

# Trivia



Earth travels about 584 million miles in its orbit around the sun, or 1.6 million miles per day, which requires an average velocity of about 1,000 mph.

According to a 2021 study by Controltek USA, cheese is the most stolen food item in grocery stores, with an estimated 4% of cheese on shelves being taken. This makes cheese more commonly stolen than other high-theft items like meat, chocolate, seafood, and baby formula.

The first American alarm clock was created in 1787 by Levi Hutchins in Concord, New Hampshire. This device he made only for himself, however, and it only rang at 4 am, in order to wake him for his job. The French inventor Antoine Redier was the first to patent an adjustable mechanical alarm clock, in 1847.

The world's tallest roller coaster is the Kingda Ka roller coaster in New Jersey, with a height of 456 feet.

Dr. Seuss wrote *Green Eggs and Ham* as part of a bet. *The Cat in the Hat* was published in 1957 and used a mere 236 words to tell the quirky feline's fantastical story. However, the book's author, Dr. Seuss, topped that feat with even fewer words when his publisher, Bennett Cerf, bet him that he couldn't write a book using 50 words or less. *Green Eggs and Ham* hit bookstores three years later and used exactly 50 words.

It's probably safe to assume that when you reach for your favorite cereal in the morning, you can simply pour some in a bowl and start eating it. But in order to consume the first manufactured breakfast cereal, which was created in 1863, you had to soak it in milk overnight just to make it edible. The cereal was made of graham flour that had been baked into brittle cakes, then crumbled up and baked again.

If you've ever tapped someone on the opposite shoulder in order to attempt to trick them, then you've done what people living in Indonesia would call "mencolek." But no matter what you call this, it will still probably make the person on the receiving end of the gesture groan in response.

If you live in or have ever driven through Wyoming, you might know that there is a horse featured on the state's license plates. But this isn't just any old animal. The horse's name is Steamboat and he was a famous bucking bronco who thrilled rodeo fans from 1901 to 1914.

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## Dates in History

**1876** On November 23, William Magear "Boss" Tweed, the leader of New York City's corrupt Tammany Hall political organization during the 1860s and early 1870s, was delivered to authorities in New York City after being captured in Spain. Tweed became a powerful figure in Tammany Hall, and by the mid-1860s, he had risen to the top position in the organization, forming the "Tweed Ring." The ring openly bought votes, encouraged judicial corruption, extracted millions from city contracts, and dominated New York City politics. All members of the Tweed Ring were subsequently tried and sentenced to prison. Boss Tweed served time for forgery, larceny, and other charges, but in 1875, he escaped from prison and fled to Cuba and then Spain. In 1876, he was arrested by Spanish police, who reportedly recognized him from a famous cartoon depiction. After Tweed's extradition to the United States, he was returned to prison, where he died in 1878.

**1950** On November 25, the so called "storm of the century" hit the eastern part of the United States, causing millions of dollars in damages. It formed over North Carolina just before Thanksgiving. The storm quickly moved north, striking western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, and West Virginia. These areas were blanketed with several feet of snow for several days, and travel was impossible for nearly a week in some places. An accompanying windstorm covered a far greater area. New York City recorded a 94 mile per hour wind gust. At Bear Mountain, just north of the city, a 140 mph gust was recorded. The winds throughout New England were of hurricane like force. The storm was unique because it not only brought extremely strong winds and heavy snow but also set records for both high and low temperatures.

**1969** On November 14, *Apollo 12*, the second manned mission to the surface of the moon, was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, with astronauts Charles Conrad, Jr., Richard F. Gordon, Jr., and Alan L. Bean aboard. President Richard Nixon viewed the liftoff from Pad A at Cape Canaveral. He was the first president to attend the liftoff of a manned space flight.

## On the Lighter Side

Why did the egg hide?

It was a little chicken.



Why do we tell actors to "break a leg?"

Because every play has a cast.

What's a foot long and slippery?

A slipper.

Business is up and down at the moment. I sell yo-yos

My dog used to chase people on a bike a lot.

It got so bad I had to take his bike away.

It was David's first day as a pilot. Air traffic control asked, "What are your coordinates?" So David said, "I'm by a cloud that looks like a lion." So air traffic control says, "Can you be more specific?" So David says, "Simba."

I want to tell you a joke about a girl who only eats plants.

You've probably never heard of herbivore.

I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes.

She gave me a hug.

Why did the employee keep a clock under his desk?

He wanted to work overtime.

Why was the computer cold?

It left its Windows open.

Why did the belt get a job at the office? It was great at holding things together!



I used to play piano by ear, but now I use my hands.