

# Trivia



While January might bring the coldest temperatures to the Northern Hemisphere, it is also the month when Earth is closest to the sun. Known as perihelion, this occurs because Earth's orbit is slightly elliptical. Despite being closer to the sun, winter remains due to the tilt of the Earth's axis, which points the Northern Hemisphere away from direct sunlight during this season.

Jellyfish are some of the oldest living creatures on Earth, having existed for over 500 million years. These simple yet fascinating animals have survived multiple mass extinction events, including the one that wiped out the dinosaurs. Despite lacking brains, hearts, or bones, jellyfish thrive in oceans worldwide, using their stinging tentacles to capture prey. Their ability to adapt to changing environments is a testament to their resilience.

Icicles, a common sight in January, form through a combination of freezing water droplets and gravity. As water drips and freezes, layers build up, creating the pointed shapes we recognize. Their formation depends on factors like temperature, wind, and the flow of melting snow, making each icicle unique.

Before modern fire extinguishers were invented in 1723, firefighters often used glass grenades filled with saltwater or vinegar to combat flames. When thrown into a fire, the grenades would break, releasing the liquid to help douse the flames. This creative firefighting method was phased out with the development of more advanced technology.

Studies have shown that chewing gum can improve focus and memory. The act of chewing increases blood flow to the brain, helping you stay alert and process information more efficiently.

Post-It Notes were created in 1968 when Spencer Silver, a scientist at 3M, was trying to develop a super-strong adhesive but accidentally made a weak, reusable one instead. Years later, another scientist realized it could be used to stick notes temporarily, and the rest is history.



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## Dates in History

**1888** On January 27, The National Geographic Society was founded in Washington, D.C. The organization was established with the mission to “increase and diffuse geographic knowledge,” marking the start of its remarkable contributions to science, exploration, and education. The society’s iconic magazine, National Geographic, began publication later that year and became renowned for its groundbreaking photography and in-depth global reporting.

**1926** On January 26, Scottish inventor John Logie Baird made history by giving the world’s first public demonstration of a working television system at the Royal Institution in London. Using a mechanical device he called the “televisor,” Baird transmitted live images of a ventriloquist’s dummy and a human face. The system, based on spinning disks and photoelectric cells, produced crude 30-line images but was an important step toward modern broadcasting.

Baird’s success marked the dawn of visual communication, and he continued innovating with early experiments in color and 3D television. While later systems transitioned to electronic technology, his work laid the foundation for one of the most transformative mediums of the 20th century, fundamentally changing global communication, culture, and entertainment.

**1960** On January 23, Swiss oceanographer Jacques Piccard and U.S. Navy Lieutenant Don Walsh made history by descending to the deepest known part of Earth’s oceans—the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench. They achieved this milestone aboard the bathyscaphe Trieste, a specially designed submersible. The duo reached a depth of nearly 10,916 meters (35,814 feet) under immense pressure, experiencing an environment completely devoid of sunlight. This journey demonstrated human ingenuity and paved the way for modern deep-sea exploration, revealing the potential for life even in the most extreme conditions.

## On the Lighter Side



What do you say on January 1st to someone you didn’t see on New Year’s Eve?

I haven’t seen you since last year!

Why don’t skeletons fight in the winter?

They don’t have the guts to face the cold.

What did the grape say when it was stepped on?

Nothing, but it let out a little wine.

My friend won the pancake-eating contest.

I thought, “Well, that’s flipping impressive.”

Why did the math book make a New Year’s resolution?

It wanted to solve all its problems.

Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants?

In case he got a hole in one.

How much does a chimney cost?

Nothing, it’s on the house.

What did the wool hat say to the scarf?

You hang around while I go on ahead.

What do you sing at a snowman’s birthday party?

“Freeze a Jolly Good Fellow!”

What do farmers give their wives at midnight on New Year’s Eve?

Hogs and kisses.

