Trivia



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Rain has a smell! Petrichor is the term coined by Australian scientists in 1964 to describe the unique, earthy smell associated with rain. It is caused by the water from the rain, along with certain compounds like ozone, geosmin, and plant oils.

When the moon is directly overhead, you weigh slightly less. This is nothing to do with weight but the force of gravity, acting on the object. The gravitational force of the Moon acting directly above the object reduces the gravitational force of Earth a little.

One million seconds is 10 days and 8 hours. One billion seconds is 31 years. It's hard to comprehend how big a billion is. To expand further, if 1 billion seconds is 31 years, 10 billion seconds is 310 years.

A group of ferrets is called a business.

Each limestone and granite block that makes up the Great Pyramid of Giza weighs on average 2.5 tons. And there are around 2.3 million of them.

Times Square, known for its many bright lights and billboards, is actually named after the longstanding New York news outlet The New York Times whose office building was once located at the intersection of Broadway, 42nd Street, and Seventh Avenue (aka "Times Square").

The human brain is an amazingly energy efficient device. In computing terms, it can perform the equivalent of an exaflop, a billion-billion (1 followed by 18 zeros) mathematical operations per second with just 20 watts of power. A standard lightbulb uses about 60 watts.

America's favorite movie snack, popcorn, was banned from theaters in the 1920s and 30s. Theater owners wanted the movies to feel like a luxurious experience, similar to the opera. However, they realized popcorn was an inexpensive way to bring in more money, especially during The Great Depression, so it was unbanned.



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1804 On May 14th, one year after the United States doubled its territory with the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark expedition left St. Louis, Missouri, on a mission to explore the Northwest from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. Even before the U.S. government concluded purchase negotiations with France, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned his private secretary Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to lead an expedition into what is now the U.S. Northwest.

1859 On May 31st, the famous tower clock known as Big Ben, located at the top of the 320 foot high Elizabeth Tower, rang out over the Houses of Parliament in Westminster, London, for the first time. After a fire destroyed much of the Palace of Westminster, a standout feature of the design for the new palace was a large clock atop a tower. Even after an incendiary bomb destroyed the chamber of the House of Commons during the Second World War, Elizabeth Tower survived, and Big Ben continued to function.

On May 12th, President Theodore Roosevelt's 1903 trip to San Francisco was captured on moving picture film, making him one of the first presidents to have an official activity recorded in that medium. A cameraman named H.J. Miles filmed the president while riding in a parade in his honor. The resulting short move was titled The President's Carriage and was later played on theaters in arcades across America. Roosevelt was the first president to take advantage of the impact motion pictures could have on the presidency. The photogenic president encouraged filmmakers to document his official duties and post-presidential personal activities until his death in 1919.

On the Lighter Side



How do mice floss their teeth? With string cheese.

Why did the smartphone wear glasses? He lost all his contacts.

What do you call an anxious fly? A jitterbug.

Why did the orchestra get struck by lightning? It had a conductor.

How do you make an eggroll? You push it.

Did you hear about the fire at the shoe factory? Unfortunately, many soles were lost.

Is there anything worse than when it's raining cats and dogs? Yes, hailing taxis.

Did you hear about the guy who drank invisible ink? He's at the hospital waiting to be seen.

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. Summer wasn't too bad either.

I wanted to take a bath.

I decided to leave it where it is.



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