

# Trivia

A *flink* is a group of 12 or more cows. Perhaps cattle ranchers and dairy farmers should be called *flinkers*.

Entomologists have learned mosquitoes have 47 teeth - quite a mouthful for a bug on a liquid diet.

Not even acid can dissolve a diamond.

An ant has five different noses, each for different scents.

Neology is the study of new words.

An average penguin can run as fast as an average man.

Hot water is lighter in weight than cold water.

The monkey-like common potto is the only mammal that keeps part of its backbone on the outside, with a row of bare bones protruding slightly from its back.

It's often referenced, but not everyone knows Timbuktu is in Mali, West Africa.

The world's largest bowling alley is the 156-lane Nagoya Grand Bowl in Japan.

Count the number of tree cricket chirps in any 15 second span, add 40, and the result will be the current air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

The dark purple color of a giraffe's tongue protects it from getting sunburned while eating tasty leaves from tall trees.

Manhattan is about half the size of Disney World.

A newborn turkey chick has to be taught to eat, or it will starve.

An average office chair moves a total distance of roughly eight miles over the course of a year.

The top-selling necktie color is blue.

*(The Book of Bizarre Truths)*

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# Dates in History

**1590** On March 19th, William Bradford (d. 1657) was born in Yorkshire, England. He sailed aboard the Mayflower during its 66-day voyage from England to Massachusetts in 1620. Bradford became the first governor of the new Plymouth Colony, serving 30 years, and was largely responsible for its success.

**1609** Admiral Sir George Somers sailed from England toward Virginia with a fleet of nine ships. On March 16th, the fleet was caught in a severe storm. The flagship got separated and wrecked on an island reef. All sailors made it to shore where they built two new ships. Before continuing to Virginia, two volunteers stayed behind to maintain British claim. Today, the island of Bermuda is also known as Somers Isle.

**1776** Early in the American Revolutionary War the British completed their evacuation of Boston following a successful siege conducted by Patriots. March 17th is still commemorated in Boston as Evacuation Day.

**1862** The first issue of U.S. government paper money occurred on March 10th, as \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills began circulation.

**1933** On March 4th, newly elected President Franklin D. Roosevelt took office and delivered his first inaugural address attempting to restore public confidence during the Great Depression, stating, "Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself..."

**1961** March 1st, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, an organization sending young American volunteers to developing countries to assist with health care, education, and other basic human needs.

# On the Lighter Side

While teaching at a veterinary college, I ordered a few books for our library. One was George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. When I went to take it out, I discovered that the librarian had re-shelved the book in the section for dairy and poultry.

A last-minute filer walked into our state income tax office and handed me his returns. Just as he did, a peal of laughter could be heard in another room. Glaring at me, he grumbled, "What are they doing back there, counting the money?"

Religion is generally a verboten topic for everyone at work, except for Larry. Recently, after he steered yet another conversation toward the subject, a coworker whispered to me, "That Larry—he always has to put his two saints in."

One of our interns asked another if she was planning to sign up for the company's 401(k). "I'm considering it," replied the second intern. Later, the first intern approached me looking concerned. "I did the math," he said, "and 401K is almost 250 miles. She'll never make it!"

My neighbor texted me, "I just made synonym buns!" I texted back, "You mean like grammar used to make?" I haven't heard from her since.

A zoo's gorilla becomes ill so the zookeeper hires an actor to don a costume and act like an ape until the animal recovers. In the cage, the actor makes faces, swings around, and draws a huge crowd. He then crawls across a partition and atop the lion's cage, infuriating the lions. But the actor stays in character - until he loses his grip and falls into the lion's cage. Terrified, the actor shouts, "Help! Help me!" Too late. The lion pounces, opens its massive jaws, and whispers, "Shut up! Do you want to get us both fired?!"