

Trivia

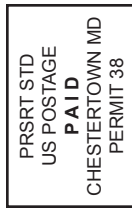
did you know that ...

1. What are the four ghosts in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol?
2. Whose tennis serve was the fastest ever recorded?
3. What auto maker built the first armored tanks used by U.S. troops in battle?
4. What did Bugs Bunny drink to become invisible?
5. Who designed the original 1936 Volkswagen?
6. What was the first colony in the New World put to agricultural use—with sugar cane plantations?
7. Where is Hillary's Chimney?
8. Who was the first person other than royalty to be portrayed on a British stamp?
9. How did Christmas become Xmas?
10. In show biz slang, what's an Annie Oakley?

Answers:

1. *The ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present, Christmas Yet to Come and Jacob Marley (Scrooge's partner).* 2. *Bill Tilden's. It was measured at 163.6 miles per hour in 1931.* 3. *Renault. The French-made tanks first saw service in the Battle of St. Mihiel on September 12, 1918.* 4. *Hare remover.* 5. *Ferdinand Porsche, who later went on to build sports cars bearing his name.* 6. *Brazil, in the mid-1500s, under the Portuguese. By 1600, it was producing half the world's sugar supply.* 7. *On Mount Everest. It is named for Sir Edmund Hillary, who conquered the mountain in 1953 with Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay.* 8. *William Shakespeare, in 1964.* 9. *X is the Greek letter chi, the first letter of Christ's name written in Greek. It has been a symbol for Christ since the Middle Ages.* 10. *A free pass to the theater. The legendary sharpshooter would toss a playing card in the air and shoot so many holes in it that it resembled a punched ticket.*

(excerpted from 5087 Trivia Questions & Answers)



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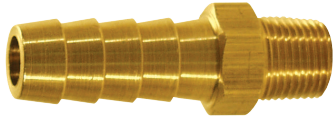
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Dates in History

1773 On December 16th, a party of young Americans, disguised as Red Indians, threw chests of tea from ships in Boston Harbor as a protest against the taxation imposed by the British Parliament under George III. The 'Boston Tea Party', as it came to be known, was one of the major events leading to the American War of Independence.

1877 On December 6th, the American inventor Thomas Alva Edison made the first known sound-recording when he recited 'Mary had a little lamb' into a phonograph of his own design.

1901 On December 12th, the Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi received the first transatlantic radio transmission in St. John's Newfoundland, from Polhu, in Cornwall.

1903 On December 17th, the American aviator Orville Wright made the first recorded flight in a powered aircraft, the flight lasted some twelve seconds with a height of eight to twelve feet. His brother Wilbur Wright made another flight on the same day lasting almost one minute.

Merry
Christmas!

(excerpted from Dictionary of Dates)

On the Lighter Side

If you really want the last word in an argument, say "You're absolutely right."

Grandfather had just invested in one of those almost-invisible hearing aids. He paid a return visit to the salesman to express his satisfaction. "I imagine your family likes it too," said the salesman. "Oh, they don't know I've got it," chortled grandpa. "And am I having fun! In the past two days I've changed my will twice!"

Today's stock market report:

- Helium was up, feathers were down
- Paper was stationary
- Knives were up sharply
- Cows steered into a bull market
- Pencils lost a few points
- Mining equipment hit rock bottom
- Shipping lines stayed at an even keel

Amusing sentences taken from papers written by grade school kids:

- The four seasons are salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.
- One of the main causes of dust are janitors.
- Syntax is all the money collected at the church from sinners.

An English professor wrote the words, "A woman without her man is nothing" on the blackboard and directed the students to punctuate it correctly. The men wrote: "A woman, without her man, is nothing." The women wrote: "A woman: without her, man is nothing."

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

(one-liners-and-proverbs.com)

(basicjokes.com)