

# Trivia

*did you know that ...*

The tongue of a blue whale is as long as an elephant.

*Our eyes are always the same size from birth.*

Earth is not round, it is slightly pear-shaped.

*The crawler, the machine that takes the Space Shuttle to the launching pad moves at 3km/h (2 mph).*

The longest war was the so-called 100-years war between Britain and France. It actually lasted 116 years, ending in 1453.

*The shortest scheduled airline flight is made between the island of Westray to Papa Westray off Scotland. The flight lasts 2 minutes.*

George Washington and Thomas Jefferson both grew hemp. Ben Franklin owned a mill that made hemp paper. The U.S. Declaration of Independence was written on hemp paper.

*The pin that holds a hinge together is called a pintle.*

Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon with his left foot first.

*There are no active volcanoes in Australia because it sits in the middle of a tectonic plate (large areas of earths crust).*

The only president to be unanimously elected was George Washington (1732-1799).

*The largest gold nugget ever found is the "Welcome Stranger" discovered by John Deason and Richard Oates in Australia on February 5, 1869. The nugget is 10 by 25 inches and yielded 2,248 ounces of pure gold. It was found just two inches below the ground surface.*

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) is the only U.S. president who was also a licensed bartender. He was co-owner of Berry and Lincoln, a saloon in Springfield, Illinois.

(<http://facts.randomhistory.com>)  
(<http://www.http://didyouknow.org>)

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*"Published once a moon since 1932"*

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## 2011



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Dixon Valve & Coupling Company  
800 High Street, Chestertown, MD 21620

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# Dates in History

**1922** On May 29th, the United States Supreme Court ruled that organized baseball did not violate antitrust laws as alleged by the Baltimore Terrapins franchise of the defunct Federal League in 1915. The Supreme Court held that organized baseball was not a business, but a sport.

**1929** On May 16th, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences handed out its first awards, at a dinner party for around 250 people held in the Blossom Room of the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood, California.

**1929** On May 31st, after two years of exploratory visits and friendly negotiations, Ford Motor Company signed a landmark agreement to produce cars in the Soviet Union.

**1931** On May 1st, President Herbert Hoover officially dedicated New York City's Empire State Building, pressing a button from the White House that turned on the building's lights.

**1933** On May 2nd, although accounts of an aquatic beast living in Scotland's Loch Ness dated back 1,500 years, the modern legend of the Loch Ness Monster was born when a sighting made local news on May 2, 1933. The newspaper Inverness Courier related an account of a local couple who claimed to have seen "an enormous animal rolling and plunging on the surface."

**1942** On May 15th, gasoline rationing began in 17 Eastern states as an attempt to help the American war effort during World War II. By the end of the year, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had ensured that mandatory gasoline rationing was in effect in all 48 states.

# On the Lighter Side

A cat died and went to heaven. When he arrived at the gate, an angel asked:

"Welcome to heaven. What can I get for you to make you happy today?"

The cat replied:

"Oh, I sure would love a nice, soft pillow!" And so, the angel gave him the pillow and called for the next person in line. The next day, some mice were in line at the gate. The angel asked them the same question.

The mice replied:

"Ooh! Can we have some skateboards?!" And the angel gave them the skate boards. A few hours later, the angel was strolling through the kingdom and came across the cat on his pillow.

"Good cat! How do you like heaven and your pillow?"

The cat smiled and replied:

"This place is great! The streets are gold, this is the softest pillow in the world! Thank you!"

The angel smiled and said:

"So you're really liking it?"

The cat said:

"Oh, I love it! And by the way, thanks for the meals on wheels you sent by earlier!"

*A man in a taxi cab taps the driver on the shoulder to ask him a question. The driver screams bloody murder, loses control of the cab, and swerves onto the sidewalk before stopping just inches from a lamppost.*

*After checking to make sure the passenger is OK, the driver says "I'm sorry, but you scared the daylights out of me!"*

*"Sorry. I didn't realize a simple tap on the shoulder would freak you out so much," the passenger says.*

*"It's not your fault," replies the cabbie.*

*"Today is my first day on the job after 25 years of driving a hearse."*