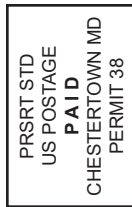


Trivia



Wimbledon tennis balls are kept at 68°F (20°C). The temperature of a tennis ball affects how it bounces. At warmer temperatures, the gas molecules inside the ball expand, making the ball bounce higher. Lower temperatures cause the molecules to shrink and the ball to bounce lower. To make sure the best tennis balls are used, Wimbledon goes through more than 50,000 tennis balls each year.



Bananas glow blue under black lights. To the everyday eye under normal conditions, ripe bananas appear yellow due to organic pigments called carotenoids. When bananas ripen, chlorophyll begins to break down. This pigment is the element that makes bananas glow, or fluoresce, under UV lights and appear blue.

The stroller had its beginnings in the 1700s. It was created for the Duke of Devonshire by William Kent, a landscape architect, to amuse his children while in transit. William's baby carriages were considered luxury items and were used by wealthy families. They were designed to be pulled by ponies, dogs, and goats, rather than pushed by a human.

Uncle Ben's rice was air-dropped to World War II troops. German chemist Erich Huzenlaub invented a process of parboiling rice to keep more nutrients in the rice and lessen the cooking time. The "Huzenlaub Process" had another unexpected benefit: It stopped bug infestations. The quick-cook, bug-free rice was a big advantage during World War II, and converted rice (as it was then known) was air-dropped to American and British troops. After the war, the company rebranded itself and became Uncle Ben's Original Converted Brand Rice, named after one of the company's best rice suppliers. The product hit grocery store shelves in 1947.

The MGM lion roar is trademarked. At the start of any movie made by the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio, the iconic lion roars at the audience. While MGM has gone through several iterations of lion mascots, the sound of the roar is always the same. The company trademarked the "sound mark" with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in the 1980s.

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Dates in History

1908 On January 11th, President Theodore Roosevelt declared the massive Grand Canyon in northwestern Arizona a national monument. Roosevelt exercised this right to make more than 800,000 acres of the Grand Canyon area into a national monument. “Let this great wonder of nature remain as it now is,” he declared. “You cannot improve on it. But what you can do is keep it for your children, your children’s children, and all who come after you, as the one great sight which every American should see.”

1933 On January 30th, with the stirring notes of the *William Tell Overture* and a shout of “Hi-yo, Silver! Away!” *The Lone Ranger* debuted on Detroit’s WXYZ radio station. The creation of station owner George Trendle and writer Fran Striker, the “masked rider of the plains” became one of the most popular and enduring western heroes of the 20th century. Joined by his trusty steed, Silver, and Native American scout, Tonto, the Lone Ranger battled western outlaws and Native Americans. The radio program was an instant hit. Children liked the steady stream of action and parents approved of the good moral example offered by the upstanding masked man. Soon picked up for national broadcast over the Mutual Radio Network, over 20 million Americans were tuning into *The Lone Ranger* three times a week by 1939.

2004 On January 3rd, the Mars exploration rover *Spirit* landed on the red planet. In March, scientists announced that they had made a momentous discovery. A survey of Martian rocks strongly suggested that water had once flowed there. In one of the longest and most successful missions in NASA history, *Spirit* would survey Martian geography for the next seven years.

History.com

On the Lighter Side



Went to the doctor with a suspicious-looking mole. He said they all look that way and I should have left him in the garden.

I sympathize with batteries. I’m not included in anything either.

Why does a bride always cry at the wedding? Because she never marries the best man.

This morning I saw a person dragging a clam on a leash behind him.

It must be hard to walk with a pulled mussel.

Why did the candle quit his job? He was burned out.

I sent my hearing aids in for repair 3 weeks ago. I haven’t heard anything since.

I, for one, like Roman Numerals.

Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards?

He was going through a stage.

What do you call an alligator in a vest?

An investigator.



A guy walks into a lumberyard and asks for some two-by-fours. The clerk asks, “How long do you need them?” The guy answers, “A long time. We’re gonna build a house.”

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