

did you know that ...

What American novel was the first to sell over one million copies? Uncle Tom's Cabin, or, Life Among the Lowly, by Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Who was baseball's first Rookie of the Year? Brooklyn Dodger great Jackie Robinson.

How did Napoleon Bonaparte finance his invasion of Russia in 1812? *With counterfeit money.*

What part of the traditional Thanksgiving dinner is the merrythought? *The wishbone of the turkey.*

What TV sitcom family lived at 1313 Mockingbird Lane? *The Munsters.*

What was Henry Ford's first mass-produced car? *The Model N-which sold for \$500 in 1906.*

In what country is the most remote weather station in the world located?

Canada. Its Eureka weather station is 600 miles from the North Pole.

Which continent is the only one to have no glaciers? *Australia*.

What is the traditional food served at Wimbledon each year?

Strawberries and cream.

The singing duo of Caesar and Cleo only achieved fame under another name. What was it? *Sonny and Cher*.

How fast does lightning travel? It travels 90,000 miles a second-almost half the speed of light (186,000 miles a second).



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Dates in History

- **1512** On November 1st, the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome, one of Italian artist Michelangelo's finest works, was exhibited to the public for the first time. Demonstrating obvious talent, he was taken under the wing of Lorenzo de' Medici, the ruler of the Florentine republic and a great patron of the arts. After demonstrating his mastery of sculpture in such works as the Pieta (1498) and David (1504), he was called to Rome in 1508 to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel—the chief consecrated space in the Vatican.
- On November 2nd, the Hughes Flying Boat— 1947 the largest aircraft ever built—was piloted by designer Howard Hughes on its first and only flight. Built with laminated birch and spruce, the massive wooden aircraft had a wingspan longer than a football field and was designed to carry more than 700 men to battle. The concept for what would become the "Spruce Goose" was originally conceived by the industrialist Henry Kaiser, but Kaiser dropped out of the project early, leaving Hughes and his small team to make the H-4 a reality. Because of wartime restrictions on steel. Hughes decided to build his aircraft out of wood laminated with plastic and covered with fabric. Although it was constructed mainly of birch, the use of spruce (along with its whitegray color) would later earn the aircraft the nickname Spruce Goose. It had a wingspan of 320 feet and was powered by eight giant propeller engines. Today, the Spruce Goose is housed at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Oregon.

On the Lighter Side

A woman walks into the kitchen and finds her husband tying a pair of toothpicks to each pea in a bag of frozen peas with tiny strips of gauze. "What do you think you're doing?" she asks. He looks up from his work and says, "What does it look like I'm doing? I'm making splint pea soup." A few days later she finds him in the kitchen again, this time stabbing potatoes repeatedly with a pencil. "Now what do you think you're doing?" she asks. "What else?" he answered. "I'm making potato leak soup."

A school teacher was arrested at the airport for trying to go through security with a slide rule and a calculator. He was charged with carrying weapons of math instruction.

Recently, a Frenchman in Paris nearly got away with stealing several paintings from the Louvre. However, after planning the crime and getting in and out and past security, he was captured only two blocks away when his van ran out of gas. When asked how he could mastermind such a crime and then make such an obvious error, he replied, "I had no Monet to buy Degas to make the Van Gogh."

An elephant and a giraffe come down to the watering hole for a drink. They see a turtle fast asleep, basking in the sun. The elephant goes over and kicks the turtle whack—to the other shore. "Boy, that was cruel," said the giraffe. "Why did you do that?" The elephant said, "That turtle bit a big chunk out of my trunk fifty years ago." "Fifty years ago! Wow, what a great memory," said the giraffe. "Yes," said the elephant, "I have turtle recall."

(history.com)