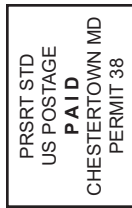


Trivia

The world's oldest wooden wheel has been around for more than 5,000 years. It was found in 2002, about 12 miles south of Ljubljana (Loo-blee.aa.nuh), the capital of Slovenia, and is now housed in the city's museum. Radiocarbon dating was used to determine the wheel's age which is somewhere between 5,100 and 5,350 years old.



The bumblebee bat is the world's smallest mammal. Weighing in at 0.05 to 0.07 ounces, with a head-to-body length of 1.14 to 1.29 inches and a wingspan of 5.1 to 5.7 inches. To see this tiny bat for yourself you'd have to visit one of a select few limestone caves on the Khwae Noi River in southwest Thailand.

German chocolate cake was invented in Texas. The "German" part of German chocolate cake comes from an American man and not a European country. Specifically, it's named after Sam German, who in 1852, created the formula for a mild dark baking chocolate bar for Baker's Chocolate Company.

The brand name Spam is a combination of "spice" and "ham." Contrary to popular American mythology, Spam is not an acronym for "Scientifically Processed Animal Matter" or "Shoulder of Pork and Ham."

Firefighters use wetting agents to make water wetter. The chemicals they use reduce the surface tension of plain water, so it's easier to spread and better soaks into objects, which is why it's known as "wet water."

Kleenex tissues were originally intended for gas masks. When there was a cotton shortage during World War I, Kimberly-Clark developed a thin, flat cotton substitute that the army tried to use as a filter in gas masks. The war ended before scientists perfected the material, so the company redeveloped it to be smoother and softer, then marketed the product as a facial tissue instead.

A group of cats is called a clowder: it can also be called a glaring. A litter of kittens can also be called a kindle.



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Dates in History

1866 On April 10th, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) was founded in New York City by philanthropist and diplomat Henry Bergh. As the pioneer and innovator of the humane movement, the ASPCA quickly became the model for more than 25 other humane organizations in the United States and Canada. By the time Bergh died in 1888, 37 of the 38 states in the Union had passed anti-cruelty laws.

1970 On April 17, *Apollo 13* returned safely to Earth after suffering a severe malfunction that disrupted its normal supply of oxygen, electricity, light, and water during its journey to the moon.

1986 On April 26th, the world's worst nuclear power plant accident occurred at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in the Soviet Union. On the evening of April 25th, a group of engineers began a test on the number 4 reactor. The engineers, who had little knowledge of reactor physics, wanted to see if the reactor's turbine could run emergency water pumps on inertial power. The engineers disconnected the reactor's emergency safety systems and its power regulating system. They followed this with a series of mistakes that ended in the engineers reinserting all 200 control rods into the reactor at once to try and prevent a meltdown. Inserting the 200 graphite tipped control rods at the same time facilitated the reaction causing more than 50 tons of radioactive material to be released into the atmosphere. On April 28th Swedish radiation monitoring stations, more than 800 miles northwest, reported radiation levels 40 percent higher than normal.

On the Lighter Side

What does a nosey pepper do?
Get jalapeno business.



This is your captain speaking.
AND THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SHOUTING.

Two fish in a tank, one looks at the other and says
"How do you drive this thing?"

Two friends are walking down the street thinking of something to do. One friend turns to the other and says, "Let's go get a drink, there's this new place that does THE best punch you'll ever drink." So they make their way to the shop and walk straight up to the server, "Sir, two glasses of your best punch, please." The server replies in a stern voice, "If you want some punch you're gonna have to get in line like everybody else." The friends turn and look around but there's no punch line...

What's the difference between a hippo and a zippo?
One's pretty heavy and the other's a little lighter.

An old lady walked into a pet store, found a parrot, and asked the owner if she could buy it. The owner said, "Heck no! That parrot has a bad mouth! Trust me you do not want that parrot!" She said, "I can teach it good manners." But, when she got home the parrot said a bad word, so she put it in the freezer for 10 seconds. She took it out and said, "Did you learn your lesson?" It said another bad word, so she put it back in for 30 seconds. She took it out and asked if it had learned its lesson yet. The parrot said, "Brr... Yes, I learned my lesson, but, what did the chicken do?"

What did the zero say to the eight?
"That belt looks good on you."

