

Trivia



A dog has 300 million scent receptors in its nose. The average human being has about six million. According to PBS, "the part of a dog's brain that is devoted to analyzing smells is, proportionally speaking, 50 times greater than ours."

The pinky is responsible for 50% of the strength in your hand. The little digit has a lot of power. That's because it aids the ring finger by providing the power to grip and make a fist, while your index, middle finger, and thumb are best for grabbing and pinching.

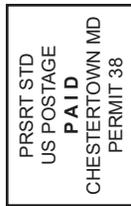
A "enneahectaenneacontakaienneagon" is a 999-sided polygon. It can be broken down into the Greek names for the numbers ennea (9), hecta (100), enneaconta (90), kai (and) ennea (9), with gon (side) on the end.

The world's most venomous fish is the Stonefish. Found in the waters of Australia, these camouflaged bottom dwellers are incredibly dangerous. Its dorsal fin spines can inject a venom that is capable of killing an adult person in less than an hour.

During World War II, more than 600 professional football players were drafted into military service. This forced NFL teams to adapt to the shortage of eligible athletes, and so, in 1943, the Steelers and the Eagles merged to become the Steagles.

There's a name for the space between two windows. An interfenestration either refers to the "width of pier between two windows" or an "arrangement of windows with relation to the distance between them from axis to axis or from opening to opening," and it comes from the Latin root fenestratus, which means to provide an opening.

The Kakapo, a species of bird from New Zealand, is the world's only flightless parrot.



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Dates in History

1942 On December 2nd, physicist Enrico Fermi produced the first nuclear chain reaction. He built a jury-rigged laboratory with the necessary equipment, which he called an “atomic pile,” in a squash court in the basement of Stagg Field at the University of Chicago. With colleagues and other physicists looking on, Fermi produced the first self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction and the “new world” of nuclear power was born.

1979 On December 17th, Hollywood stuntman Stan Barrett blasted across a dry lakebed at California’s Edwards Air Force Base in a rocket and missile powered car, becoming the first man to travel faster than the speed of sound on land. He did not set an official record, however. The radar scanner was malfunctioning, and so Barrett’s top speed, 739.666 miles per hour by the most reliable measure, was only an estimate. Also, he only drove his rocket car across the lakebed once, not twice as official record guidelines require. It took until October 1997 for another driver, in a British car called the Thrust SSC, to officially break the Mach 1 sound barrier.

1988 On December 31st, the Chicago Bears defeated the Philadelphia Eagles, 20-12, in a playoff game plagued by a thick fog that started late in the first half. Playing conditions at Soldier Field in Chicago became problematic, and fans in attendance and television viewers struggled to see the game, dubbed the "Fog Bowl" by media. The freak conditions were caused when cold air over Lake Michigan was blown by a breeze toward warm air at Soldier Field on the lakefront, according to the National Weather Service. Meteorologists said the fog was so thick that it was like having clouds on the ground.

On the Lighter Side



What do you call it when a snowman throws a tantrum?
A meltdown.

Every time I take my dog to the park, the ducks try to bite him.

That’s what I get for buying a pure bread dog.

Mom texted me from the grocery store to say they’re out of pasta, and we’re penneless.

I finally watched that documentary on clocks.
It was about time.

I walked past a farm, and a sign said, “Duck, eggs.” I thought that was an unnecessary comma.
And then it hit me.

When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.

Did you hear that Larry got a new job working for Old Macdonald’?
He’s the new CIEIO.

Who wins in a fight between Sunday and Monday?
Sunday. Monday is a weekday.

Why did the taxi driver get fired?
Passengers didn’t like it when he went the extra mile.

Where do bad rainbows go?
Prism, it's a light sentence.

