

# Trivia



The world's most successful pirate was a woman. The 19th-century Chinese pirate Ching Shih, widow of fearsome pirate Cheng I, became a hugely successful pirate in her own right, succeeding her husband and eventually commanding more than 1,800 pirate ships and 80,000 men.

The name "funny bone" comes from the humerus bone, which connects the shoulder to the elbow. However, that's not the source of the tingling sensation you feel when you bump your elbow just right. It's actually the result of the humerus bone coming into contact with the ulnar nerve, which is responsible for telling the brain about feelings in the ring and pinky fingers.

Dragonflies possess six legs, but they are not capable of walking. They use their legs to hold prey. Dragonflies are similar to damselflies, but dragonflies hold their wings away from, and perpendicular to, the body when at rest.

The phrase "knock on wood" is an idiom used to ward off bad luck or to express gratitude for good fortune. The exact origin of the phrase is unknown and debated, but it's thought to have originated with ancient pagan cultures, such as the Celts, who believed that trees were home to spirits and gods.

Capitonyms are dual meaning words which change their meaning, sometimes even pronunciation, if the first letter is capitalized. 'A turkey may march in Turkey in May or March!' The above sentence would have been very difficult to understand if capital letters did not exist.

Honey bees must gather nectar from two million flowers to make one pound of honey. One bee would therefore have to fly around 90,000 miles - three times around the globe - to make one pound of honey. The average honey bee will actually make only one twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.

Sea otters have the thickest fur of any animal. Their fur contains between 600,000 to 1,000,000 hair follicles per square inch. Unlike most other marine mammals, otters lack a blubber layer.



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# Dates in History

**1832** On July 25th, The first recorded railroad accident in U.S. history occurred when four people were thrown off a vacant car on the Granite Railway near Quincy, Massachusetts. The victims had been invited to view the process of transporting large and weighty loads of stone when a cable on a vacant car snapped on the return trip, throwing them off the train and over a 34-foot cliff. The acceptance of railroads came quickly in the 1830s, and by 1840 the nation had almost 3,000 miles of railway, greater than the combined European total of only 1,800 miles. The railroad network expanded quickly in the years before the Civil War, and by 1860 the American railroad system had become a national network of some 30,000 miles.

**1937** On July 2nd, the Lockheed aircraft carrying American aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Frederick Noonan was reported missing near Howland Island in the Pacific. The pair were attempting to fly around the world when they lost their bearings during the most challenging leg of the global journey: Lae, New Guinea, to Howland Island, a tiny island 2,227 nautical miles away, in the center of the Pacific Ocean. The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Itasca was in sporadic radio contact with Earhart as she approached Howland Island and received messages that she was lost and running low on fuel. Soon after, she probably tried to ditch the Lockheed in the ocean. No trace of Earhart or Noonan was ever found.

**1995** On July 16th, Amazon officially opened for business as an online bookseller. Within a month, the fledgling retailer had shipped books to all 50 U.S. states and to 45 countries. Founder Jeff Bezos's motto was "get big fast," and Seattle-based Amazon eventually evolved into an e-commerce colossus, revolutionizing the way people shop.

[history.com](http://history.com)

# On the Lighter Side



What has one head, one foot, and four legs?  
A bed.

Did you hear about the actor who broke his leg onstage?  
He's still in the cast.

Why did the pharmacist walk on her tiptoes?  
She didn't want to wake the sleeping pills.

My wife asked me to go get six cans of  
Sprite from the grocery store.  
I realized when I got home that I had picked 7 Up.

Did you hear about the kidnapping at school?  
It's fine, he woke up.

Want to hear a joke about construction?  
I'm still working on it.

Why do dads feel the need to tell such bad jokes?  
They just want to help you become a groan up.

Sore throats are a pain in the neck.

Why do tall people get along so well?  
They really see eye to eye.

Why was the ghost so tired?  
He worked the graveyard shift.



[parade.com](http://parade.com)