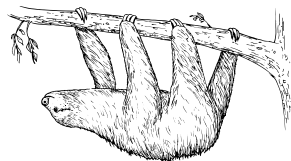


Trivia

Sloths can take up to a month to digest a single meal. Their metabolic rate is among the slowest of any mammal, and their four-part stomach slowly breaks down tough leaves with the help of symbiotic bacteria. Because of this, they defecate only once every seven to ten days, often climbing down from the trees just for that purpose.



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Venus rotates so slowly that its day is longer than its year. One rotation on its axis takes about 243 Earth days, while it completes an orbit around the Sun in 225. To make things even stranger, Venus spins in the opposite direction to most other planets, meaning the Sun rises in the west and sets in the east.

In 1518, the city of Strasbourg, France, was struck by the bizarre "Dancing Plague." Hundreds of residents began dancing uncontrollably for days, some reportedly collapsing from exhaustion or dying of heart attacks and strokes. Historians suspect mass hysteria triggered by stress, ergot poisoning, or social contagion.

Butterflies taste with their feet. Tiny sensory organs on their tarsi allow them to detect sugars and chemicals when they land on a surface. Females use these sensors to identify whether a leaf is suitable for laying eggs, ensuring their caterpillars will have the right food source.

The first recorded vending machine was invented by Hero of Alexandria in the 1st century CE. It dispensed holy water when a coin was inserted, which triggered a lever mechanism that released a measured amount of liquid. This ancient invention is considered the ancestor of modern vending technology.

The fingerprints of a koala are so similar to those of humans that even forensic experts have mistaken them for each other at crime scenes. Under a microscope, both display nearly identical loops and whorls. Scientists believe this trait evolved independently to help koalas grip smooth eucalyptus bark and leaves.

Before pencil erasers existed, people used bread to remove writing mistakes. A small piece of stale, slightly damp bread would lift graphite or charcoal off the paper's surface. The modern rubber eraser wasn't introduced until 1770, when Edward Nairne accidentally used rubber instead of bread.



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Dates in History

1776 On December 25, General George Washington led 2,400 troops across the icy Delaware River to launch a surprise attack on Hessian forces in Trenton, New Jersey. Despite other divisions failing to cross, Washington's men reached Trenton at dawn on December 26 and caught the Hessians off guard after a night of celebration. Within an hour, the Patriots surrounded the town, capturing nearly 1,000 enemy soldiers while losing only four men. Though not a major strategic win, the victory at Trenton boosted American morale and renewed faith in Washington's leadership.

1913 On December 1, Henry Ford introduced the first moving assembly line for full automobile production, cutting build time from over 12 hours to just one hour and 33 minutes.

Ford's Model T, launched in 1908, was affordable and durable, but he aimed to make it even cheaper for "the great multitude." To boost efficiency, Ford divided production into 84 steps, trained each worker for one task, and adopted motion-study methods and automatic part-stamping machines.

Inspired by continuous-flow systems in mills and meat-packing plants, Ford created moving assembly lines for each stage of production. In December 1913, he installed a moving-chassis line, and by early 1914, a motorized belt moving six feet per minute. This innovation revolutionized manufacturing. By 1924, Ford had built 10 million Model Ts, making the automobile accessible to the masses.

1974 On December 15, Oakland A's pitcher Jim "Catfish" Hunter became modern baseball's first free agent after an arbitrator ruled that owner Charles O. Finley had violated his contract. Hunter, a three-time World Series champion and 1974 Cy Young winner, soon signed a five-year, \$3.75 million deal with the New York Yankees, winning two more titles. The ruling paved the way for MLB free agency, later expanded by similar cases in 1975 that ended the reserve clause and reshaped player rights. Hunter was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1987 and passed away in 1999.

history.com

On the Lighter Side

My wife just completed a forty-week body building program. It's a girl and she weighs seven pounds, twelve ounces.



I love when the car behind me honks the instant the light turns green. It's nice to know they're rooting for my success.

I saw my doctor on Monday and showed him the red rash on my bottom. He just ignored me and kept pushing his cart through Costco.

A gingerbread man went to the doctor's complaining of a sore knee. The doctor asked him. "Have you tried icing it?"

What band was better than The Cure? Prevention!

Last night someone broke into our house and stole a dozen eggs. They also left a sauce pan filled with water. Police believe it was poachers.

When a woman asks you to guess her age it's like deciding whether to cut the red, green, or blue wire to diffuse a bomb.

Be careful when you eat at Sam And Ella's diner.

You know what they say about a clean desk. It's a sure sign of a cluttered desk drawer.

What do they call the boss at Old McDonald's farm? C-I-E-I-O

What did one ocean say to the other? Nothing, they just waved.

My father worked twelve hours to put food on the table. He was the slowest cook I ever knew.



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