

Trivia

Romans worshipped Cloacina, the goddess for Rome's sewer system and Cardea, the goddess of thresholds and door hinges.

Investor, entrepreneur, and philanthropist Warren Buffet began his illustrious career by collecting and selling lost golf balls.

Medieval Christians especially enjoyed beaver tails on the days when it was forbidden to eat meat. Because beavers lived in water, they were classified as fish.

Ed Lowe invented kitty litter but never owned a cat.

The Andromeda Galaxy, which is about the same size as our Milky Way, may collide with us in around three billion years, forming one huge elliptical galaxy.

The McSpaghetti (Philippines) is a plate of spaghetti tossed with a sweet tomato sauce, chunks of hotdog, and powdered cheese.

Fish sometimes cough underwater.

Hostess bakers churn out 1,000 Twinkies per minute. The shelf life of a Twinkie is about 45 days.

The proud American motto "E pluribus unum," Latin for "Out of many, one," was originally used by Virgil to describe salad dressing.

Adult crocodiles can go an entire year without eating a single bite.

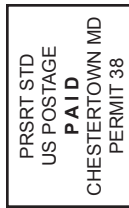
Sodium lauryl sulfate, toothpaste's foaming detergent, affects the taste buds on the tongue by suppressing their sensitivity to sweet tastes and enhancing their sensitivity to bitter and sour tastes, making orange juice taste yucky.

The average dog runs about 19 miles per hour.

Harvard is the oldest university in America.

To attract a female snowy owl, the male dances around swinging a dead lemming from his beak.

(The Book of Bizarre Truths)



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Dates in History

1582 On February 24th, Pope Gregory XIII corrected mistakes on the Julian calendar by dropping 10 days and directing that the day after October 4, 1582, would be October 15th. The Gregorian, or New Style, calendar was then adopted by Catholic countries, followed gradually by Protestant and other nations.

1788 Following Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut, the state of Massachusetts ratified the U.S. Constitution on February 6th by a vote of 187 to 168.

1848 The war between the U.S. and Mexico ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2nd. In exchange for \$15 million, the U.S. acquired the areas encompassing parts or all of present day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Texas.

1943 On February 3rd, the U.S. Army transport ship *Dorchester* was hit by a German torpedo and began to sink rapidly into the icy waters off Greenland. When it became apparent there were not enough life jackets, four U.S. Army chaplains on board removed theirs, handed them to frightened young soldiers, and chose to go down with the ship praying.

1989 On February 15th, Soviet Russia completed its military withdrawal from Afghanistan after nine years of unsuccessful involvement in the civil war between Muslim rebel groups and the Russian-backed Afghan government. Over 15,000 Russian soldiers had been killed.

On the Lighter Side

Client: Please remove the unnecessary circle at the end of the sentence.

Me: You mean ... the period?

Client: I don't care what you designers call it; it is unsightly. Delete it.

I was in a couple's home trying to fix their Internet connection. The husband called out to his wife in the other room for the computer password. "Start with a capital S, then 123," she shouted back. We tried S123 several times, but it didn't work. So we called the wife in. As she input the password, she muttered, "I really don't know what's so difficult about typing Start123."

Why does moisture destroy leather? When it's raining, cows don't go up to the farmhouse yelling, "Let us in! We're all wearing leather! We're going to ruin the whole outfit here!"

My flight was delayed in Houston. Since the gate was needed for another flight, our aircraft was backed away from the terminal, and we were directed to a new gate. We all found the new gate, only to discover a third gate had been designated for our plane. Finally, everyone got on board the right plane, and the flight attendant announced: "We apologize for the gate change. This flight is going to Washington, D.C. If your destination is not Washington, D.C., you should deplane at this time." A moment later a red-faced pilot emerged from the cockpit, carrying his bags. "Sorry," he said, "wrong plane."

When I overheard one of my cashiers tell a customer, "We haven't had it for a while, and I doubt we'll be getting it soon," I quickly assured the customer that we would have whatever it was she wanted by next week. After she left, I turned to the cashier and told him, "Never tell the customer that we're out of anything. Tell them we'll have it next week. Now, what did she want?" The cashier replied, "Rain."