Trivia

The small town of Cormorant, Minnesota, elected Duke, a seven-year-old Great Pyrenees, as honorary mayor in 2014. Residents "voted" by donating one dollar for their favorite candidate, and Duke won by a landslide. He became so popular that he was re-elected every year until his retirement, often greeting visitors and attending community events.



Japanese engineer Tsutomu Yamaguchi was in Hiroshima on business when the first atomic bomb exploded on August 6, 1945. Despite suffering severe burns, he returned home to Nagasaki two days later. While explaining the devastation to his boss, the second atomic bomb detonated over the city. He survived both attacks and lived until 2010, making him the only person officially recognized as surviving both bombings.

Microsoft's headquarters in Redmond, Washington, sits one of the quietest places ever built. The anechoic chamber absorbs 99.99% of sound, leaving visitors surrounded by almost complete silence. Inside, many people report hearing their heartbeat, stomach digesting food, and even blood flowing through their ears. Most people cannot remain inside for more than 30 minutes because the silence becomes psychologically overwhelming.

Lake Natron in Tanzania contains extremely alkaline water with a pH approaching that of ammonia. Animals that die in the lake often become coated in mineral deposits, preserving their appearance in a way that resembles stone statues. While the lake is deadly to many species, flamingos thrive there because few predators can survive its harsh conditions.

Australia's Great Barrier Reef stretches more than 1,400 miles along the country's northeastern coast. Made up of nearly 3,000 individual reefs and about 900 islands, it supports thousands of species of fish, turtles, sharks, and marine mammals. It is the largest living structure on Earth and is so vast that it can be seen from space.

The Golden Gate Bridge is constantly exposed to salty ocean air that causes corrosion. Instead of repainting the bridge from one end to the other continuously, maintenance crews inspect it year-round and repaint only the sections that need attention. This ongoing work helps preserve one of America's most famous landmarks.



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Dates in History

1718

On November 22, Edward Teach, also known as Blackbeard, was killed off the coast of North Carolina's Outer Banks during a battle with a British navy force sent from Virginia. Teach likely began his pirating career in 1713, when he became a crewman aboard a Caribbean sloop commanded by pirate Benjamin Hornigold. After Hornigold accepted a pardon of amnesty in 1717, Teach became Captain of the *Queen Anne's Revenge*. For six months, he led a pirate fleet of four ships and over 200 men. After a couple shipwrecks in 1718, he sailed for North Carolina to buy a pardon from the governor. The Governor agreed, but not before a fleet out of Virginia was dispatched to rein him in. He was killed in a bloody battle on Ocracoke Island. Legend has it that he received five musket-ball wounds and over 20 sword cuts.

1864

Oxford mathematician Charles Lutwidge Dodgson gave a handwritten manuscript called *Alice's Adventures Under Ground* to 12-year-old Alice Liddell.

The 30-year-old Dodgson, better known by his pen name Lewis Carroll, created the story during a picnic with Alice and her two sisters, the children of one of his colleagues. Although he struggled with a severe stammer when speaking to adults, he spoke comfortably with children, who loved his imaginative stories. The Liddell children especially enjoyed the tale of a girl who falls down a rabbit hole, and Alice encouraged him to write it down.

During a visit to the Liddell family, English novelist Henry Kingsley read the manuscript and suggested it be published. Dodgson released the book at his own expense under the name Lewis Carroll in 1865. It became one of the first children's books written purely for entertainment rather than instruction. Its sequel, *Through the Looking-Glass*, followed in 1871. Although Dodgson wrote several other works, including *Phantasmagoria and Other Poems* and *Sylvia and Bruno*, none matched the lasting success of the Alice stories. He died in 1898.

history.com

On the Lighter Side



My poker playing friend has a new prosthetic arm. He's having a hard time dealing with it.

I saw a baguette at the zoo.
It was bread in captivity.

Procrastination is a good thing.
You always have something to do tomorrow plus you have nothing to do today.

When baking dog biscuits, be sure to use collie flour.

Knowing how to pick locks has opened up a lot of doors for me.

Lance is a very uncommon name nowadays, but in medieval times people were called Lance a lot.

I told my wife it was her turn to shovel and salt the front steps, but all I got was icy stares.

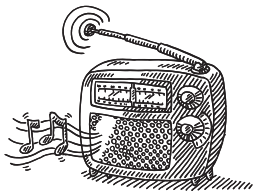
Milk is the fastest liquid on earth. It's pasteurize before you see it.

I tried to re-marry my ex-wife, but she figured out I was only after my money.

We were so poor growing up, we ate ordinary K for breakfast.

I just sold my homing pigeon on eBay for the 22nd time.

My winter fat is finally gone.
Now I have spring rolls.



I saw an ad that said "Radio for sale. $1. Volume stuck on full." I thought, "I can't turn that down."

inews.co.uk