

# Trivia

Damascus, Syria is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world.

Until 1935, Major League Baseball was played only during the day. The first night game was held on May 24th that year at Cincinnati's Crosley field; FDR threw a ceremonial switch at the White House and the lights came on at 8:30 p.m.

The shortest sentence in English is "Go."

Plankton, seaweed and other photosynthesizers produce over half of the world's oxygen.

The letters J and Q don't appear anywhere on the periodic table.

That tiny pocket in jeans was designed to store pocket watches. The original jeans only had four pockets: that tiny one, plus two more on the front and just one in the back.

No number before 1,000 contains the letter A.

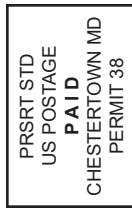
Movie trailers originally played after the movie. They "trailed" the feature film—hence the name. The first trailer appeared in 1912 and was for a Broadway show, not a movie.

Mercedes invented a car controlled by joystick. The joystick in the 1966 Mercedes F200 showcase car controlled speed and direction, replacing both the steering wheel and pedals.

A cattle rancher in New Jersey is credited for inventing glitter, and it was by accident. Henry Ruschmann from Bernardsville, New Jersey was a machinist who crushed plastic while trying to find a way to dispose of it and thus made glitter in 1934.

There are seven vertebrae in the neck of giraffes, and in most mammals, but there are ten in a sloth.

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## Dates in History

**1849** Elizabeth Blackwell graduated from Geneva Medical College on January 23. She was the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States.

**1871** On January 17, San Franciscan Andrew Smith Hallidie external patented an improved “Endless Wire Ropeway”, a key component in the construction of the first cable car system that ultimately spared many horses the excruciating work of moving people over San Francisco’s steep roadways.

**1890** Police cleared a path through a cheering crowd for reporter Nellie Bly as she stepped off a train on January 25 in New York just 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes, and 14 seconds after setting sail east to prove she could circle the globe in less than 80 days.

**1892** On January 1, a fifteen-year old Irish girl named Annie Moore became the first of the more than twelve million immigrants who would pass through the doors of the Ellis Island Immigration Station in its sixty-two years of operation.

**1912** The nearly twenty thousand residents of the city of Key West, Florida, located on a small island some 128 miles south of the Florida peninsula, observed the completion of an overseas rail connection to the mainland on January 22. The Florida East Coast Railway External served the island until 1935, when it was destroyed by a hurricane.

**1948** On January 4, the British colony of Burma, now Myanmar, became an independent nation after more than sixty years of colonial rule. England had established control of the country in 1885, designating Burma a province of India.

## On the Lighter Side

Why are frogs always so happy?  
They eat what ever bugs them

What starts with E, ends with E, and has only 1 letter in it?  
Envelope.

You are on a horse, galloping at a constant speed. On your right side is a sharp drop off, and on your left side is an elephant traveling at the same speed as you. Directly in front of you is another galloping horse but your horse is unable to overtake it. Behind you is a lion running at the same speed as you and the horse in front of you. What must you do to safely get out of this highly dangerous situation?  
Get off the merry-go-round!

I couldn't figure out why the baseball kept getting larger. Then it hit me.

There was an elderly couple who in their old age noticed that they were getting a lot more forgetful, so they decided to go to the doctor. The doctor told them that they should start writing things down so they don't forget. They went home and the old lady told her husband to get her a bowl of ice cream. "You might want to write it down," she said. The husband said, "No, I can remember that you want a bowl of ice cream." She then told her husband she wanted a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream. "Write it down," she told him, and again he said, "No, no, I can remember: you want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream." Then the old lady said she wants a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top. "Write it down," she told her husband and again he said, "No, I got it. You want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top." So he goes to get the ice cream and spends an unusually long time in the kitchen, over 30 minutes. He comes out to his wife and hands her a plate of eggs and bacon. The old wife stares at the plate for a moment, then looks at her husband and asks, "Where's the toast?"