

## **Did You Know This? – A Collection of Strange Facts**

Compiled out of boredom by Vince Pitelka

Did you know that 42% of college grads never read another book after college.

Did you know that 80% of US families did not buy or read a book last year.

Did you know that Alfred Hitchcock was afraid of eggs?

Did you know that the fuller your fridge, the more energy efficient it is?

Did you know that for 20 years, a cat was mayor of Talkeetna, Alaska?

Did you know that a woman in Sweden who lost her wedding ring found it 20 years later stuck on a carrot she pulled up in her garden?

Did you know that in ancient Greece and Rome, spider webs were used as bandages?

Did you know that  $\frac{1}{4}$  of all your bones are located in your feet?

Did you know that the inventor of the Pringles can was buried in one?

Did you know that cotton candy was invented by a dentist?

Did you know that Sudan has more pyramids than any other country in the world?

Did you know that the bumblebee bat is the world's smallest mammal?

Did you know that the human circulatory system is more than 60,000 miles long?

Did you know that cartilage and the cornea are the only parts of the human body without blood vessels?

Did you know that German chocolate cake was invented in Texas?

Did you know that the Philippines consists of 7,641 islands?

Did you know that a one-way trip on the Trans-Siberian Railway involves crossing 3,901 bridges?

Did you know that there is enough gold in the Earth's core to coat the entire surface of the planet 18 inches deep in solid gold?

Did you know that the brand name Spam is a combination of "spice" and "ham"?

Did you know that it takes a drop of water 90 days to travel the entire Mississippi River?

Did you know that the first person processed at Ellis Island was a 15-year-old girl named Annie Moore from Ireland, on January 1, 1892?

Did you know that the busiest day in the history of Ellis Island was April 17, 1907?

Did you know that Japan has more vending machines than any other country on Earth, averaging one for every 40 people?

Did you know that lemons float but limes sink?

Did you know that "Q" is the only letter that doesn't appear in any US state name?

Did you know that Scotland has 421 words for snow?

Did you know that Chicago's nickname as "the Windy City" was coined by 19th-century journalists referring to its residents as "windbags full of hot air?"

Did you know that walnuts, almonds, cashews, and pistachios are seeds, not nuts?

Did you know that some octopus species lay 56,000 eggs at a time?

Did you know that most early animated Disney characters wore gloves because hands are difficult to draw?

Did you know that there were active volcanos on the moon when the dinosaurs were alive?

Did you know that the "#" symbol is technically called an octothorpe?

Did you know that Theodore Roosevelt had a pet hyena?

Did you know that giraffe tongues can be 20 inches long?

Did you know that Montpelier, Vermont is the only US state capitol without a McDonald's?

Did you know that the Eiffel Tower grows six inches in the summer heat?

Did you know that sloths have more neck bones than giraffes?

Did you know that Abraham Lincoln was a licensed bartender?

Did you know that Beethoven never learned multiplication or division?

Did you know that Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and Ron Wayne started Apple Computer company on April Fools' Day in 1976?

Did you know that the British Empire was the largest empire in world history?

Did you know that the first baby stroller was designed to be pulled by a goat?

Did you know that the lion roar at the start of any MGM movie is trademarked?

Did you know that Nikola Tesla hated pearls and made his secretary go home when she wore them?

Did you know that tropophobia is the irrational fear of moving or making changes?

Did you know that teeth are the only parts of the human body that cannot heal themselves?

Did you know that Australia is wider than the Moon?

Did you know that Queen Elizabeth II is trained as a mechanic?

Did you know that the heart of a blue whale weighs 400 pounds?

Did you know that a person who gives opinions on things they know nothing about is an “ultracrepidarian?”

Did you know that tryphobia is the fear of densely-spaced holes?

Did you know that Shakespeare’s epitaph includes a curse for grave robbers?

Did you know that a cornflake in the shape of Illinois sold on eBay for \$1350?

Did you know that bumblebees can fly higher than Mount Everest?

Did you know that the electric chair was invented by a dentist?

Did you know that Janis Joplin left \$2500 in her will for her friends to have a party?

Did you know that bubble wrap was originally designed as wallpaper?

Did you know that humans have been performing dentistry since 7000 BC?

Did you know that Canada eats more macaroni and cheese than any other nation on Earth?

Did you know that John Quincy Adams kept a pet alligator in one of the White House bathtubs?

Did you know that fear of vegetables is called *lachanophobia*?

Did you know that sloths can hold their breaths longer than dolphins?

Did you know that supermarket apples can be as much as a year old?

Did you know that it’s impossible to hum while holding your nose?

Did you know that the Empire State Building has its own zip code?

Did you know that the tongue of a blue whale can weigh as much as an elephant?

Did you know that Michelangelo wrote a poem about how much he hated painting the Sistine Chapel ceiling?

Did you know that “Albert Einstein” is an anagram for “ten elite brains?”

Did you know that British military tanks are equipped to make tea?

Did you know that the smallest country in the world by landmass is Vatican City?

Did you know that Coca-Cola was originally green?

Did you know that tyromancy is a form of divination by observing the coagulation of cheese to predict the future?

Did you know that Cleopatra was actually Greek?

Did you know that forks were once considered sacrilegious because they were seen as artificial hands?

Did you know that in the 13th century, Pope Gregory IV declared war on cats because he believed they were instruments of Satan?

Did you know that Abraham Lincoln was a licensed bartender and a champion wrestler before he became President?

Did you know that after his time in office, George Washington opened a whiskey distillery.

Did you know that some of the most famous cowboys didn't wear cowboy hats?

Did you know that the combined surface area of both lungs is about the same as a tennis court?

Did you know that more than 1/5 of all the calories consumed by humans worldwide is provided by rice alone?

Did you know that Mr. Potato Head was the first toy to be advertised on TV?

Did you know that eight of the ten largest statues in the world are of Buddhas?

Did you know that no number from 1 to 999 includes the letter "a" in its word form?

Did you know that "Dreamt" is the only word in the English language that ends with "mt"?

Did you know that the Hawaiian pizza with pineapple was invented by a Greek-Canadian man?

Did you know that if you open your eyes in a pitch-black room, the color you'll see is called "eigengrau"?

Did you know that cats can't taste sweet things?

Did you know that a group of hippos is called a "bloat"?

Did you know that pogonophobia is the fear of beards?

Did you know that Alaska is the only state whose letters are all on one row on a keyboard?

Did you know that your fingernails grow faster on your dominant hand?

Did you know that your average golf ball has 336 dimples?

Did you know that Montpelier, Vermont, is the only U.S. capital without a McDonald's?

Did you know that the frigate bird can sleep while it flies?

Did you know that Jupiter is twice as massive as all the other planets in our solar system combined?

Did you know that on February 17, 1972, Volkswagen sold its 15,007,034th Beetle, exceeding the total sales numbers of the Model-T Ford.

Did you know that your body contains about 100,000 miles of blood vessels?

Did you know that the dot over the lower-case “i” and “j” is called a “tittle?”

Did you know that the chicken and the ostrich are the closest living relatives of the Tyrannosaurus rex?

Did you know that the average American spends about 2.5 days a year looking for lost items?

Did you know that it is illegal to hunt camels in Arizona?

Did you know that the word “nerd” was invented by Dr. Seuss?

Did you know that there is a city called Rome on every continent except Antarctica?

Did you know that octopuses and squid have three hearts?

Did you know that Queen Elizabeth II is a trained mechanic and truck driver?

Did you know that the average American produces 4.5 pounds of trash per day?

Did you know that “schoolmaster” is an anagram of “the classroom.”

Did you know that the Basenji is the only breed of dog that doesn’t bark?

Did you know that Marie Curie’s 100-year-old belongings are still radioactive?

Did you know that the sun makes up more than 99% of our solar system’s mass?

Did you know that rubber bands will last longer if kept refrigerated?

Did you know that Edgar Allen Poe married his 13-year-old cousin?

Did you know that there are 32 muscles in a cat’s ear?

Did you know that honey is the only natural food that doesn’t spoil?

Did you know that it’s impossible to lick your own elbow?

Did you know that Oreos has made enough cookies to span five times back and forth to the moon?

Did you know that 70% of Canadians live at a latitude south of Seattle?

Did you know that Al Capone’s business card identified him as a used furniture dealer?

Did you know that a giraffe can go longer without water than a camel?

Did you know that a Slinky is 82 feet long when stretched out?

Did you know that Americans eat enough burgers every year to encircle the Earth 32 times?

Did you know that there are 293 ways to make change for a dollar?

Did you know that more Monopoly money is printed each year than real money throughout the world?

Did you know that Metallica is the only band to have played on all seven continents?

Did you know that music can make plants grow faster and cows produce more milk?

Did you know that Russia is larger than the planet Pluto?

Did you know that emus and kangaroos cannot walk backwards?

Did you know that the planet Neptune orbits the sun once every 165 years?

Did you know that footprints on the moon will be there for 100 million years?

Did you know that taking a step uses over 200 of the body's muscles?

Did you know that the average person spends six months of their life waiting at traffic signals?

Did you know that Australia is wider than the moon?

Did you know that the unicorn is the national animal of Scotland?

Did you know that avocados are fruit, not vegetables?

Did you know that you occasionally swallow bugs in your sleep?

Did you know that in the summer, the Eiffel Tower gets six inches taller due to thermal expansion?

Did you know that only four words in the English language end in "dous" - horrendous, tremendous, hazardous, and stupendous?

Did you know that human teeth are the only parts of the body that can't heal themselves?

Did you know that a shrimp's heart is in its head?

Did you know that people are more creative when in the shower?

Did you know that sloths can hold their breath longer than dolphins?

Did you know that Fruit Loops are all the same flavor despite the different colors?

Did you know that supermarket apples can be a year old?

Did you know that what you get as wasabi is often just green-tinted horseradish?

Did you know that Venus is the only planet that spins clockwise?

Did you know that nutmeg is a hallucinogen?

Did you know that McDonald's serves spaghetti in the Philippines?

Did you know that competitive art was once an Olympic sport?

Did you know that the Spanish national anthem has no words?

Did you know that cat urine glows under a black light?

Did you know that before the invention of toilet paper, many people used corn cobs?

Did you know that British military tanks are equipped to make tea?

Did you know that a blue whale's heartbeat can be heard over two miles away?

Did you know that the black sapote fruit, native to Central and South America, tastes like chocolate pudding?

Did you know that M&Ms were named after their creators, Forrest Mars and Bruce Murrie?

Did you know that Vatican City is the smallest country in the world?

Did you know that "J" was the last letter added to the English alphabet?

Did you know that the moon has moonquakes?

Did you know that ketchup used to be sold as a medicine?

Did you know that you can't hum while pinching your nose?

Did you know that an ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain?

Did you know that humans are the only animals that blush?

Did you know that pigs can't look up into the sky?

Did you know that the Eiffel Tower was originally designed to be built in Barcelona?

Did you know that the blob of toothpaste on your toothbrush is called a nurdle?

Did you know that a blue whale's tongue can weigh as much as a young elephant?

Did you know that crocodiles can't stick out their tongues?

Did you know that there's an ant species unique to New York City?

Did you know that from 1953 to 1957, NBC's Today Show had a chimpanzee co-host named J. Fred Muggs?

Did you know that apples, peaches, and raspberries are all members of the rose family?

Did you know that Canada eats more macaroni and cheese than any other nation on Earth?

Did you know that there are more Lego mini-figures than there are people on Earth?

Did you know that Cellophane was originally intended to protect tablecloths from wine spills.

Did you know that a strawberry is not an actual berry, but a banana technically is one?

Did you know that in Israel, it's illegal to bring bears to the beach?

Did you know that the island of Pig Beach in the Bahamas is populated entirely by swimming pigs?

Did you know that in every scene in the movie *Fight Club* there is a Starbucks coffee cup?

Did you know that the largest living thing on Earth is a giant Sequoia named General Sherman?

Did you know that Elvis was originally blond?

Did you know that kangaroos keep growing until they die?

Did you know that a snail can sleep for three years?

Did you know that the fear of vegetables is called lachanophobia?

Did you know that lettuce is a member of the sunflower family?

Did you know that a group of unicorns is called a blessing?

Did you know that players in Wimbledon are not allowed to swear?

Did you know that there are more than 70 species of mushrooms that glow in the dark?

Did you know that in Zimbabwe, it is illegal to make an offensive gesture at a passing car?

Did you know that "She sells seashells by the seashore" was written about a female paleontologist in the 1800s who sold dinosaur bones and fossilized shells?

Did you know that "niblings" is an alternate term for your nieces and nephews?

Did you know that the number of stars in space exceed the cumulative grains of sand on every beach on Earth?

Did you know that selfies cause more deaths than shark attacks?

Did you know that Pope Francis was once a nightclub bouncer?

Did you know that allodoxophobia is the fear of other people's opinions?

Did you know that peaches are in the same family as almonds?

Did you know that the longest one-syllable word is “screeched?”

Did you know that in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, tulip bulbs were a form of currency in Holland?

Did you know that Hawaii is the only state with just one school district?

Did you know that cows give more milk when listening to music?

Did you know that China has only one time zone?

Did you know that no American President has ever been an only child?

Did you know that roller coasters were invented to draw Americans away from sinful places like saloons and brothels?

Did you know that octopuses had three hearts?

Did you know that lobsters taste with their feet?

Did you know that in 1917 the British Royal Family changed their last name from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor so it would sound less German?

Did you know that the Anglo-Zanzibar War of 1896 lasted only 38 minutes?

Did you know that Queen Elizabeth hated to be in bright sunlight and had a double to take her place?

Did you know that a flock of ravens is called a conspiracy?

Did you know that the countdown in a 1929 Fritz Lang movie inspired NASA to use countdowns in its own blastoffs?

Did you know that in Alaska it is illegal to enter or remain in a bar while drunk?

Did you know that in Arkansas the law requires that you pronounce the state name correctly?

Did you know that Scotland has more than 400 words for snow?

Did you know that the letter “Q” does not appear in any state name?

Did you know that William McKinley was shot right after giving away his good luck charm?

Did you know that rubber bands will last much longer if refrigerated?

Did you know that a dime has 118 ridges on its edge?

Did you know that the giant squid has the largest eyes on Earth?

Did you know that the dot over the small “i” is called a tittle?

Did you know that Japan has more vending machines than citizens?

Did you know that the plastic tips of shoelaces are called aglets?

Did you know that Minnie Mouse's real first name is Minerva?

Did you know that a "jiffy" is 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a second?

Did you know that April 11, 1954, is recorded as the most boring day in history?

Did you know that tiramisu translates to "take me to heaven" in Italian?

Did you know that the continental plates move at approximately the same rate that fingernails grow?

Did you know that Mary and James are the most popular names around the world?

Did you know that Children are born most often on Thursdays and least often on Saturdays?

Did you know that McDonalds sells 75 burgers every second?

Did you know that blue-eyed people have higher alcohol tolerance?

Did you know that pigeons can't fart?

Did you know that the most widely-printed book in the world is the Ikea catalog?

Did you know that an Australian man tried to sell the country of New Zealand on eBay until the platform shut down the bidding at \$3000?

Did you know that Boring is a city in Oregon?

Did you know that the combination of a question mark and an exclamation point is called an interrobang?

Did you know that owning only one guinea pig is illegal in Switzerland?

Did you know that OMG was first used in a letter to Winston Churchill in 1917?

Did you know that in the 1990s, North Korean teachers were required to play the accordion?

Did you know that more pets run away on July 4<sup>th</sup> than any other day due to their fear of fireworks?

Did you know that triskaidekaphobia is the fear of the number 13?

Did you know that it costs five cents to make a dollar bill?

Did you know that "dreamt" is the only English word that ends with "mt?"

Did you know that the average adult spends more time on the toilet than exercising?

Did you know that Montpelier, Vermont is the only state capitol without a McDonalds?

Did you know that the average American spends the equivalent of 2.5 days per year looking for lost items?

Did you know that more Monopoly money is printed every year than actual currency?

Did you know that 20% of the power outages in the world are due to squirrels?

Did you know that St. Lucia is the only country named after a woman?

Did you know that the letter "J" is the only one not found in any of the elements in the periodic table?

Did you know that a single strand of spaghetti is a spaghetti?

Did you know that the most accurate representations of the Buddha are very skinny due to self-deprivation?

Did you know that 50% of the gold mined on Earth has come from the Witwatersrand Plateau in South Africa?

Did you know that geckos eat the skin they shed?

Did you know that adding all the numbers on a roulette wheel totals 666?

Did you know that the mountain Olympus Mons on Mars is three times as tall as Mount Everest?

Did you know that the day after Thanksgiving is the busiest day for American plumbers?

Did you know that the only fears we are born with are the fear of falling and the fear of loud noises?

Did you know that there are over 6000 species of grasses?

Did you know that the Earth's atmosphere contains approximately 11 quintillion pounds of air?

Did you know that the queens in an ant colony can live up to thirty years?

Did you know that the paint on the Eiffel Tower weighs as much as ten elephants?

Did you know that August 17<sup>th</sup> is Black Cat Appreciation Day?

Did you know that the world contains one billion times more insects than people?

Did you know that the flashes of light when you rub your eyes are called phosphenes?

Did you know that baby rabbits are called kits?

Did you know that an ultracrepidarian is someone who voices thoughts beyond their expertise.

Did you know that archaeologists have found pots of honey over 3000 years old and still perfectly edible?

Did you know that in Japan, it is considered very bad manners to blow your nose in public?

Did you know that Mickey Mouse was originally called Mortimer Mouse?

Did you know that apple pie, a popular American symbol, was actually invented in England?

Did you know that you can draw a line 35 miles long using a single pencil?

Did you know that the stone walls in New England run a total of 240,000 miles and are larger in volume than the Great Wall of China, Hadrian's Wall, and the Great Pyramids of Giza combined?