

Trivia

In 1867, the American government became seriously worried about the British North America Act, under which Canada would be declared one Dominion. Fearing that the "Dominion" was going to be too complete for comfort, the U.S. Secretary of State negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia, for \$7.2 million.



It took 34 years to create the 50-mile-long canal across the Isthmus of Panama. The amount of digging required and the size of its locks helped make it the most expensive project in American history at that time and the most deadly: about 80,000 people died during construction (most from disease). An expansion project, completed in 2015, doubled the capacity of the canal by creating a new lane of traffic and allowing more and larger ships to transit.

The internet weighs as much as a strawberry. If you quantify the electrons that make up the interweb of information, it amounts to two ounces, or as much as a fat strawberry.

Baby turkeys (poults) flock with their mother all year. Although wild turkeys roost in the trees, as poults are unable to fly for the first couple of weeks of their lives, the mother stays with them at ground level to keep them safe and warm until they are strong enough to all roost up in the safety of the trees.

Before the year 1000, the word "she" did not exist in the English language. The singular female reference was the word "heo", which also was the plural of all genders. The word "she" appeared only in the 12th century, about 400 years after English began to take form. "She" probably derived from the Old English feminine "seo", the Viking word for feminine reference.

The Library of Congress, the largest library in the world, stores 18 million books on approximately 530 miles of bookshelves. The collections include 119 million items, 2 million recordings, 12 million photographs, 4 million maps, and 53 million manuscripts.

In July 1874, a massive swarm of Rocky Mountain locusts darkened the skies over Nebraska, covering an estimated 198,600 square miles, and is believed to have contained about 12.5 trillion insects, devastating crops and farmland before the species mysteriously went extinct just thirty years later.



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Dates in History

1777 On September 11, General Sir William Howe and General Charles Cornwallis launched a full-scale British attack on General George Washington and the Patriot outpost at Brandywine Creek near Chadds Ford, in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, on the road linking Baltimore and Philadelphia. Howe and Cornwallis split their 18,000 British troops to attack from two directions: Howe from the front and Cornwallis from the right flank. A dense morning fog concealed the maneuver, catching Washington's 11,000 Continentals by surprise.

Though the Americans briefly slowed the advance, they faced encirclement and, outnumbered, Washington ordered a retreat. The defeated Continental Army marched to Germantown, Pennsylvania. The British abandoned pursuit to begin the unopposed occupation of Philadelphia, forcing Congress to flee.

The Battle of Brandywine cost the Americans over 1,100 men killed or captured, and they abandoned most of their cannons after artillery horses fell. The British lost approximately 600 men.

1920 On September 28, a Chicago grand jury indicted eight members of the Chicago White Sox on charges of fixing the 1919 World Series. White Sox owner Charles Comiskey immediately suspended Chick Gandil, Buck Weaver, Happy Felsch, Swede Risberg, Fred McMullin, Eddie Cicotte, Lefty Williams, and "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, who were notorious for their involvement in the "Black Sox Scandal."

Chicago was finishing up a 96-win season. The White Sox eventually lost a heated pennant race to the Cleveland Indians, who went on to win the World Series.

None of the eight players played for the first four months of the 1921 season. All were acquitted on August 2 that year. A day after their acquittal, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, the Major League Baseball commissioner, suspended all eight from organized baseball for life.

history.com

On the Lighter Side

Why does a pitcher raise one leg when he throws the ball? If he raises them both, he'd fall down.



I bought the world's worst thesaurus today. Not only was it terrible, but it was also terrible.

As a group of soldiers stood in formation at an Army Base, the Drill Sergeant said, "All right! All you idiots fall out." As the rest of the squad wandered away, one soldier remained at attention. The Drill Instructor walked over until he was eye to eye with him, and then raised a single eyebrow. The soldier smiled and said, "Sure was a lot of 'em, huh, sergeant?"

My grandkids asked me where I get all my candy from. I told them I've always got a few Twix up my sleeve.

I'm searching for someone to milk cows on my dairy farm. Must work well with udders.

I saw a sign at a restaurant that said, "Shoes must be worn." I was upset because my shoes are brand new.

The only thing worse than a box full of snakes is a box that was supposed to be full of snakes.

'I'm a walking economy, you know' 'How so?' 'My hairline is in recession, my stomach is always in inflation, and these two together bring me into a deep depression'.

The inventor of the sleeping pill died last week. He's not having a wake.

I just spent \$100 on a belt that doesn't fit. Huge waist.

My Mom always said, "Work until your bank account looks like a phone number. Mom, I made it. Bank balance: \$9.11."



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