

Trivia

did you know that ...

On January 28, 1887, a snowflake 15 inches wide and 8 inches thick fell in Fort Keogh, Montana, making it the largest snowflake ever observed.

Chionophobia is the persistent fear of snow, especially becoming trapped by snow.

One inch of snow will produce just less than 1/10 of an inch of water when melted.

The largest recorded snowman ever built was in Bethel, Maine, in 1999. The 113-foot, 7-inch snowman broke the previous record held by Yamagata, Japan, at 96 feet and 7 inches.

The first Winter Olympics were held in Chamonix, France, in 1924.

Millions of monarch butterflies fly to Mexico for the winter. They are the only insect that migrates to a warmer climate that is 2,500 miles away each year.

Around 12 percent of Earth's land surface is covered in snow and ice.

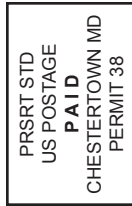
The coldest winter on Earth occurs at the Polar Plateau in Antarctica. The average mean annual temperature is -72.9 °F.

Some animals possess the amazing ability to turn white during the winter: the arctic fox, arctic hare, ptarmigan, barren-ground caribou, and the ermine.

Bismarck, North Dakota, holds the record for the most snow angels at one time. In 2007, several schools joined forces to create 8,962 angels.

The coldest temperature ever recorded was -128.6°F at Vostok Station in Antarctica in 1983.

(<http://facts.randomhistory.com/>)



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Dates in History

1493 On January 9, 1493, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, sailing near the Dominican Republic, saw three “mermaids”- in reality manatees-and described them as “not half as beautiful as they are painted.” Six months earlier, Columbus set off from Spain across the Atlantic Ocean with the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria, hoping to find a western trade route to Asia. Instead, his voyage, the first of four he would make, led him to the Americas, or “New World.”

1789 On January 7, 1789, America’s first presidential election was held. Voters casted ballots to choose state electors. As expected, George Washington won the election and was sworn into office on April 30, 1789.

1924 On January 3rd, 1924, two years after British archaeologist Howard Carter and his workmen discovered the tomb of the Pharaoh Tutankhamen near Luxor, they uncovered the greatest treasure of the tomb—a stone sarcophagus containing a solid gold coffin that held the mummy of Tutankhamen.

1999 On January 4, 1999, Europe was united with a common currency when the “euro” debuted as a financial unit in corporate and investment markets. Eleven European Union (EU) nations, representing some 290 million people, launched the currency in the hopes of increasing European integration and economic growth.

(<http://www.history.com>)

On the Lighter Side

The newspaper photographer was assigned to get aerial photos of a forest fire. The editor told him to rush to the airport and the plane would be waiting to take him up. So he raced to the little country airport, and the plane was warming up, so he jumped in with his equipment and yelled, "Let's go!" The pilot swung the plane into the wind and took off. The photographer told him to fly over the fire, and the pilot said, "Why?" The photographer said, "I'm a photographer. I have to take pictures." The pilot said, "You mean you're not the instructor?"

One day, two old folks were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, “Now don’t get mad at me. I know we’ve been friends for a long time... but I just can’t think of your name! I’ve thought and thought, but I can’t remember it. Please tell me what your name is.”

Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her. Finally she said, “How soon do you need to know?”

I needed some time off from work so I decided to act crazy. I hung upside down from the ceiling and when the boss asked me what I was doing, I said, “I’m a light bulb.” You’re going crazy,” he said. “Take a few days off.” I left and my officemate followed me. The boss asked where she was going. She said, “I can’t work in the dark.”

An elderly woman called 911 on her cell phone to report that her car had been broken into. She was hysterical as she explained her situation to the dispatcher. “They’ve stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!” she cried. The dispatcher said, “Stay calm, Ma’am, an officer is on the way.” A few minutes later, the officer radioed in. “Disregard,” he said. “She got into the back seat by mistake.”

(excerpted from Pretty Good Joke Book)