the weapon of choice. Upon arriving at the scene of the duel, he then used his broadsword to chop down a tree at a height that showed his prowess in order to make Shields think again about what he was suggesting. Ultimately, Shields did not like what he saw and he swiftly said sorry for upsetting Lincoln and decided that perhaps the duel was not the best course of action at this time.

So, he clearly did not have just a way with words but was also rather good with a sword.

The Gay Army?

Back in Ancient Egypt they had a different approach to part of their army, and it was one that was light years ahead of even where we are at this moment in time.

There was a section of their army that consisted of 150 gay couples based out of the ancient city of Thebes. The theory behind all of this was that you are more likely to fight harder and try to achieve more if you are looking to impress your lover. It is also important to point out that there were fewer restrictions and persecutions surrounding people who were gay at this time, so it was not frowned upon in society.

It is unknown as to whether or not this part of the army was successful, or if it was simply down to their fighting ability rather than their attempts to impress someone else by being the best warrior in the world.

Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road?

Why exactly did the chicken cross the road? Well in the case of Napa, California back in 1975 it was simply because they were on patrol and had to cross the roads in order to complete their duty.

Rather than installing speed bumps or other speed restriction methods, it was decided to try an experiment whereby they would use chickens to slow down traffic on one of the streets that ran nearby their main park. A total of 85 were released and able to roam the area freely and in the 9 months that the experiment lasted a total of 12 were killed by drivers.

Apparently it worked as people were anxious about the possibility of mowing down a chicken so they were driving slower than normal even though there were still some drivers that felt that they were just chickens so there was nothing to worry about.

Dealing with The Knowledge

If you want to work as a cab driver in London, then you are going to have to do a lot of work in order to then be permitted to do so. There is more to it than simply jumping behind the wheel and off you go.

Even though there is sat-nav to help you out, a London cab driver still needs to complete something that is known as 'The Knowledge' and it is a tall order. They are forced to learn all 25,000 street names, the various landmarks and key points of interest within a 6-mile radius of the heart of London. This is then tested in an oral exam covering multiple points so, they are effectively their very own walking and talking sat-nav.

This can take years for them to complete and quite a high percentage of participants will fail even at the first or second time of taking.

Is This the Longest War Ever?

Do you think that it would be possible for a country to forget that it was in a war? It does sound as if it would be impossible, but it is something that has actually happened, and it led to the conflict being seen as the longest war in the history of the world.

The war itself was between the Dutch and the Isles of Scilly, which do exist, and the war lasted for a total of 335 years and 19 days. The history books state that there were no casualties in the war. It was the Dutch that completely forgot that they were indeed at war until a historian reminded them of it in 1985. They then decided that it was best to bring things to an end so they signed a peace treaty with the Isles of Scilly the following year therefore, bringing to a close the longest war ever.

Well That's a Coincidence

It is relatively common for a movie to replicate something that happened in real life, but when the tables are turned it does mean that things take on a rather scary appearance.

Take a movie by the name of 'The China Syndrome' as the perfect example. It was a movie that focused on a nuclear reactor which went into a meltdown thanks to a pressure release valve that was stuck open and a problem with a sensor being faulty. At first, that doesn't sound as if it could be anything other than a cool movie, but you would be wrong.

Well, that is until you discover that the movie was released 12 days before the 3 Mile Island disaster. Why is that important? Simply because that particular meltdown ended up being caused by the exact same problem that was at the heart of the movie, so in this instance real life did indeed copy fiction.

Waiting to Hear Something

Imagine your husband goes off to war and he fails to come back. You wait and you wait for news and yet, you hear nothing. How long would you wait in order to uncover the truth of what happened to your husband?

The widow of Lt Bill Harris waited a staggering 67 years before she was finally told about his unfortunate demise and only after badgering the government to ultimately reveal what had happened. It turns out that her fighter pilot husband was shot down and killed. Through miscommunication and red tape, it took all of those years before it was finally revealed as to what had happened.

It turned out that her husband was one of the individuals that were commemorated every single year in Normandy for having given up their lives in trying to liberate France. The people in the town of Les Ventes knew what had happened to him, but it is amazing to think that his own widow had the information kept from her for all of those years.

A Long Time on a Flag Pole

For some absolutely strange reason, the idea of sitting on top of a flagpole really took off back in the 1920's. Ultimately, it led to people effectively competing with one another to see who would be able to break the record for this rather dangerous event that effectively became a hobby for some.

This was regarded as being endurance sitting where individuals would stay in the same position for as long as they could possibly cope, and it seems that people had an amazing ability to cope with it for a substantial period of time. How long? Well, the record for sitting on a flagpole stands at a rather stunning 51 days and 20 hours. You would have thought that they could have pushed it for another 4 hours just to get it up to 52 days though.

Oh that Cigarette

When it comes to things that appear in movies or TV shows that are actually pretty cool, then flicking a cigarette onto a trail of gasoline in order to ignite it, and then eventually blow something up, must be one of the best things to have ever appeared.

However, it seems that there is a slight problem with this entire thing, and the problem is quite simply that it does not work like that.

Even though it sounds as if it would be plausible, scientists set out to conduct an experiment to see if it could be done. They attempted to light the gasoline by this method 2000 times, and it turns out that they never managed to achieve it even once.

So, the next time you see it in a movie, just be the wise one that points out that it is completely wrong.

The Husband Storage Option

While the idea of going shopping in a mall sounds like paradise for some, there is no doubt that it is horrible and pointless to others. Also, it tends to be that the husband is the one that is bored out of his mind and that, in turn, is going to have a negative impact on the level of enjoyment that the wife is then able to have.

So, a mall in China then came up with a different idea that is designed to help improve the level of enjoyment that both parties can have. That has led to them creating the husband storage option where the husband is, literally, put into storage where he can do more male-orientated things such as video games or watch sports. In other words, it is like a daycare for adults and apparently it does quite well with the idea spreading to other malls around the world.

He is a She?

Back in the 19th century, it was simply not allowed for women to study medicine in the UK. However, that was not going to stop one particular woman who came up with a rather cunning plan to go ahead and beat this particular system.

The woman was called Margaret Ann Bulkley who studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh. The only problem was that, in order to do so, she had to dress up as a man and she adopted the alter-ego of James Barry.

Upon graduating, she had a distinguished career serving as an army surgeon and working in different parts of the world. He was apparently sympathetic to patients, but very bad-tempered elsewhere and the famous Florence Nightingale apparently hated him. It was not until she died in 1865 that it was discovered that he was actually a she.

The army was incensed and aside from putting across various ideas and theories as to how he was able to get away with it, they then closed all records on him which lasted until the 1950's. It was then that a local historian uncovered the story and brought Margaret Ann back to life and was then able to show how she had managed to trick the establishment for decades.

The Flying Bathtub

Have you ever heard the story of the woman in the flying bathtub? If not, then even though it might not be as obvious as you would think, this is something that did indeed happen to a 75-year-old woman in East Texas.

Upon hearing that a tornado was approaching, Charlesetta Williams took it upon herself to climb into her bathtub to protect herself when she realized that she was probably on for a direct hit. She was more accurate than she expected as the tornado took the roof off her house, lifted her bathtub up in the air, with her still in it of course, and then deposited her in the woods.

In other words, she had been in a flying bathtub. Her decision to climb inside did end up being a wise one, as it is stated that she was completely unharmed even though she would have hardly wanted to go ahead and repeat that particular journey any time soon.

That is a Long Time in Jail

There have been a number of people that have served decades in jail, but then they have only had their sentences brought to an end by the fact that they have died. However, what do you think is the longest time served in jail where the individual has actually been released at the end of it?

The answer is with an individual by the name of Paul Geidel. He was originally jailed when he was 17 years old for 2nd-degree murder, and he was eventually released from prison when he was 86 years old leading to a total of 68 years behind bars.

He had originally been sentenced to 20 years in jail, although his sentence was due to be made shorter because of good behavior. After being in jail for 15 years, they decided just before a parole hearing that he was legally insane. He was moved to a mental institution where he was held from 1926 to 1972. Once that part was ended, he was moved to a correctional facility that specialized in dealing with elderly prisoners where he stayed until 1980, by which time he was 86 years old.

Why Do We Want to Squeeze Cute Things?

Have you ever noticed something that you deem to be cute and all you want to do is to go ahead and squeeze it? You must admit that it just seems to be very appealing for some strange reason, but it seems that there may indeed be more going on behind the scenes than you thought possible.

This is not to say that we are all mad, but scientists at Yale have discovered that this urge to be aggressive in some way could be directly linked to the state of our own emotional health. What the study showed was that those individuals that had a very positive reaction to a baby also had this strong desire to go ahead and do something else such as pinch their cheeks. It might not sound like much, but it is certainly regarded as being an aggressive move at a time where you seem to be very happy indeed.

The same study also showed that people are likely to pop more bubble wrap when they are shown cute images of babies or animals than if they were shown more normal images.

So, why does this happen?

It seems that there are two theories. The first is that it is an attempt by our emotions to produce a counter-balanced emotion to the highly positive and emotional one that we are already experiencing. Then, there is another theory that our mind is producing a negative emotion to effectively restore our emotional balance. The idea is that if we are unable to do this, then we are emotionally unstable although, some work still has to be carried out to see how accurate they are with this theory.

Who Invented French Fries?

This may sound like a trick question, but who do you think actually invented the concept of French Fries? The automatic answer is probably going to be the French, and that is certainly one of the theories that are out there. However, there is some international scandal that has yet to be resolved.

On the one side, there is the argument that they were invented by Parisian street vendors around the time of the French Revolution. On the other side, there are the Belgians who claim that they started it and then a vendor from France saw the idea and copied it.

At the end of the day, it is up to you as to who you believe. For most people the mere fact that they are called French Fries and not Belgian Fries is going to be the answer that they are most content with.

That is a Lot of Sick Police

You would like to think that police officers would be the kind of people that you can trust and rely upon when times are hard, but it seems that this is not the case. Do you want to know how we can say such a thing? Well, we can turn to Rome in order to see a perfect example where there seems to have been something going on that dampens your faith in the police.

Every New Year's Eve is popular when it comes to parties and celebrations. With huge crowds everywhere, it is the kind of thing where you need the police to be around in order to control the crowds and make sure that nothing untoward will happen. Well, that is how it works in most places.

In 2014, it seems that the police officers based in Rome had other ideas as to what they wanted to do at the end of the year. Did they want to go ahead and do the thing that they were paid for? Did they want to go and party like everybody else?

It turns out that the answer was certainly that they wanted to party, as it has been shown that out of the 1000 police officers that are based in Rome that just over 800 of them called in sick for that evening. Yes, over 80% of the police force of Rome had all been struck down with some mystery illness at the same time.

We told you that this would dent your belief in the police.

Napoleon and the Buttons

There were a number of things that Napoleon had to battle against during his various campaigns. It seems that one issue that he could have really struggled with had nothing to do with the army that he was fighting against at the time. Was it a case of them being better equipped? Nope, it was more to do with the weather and clothing.

When fighting in what we now know as Russia, the Napoleonic army had buttons that were made from tin. This in itself was perfectly normal and natural, so it was hardly a design flaw in that sense. However, it turns out that fighting in a uniform with tin buttons in Russia during the winter is not the most intelligent thing to do.

The reason for that is because at -13°C , the atoms in tin begin to break down. As a result, the tin would start to crumble and there was a very real risk that the buttons on their uniform would then simply fall apart and crumble into dust. Clearly, they would then be unable to fight with their uniform flapping all over the place, so it led to buttons being remade using different base metals.

The Custom-Built DeLorean

The DeLorean that appears in the Back to the Future movies was actually more custom-built than you are perhaps giving it credit for. Those with an eagle eye would notice that the speedometer that appears on the car in the movies goes up to 95mph, and at first you would think that this was nothing unusual or special. However, that would in itself be wrong.

It turns out that the original DeLorean had a maximum speedometer reading of 85mph as a direct result of a mandate that was passed down by President Jimmy Carter. The problem was that it did not fit into what they wanted for the car for the movie, so they had to then go to the extent of producing a fake speedometer that worked and met their needs.

So, you really cannot believe anything that you see in the movies not even something that is apparently as small and insignificant as that.

That Toe is the Sign of Beauty

Is your second toe bigger than the first one? If so, then you would have loved to have been alive during the time of the Ancient Greeks. This affliction, as some do see it as, is known as Greek Toe, but back then it was regarded as being a sign of absolute beauty in society. As a result, it led to various statues and other depictions having the model or main focus of the art having a larger second toe.

You might also want to know that it also appears on the Statue of Liberty and David by Michaelangelo, so it was something that was certainly able to hang around for some considerable period of time before we apparently changed our view.

So, if you have that larger toe, then be proud of it and do not hide it away. If anybody comments on it then just let them know that you are a Greek God or Goddess.

Carrie is Alive

Stephen King completely dominates in his genre of writing with his novels selling by the millions and being turned into various movies and TV shows. However, it was oh so close to just never happening at all for him.

His first novel was called 'Carrie' and he was certainly very resilient at submitting it to companies to get it published. After being rejected for the 30th time, he decided that he was never going to make a career as a writer. Ultimately, he then decided to throw it in the trash and to try to move on with his life.

Upon noticing this, his wife is said to have picked it up out of the trash and told him to persevere with it and resubmit. He listened to her and it was indeed eventually picked up and became a major success. Of course, after that there was never any looking back for King, with his books now dominating the book charts upon their release.

The Oldest Beer in Town

Beer has been around for thousands of years, but when do you think the first advertisement for it appeared in society? Well, you might be surprised to hear that we have to go back in time by approximately 6000 years to get our answer.

For this, we need to head to ancient Mesopotamia, which is in the region that we now refer to as Iraq and other aspects of the Middle East. There, archaeologists discovered a stone tablet with inscriptions written on it that would ultimately lead to the discovery of the oldest advertisement.

On that stone tablet there read an inscription that said ‘Drink Elba, the beer with the heart of a lion.’ which is a pretty cool advertisement even by the standards today. Of course, we do not know how popular it was or what impact it had, or even how many people would have been able to read it. However, just the mere fact that people were trying to market beer such a long time ago is an astonishing fact all on its own.

Name-Calling Hitler

You would think that calling Hitler names would be something that would ultimately lead to your life being ended rather swiftly, as that is one person that you do not want to upset. However, that is why people would call him names behind his back, and also do so in a rather quiet voice.

So, what do you think people would call him?

It turns out that one of his nicknames was ‘Teppichfresser’ which roughly translates as ‘Carpet-Eater’ and that in itself should win an award for the strangest nickname ever invented until you understand why they settled on that name.

It all stems from the way in which he would react over Czechoslovakia, as it seems that this was one thing that had the potential of really getting to him unlike any other issue that he had to contend with. His frustrations over Czechoslovakia would lead to him throwing himself to the floor in a rage and he would, by all accounts anyway, start chewing on the carpet in absolute anger.

Now the name makes sense, but you just know that nobody called him by that name to his face simply because your life would be worth absolutely nothing.

Oh That Italian Olive Oil

The Italians are quite clever in that they have been able to pretty much brand themselves as being one of the best producers of olive oil, but all is not quite as it seems.

Instead, it turns out that while Italy does indeed produce some olive oil, that they are bending the laws and rules somewhat and providing us with a bit of a con. Rather than producing it all on their own, they are also the biggest importers of olive oil with the majority of it coming from Spain. Upon its arrival in Italy, they then simply rebrand it as Italian and sell it once again.

This accounts for the biggest percentage of the olive oil that is sold as being from the country, and there will often be no sign that this is indeed the case. So, the next time you see something as being branded from that country, then unless you have a cast-iron guarantee that this is the case, then perhaps taking it with a pinch of salt would be the best way forward.

Did He Have the Key to Success?

Back in 1915, San Diego was in the middle of the worst drought that it had ever experienced. The city was being hit hard by it and they were completely desperate to do something that could bring rain. Of course, desperate times does indeed mean desperate measures and it led to them hiring an individual by the name of Charles Hatfield.

Mr Hatfield was smooth enough to convince the individuals that rule San Diego that he was the man that they were looking for. His argument was that he could go ahead and make rain simply by mixing a series of chemicals together to which he had the secret potion. He was offered a total of \$10,000 if he was able to make it rain, which was a huge sum of money back in those days, although it did put some pressure on his shoulders.

He built a tower and apparently fired his chemicals up into the air to accelerate moisture according to his own plan. The only problem was that he was actually just a salesman and had no experience in this kind of thing.

A few days later, the rain did indeed start, and it never stopped for almost 30 days leading to the worst floods that the city had ever had. Hatfield was clearly delighted at what he had achieved, but the city had other ideas and refused to give him his money. They stated that this was an act of God rather than anything that he himself had been able to do, but then who knows if he was indeed maybe onto something.

Do You Want to Be a Vase Polisher?

Imagine working for the Royal Family, what kind of perks would one hope to enjoy and how tough would it be?

It might astound you to know that there are in fact, 199 bedrooms that are on site for palace staff. That sure is a lot of bedrooms. Each bedroom has its own bathroom but is said to be quite modest in style. Currently, the palace is looking for a 'vase polisher', which might sound bizarre but considering how many rare vases are on display in the palace it would be even more bizarre to leave this daunting task to regular staff.

Part of the contract when signing on as a royal staff member is of course secrecy, it never does to tell the public about the goings on within the palace walls. Not many have transferred these rules but one particular person Paul Burrell even wrote a book about it which included Princess Diana. The British public were both incensed and intrigued. Paul Burrell was invited onto the UK's Big Brother series and upon arriving, the American housemates treated him like royalty. Which is in itself ironic since he is not one bit royal and also is disliked intensely by the famous monarchy for his inability to keep his lips sealed.

There is currently 1000 staff on hand, and it is said that most staff are very poorly paid, which is quite interesting since they work very long hours. Nonetheless, it is still seen as a prestigious position, all meals are free for those living in and for those not living in lunch is free.

The job of a butler is very coveted, so much so that a company in London has

opened offering Butler courses at £7000 a pop. The course which is only 4 weeks long promises one a good chance to get into the palace and take up residence, as staff only, of course. If one is interested the vase polishing job is offering a salary of around £7000.00 per year for a 20-hour week. Not exactly a plum position.

Could Your Dreams Be Telling You Something?

Dreams are an integral part of sleep, we all know that, but what you might not know is that many famous inventions came about from dreams. Some of them are, the DNA Helix ladder from James Watson and the idea for Google, Larry Page. It makes sense then to realize that the mind is always trying to solve puzzles for us. Dreams are there to aid us in assimilating information we have gathered during the day. This is just a fancy word for file. If we didn't digest and assimilate everything that happened during the day our minds would be in chaos.

Some people swear by writing a problem down and asking their minds to solve it as they sleep. Try it and see if it works for you. This puts whole new meaning on 'I'll sleep on it'.

Dreams become a land unto themselves when we consider some facts about what happens when we sleep and more importantly dream.

There are cases of people who commit rare crimes whilst fast asleep and one case of a male nurse who is a nurse by day but a phenomenal artist by night. Lee Hadwin who claims he cannot draw at all suddenly becomes an artist when he is fast asleep. One of his sketches of Marilyn Munroe recently sold for \$4000.

Murders have been committed whilst the person was fast asleep. As in the case of a man who drove 22 miles in order to murder his cousin and has no memory at all of the event.

Getting to Grips with Food

“A rose is a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet”, not only a famous Shakespearian quote but also a truism! It might interest you to know that the rose is not just a flower but part of a family of a group known as the Rosaceae group

Included in the Rosaceae group are cherries, plums, apples, and strawberries. All of these delicious fruits form part of the Rosaceae family.

If you or the object of your desire has had their nails done recently you will notice just how shiny and nice they look. You’d be surprised to find out that the resin shellac is used to bring upon that dewy glow and is also used on top of jelly beans to do the same thing!

Food is well known for its healing properties, but did you know that bananas can also help moods? Bananas are high in tryptophan, which is a direct converter to serotonin the feel-good brain chemical.

Almonds are not a nut as we call it but rather a seed. That’s right, the almond is a seed and is the precursor to beautiful flowers such as the orchid and some families of roses.

If you’re looking for high protein foods don’t always turn to meat. Greek yogurt is one of the highest protein foods, and that is specifically Greek yogurt not regular yogurt.

Imagine landing the moon and then imagine what food you’d eat. Can you

guess which one it was? Canned peaches! One will probably never look at canned peaches the same way again.

Some Marines are Lucky

A United States marine is rightly seen as being a tough guy that is willing to push themselves to the absolute limit of what is humanly possible. They are also able to withstand a lot of pain, but it is perhaps fair to say that they do require a certain degree of luck on their side as well.

Take the story of Jack Lucas as a prime example of how some marines are indeed extremely lucky. Young Jack was desperate to enlist that he lied about his date of birth, so he actually joined when he was only 13 years old, as this was during the time of World War II.

Upon joining, he quickly saw action and somehow managed to survive being blown up after he dove on two grenades in an attempt to save the rest of his team. If that was not enough, he then recovered from that blast and had another miraculous escape when he jumped out of a plane and both of his parachutes failed to open. Somehow he survived the fall, which really does show how you need to be extremely lucky at times in order to survive whatever is thrown at you.

Smelling a Violet

When it comes to smelling a violet, then you have to be fast or else you are going to miss out. That is not because the scent only survives for a few seconds as it is always there, but it is where the scent comes from and the impact that it has on us that makes the difference.

It turns out that the scent from this particular flower comes from iodine, and this is something that our brain is not too friendly with if truth be told. The impact that it has on our scent receptors is that it shuts them off after a short period of time, so we are then unable to smell the flowers in the same way. To us, it is as if the scent has died, but it is still there. If you step back, wait a short while and then smell them again, then it will suddenly work with the entire process being repeated.

Cheating at Chess

You would like to think that chess would be a rather noble game that was somehow exempt from the concept of cheating, but that is not the case. However, perhaps the most surprising thing is that we can go as far back as 1561 to see that the idea of trying to have any kind of an advantage over people is hardly new.

This book is referred to as being a book all about strategies for playing chess, and they are quite implicit when they state various ways in which you can try to get one up on your opponent. In the book, it tells you to play with the sun behind your back so it then blinds your opponent, or if you are playing in the evening and using light from a fire to then use your hand to create shadows on the board to hide or confuse.

OK, so it is hardly going to be the crime of the century, but it still comes across as being unfair in your approach so perhaps the game has never been as noble as we would like to think.

The Poo Bomb

Being at war is a dirty business, but it seems that at one point North Korea took this concept of it being dirty to a whole new level.

In order to annoy and disrupt South Korea, it is claimed that North Korea decided to go ahead and drop what is known as poo bombs on the south. That is literally a package that contained poo knowing that South Korea would have to use people to open the packages carefully and slowly to determine if there was some kind of biochemical hazard in the package.

You can only imagine their surprise when they noticed what was contained within it and they then had to deal with the offending weapon. This could hardly hurt someone, but the chaos that surrounded them firing these bombs into enemy territory meant that it was still able to cause some disruption.

Why Does Italian Sound So Nice?

You have to admit that there is something rather nice about the Italian language. If you thought that it was all down to your own personal interpretation, then you are going to be shown how you are completely wrong.

Instead, linguistic experts have shown that the Italian language is so pleasant to our ears simply because it has a higher number of words that then end in vowels compared to other languages. Also, they have fewer words where there are a high number of consonants just one after the other, as it is known that those kinds of words are a bit harsher on the ear.

So, it is nothing to do with their accent, but rather it is all connected to simply the way in which the words are formed and nothing else.

Is Smile Mask Syndrome Real?

Have you ever heard of smile mask syndrome? If not, then you are not alone even though this is a very real psychological condition.

It turns out that it occurs when an individual develops both depression along with a physical illness because of a prolonged period of time where they have been forced into a completely unnatural smile. It was first noticed, or classified, in Japan back in 1983, and that in itself may very well be a reason why the syndrome exists to begin with.

In Japanese culture, there is almost a forced need to smile as much as possible so people effectively grin and bear it as much as they can. This leads to them becoming depressed as they do not want to do it but culture dictates it. So, while the outside is showing one thing the person on the inside is experiencing something completely different.

Well That Should Fix it

Computers, and technology in general, is often seen as being rather complicated to fix when something goes wrong and you feel as if you require a degree in order to fix even the simplest of things. Well, it seems that it has not always been like that.

If we go back in time to the earlier days of computers then we reach the Apple 3. Now, you would be forgiven for thinking that as it is an Apple that it would prove to be rather difficult to fix, but that was not the case.

Instead, there was an official method of trying to repair something with the computer that even those that are completely new to technology could be capable of handling. The method? Lift the computer off the surface by a couple of inches and drop it.

Yes, pick it up and drop it in order to try to fix it. Now, if only every piece of technology was like that then we could all fix everything at any time.

Can You Wear a T-Shirt in Antarctica?

Do you believe that you could wear a t-shirt in Antarctica? It sounds as if it would be completely impossible, but it seems that this is not the case. OK, so we are not talking about you walking around outside in the ice and snow as that would be insane, but then we are also not talking about wearing a t-shirt in the warm research outposts that are scattered across Antarctica.

So, where can you wear a t-shirt?

The answer is that scientists have discovered a series of caves beneath the ice that have ultimately led to an entire cave network to be explored. It is said that as it is so far beneath the ice that it is free from the cold temperatures that plague the upper surface hence the comment about being able to wear a t-shirt. They also hope that the network is going to lead to the discovery of new animal species and a completely different ecosystem, although they have still to do the work to check if that is OK.

However, to answer the question, yes you can wear a t-shirt in Antarctica but you have to be careful as to where, or how you wear it.

Why Do Some People Hate Clowns?

Why do you think some people hate clowns? You will probably think that it is all connected to them having had a bad experience when they were a young child, and that is certainly the case for some, but it is not always the answer.

Instead, it has been shown that it could be related to something that lurks far deeper inside of us all. It may relate to something that is referred to as the ‘uncanny valley effect’ and it is just as strange as it sounds.

This hypothesis states that we have difficulties in dealing with things that look as if they should be human, but there is something just not quite right about it all. As a result, it produces a negative response within us as we just do not quite comprehend what is going on and it simply does not make sense to us. However, others just realize that it is a clown and is a guy in make-up which is why we do not all have the same extreme negative response.

The Romans and Chinese Silk

Do you think that it would be possible for Chinese silk to be popular during the times of the Roman Empire? It does seem as if it would need to travel a huge distance and surely there were no trade routes that covered this huge part of the globe when you go back thousands of years?

Well, that is where you are wrong because, not only did Chinese and Asian silk appear in the Roman Empire, it seems that they were absolutely in awe of it all. There was even a point where it was banned as an import back in 14AD, simply because they were importing so much of the silk compared to other things that would actually be of benefit to the empire that it was hurting the economy.

The Romans did not trade directly with the Han Chinese, but through a series of links that did actually connect the two of them together. So, even 2,000 years ago there was the possibility of trade routes that covered thousands of miles which is in itself a pretty amazing fact.

That is a War Crime

The Geneva Convention lists everything that is considered to be a war crime. However, there are some items on the list that just seems to be rather strange, and you wonder why on earth it is thought to be a crime.

For example, in a war it is illegal for you to pretend that you are dead to then draw in the enemy and either kill them or capture them. It is simply regarded as being unfair because, in their eyes, it needs to be a fair fight rather than trying some sneaky methods to gain the upper hand. Of course, the reality is completely different which is why it is constantly being broken by all sides to such an extent that it is very rarely enforced.

Everest Just Wouldn't Work

When it comes to The Beatles, there are a whole host of iconic albums that covered their career, but perhaps one of their most famous was close to being named something completely different.

It turns out that the band had this idea of creating an album called 'Everest' after the mountain, but they really did not want to fly all the way to the base of Everest in order to have a few photographs taken, and computer graphics were not around at that time. So, what did they do in order to still get the album out?

Well, they decided that as they were quite lazy that they would call it after somewhere closer to home. This ultimately led to them basically walking out of their studio and taking a photograph in the street. That was the birth of the iconic album called 'Abbey Road' and, of course, the image that went with it has been replicated and viewed a countless number of times over the decades.

You have to admit that there would have been something missing about it if they had decided to fly all the way to Everest, as it just does not have the same ring to it. Perhaps fate was able to play a part that they just so happened to have a studio on the perfect road name for an album.

Name-Calling does Work

The psychological side of war can be tough, but then there are aspects within the United States army that focus on using psychology in order to gain the upper hand in battle. This has led to them trying all different kinds of tactics in places such as Afghanistan, but it is the way in which they employed these tactics that is rather interesting

It seems to be the case that calling people names is a sure way of getting them to react in the way that you want them to although, you do need to understand the best names to call them. For example, the psychological operations department decided that they would use loudspeakers in Afghanistan to basically call out the Taliban and encourage them to take part in fights that they just could not win.

So, what do you think they would shout at the Taliban through those loudspeakers in order to get the upper hand? Well, it turns out that they decided to use names such as 'cowardly dogs' and 'lady men' which were certain to get them upset and to run out in order to fight. As they did so, they were merely picked off.

Who is the Most Famous Person in the United Kingdom?

Who do you think is the most famous person in the United Kingdom? Well, the answer does depend on who you ask. When you check out the answers according to different age ranges then you do get a variety of answers that can, at times, be rather shocking.

Take a survey conducted on children under the age of 10 as a prime example. In doing so, you see that they are certainly being influenced in various ways according to their answers.

In third place you had the Queen. In second place you had God. However, it was the person in first place that is very surprising as it turns out that kids under 10 believe that Simon Cowell is the most famous person in the country. Cowell himself would probably be quite happy with that outcome as it is not every day that you are more famous than the Queen and God.

Have I Met You Before?

Have you ever had the feeling that you have met an individual before and yet you are not quite sure when or how? Well, there are some people out there that have that particular feeling every single time they meet someone, but then they do have a rather rare issue known as Fregoli delusion.

With this, the individual believes that the person they see before them is actually the same person in disguise over and over again. It is named after an Italian actor a century ago who was able to imitate every single person that appeared in a scene, even though this is something that does happen in real life.

It was first noted in the 1920's when an individual believed that an actress that he had a crush on was disguising herself as different people over and over again. This led to very real frustration and him becoming rather depressed and annoyed that nobody else was able to actually see what was going on.

It does not happen too often, but there have been a few documented cases of individuals with this kind of a reaction. You can only imagine how it has a negative impact on their lives and the way in which they encounter people.

Schizophrenia and Culture

Even though there is more to schizophrenia than just hearing voices, it is certainly an integral part of the illness. However, studies have shown that the aspect surrounding voices could be more complex than we initially thought.

It is believed by some experts that the voices and what they are effectively saying to the individual can vary depending on the culture and country that you find yourself in or influenced by.

As an example, the study showed that there is a tendency in America for people that are schizophrenic to hear voices that are telling them to carry out violent acts more than anything else. At the same time, if you go to Africa, then they tend to hear the voices of their ancestors since that plays a huge part in their heritage and culture.

Alternatively, in India they often hear voices that are far more comforting and positive in nature over and above anything else. Quite why there is this sense of variation is not fully understood, but it is accepted that culture does play a huge part in shaping the voices in our head.

How Does the Sewing Machine Work?

Even some of the greatest individuals that have ever invented anything do tend to get things ever so slightly wrong at some point. Take Thomas Edison as a good example. He is seen as being a rather intelligent guy that was able to effectively change how we view the world, but not every single invention could be classed as being a success.

Take one invention that was associated with him that just failed to catch on. The invention in question was referred to as being a voice-operated sewing machine, so you can already see why it just failed to have the kind of impact that he was hoping for. Basically, the individual would blow into a mouthpiece and somehow or other the sewing machine would then work. It seems that this invention failed to take off as it was hardly going to replace the more traditional form using pedals as that was regarded as being easier to use, as well as, easier to control.

Thankfully, Edison was not a failure at everything that he would then go ahead and try to invent or else the world would look slightly different than it does today. However, perhaps there are times where you should be careful and not get too ahead of your own success.

When was it Called the First World War?

We are all used to referring to the war that happened between 1914 and 1918 as the First World War, but when do you think that this term came into fruition?

Most people would go ahead and state that it must have happened after the Second World War as that would make sense, but if you thought that this would be the case, then you are wrong.

Instead, the term was created by a journalist just after the end of the war in 1918. Apparently he was convinced that this would not be the end and that another war was going to be inevitable. However, he had no idea just how accurate he was going to be and that it would happen so soon.

Suspended for That?

Schools have been known to suspend students for a wide range of reasons, but there are times when the reason is just extremely bizarre to such an extent that nothing at all makes sense. If you want the perfect example of how all of this can work then you just need to look at what happened in the case of a 16-year-old student in Omaha, Nebraska.

The 16-year-old called Trevor Richards was suspended from his school because, he had put forward himself as a nomination for a particular award at his school. At first this does not sound too strange until you come to grips with the award and the way in which he was guaranteed to win it.

Trevor was actually born in South Africa, and he had put forward a category and award for the most 'Distinguished African-American Student of the Year' which does sound as if it would be a perfectly fair award. However, he was the only student in the school who had ever lived in Africa and, therefore, was the only person who could ever have a hope of winning the award.

It turns out that the school decided that Trevor was being rather sarcastic and was trying to be cheeky in what he was doing, and they hated it. As a result, they then decided to go ahead and suspend him which does appear to be a bit harsh.

Where Do You Live?

Looking at the census does give you a better indication of who is living where and also what the population is like, and it does tend to throw up a few surprises.

The 2010 census in New York City certainly had its fair share of surprising statistics that even went against what the authorities themselves would have you believe. Take Central Park because the authorities state that nobody lives there, and why would they admit that when it is such a huge draw for tourists and natives alike?

However, it seems that the census has a different idea of what is going on because according to the census there are a total of 25 people that refer to Central Park as being their home. It does just make you think about what their accommodation is going to be and also how it will be scary for them at night, but then they could also argue that they have one of the most prestigious addresses in the entire city.

That's One Way to Make Money

There are a whole host of ways to make money, but it is fair to say that some of them are perhaps not as legal as others. Take the case of a guy called Michael Largent who was certainly rather clever in his approach, although he was also rather stupid at the same time.

Back in 2008, Largent had the idea of trying to take advantage of the fact that various online accounts send you a few cents to verify that you are the owner of an account. So, he went to the extent of creating over 58,000 fake accounts using names from the world of cartoons, as well as, randomly putting together names as well as fake social security numbers and addresses.

It does sound like a lot of work, but it led to him being able to obtain in the region of \$50,000 before his bank wondered what on earth was going on that he was being sent all of these small sums of money from the likes of Google, amongst others.

The surprising part is that he then told his bank what he was doing as he thought that he was safe from a legal perspective. He was actually correct, but because he had used fake names and fake numbers, it meant that he was indeed guilty of fraud and was therefore charged along those lines.

So close at pulling off an absolute masterplan, but yet he was still actually a failure.

Taking Being a Vegan too Far

Becoming vegan is something that has become more popular in recent years, but a couple in Australia were found guilty of taking things a bit too far. Basically, they were not happy with only the two of them being vegan that they also decided that they wanted their kitten to also become vegan.

At first, it sounds like a perfectly plausible idea, but that is not the case. They fed the cat a diet that included potatoes, pasta, rice milk and a number of other items. The diet made the cat extremely ill to the point that it almost died. It was rescued by a vet who was forced into putting it on a drip and giving it a completely different diet that included meat as a staple part.

Fortunately, the cat made a full recovery, but you can guarantee that it will never try to turn Vegan all on its own in the future.

Milk has the Power

We all know that milk has a number of positive and healthy properties associated with it, but did you know that it has been responsible for saving buildings?

OK, so this is technically true, but it was only because of milk being a liquid that it was able to save the buildings. It all happened when a milkman by the name, Steve Leech was doing his rounds when he spotted that a shop was on fire. Determined to get the fire to stop, he then proceeded to pour 320 pints over the fire to then put it out. Not only did it work, but it also meant that a total of 7 other shops were saved as there is no doubting that the fire would have been able to spread if it was not for his actions.

As a result of his actions, he was awarded the award for the milkman of the year which is seen as being the highest accolade that you could ever hope to receive in the industry, so it was certainly worth his while.

It Might Not Be What You Hoped

When you are having something translated into another language, there is always going to be the risk that things might not work out to be as accurate as you had initially hoped. At times, it may also prove to be the complete opposite which will only lead to problems.

A Swiss couple is the prime example of this simply because of a video that they put on YouTube. They had gone to the Maldives after getting married, and they thought that it would be a nice thing to do if they were able to renew their wedding vows and have it done in the native language of the islands. For this, they paid just over \$1000 and had someone film the ceremony so they could check it out later and show their friends and family.

However, after putting the video on YouTube they discovered that what they thought were their vows actually translated into something completely different. Not only that but the person that was doing the translating was actually being rather nasty and horrible about them. It turns out that they were referring to the couple as infidels and referred to their children as ‘bastard swine’ along with a whole host of other insults.

The moral of this story is certainly to pay attention and only use a translator that you feel you can trust or you could run into all kinds of difficulties.

It Seems We are Fast

There is this idea that we are stronger, taller, and faster now than we have ever been before. It seems that this might not be the case if fossil footprints found in Australia are anything to go by.

These footprints have been examined by various experts, and what they show is something that is rather fascinating. They were left in the ground over 20,000 years ago. After close examination it was decided that they represented a modern human who was running at approximately the same speed as an Olympic sprinter. Not only that, but it was also being done on sand which makes it even more impressive than before.

Of course, this is just using different theories and measurements, so whether or not it is true or accurate is something that we will never know. However, the very idea that a human living all of those years ago that was faster than the majority of us today is rather intriguing. It makes you wonder what else we are missing out on.

The Flamingo is Rather Hardy

It is perhaps fair to say that the flamingo is a lot harder than we tend to give it credit. Not only is it quite a cool bird to look at, but the extremes that they can withstand go above and beyond what the majority of birds are able to cope with.

As an example, the flamingo is able to still go to sleep even when the water around its legs has frozen solid. At the same time, they are able to go ahead and drink boiling water without it causing any problems. Furthermore, they can also survive in conditions where they are being exposed to gases that are poisonous to them.

Of course all of this is pretty amazing and there you thought that the flamingo was pretty pointless. It is actually one of the hardiest animals of its kind out there. So, perhaps cut it some slack as it is doing a lot better than you could ever hope to do.

Fire Might Not Have Been the Best Idea

Coming across a snake can be a horrific thing for a number of people as they are not exactly the most liked of animals. However, even though people are guilty of trying different methods in order to kill them, there is one case where the snake ended up having the last laugh.

An unnamed woman in Texas described seeing a large snake near her property and she decided that she simply did not want it to be there. Instead of calling a company to come and get it, she had the apparently bright idea to soak the snake in gasoline and set fire to it, which did seem like a perfectly reasonable way of dealing with the problem.

However, she did not take into account that the snake would not take too kindly to being set on fire and as soon as she lit the gasoline the snake slithered off at record speed and dove into a brush pile that was next to her home. Of course, this was not a good mixture and the burning snake ended up setting the brush pile on fire which, in turn, set her house on fire and burnt it to the ground.

In other words, even though the snake died, it was still able to get its revenge before it died. The moral of the story is to think of alternative methods for catching a snake rather than setting fire to it because you never know if it is going to go well or turn into a disaster such as this.

Gasoline is Not Gasoline

What would you think if you were told that gasoline was not actually gasoline? Well, apart from being shocked it would then open up a completely different story than what you probably expected when it came to this term that we are all familiar with.

It turns out that gasoline actually has no direct correlation to gas and that is the first surprising fact. The origins of the story is that it was actually connected to a brand name that was known as Cazeline. A store owner took it upon himself to convert the C to a G by adding a line to it and the name kind of took off from that moment on.

It is unknown as to how much of that story is true, but it does sound rather funny that it all came from one single store where the owner had something against a brand name and took to defacing it for whatever reason he had.

The Origins of the Sandwich

The humble sandwich is believed to have been born out of a request by the Earl of Sandwich and that in itself makes sense rather than something just being dedicated to him. Apparently the Earl was a heavy gambler, and when he was in the midst of a game he would do anything that he could in order to avoid leaving the table.

This ultimately led to him asking to have something to eat where he would only have to use one hand. According to reports he also specifically asked for his meal to be put between two slices of bread as that would make it easier to hold it all together.

Upon seeing this, and his ability to then continue the game, the other players effectively copied him. It was said that they would ask for something to eat 'like sandwich' and that is where we get the name.

That is a Lot of Books

The British library has what could only be described as an extensive library and catalog of books, but are you aware of just how many and the length of time it would take you to read each one?

Well, if you were somehow able to read five books per day, it would still take you over 80,000 years to complete everything, and that is only with them no longer bringing in any additional books to add to the catalog. It just makes you think about the space that they have in order to store them all and anyway who would be able to read five books per day every single day anyway?

This is Scary About Soda

Farmers in India are faced with a problem in that everything costs so much money and it does mean that they are forced into searching for alternative and cheaper solutions to the most common problems. However, nobody in their wildest dreams could ever think about this solution to a pesticide problem.

It was noted that farmers took it upon themselves to use both Coca-Cola and Pepsi as a pesticide in their fields. At first this does sound as if it would be a crazy thing to do and that it would be impossible for it to have any kind of an impact, but that is just not true. Instead, it seems as if those two drinks were able to do a pretty good job compared to other potential pesticides that they could use and that makes you wonder what it could be doing to you.

Racism Didn't Exist in Roman Times

Sadly, racism does exist in the world today, but it seems that it was not such a problem when we go back in times, which then makes it even worse that we are in the predicament that we are right now.

If you check out the Roman Empire, then people that had a different color of skin were never discriminated against in any way. At no point were they regarded as being second class citizens and they were never blocked or barred from doing anything in life. Ancient scholars and historians also never mentioned anybody in a derogatory manner because of the color of their skin either and everybody was regarded as being equal.

At the same time, society had no sense of a stigma against a mixed-race relationship and there was certainly nobody frowning upon it as the couple went about their daily life. This form of racial harmony would not last though. The exact moment when things went awry is still up for debate, but there is no doubt that it did not start while the Roman Empire was in full swing.

Look Out for the Dead Pigeon

Richard Nixon had a very strange idea that he did not want any pigeon poo to appear in the path for his inauguration. Of course, as the President he had the power to go ahead and do what he wanted about it, but it could be argued that he did take things a step too far.

His idea was that they would spend \$13,000 on a chemical that would be sprayed, along the route that would stop the pigeons from being there and pooping. However, the chemical that they actually used was toxic to the pigeons and instead of there being pigeon poo the inauguration route was littered of dead pigeons which is infinitely worse.

Perhaps he should have taken this as a sign that his time as the President would not go well, so if there are ever any dead pigeons in the future, then perhaps that individual is not going to see the end of their term in office.

You Missed the Olympics

The Olympic Games is a massive event so you would think that it would be impossible for a country that had competitors actually being able to miss it. However, that has actually happened in the past, but it turns out that there was a perfectly logical reason.

In 1908, the Olympics were taking place in London, and even though it was not at the same heights as the games are at this point, they were still going to be pretty impressive. The team from Russia fancied itself as being worthy of winning a few medals, but it turns out that the entire team turned up a staggering 12 days late for the games.

However, the reason why they turned up late was due to a very simple error that nobody had thought about correcting. The issue was that the Russian team was still living according to the Julian calendar instead of the Gregorian calendar that was being used elsewhere. The discrepancy between the two led to them missing the games as they just simply lost track of time and their chances of winning medals were gone.

This is How to Stop a Mosquito

The quest to find the perfect mosquito repellent has been going on for decades with scientists testing out a wide range of products and chemical combinations to see which one they believe is able to work best. However, it seems that they stumbled across a better option and it was one that they could never have guessed at.

During a test in 2015, the scientists used a perfume from Victoria's Secret as the standard, and in doing so they discovered that it was pretty good at stopping the mosquito in its tracks. It seems that, as they worked on scent, that the perfume was getting in the way. It was performing better than some of the specialist products that they were actually wanting to check out.

So, even though they say that DEET is good at stopping them, if you have some of this perfume, then you are onto a winner and have nothing to lose at covering yourself in it to stop being bitten to death by a mosquito.

Out of the Olympics for Using Drugs

We sadly now are used to hearing that different athletes have been banned from the Olympic games because they have used some kind of illegal drug to gain an advantage. Do you know who the first person was to be banned? Also, do you know what they were found guilty of using?

Surprisingly, the country of origin of the athlete was Sweden, and it was a pentathlete by the name of Hans-Gunnar Liljenwall. He was taking part in the 1968 games, and we should note that the new regulations surrounding the use of drugs only came into being in 1967. His actions led to the entire Swedish team being brought into disrepute, and his crime? He had drunk two beers.

It sounds amazing to find out that he was disqualified because of drinking two beers. He admitted that he did so to calm his nerves, so it was seen as being a doping violation as he was trying to stop being anxious so he could then perform better. It caused a huge scandal, but when you compare it to the things that go on today with the Olympics, then this is an absolute walk in the park.

A Different Way to Tackle Speeding

When it comes to trying to tackle speeding, then there are a whole host of ways that you can try to be successful. However, a town in Scotland certainly wanted to try something that was completely different from the norm, and the surprising thing was that it was actually a success.

The village of Arnprior only has a population of 200 and there is one main road that goes through the middle of the village that is also decidedly straight. So, what did they do in order to stop people from just driving as fast as they can along the street?

Well, they came up with the idea of painting the white line that goes along the middle of the road, but not in the normal way. In fact, they made sure that the white line wasn't straight, as this had the impact of confusing drivers and making them think that the road was no longer straight.

The result was that drivers slowed down due to the optical illusion of the road moving all over the place. It worked and perhaps that is something that could be done in other areas to help with speeding motorists?

That is a Tough Dog

A Saint Bernard dog is hardly known for being the toughest dog in the world, and yet it seems that this is not always the case.

Take a dog that was a mascot in the Norwegian Navy during World War II as the perfect example. This dog that went by the name, Bamse appears to have been responsible for keeping the peace between crewmates, which was certainly far beyond what it was expected to do. In fact, he developed a reputation for breaking up fights between people as he clearly had no intention of anybody being hurt at any point.

On one occasion, a fight broke out between two crew where one individual had a knife. However, Bamse was not going to be deterred from dealing with the situation and promptly pushed the assailant that was holding the knife into the sea to stop things from getting worse.

That Doctor is a Thief

You would like to think that you could trust a doctor, but that is not always true. In fact, there is one example where the doctor was guilty of stealing something from the body of a man from Seattle, which just comes across as being seriously unethical.

The man was admitted to UCLA and during tests it was discovered that he had some pretty unique blood cells. These blood cells proved to be rather good at helping to fight infection so the doctors that were treating him decided that they had to do something about all of this.

It led to them stealing cells from his body without telling him or letting him know in any way that he had something pretty unique about him. They then proceeded to develop a form of medicine from those cells and at no point did they pay the man anything or get his consent at any stage. So, it seems that nothing in your body is sacred, not even your cells.

How Old is the Selfie?

The idea of taking a selfie has kind of exploded in recent years to such an extent that it seems nobody takes a photograph of anything other than themselves. However, how old do you think the idea of taking a selfie actually is?

Well, you are going to be surprised to discover that it is an older act than you would have initially thought. Not only did Buzz Aldrin take a selfie when he was in space, but it goes back further than the 1960's.

The answer, as far as we know at this point, is that one of the first selfies to appear in the public domain was taken in 1913, and it was done so by a teenager in Russia. However, this was no ordinary teenager, as most of them would not have had access to photography equipment. Instead, this was the Grand Duchess Anastasia.

In the photograph, she is holding the popular camera called the Kodak Brownie and she is pointing the camera towards a mirror which she is looking at. The image then shows her taking the selfie, even though she does seem slightly confused as to whether it is going to work, and also what it is going to look like.

OK, so it might not be using a selfie stick and she is certainly not pouting through it, but it still counts. Nobody had any idea that she was doing something for the first time that would pretty much take over the world decades later.

Just what is Unsportsmanlike?

Back in 1889, the sport of rugby was still relatively new but it was also an era where having manners and not cheating was seen as being the correct thing to do. It was also the year when England played New Zealand at rugby for the first time, and it led to some real controversy.

During the match, the shorts of a player for England were ripped. In order to change them, and protect his decency, the New Zealand players formed a circle around him to give him some privacy. At the same time, a player from England took the opportunity to pick up the ball and score as the opposition were otherwise occupied.

Amazingly, the score was given but what is astonishing is that this, is not the unsportsmanlike act that we are talking about.

Instead, the New Zealand team decided to ask for an apology from the referee for allowing the score to stand and it was that act that the England team found to be offensive. In return, they then demanded an apology for what they believed to be unsportsmanlike behavior from New Zealand even though for many it was them that caused the issue in the first place even though they never saw anything wrong with it.

It Seems a Fair Request

It seems that some companies feel that they are able to make certain requests that would otherwise sound crazy to others. Take McDonald's and their request to Greenpeace back in 1995.

McDonald's decided that they were not against Greenpeace protesting against them where they would be critical of the company. Instead, they decided that they would be fine with it, but only if they did so in private and amongst their friends, in other words they never wanted them to go public with their protests.

Greenpeace did decide that this is what they wanted to do but there was one stipulation that had to be followed by McDonald's if they were to then hold their part of the bargain. It involved McDonald's agreeing that they would not go ahead and advertise their business or market it to anybody apart from their friends and in private. As you would expect, McDonald's turned down that particular request and things just carried on as normal.

But He's Not Actually Indian

You would think that a famous musician in India would end up being Indian especially when he appeared as if he was indeed from that part of the world. Well, you may be surprised to hear that this was not actually the case, when it comes to the story of one man called Korla Pandit.

Korla was one of the first TV stars of his kind and had managed to gain a certain sense of stardom and fame back in the 1940's. He was regarded as being this amazing musician, but he also managed to keep a secret until after his death.

So, what was his secret? Well, it turns out that he was not Indian and was actually an African-American male who was born and bred in Missouri. He had managed to spend his entire life cheating people about his origins although you would expect that it would be a lot harder to do this in the world today thanks to the Internet.

But Will it Stop a Lion?

In a number of African countries there is a very real risk of your livestock being killed by lions and other big cats that would think nothing about grabbing an animal for a snack. However, it turns out that farmers in Botswana have taken to using a rather innovative method to help combat this particular problem.

There is a theory that if a lion thinks that its prey has seen it that it will not attack as it prefers stealth and sneaking up on them. So, keeping that in mind, the farmers decided that they had to do something about it and it led to them painting eyes on the rear end of their animals.

Now, if you ever go to Botswana then you might indeed see animals with eyes in the wrong place, but it is a rather clever tactic to outsmart the lion. Apparently the number of attacks has decreased as a direct result of all of this so maybe they are indeed onto something.

What Happens with Sunburn?

Having sunburn is certainly something that we have pretty much all experienced at some point in our lives, but what is actually going on with our skin? Well, the truth is that there is more happening than you perhaps understand, and it turns out that our skin is being pretty clever.

When the sun hits, we all think that it is destroying our skin cells and then dying as a result. Well, the truth is slightly different to what you were expecting.

What is actually going on is that your skin is reacting to it being damaged, but what you are experiencing with the sunburn part is the DNA of those cells effectively killing themselves as that means that they are not going to then develop into skin cancer at some point. So, they are sacrificing themselves so that you do not suffer in the long-term, which is seriously cool and does show that our body kind of knows what it is doing.

You Kidnapped Who?

The idea of someone being kidnapped and then held for ransom is hardly new, but there is one individual that did try to do something a bit different to the norm. However, it turns out that he kind of failed at what was actually a stupid attempt.

The individual is Kenneth Lutz who lived in California with his parents. Back in 1974, he decided that he was a bit short of cash so came up with what he thought to be a fool-proof plan that would lead to him getting some much-needed money. So, what did he do?

Well, good old Kenneth came up with the idea of making out as if he had been kidnapped and then stating that a ransom of \$5000 would have to be paid for his release. The only problem was that he had kidnapped himself and he was discovered a few hours later hiding in a camper van behind his house. He had hardly covered his tracks, and he stayed pretty close to home as well, so he had clearly not thought this thing through enough for it to ultimately work.

Unsurprisingly he did not get the \$5000.

Is that a Dove on His Head?

The election of a new Pope is a drawn out and contentious affair, but it seems that the selection of a new Pope is not always as difficult as it needs to be.

Take the instance of the election of Pope Fabian back in 236AD. He was hardly seen as being a contender for the position and was not really taking part in the process, or as little as he could afford to do, but that all changed in an instant.

During the deliberations, a dove is said to have landed on his head as they debated the election of a new Pope. In an instant he was taken from not even being considered, to being made the new Pope.

Why? Well, the others that were present saw the dove landing on his head as a sign that the Holy Spirit had decided that he was to be the new Pope, and who were they to go ahead and argue against that? It turned out that he was then elected Pope and served until his death in 250AD.

Donald Against Mickey.

When Mickey Mouse first made an appearance, he rather quickly became a bit of a role model for children, to such an extent that Disney decided that they had to come up with a different character who would have a bit more of a negative edge to them. As Mickey was being held in such high regard, they believed that it would be wrong to bestow certain characteristics on him as that would just effectively confuse children.

As a result, Disney set to work on creating this alternative character, and it ultimately led to the appearance of Donald Duck. He was seen as being more negative in some of his traits as he was certainly far more short-tempered than Mickey could ever be. However, it turned out that he too would become extremely popular and his apparently negative traits would be the thing that would really draw people to him.

Feeling Washed Up?

When two men from Kiribati in the Pacific decided to go on a perfectly normal boat trip, they would have no idea that they would eventually solve a mystery that had stretched back some 50 years.

The two men were sailing between two islands when their GPS lost power and they basically drifted around lost at sea for a total of 33 days. Eventually, they washed up on shore at the Marshall Islands, and that was when things took a surprising twist.

It turned out that for one of the two men they had washed up on the exact same island as their uncle had 50 years ago. However, they had never heard from the uncle since he had gone out to sea and he had been presumed to be dead and people had moved on. You can imagine his surprise when he discovered that not only had his uncle not died at sea, but after being washed up he then went on to build a family and live on the islands quite happily.

They didn't find their uncle as he had died some years earlier, but they did find people that were related to them and part of their family. They were then able to tell the story of what happened to the uncle all of those years ago.

Delivered by Camel

This shows how humans can be extremely clever when they want to be. In Africa, the idea of trying to transport medication to villages that are in the middle of nowhere is often fraught with various difficulties. However, there has been an easier solution created and it is all to do with camels.

Now, this is not going to be the fastest method of getting something to its destination, but it certainly works. Basically, they need various medications to be kept cool which is tough when you are in Africa. So, what do you do?

The answer is in building solar-powered refrigeration tanks that are then carried to the destination on a camel. The only problem was that building this kind of thing was a lot harder than you would expect. The way in which the camel moves was a problem in particular so it had to be steady enough for it all to work. However, they were able to overcome different issues. Delivery by camel is now used in various desert villages throughout Africa with them getting those all-important medical supplies.

What a Showoff

You would think that being the President of the United States would be enough reason for you to show to people how cool you are and also how well you have done for yourself, but one President in particular took things a bit further.

The 20th President was, of course, James Garfield, and it seems that he had a couple of party tricks that he liked to pull out and amaze his friends by doing. Not only was he ambidextrous, but he was also fluent in both Greek and Latin.

Now, that all sounds pretty good, but what he also liked to do was to invite people to ask him a question and he would then answer in both Greek and Latin.

John Lennon was Unhappy with His Father

Being one of the lead members of the most popular band in the world did mean that you had a certain amount of power under your control, and it seems that John Lennon was not afraid to use it.

Back in 1965, he was rather unhappy that his father had gone ahead and released his own album trying to hitch a ride on the success that his son was having. Now, he may not have been too impressed at what his father was doing, but it seems that he was more embarrassed at what the album was like, and he certainly had no desire to be associated with it.

This eventually led to him getting the album pulled from being on sale in different parts of the world. The Beatles were having huge success then it did mean that people were willing to listen to him. It is unknown what his father thought of it all, but you just know that he would not have been too happy.

Now that is a Special Nanny

Being a nanny to the rich and famous is not an easy job, but it seems that those that do make it to the upper echelons of society, do so thanks to their training. In fact, they will mostly go to a college that has been established just to go ahead and train you to be a first-class nanny.

The college is called Norland College and the chances of you getting a place there will be slim as it is fully booked due to the prestige that is attached to it. Actually, the nanny to royal children George and Charlotte was trained there. It seems that aside from being shown how to look after children they also become experts at avoiding the press photographers that could chase after them and also different aspects of how to defend themselves using martial arts.

That really is not a nanny that you want to get on the wrong side of.

An Unusual Punishment

Back in 2002, a man from Painesville found himself on the receiving end of a rather strange and unusual punishment. His crime? He had decided to refer to a police officer as a pig during a confrontation and it was decided that this was just simply not good enough.

Because of his crime, the judge decided on a different kind of punishment and it ultimately led to him being forced to stand on the street at a busy junction holding a sign that said 'this is not a police officer' and beside him was a real, live pig.

You have to admit that this was certainly a case where the punishment did indeed fit the crime.

That is a Bad Typo

Every book has the potential to contain a typo at some point, but generally speaking they are not seen as being offensive in any way whatsoever. Sadly, that is not always the case especially when you discover what happened to a publisher in Australia.

The book in question was a cookbook, and there was a rather unfortunate mistake that did mean that they had no option but to recall every single book and then re-publish it. The reason? Well, in the book there was a part of a recipe that required the individual to get some ‘freshly ground black pepper’ which does sound as if it is a perfectly plausible request.

However, the problem was that the book actually said ‘freshly ground black people’ which is just something completely different, and you can see why they had no option but to take the book off the market.

It's Just Not English

It used to be the case that official documents had a tendency to be written in English that simply did not make any sense. It got so bad that in 2010 there was a new law passed that meant things had to be written in plain English so that pretty much anybody could understand what was being said.

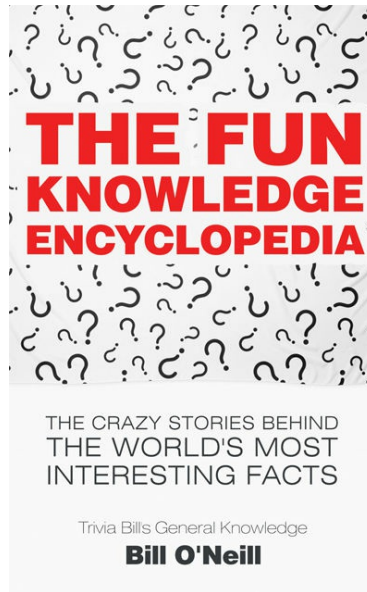
The Plain Writing Act was intended to stop all of the confusion that tended to surround federal legislation. It was believed that it would cut down on the wasted time in dealing with requests from the public that were a direct result of them simply not understanding anything.

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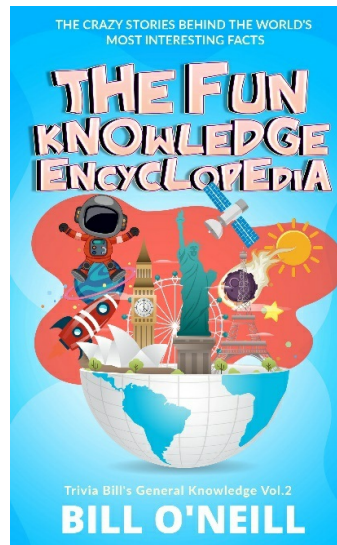
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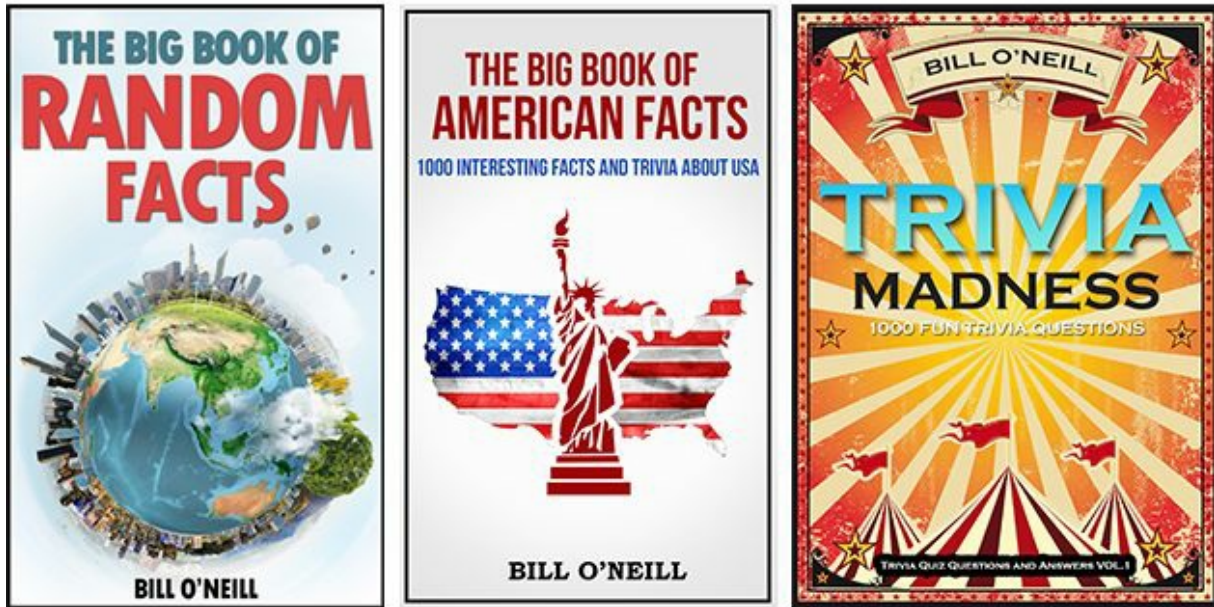
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