

Trivia

Earth's rotation is changing speed. It's actually slowing. This means that, on average, the length of a day increases by around 1.8 seconds per century. 600 million years ago a day lasted just 21 hours.



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Identical twins don't have the same fingerprints. You can't blame your crimes on your twin, after all. This is because environmental factors during development in the womb (umbilical cord length, position in the womb, and the rate of finger growth) impact your fingerprint.

Leftover pasta has extra health benefits. That's because it contains more resistant starch than fresh pasta, thanks to the effect of cooking and cooling on the pasta starch's structure. Resistant starch has been linked to improved blood sugar control and better gut health.

A thunderstorm called Hector the Convectoid arrives everyday at 3pm. Most thunderstorms are unpredictable, but not Hector. Thanks to a microclimate over the Tiwi Islands (off the coast of northern Australia), Hector arrives everyday at 3pm, from September through to March. He's also huge, regularly reaching more than 19km (12 miles) high.

Most maps of the world are wrong. On most maps, the Mercator projection – first developed in 1569 – is still used. This method is wildly inaccurate and makes Alaska appear as large as Brazil and Greenland 14 times larger than it actually is. For a map to be completely accurate, it would need to be life-size and round, not flat.

Hippos can't swim. Hippos really do have big bones, so big and dense, in fact, that they're barely buoyant at all. They don't swim and instead perform a slow-motion gallop on the riverbed or on the sea floor. In fact, hippos can even sleep underwater, thanks to a built-in reflex that allows them to bob up, take a breath, and sink back down without waking.

The Bermuda Triangle is no more hazardous than any other busy ocean route. The mystery of this patch of sea gained legendary status in the 20th century, but the number of incidents in the Bermuda Triangle isn't significantly higher than in any other part of the ocean.

The world's oldest dog lived to 29.5 years old. While the median age a dog reaches tends to be about 10-15 years, one Australian cattle dog, 'Bluey', survived to the ripe old age of 29.5.



mentalfloss.com



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Dates in History

1789 On September 24, The Judiciary Act of 1789 established the U.S. Supreme Court and created the foundation of the federal judicial system. Signed by President George Washington, the act organized the nation's courts and established a Supreme Court consisting of six justices, with John Jay serving as the first chief justice. The Court held its first session in New York City on February 1, 1790.

The Supreme Court's role expanded significantly after the landmark Marbury v. Madison decision in 1803, which established judicial review and gave the Court the authority to determine whether laws were constitutional. Over time, the Court became one of the most influential institutions in the United States, resolving major legal and constitutional disputes. The number of justices changed several times during the 19th century before Congress set it at nine in 1869, where it remains today. As the nation's highest court, the Supreme Court continues to play a vital role in interpreting the Constitution and shaping American law.

1940 On September 12, near Montignac, France, four teenagers discovered the Lascaux cave paintings after following their dog into a narrow cavern. The 15,000- to 17,000-year-old artwork is considered one of the finest examples of Upper Paleolithic art. The cave contains around 600 painted and drawn animals and symbols, along with nearly 1,500 engravings, showing horses, deer, stags, bovines, felines, mythical-looking creatures, and one human figure.

The cave was first studied by French archaeologist Henri-Édouard-Prospér Breuil and is believed to have been used for hunting and religious rites. Lascaux opened to the public in 1948 but closed in 1963 after artificial lights damaged the paintings and caused algae growth. A replica opened nearby in 1983 and continues to attract many visitors each year.

history.com

On the Lighter Side

I'm writing a book on reverse psychology. Don't buy it.



What do you call a hippie's wife? Mississippi.

Before you marry a person, you should first make them use a computer with a slow Internet connection to see who they really are.

What happens if you don't pay your exorcist? You get repossessed!

Why do cows have hooves instead of feet? Because they lactose.

How does Moses make his coffee? Hebrews it!

What do you call a mobster who's buried in cement? A hardened criminal.

If you take \$2 out of an ATM that has a \$2.50 fee, do you owe the machine money?

I was at a barbeque and I saw that the condiments table had a sign reading "Please take only what you need." I now have a table.

Construction sign says "Road Work," but how do I know if they won't let me drive on it?

My neighbor has a sign on his lawn: "No dog poop, please." But my dog can't read.

I'd describe the band Chicago as somewhere between Kansas and Boston.



inews.co.uk