

~ Scholarly Articles ~

Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade Young Journalists
of Indian River County, Florida

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Beachland Elementary
Citrus Elementary
Fellsmere Elementary
Gifford Youth Achievement Center
Indian River Academy
Liberty Magnet
Treasure Coast Elementary
Vero Beach Elementary

~ ~ ~

May 2025

Introduction



We begin by referencing an excerpt from two student's who collaborated on an article entitled "*Why Students Hate School*." Please refer to Gifford Youth Achievement Center articles; see the table of contents.

While they obviously refer to bullying and homework, they cite another reason: "Every day children must sit for hours to do assignments, practical and regular homework.

Children who want to go the extra mile to know more about their favorite subject do not get the flexibility to do so."

The Young Journalist Program gives students the ability to go that extra mile. Students are free to explore their curiosity by conducting research and using details from that on-line research to write.

While writing, students learn to understand basic writing mechanics:

- Sentence structure
- Paragraph organization
- Vocabulary
- Punctuation
- Capitalization
- Avoiding plagiarism
- Being prolific with computer technology

By incorporating fun, personalized and engaging teaching strategies, we can ensure our young learners develop strong writing skills.

We lay the foundation for a lifetime of learning and achievement. The advantages of early engagement in literacy activities transcend the academic realm, impacting every aspect of a child's growth and future potential.



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Beachland Elementary



Creepy Urban Legends!

By Indigo Ryan and Opal Ricks



Urban legends are creepy stories that are passed down from person to person. They are fun to tell but they can also be very scary! Let's talk about some famous urban legends!

Slenderman: Slenderman is a mythical creature often depicted as a tall thin figure wearing a black suit and he can stretch his arms out at will and has tentacle-like appendages from his back that he uses to snatch children!

Bloody Mary: Bloody Mary was a girl that some say died and was buried with a string attached to a bell above ground. If the person was not dead and they woke up they can pull the string and ring the bell. Mary pulled the string but the bell fell off and she began scratching at the coffin lid until her fingers began to bleed. Her parents came to help but she was dead and the mirror in the coffin had fallen on her face. Now she haunts curious children through the mirrors in their homes.

High Beams: A woman named Mary (not Bloody Mary) was driving her car along a deserted highway late one night. A diesel truck comes up behind her and continues to follow her. When Mary sped up, the truck sped up and flashed his high beams. It turns out, the truck driver was trying to warn her that a man with a knife was in her back seat! Every time the driver flashed the high beams, the man with the knife put the knife down!

Capybaras

By Layla Shibani and Opal Ricks



Capybaras are very interesting, like their scientific name is Hydrochoerus hydrochories. They are mammals and they are largest rodents in the world. They are herbivores, meaning they only eat plants and vegetables. They often live in groups called herds. In the wild they can live for up to seven years but maybe much longer in zoos. They are about four and a half feet long and two feet high. Their weight can be anywhere from about 75 to 150 pounds. Capybaras live across South America, particularly around Panama. Some have come to North America as invasive species (from National Geographic).

Citrus Elementary



Why No Human Can Settle on the Moon

By Grayson Schwarz



People say astronauts may live on the moon, but they are wrong. They would die from lack of water and oxygen. Also moon dust, a.k.a lunar soil, can lead to serious health concerns, such as respiratory, cardiopulmonary, eyesight and harm to your skin. Technology isn't advanced enough and temperature ranges are too high and too low for humans to live there. Also, the lack of gravity on the moon would make it very difficult to live there. Maybe someday!



Man on the Moon-Remembering Apollo 11

Stitch is Made to be in Trouble

By Maribel Macias



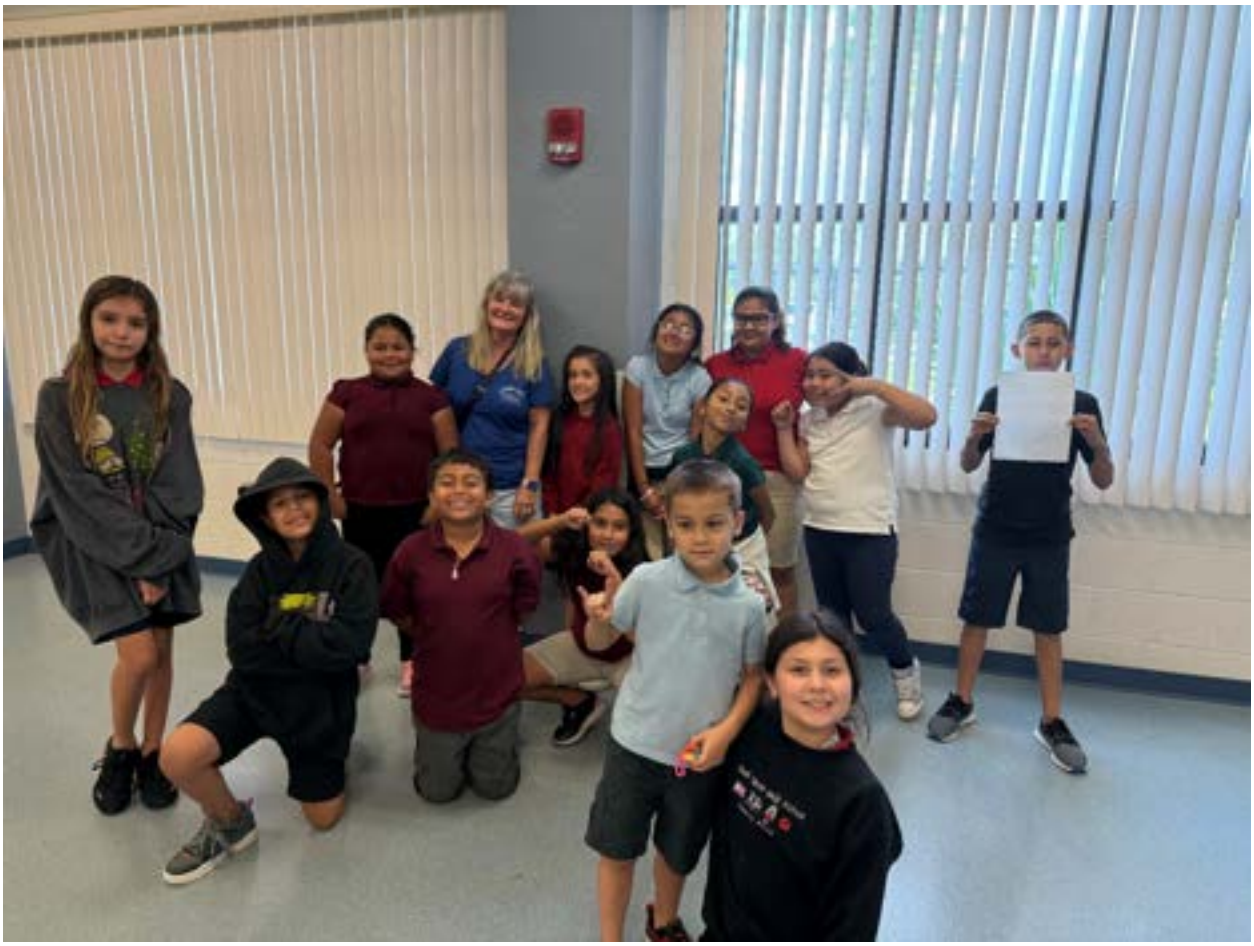
Did you know that the beloved Disney character, Stitch, was first created in 1985 by Chris Sanders for an unsuccessful children's book? Stitch is originally known as Experiment 626 genetically engineered extraterrestrial life form but poses as a playful dog on Earth. The movie, Lilo and Stitch, premiered in 2002. Lilo is a Hawaiian girl who rescued Stitch when he crashed on Earth.

Stitch is very mischievous and gets into trouble frequently. An example is one day Stitch was going to bed and he accidentally tripped and he looked at the time and it was 9:10pm. He then was freaking out because he knew his Mom was going to come into his room because his bedtime was 9pm. His Mom came in to scold him, but he tried to give his funny smile so she wouldn't be mad.

If you want to see a funny alien dog, check out one of the movies or shows that Stitch is the star.



Fellsmere Elementary



Why Chickens are Fun

By Abigail Soliz



My favorite after school hobby is playing with my friend and my chickens. My friend, Deanna, is nice and we have fun playing in the sand and on the hammock. We also do sleepovers at her house and have snacks.

Did you know, there are more than 500 chicken breeds in the world. 53 large chicken breeds have been recognized. The lifespan of a chicken is between 6-8 years. Chickens like to eat fruit as a treat, and they don't eat meat.

I like giving my chickens mealworms; they go crazy over them. Mealworms are the larva of a darkling beetle. Once we had an egg break and we fed it to them, and they enjoyed it.

Raising Cane's -Best Kept Chicken Secret in Port St Lucie!

By Adelyn Rojas

They are known for their crispy fries and juicy tenders, as well as their yummy sauce. Raising Cane's began their story on August 18, 1996, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Todd Graves, the founder, waved customers in after 9pm because he couldn't get the cash register to work. He kept the store open until 3:30am!

If you live near Tampa or Port Saint Lucie, and it doesn't take forever to get there, then it is known for being clean I suggest a trip to Raising Cane's!

I plan on going this weekend!



Yummy !

McDonald's: A Favorite Fast Food

By Adelynn Ramirez



McDonald's is the best fast food restaurant; the burgers are excellent. They are 100% meat and cheesy. A weird guy holds a world record for eating the most Big Macs! Donald Gorske, of Wisconsin, has eaten more than 35,000 Big Macs since 1972.

The first McDonald's was opened in San Bernardino, California on May 15, 1940. Now McDonald's makes $25 billion annually.

Big Macs are my favorite, and the Big Mac is one of the most popular items ordered, after their French fries. Their ice cream is good, and a favorite flavor is M&M, if the ice cream machine isn't broken. This is frustrating to many customers.



There are over 13,000 McDonald's in the US today, so go have a burger!

Bracelets: Super Fun to Make!

By Alison Almanza



One of my favorite hobbies is making bracelets. It is calming, fun and interesting.

Some say they are a waste of time and money, but some believe you can make money. Vendors set up booths to earn money, like at an art show. Some people are crazy for bracelets, like me!

You can give bracelets as a gift to share the fun and be generous. If you feel creative and love how they look, you should try it. Enjoy!



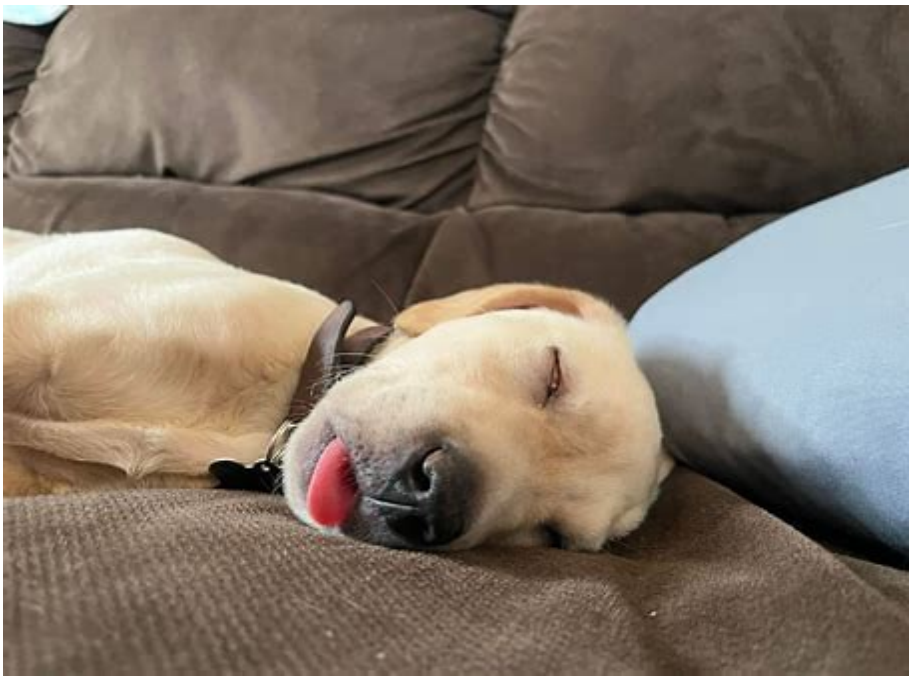
How cute!

Sleeping for Enjoyment

By Allison Rodriguez



Sleeping can be a favorite past time. Even though we are supposed to get up to start our day to go to school or work, sleeping can be very enjoyable. Being lazy is what some like to do. Of course, if you sleep too much you can miss many important things, such as tests at school or playing with friends. If you oversleep you may have health consequences, such as diabetes, heart disease, mental health issues, and cognitive decline. A good night's sleep is important but don't overdo it.



PS4 is Fun to Play!

By Anthony Ramos

The PlayStation 4 (PS4) was released in November 2013. It sold a million units in under 24 hours in North America on November 15, 2013. Sony's PlayStation generated $27.5 billion in revenue last year.

I really enjoy playing my PS4. One of my favorite games is Fortnite. Many streamers play on PS4. You can download a lot of games on PS4 and if you choose to download it, it is fast! Also, you can get a PlayStation card as a gift. The PS4 connects to WiFi smoother than other consoles. They are not expensive to purchase and are under $200. There is an extensive library of games for your PS4. You can watch movies, TV shows and other streaming services on your PS4. I recommend these games: FIFA, Fortnite, and Apex Legends.



Movies Are Great Entertainment

By Daniella Godinez

I suggest Despicable Me 4 where Gru welcomes Gru Jr., who loves to torment his dad. It is fun and makes me laugh. A criminal mastermind, Maxime Le Mal, escapes from prison and vows revenge against Gru. The movie shows a positive outlook on the blended family with adoptive and biological kids.

Despicable Me 4 grossed $960 million worldwide; this includes $361 million domestically and $599 million internationally. The films budget was $100 million.



Another great movie is Harold and the Purple Crayon, where Harold can make things come to life by just drawing it. He uses his imagination to have great adventures, but when imagination gets into the wrong hands, it can be bad. Harold must take all his creativity to save the real world.

Harold and the Purple Crayon grossed $32.23 million; this includes domestically. $17.6 million and $14.6 million internationally. The budget was $40 million, meaning it lost money for the studio.

Both movies are great entertainment for all family members!



Getting Enough Sleep is Important for Children 6-12 years old

By Esperanza Vargas



I like to sleep and be in bed. I enjoy lying in bed and not doing chores. Experts say kids aged 6-12 should get 9-12 hours of sleep a day, which includes nighttime and naps. The recommended bedtime for a 6–12-year-old is 7:30pm to 8:30pm.

Not getting enough sleep can cause issues with memory, attention and inhibition control. Also, a good night's sleep helps support the immune system. Zzzzzzzz.



Slingshots for Hunting

By Jose Solorio



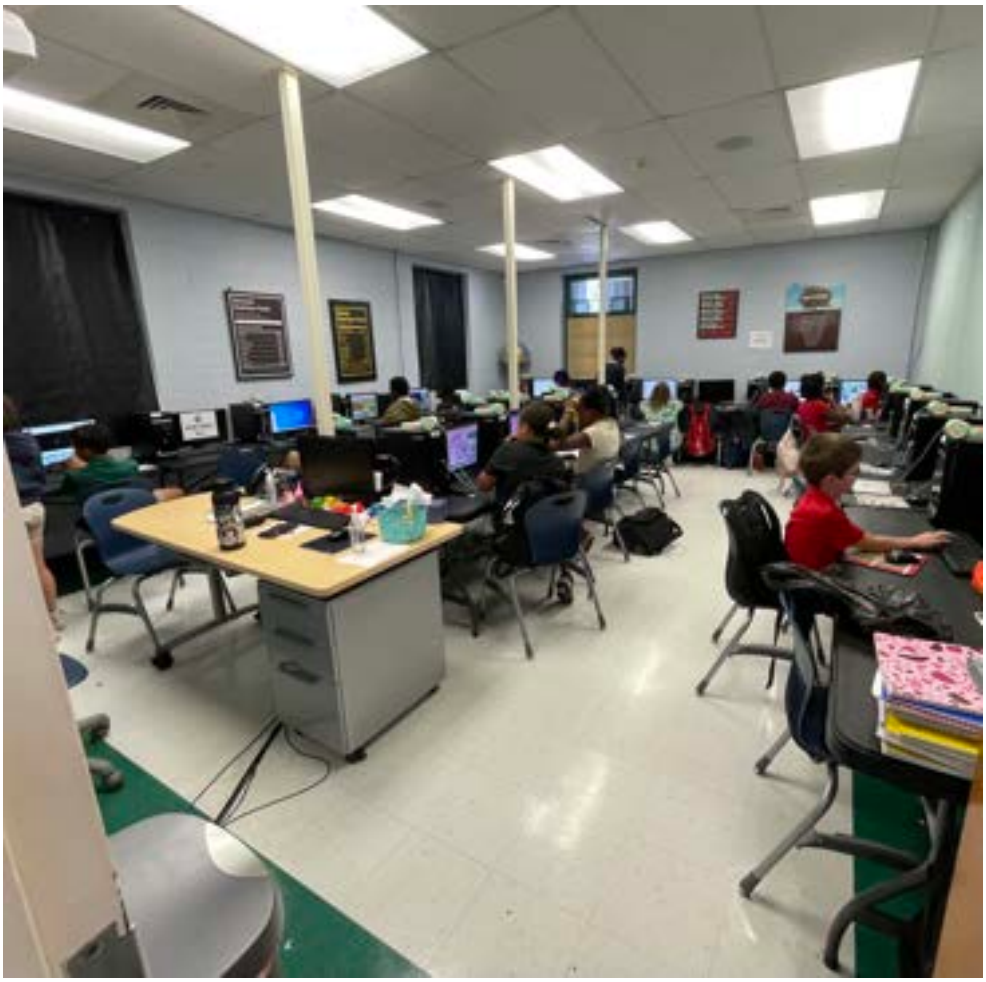
Slingshots can be traced back to 1860's. They need vulcanized rubber to work and can be used to hunt animals, such birds, squirrels, and fish in the water. If you are using a slingshot, you must be careful because they can hurt people if not used properly.

There are many kinds of slingshots such as the Y-frame, wrist rocket, and tactical slingshots. The Y-frame is the most common. Wrist rocket is used for power and accuracy. Tactical slingshots are used for military and/or self -defense.

I like to hunt with my slingshot and bring home birds and squirrels for us to eat. Birds are the most flavorful to eat. I have learned to fix my slingshots if they break. Many may think using one for hunting is too hard, but I like it.



Gifford Youth Achievement Center



All About Flash and Spiderman!

By Antravious



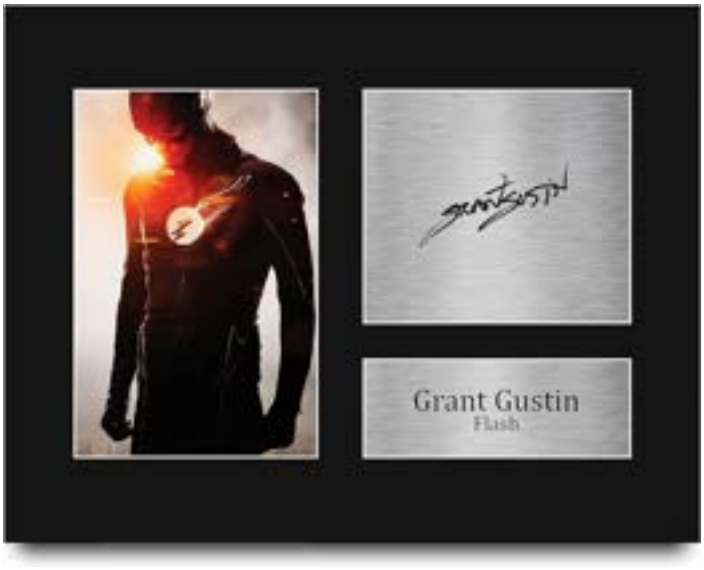
First, let's begin with spiderman. Tom Holland is the actor's name he is 28 years old and starred in movies named *No way home*, *Homecoming*, *Far from Home*, *Uncharted*, *The Impossible*, and *CHAOS Walking.*

Holland began at the age of nine when he enrolled in dancing class. The choreographer arranged for him to audition for a role in *Billy Elliot*, the musical in London. After two years training, he secured a supporting part in 2008, which he had played until 2010.

In the disaster drama film, *The Impossible* (2012), he played a teenager tourist in a tsunami for which he received a Goya award nomination for the best actor. After that, he decided to pursue his full-time career and play historical figures in the film *The Heart of the Sea* (2015). Each grossed more than $1 billion worldwide, later becoming the highest-grossing film of the year. He had three younger brothers. His paternal grandmother was from Tipperary and his grandfather was from Isle of Man.







Okay, now the Flash. The actor's name is Thomas Grant Gustin. He will play Barry Allen in the second season of the *Arrow*. He was initially supposed to appear in three episodes, as the backdoor pilot for a potential spin-off flash series. The pilot was picked up with an initial order of thirteen episodes. He also had roles as Allen on *Arrow, Supergirl*, and the *Legends of Tomorrow* as well as web series.

The First Black President

By Antravious



Barack Obama II was born on August 4, 1961. He was an American politician and lawyer who served as the 44th president of the United States from 2009 to 2017. He was the first African American president in U. S. History.

He previously served as a U. S. senator representing the State of Illinois. Before that he was a civil rights lawyer and an academic, teaching constitutional law at Chicago Law School.

After a close run against Hillary Clinton, he was nominated by the Democratic party for president. He selected Senator Joe Biden as running mate and went on to win the election, defeating John McCain.

During his first term, his administration responded to the 2007 – 2008 financial crisis with measures including the American recovery and reinvestment act of 2009, a stimulus package in guiding the economy through the Great Recession, as well as a partial extension of the George Bush tax cuts.

The Story of Travis Hunter

By Caleb Baker



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Travis Hunter was born in West Palm Beach, Florida but moved to Georgia at the age of 14 so he could stay out of trouble.

He didn't start playing football until his freshman year of high school. But football was never his first love. He was a true star at basketball. He left basketball in Florida and picked up a football in the summer before his freshman year of high school. His dad trained him for

football, and he worked non-stop until it was dark, but in his freshman year he would not see much playing.

But he kept working after the season. In his sophomore year he would play a bit getting 12 tackles, 1 interception, and 126 receiving yards.

His junior year he had a breakout season on the defensive side of with 8 interceptions, and 51 interceptions on the offensive side of the ball. He had 137 receptions, 1,746 receiving yards, and 24 touchdowns and won the Georgia MaxPreps player of the year and take his team all the way to the state championship, unfortunately losing 38 to 14.

But in his senior season he was back for revenge; he had 4 interceptions, a forced fumble, and 25 tackles and on the offensive side of the game he had 76 receptions, 1,128 receiving yards, 10 touchdowns. He did this while missing five games in the regular season, but the team would go to have a perfect 15-0 season and, in the playoffs, he would lead his team to another state championship.

This game was different as he went on to have 10 catches and 153 receiving yards and 2 touchdowns and he and his team won 40-36 winning them the state championship. At an all-American game at the end of the season he had 5 receptions and 54 receiving yards and 2 interceptions and won MVP in that game and would end his high school career as a five star and the number one player in that recruitment class.

He would commit to Jackson State university with coach Deion Sanders and truly stand out as a freshman having 200 receiving yards, 4 touchdowns and on the defensive side of the ball he would have 19 tackles, and 2 interceptions and he and his team had a great 12-1 season, ending the season off on a good note.

The next year he transferred to the University of Colorado for his sophomore year. He had an amazing season his sophomore year, having 721 receiving yards, 5 touchdowns, and on the defensive side of the ball he had 31 tackles and 3 interceptions. But his team had a terrible regular season record losing 38 – 14.

His junior season, Travis would have another breakout season having 1,258 receiving yards, and 15 touchdowns and on the defensive side of the ball he would have 35 tackles, 4 interceptions, and 1 pick six and would go on to win the Heisman award, which goes to the best college football player. Out of the 4 players picked to come attend the ceremony, he was the person to walk out with the Heisman award. He also won the Biletnikoff award, which goes to the outstanding wide receiver in college football. He also won the Chuck Bednarik award, which goes to the best defensive player in college football and as a junior he will be declaring for the draft this year.

The Story of Jerimiah Smith

By Caleb Baker



Jerimiah was born in Miami Gardens Florida on November 29, 2005, beginning his amazing football career at the age of seven years old.

He tried out for the Miami Gardens Ravens but did not make the team. He cried but his dad told him he would eventually be better than everybody in Florida. He took that as motivation and by the time he was in middle school he was the best football player in Miami. After that he made the team easily and became the #1 wide receiver.

After going crazy in pop warner, he started his high school career at Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory in Hollywood, Florida. His freshman year he did not play but his sophomore year he had 31 receptions, 556 receiving yards, and 7 touchdowns.

His junior year was a breakout season having 1098 receiving yards, 20 touchdowns, and 63 receptions. He and his team would go on to win the 1M football state championship. His senior season was even better having 1,389 receiving yards, 19 touchdowns, and 90 receptions. His would be the first all American team and he won player of the year. He and his team would go on to win another state championship.

But Jeremiah still had to decide what school he had to commit to for his collegiate career. After having over 40+ offers he would ultimately commit to the University of Ohio State. His freshman year he had 1,227 receiving yards, 14 touchdowns, and 71 receptions and his team will be playing in the national championship game against the powerhouse Notre Dame. He will probably stay there for the rest of his college career.

Why Kids HATE School!

By Cameron Biggoms and Kendall Duhart



We found from https://www.literacentre.com/ that bullying and loneliness is a subjective reason. Some children are quick to join and get mixed in the group while some are afraid to talk to others. When students are bullied for their insecurities, children do not want to go to school. Children dislike going to school if they feel lonely in school.

According to https://mbfpreventioneducation.org/ 13 million students will be bullied in the United States this year. One in four students will be bullied, and one in three will be cyberbullied. Research shows that in over half of bullying situations (57%), when someone intervenes, the bullying stops within 10 seconds.

According to https://www.literacentre.com/ lots of homework is why kids hate school because in school, students are stuffed with homework. Every day children must sit for hours to do assignments, practical and regular homework.

Children who want to go the extra mile to know more about their favorite subject do not get the flexibility to do so. Gradually these children start making excuses about not wanting to attend school.

According to AI Overview kids might not want to go to school due to a variety of reasons including being bullied, experiencing social anxiety, academic struggles, feeling overwhelmed by homework, family problems, learning disabilities, a negative classroom environment, lack of interest in the curriculum, or simply feeling anxious about leaving home and being away from parents.

A key reason why parents choose to homeschool their children is to customize their education based on individual learning styles and needs, allowing for a more personalized learning experience that can't always be achieved in a traditional classroom setting.



Why People Love Fishing

By Chancellor B. and O'Quan T.



Lots of people love fishing. It is a sport and enjoyable hobby.

According to Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, "The most common reason you will find with people who like to fish is that it is simply fun, whether you enjoy trolling for stripers or outwitting a weary brook trout with a hand tied fly that imitates an insect the size of a pin head."

You can use bait or bread. My friend chancellor and I personally think using a lure is a cheaper and faster way to catch fish like bass, trout, and snapper. According to Biological and Ecological say Fish using gills to extract oxygen from the water they swim in.

Facts about bass. A bass life span Is 10 to 16 years old.
Appearance is a sliver-white to brassy green.
Habitat in freshwater lakes, rivers and ponds in North America
Size weight: Largemouth bass can grow up to 25 inches long and weigh up to 20 pounds.



Kid with two bass in his hands

Who Invented Candy?!

By Damiya



A'asalyah – A very famous Egyptian Candy

The first candy was used by the Ancient Egyptians for cult purposes. In ancient times, Egyptians, Arabs, and Chinese made candies with fruits and nuts that caramelized with honey. The two oldest types of candy are licorice and ginger.

The historical roots of licorice are found in the early years of man's appearance. According to licorice.com, "It was in Yorkshire that licorice candy was birthed. In the 1700s, George Dunhill reportedly added sugar to licorice grown in Pontefract and formed them into coin-like candies. This confection became known as 'Pontefract Cakes.' By the nineteenth century, licorice factories were flourishing around Yorkshire.

QUESTION: WHAT DID PEOPLE DO WHEN THEY WANTED SOMETHING SWEET. = THEY COOKED CAKES WITH HONEY AND STUFFED NUTS! FUN FACTS! INDIA CREATED A SWEET TREAT CALLED KHANDA. THIS IS WHERE WE GO THE NAME CANDY!!!!!!!!!!! THEY CREATED A JUICE THAT WOULD HARDEN AND TURN INTO SOMETHING SWEET CALLED SHARKARA AND THEN PEOPLE MADE THE WORD INTO THE WORD SUGER! THE PLANT WAS CALLED SUGER CANE!

Which annual holiday is your favorite? Some kids would say Christmas, because they enjoy opening presents from their friends and family members. Others might say Independence Day, since it can be a lot of fun to have a picnic and watch fireworks light up the night sky.
Other kids, however, might like Halloween more than any other holiday. And why not? It's always a blast to dress up like a superhero, a goblin, or a fireman. Of course, there's also that other aspects of Halloween the kids are quite fond of. What are we talking about? The candy, of course!

From gummy bears and suckers to candy bars and chewing gum, most kids receive a wide variety of candy on Halloween. In fact, a typical bag of Halloween candy might contain dozens and dozens of different kinds of candies. So, who invented all this stuff?

Human beings have had sweet teeth for thousands of years. In the earliest days, human beings learned that the honey produced by bees was sweet and pleasant to eat. It probably did not take long for early humans to combine honey with nuts and other foods to make the world's first homemade candies.

Because historical records only go back a few thousand years, it's impossible to pinpoint exactly when candy was invented and who was responsible. The word candy comes from the Persian word Qandil, but experts know candy itself is much older than the ancient Persians Years later, the Arabic version moved one step closer with qandi. The Middle English word “candy” began to be used in the late 13th century.
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Defining candy as any confection made with sugar, honey, or another sweetener, experts have identified manuscripts that depict candies from ancient Egypt. Archeologists believe these documents to be over 2,000 years old.

For this reason, some experts give the ancient Egyptians credit for inventing candy. The ancient Egyptians used honey to make candy by combining it with nuts, figs, dates, and spices. They used these candies as part of early religious services.

Other ancient civilizations, including the ancient Romans, Greeks, and Chinese, also enjoyed candies. In addition to honey, these civilizations used barley sugar mixed with sesame seeds, fruits, and other ingredients.

In the Middle Ages, sugar became a popular ingredient to make candies. The price of sugar was very high, though, so sugar candies were mainly enjoyed only by the rich. Some of the earliest candies were also considered forms of medicine and were used to aid in digestion or to soothe sore throats.

It was not until a couple hundred years later during the Industrial Revolution that machinery would be invented to mass produce candies from sugar, which had become more affordable. The earliest candies were basic staples, like candy corn and chewing gum. At the turn of the 20th century, chocolate bars began to become more popular, spurring the popularity of candy to a whole new level.





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Wonder What's Next?

Tomorrow's Wonder of the Day takes you back to the earliest days of pigskins and leather helmets!

Try It Out

Wasn't today's Wonder of the Day super sweet? If you have a sweet tooth, you'll be sure to enjoy exploring the following activities with a friend or family member:

What's your favorite candy? For many kids, that can be a tough question. There are just so many options out there. Candy bars filled with chocolate and caramel are delicious. Sweet and sour gummy worms are fantastic, too. If you were stranded on a desert island and could only have one candy, though, which one would you choose? Give it some thought and then share your answer with friends and family members. Take an informal poll. Which one candy would they choose? Why?

Ready for a sweet field trip? Ask an adult friend or family member to take you for a visit to a local candy store. If you can't find a specialty candy store, you can also visit the candy section of a local supermarket. Take an inventory of all the different types of candy they offer.

Do you see any types of candy you've never seen before? Which type of candy seems to be the most popular? Choose a variety of candy you've never tried before and take them home to share with others. You never know when you might discover a new favorite type of candy! Be sure to limit your intake of sweets to a reasonable amount and brush your teeth afterward!

When Christmas rolls around each year, there's one type of candy you're sure to see everywhere: the candy cane!



Seems a little odd that **National Candy Cane Day** is the day after Christmas!

Did you know that the candy cane was originally a straight stick? It wasn't until the mid 1900's that candy canes with red stripes appeared in Sweden.

Why Girls Are the Best!

By Damiya Johnson and Mya brown



In terms of absolute strength – that is, without regard for body size, weight or composition – the average man tends to be considerably stronger than the average woman. Specifically, the absolute total- body strength of women has been reported as being roughly 67% that of men.



whatttttttttt?

The ideal woman lives with a sense of purpose and meaning, has a rich personality and character, and is fascinating to learn about. She acts with patience, honesty, and integrity, and she pursues her goals with passion, love, intention, peace, and steadfastness.

That is why all ladies are unique.

Multitasking - most women multitask better than men. Live longer - proven by science. When given the opportunity, women are more likely to graduate from college than men. Women tend to have better memories. urging their lifespan, the women play the major role as a daughter, mother, mentor, sister, wife, aunt, and grandmother. Girls of today are the women of tomorrow.

To achieve true women empowerment it is important, to begin with, a girl child.

Among adults, males have slightly higher verbal and reasoning abilities than females and a more pronounced superiority on spatial abilities. If the three abilities are combined to form general intelligence, the mean for males is 4 IQ points higher than the mean for females. 10% of girls have dirty hands and 90% of girls have clean hands and 99% of boys have dirty hands

Most of the girls have soft smooth skin and luscious bright hair 😌 😌 and so longgggg!



Hunter Thompson

By Deja Jackson



Thompson was born on July 18, 1937, in Louisville, Kentucky, U.S. and died February 20, 2005 in Woody Creek, Colorado. He was an American journalist and author who created the a category of literary composition known as gonzo journalism, a highly personal style of reporting that made Thompson a counterculture icon. Merriam-Webster defines *counterculture* as a culture with values and mores that run counter to those of established society."

According https://www.watchmojo.com, "There have been few modern journalists quite like Hunter S. Thompson. The self-styled inventor of 'gonzo journalism' has been often imitated, but rarely duplicated in the years since Thompson first captured the nation's attention during the late sixties."

Gonzo journalism is when a journalist goes into a dangerous place to report on the news.

Richard Engel is also a Gonzo journalist who reported on the civil war in Syria, and was kidnapped, and escaped during a shootout.

And Christiane Amanpour was a gonzo journalist too, like Richerd Engel, but she didn't get kidnaped. She reported on major crises from many of the world hotspots. According to AI Overview "Yes, Christiane Amanpour, a prominent international journalist, has stated that she has feared for her safety when reporting from conflict zones."

Kiandre'a Pound/My Mom

By Kynsley Pound



This is a story about my mom whose name is Kiandre'a. She was born in 1994 and was a basketball player at Florida International University in Miami, Florida. She won Conference USA Freshman of the Year in the 2014-15 season with the Panthers and made the Conference USA All-Freshman Team, averaging 6.1 points per game and 5.1 rebounds per game 22.3 minutes per game.

During my mom's college basketball career, she had to adjust to her new phase of life when she gave birth to me. Hi! My name is Kynsley. I was born on March 30, 2016. My mom managed school, basketball, and me. It was great how she did it. On November 19, 2016, the *Miami Herald* ran a story on "FIU's Kiandre'a Pound juggles baby, books and basketball."

A graduate of Sebastian River High School, my mom was a teacher at Vero Beach Elementary School and then worked at Vero Beach High School.

She earned her master's degree in early childhood education and teaching and her master's degree in mental health counseling. Now she is a Pre-Licensed Professional, MS, RMHCI (Registered Mental Health Counselor Intern) with the Mental Health Association of Indian River County where she offers telehealth sessions during the week and on weekends.

Today my mom is a mother of three kids including my siblings and me.

Who Invented Barbie?

By Layla T.



Original Barbie Doll – 1959

Who invented Barbie, you ask?

A lady named Ruth Handler is best known for creating the Barbie Doll in 1959 and being co-founder with her husband Elliot, of toy manufacturer Mattel. Barbie was inspired by the German Bild Lilli doll. Mattel acquired the rights to Bild Lilli in 1964, and production of the German doll ceased in favor of Mattel's new vinyl doll, which they called Barbie. Bild Lilli was launched by Greiner & Hausser GmbH on August 12, 1955, and produced until 1964, when it was acquired by Mattel.



Bild Lilli Doll

Barbie was named after her daughter, Barbara. The Ken doll was introduced two years later. Barbie and her male counterpart Ken have been described as the two most popular dolls in the world.

THE HANDLER'S EARLY LIFE…

Ruth Handler was born on November 4th, 1916, in Denver Colorado as Ruth Marianna Mosko. Her parents, Jewish immigrants, were Jaco and Ida Moskowicz. Jaco was a blacksmith. Years later in the summer of her sophomore year at the University of Denver she met Izzy Handler at a dance for teens in B'nai B'rith, an American Jewish service organization. Ruth and Izzy were married in Denver in 1938 and went to Los Angeles where she got a job at the Paramount Studios. There she encouraged her husband to be called by his middle name…Elliot! He became a lighting fixture designer. A few years later they had two children, Barbara and Kenneth. Ruth died on April 27th, 2002, in Los Angeles at the age of 85 and Elliot died on April 21st, 2011, at the age of 95.

They dated and then broke up over and over again before getting married.

Elliot was from Chicago, Illinois. His parents were Ukrainian Jews who spoke Yiddish. He and his family moved out of Chicago to the west side of Denver. He learned about industrial design at the ArtCenter College of Design, a private art university in Pasadena, California, then worked with Harold Mason to make pianos and sold 300,000. But they priced them wrong and lost a cent for each one made.



THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN BARBIE DOLL

The first African American Barbie doll, named Francie, made her debut in 1967. However, she was produced using existing head molds for the white Barbie and lacked distinct African American characteristics other than dark skin.





Ruth and Elliot Handler

Who Invented Roblox?!

By Layla T.



Who invented Roblox you ask? Roblox was created in 2004 and went public in 2006 by two men named David Baszucki and Erik Cassel. My opinion about Roblox is good EXCEPT that there's older people and young kids or teens that play and older people try to get the kids or teens phone number and personal things BUT luckily if they try to get your age or anything it will be like this ###############.

Roblox is an app where you can play games but on Roblox it's called on Roblox, Experiences with friends I like to play dress to impress, Berry Ave, and other games with my friends while we are on the phone. When you first join Roblox you are known as Bacon, but you get to make your own name and user. To get clothes and better hair they use a type of money called Robux. To get Robux you can save money on a card on your phone and use that money or use a Roblox gift card that you can get from a store.



Bacon girl and Bacon Boy

Theres different costs for Robux, the higher the more Robux. I normally get 800 Robux for $10.00 and if I have $20.00, I get 1,700. With Robux you can use to get skins on Roblox and for $5.00 its 400. Skins allows you to *create your own skins and clothing for Roblox*, permitting you to change how your player looks to others in the Roblox world.

A few months ago, I bought 800 Robux for ten dollars and got premium houses on Berry Avenue. You can get premium Robux for a cost between 19.99 or 9.99 depending on how much Robux it gives you. Robux is just like money in real life; it's just like when you buy clothes. With Robux you can buy clothes and hair for your character whether you're a boy or a girl BUT be aware old guys like 40 or older can dress like young people now these days and try to date you. But we'll talk about that later.



CAUTION!!!!

Be careful while playing Roblox because there's some people that can hack into your account and steal all your Robux and turn you back into a bacon or girl bacon like when you first started. Something that happened to my cousin is that she had 21 Robux then when she went to go buy some clothes and the next day, she had 0 Robux. Be careful!

Who Is Princess Diana?

By Layla T.

Princess Diana, princess of Wales is a royal family member of the British royal family. She was the first wife of Charles the third (then prince of Wales) and mother of prince's William and Harry. Her glamour and activism, made her an international icon, earned her long-lasting popularity and fame.



Picture of Princess Diana with -then – Prince Charles

DIANA'S EARLY YEARS

Diana Frances Spencer was born into British nobility a grew up near the royal family, living at park house on their Sandringham estate. She was born on July 1st, 1961, the fourth child of five children.

The Spencer family were close allies with the British royal family for many generations; many of her grandmothers were ladies-in-waiting to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Diana's parents hoped for a boy to carry on their family line. Diana grew up with three siblings, Sarah, Jane, and Charles. Her little brother died shortly after his birth a year before Diana was born.

Diana grew up in a park house which was on Sandringham estate. The family bought the house from Queen Elizabeth ll who Diana called "Aunt Lilibet." Since Diana was little the royal family sometimes holidayed at Diana's home where Diana played with Princes Anderew and Edward.

Diana's father and mother got divorced when she was seven years old her mother soon started a relationship with a guy named Peter Shand Kydd and married him in 1969. Diana lived with her mother in London but during Christmas holidays her father lord Althorp refused to let Diana live with her mom in London. Shortly he won custody with help from his former mother in-law Lady Fermoy. Dianas father later got married to Raine, countess of Dartmouth. Diana's relationship with her stepmother was bad. Diana called Raine a "bully". On one occasion Diana pushed her stepmother down the stairs. From that day on Diana said her childhood was "Very unhappy and very unstable".

THE LIFE NO ONE KNEW ABOUT!

Diana met prince Charles, the queen's eldest son, when she was 16 in November 1977. He was 29 at the time and was dating Dianas older sister Sarah.

When Diana and Charles were both guests at a county weekend during summer in 1980, he took a serious interest in her as a potential bride. Their relationship grew when he invited her to go on the royal family yacht to a sailing weekend to Cowes. This was also an invitation to the royal's family Scottish house to meet prince Charles family. His mother and the Duke of Edinburgh loved her. Charles subsequently courted Diana in London. He then proposed to her on February 6, 1981, in Windsor castle. She accepted his proposal, but their engagement was a secret for two and a half
weeks.

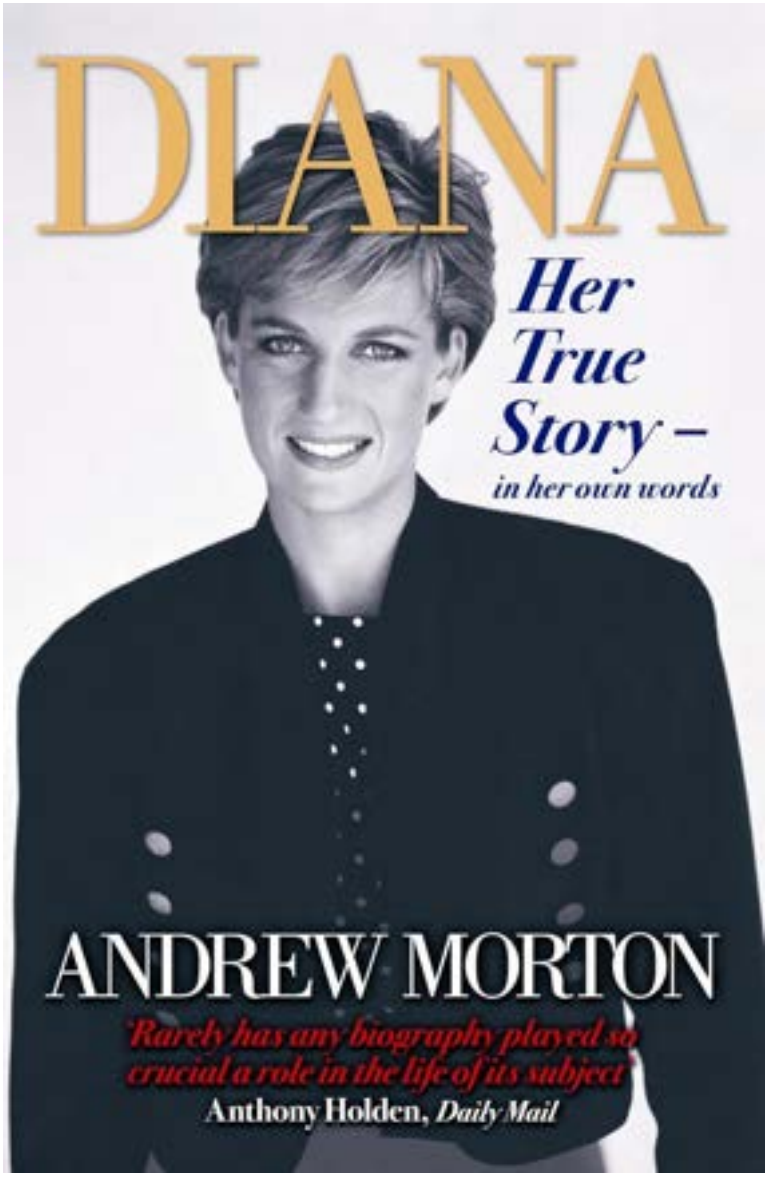
PROBLEMS IN THE RELATIONSHIP!!

Five years into their marriage the couple's incompatibility and age difference became visible and damaging. In 1986, Diana began a relationship with James Hewitt, the family's former riding instructor and in the same year, Charles resumed his relationship with his former girlfriend Camilla Parker Bowles. The media speculated that Hewitt, not Charles, was Harry's father based on the alleged physical similarity between Hewitt and Harry, but Hewitt and others have denied this.

Harry was born two years before Hewitt and Diana began their affair. By 1987, cracks in the marriage had become visible and the couple's unhappiness and cold attitude towards one another because of their evident discomfort in each other's company. In 1989, Diana was at a birthday party for Parker Bowles's sister, Annabel Elliot, when she confronted Parker Bowles

about her and Charles's extramarital affair. These affairs were later exposed in 1992 with the publication of Andrew Morton's book, *Diana: Her True Story*. The book, which also revealed Diana's allegedly suicidal unhappiness, caused a media storm.

In 1991 James Colthurst, conducted secret interviews with Diana in which she had talked about her marital issues and difficulties. These recordings were later used as a source for Morton's book. During her lifetime, both Diana and Morton denied her direct involvement in the writing process and maintained that family and friends were the book's main source; however, after her death Morton acknowledged Diana's role in writing the tell-all in the book's updated edition, *Diana: Her True Story in Her Own Words.*



Sea Turtles

By Laysia B., Myleigh W. and Skyllar J.

Do you like Leatherback turtles? If so, you are in the right place! Did you know that a full-grown Leatherback turtle can weigh as much as 2000 pounds!

Did you know that the scientific name for Leatherback Sea turtle is Dermochelys Coriacea sometimes called Lute turtles?

The Leatherback Sea turtle is the largest sea, Turtle? You can find a Leatherback Sea turtle in all the oceans in the world, or you can go to tropical oceans and find them there too. Leatherback Sea Turtles are “gelatinvores” according to https://funfacts4kids.com/leatherback-sea-turtle-facts/.Leatherbacks. Did you know that leatherback sea turtles can live up to 45 years and they can lay about 100 eggs?!

Leatherback sea turtles remains are unchanged for hundred million and carries with it a prehistoric set of adaptations not found in its gen-z cousins.



Picture of a Leather Back Turtle

Now, in our opinion, green sea turtles are our favorite and you'll see why, just wait and see!

Green sea turtles are 90% rare, that's a real high number don't you think? And if you're wondering there not nice but still so cute. But sadly, they are endangered because their population is decreasing. But I hope this helps but one last thing… Now you know why it's my favorite!!!



Did you know there was a turtle called Logger head sea turtle? Well now you can learn about it!

They are reptiles and have long necks. They are sadly endangered ☹ ☹☹. Their life spam is 50 and up years they are not really aggressive, and racoons, foxes and dogs eat logger head sea turtles. Hope this helps!

Here is a fun fact: they are marine reptiles found in temperate and tropical waters around the world, according to Google.



Is TikTok Good for You? Yes, or No?

By Laysia Brunson



TikTok is a social network for sharing user-generated videos, mostly of people lip-synching to popular songs. Users can create and upload their own videos, many of which feature people lip-synching to popular songs. You can also browse and interact with other users' content, which covers a wide range of topics, songs, and styles. These videos can be grouped by hashtags, which often correspond to challenges, memes, or current events.

The U.S. Justice Department sued TikTok in August for allegedly failing to protect children's privacy on the app

Among lawmakers' chief concerns about TikTok is that its **Chinese ownership poses grave national security risks to the United States**. They worry that the app could be used to spread misinformation, create division and interfere in elections.

Zhang Yiming, the architect of TikTok, is a figure synonymous with innovation in the digital age. Born in 1983 in Longyan, a city in China's Fujian province, Yiming's early life was steeped in a culture that valued education and intellectual curiosity. He graduated from Nankai University in 2005 with a degree in software engineering, a field that positioned him at the forefront of the growing tech industry in China.

Yiming's career, marked by technical knowledge and inventive insight, took a significant turn when he founded ByteDance, the parent company of TikTok.

All About Narwhals

By Mahalia Williams



Narwhals: the unicorns of the sea, or the sea's most elusive divas?

These majestic creatures have been gracing our oceans with their long, spiraled tusks, mysterious habits, and an aura of pure aquatic magic. But don't be fooled by their mystical reputation—they're not just mythical creatures from a wizard's daydream; they're real, and they're living in some of the harshest, coldest waters on Earth. This essay will take you on a wild ride through the life and times of the narwhal, from their anatomy (spoiler alert: it's weird) to their social lives (which are shockingly sophisticated) and their role in the Arctic ecosystem (basically, they're the superheroes of the frozen north).

1. Introduction to Narwhals: Sea Unicorns Are Real!

Let's start with the basics: what exactly is a narwhal? Picture a whale with a single, spiraled tusk sticking out of its face. Yes, you read that right. A whale. With a horn. No, it's not a sea prank, nor is it a product of a bad genetic experiment. Narwhals (Monodon monoceros) are real animals that live in the Arctic Ocean, and they're like the cool, mysterious cousins of whales and dolphins (and beluga's). These marine mammals spend most of their time swimming around the chilly waters of Greenland, Canada, and Russia, making them the true party animals of the polar seas.

Narwhals have been a source of wonder for centuries. Historically, people thought their tusks were magical unicorn horns, and at one point, they were sold as relics of great power. But

really, they're just really good at surviving in icy waters, and their "unicorn" looks are a happy (if weird) accident.

2. The Anatomy of a Narwhal: The Tusk, AKA the Sea's Coolest Party Trick.

If narwhals were humans, the tusk would be their signature look. This long, twisted tooth grows through the upper lip and can reach up to 10 feet long. And here's the thing—it's a tooth, not a horn, though no one told the narwhal that, clearly. Imagine having a tooth that long growing out of your face. Yeah, that's a narwhal's life. (Sad, isn't it? They're basically the nerds of the northern seas, probably getting teased and made fun of by Belugas and walruses 😟)

But why the tusk? Well, scientists have speculating about this for centuries. Some say it's purely for show, a flashy piece of flair to attract mates or assert dominance (basically, the narwhal version of wearing a really cool jacket to a party). Others suggest the tusk might be a sensory organ, with nerve endings that help narwhals detect things like temperature changes or water pressure, since narwhals can sense things in the water. So, while it's a statement piece in the narwhal world, it might also be useful for getting around in the Arctic's dark, icy waters. It's the Swiss Army knife of the sea, only cooler and much less practical.

Oh, and just for the record: female narwhals can sometimes have a tusk, but it's rarer. So, while the males are out there flaunting their impressive spirals, the ladies are just living their best, tusk-free lives, probably chatting, while rolling their eyes at the constant "look at me, I've got a bigger tooth" competition. (It still sounds kind of cool though).

3. Narwhal Social Lives: Too Cool for School?

Narwhals are social creatures, living in groups known as pods. These pods are like the Arctic equivalent of a tight-knit squad. They're mostly made up of 10 to 20 narwhals, but you can catch them hanging out in larger groups, especially when it's feeding time. Narwhals might be the introverted type, though. Unlike dolphins, which are basically the overenthusiastic party planners of the sea, narwhals are more chill and prefer a quiet night in. Still, they've got a social hierarchy and do things like "tusking," a form of tusk-on-tusk interaction that might be part playful banter, part trying to figure out who's boss. It's like a really weird game of rock-paper-scissors but with tusks.

And just when you think narwhals are all business, they pull off some serious high-flying acrobatics. When they're feeling extra, narwhals have been known to breach the surface, leaping out of the water like aquatic ballerinas. It's unclear whether they're showing off or just having a moment of joy, but it's pretty spectacular either way.

4. Deep Dive: How Narwhals Actually Survive in Ice-Covered Waters.

Now, if you're thinking, "Okay, cool, narwhals are weird and fun," let's get serious for a moment. These creatures don't just look cool—they're also built to survive in one of the most unforgiving environments on Earth: the Arctic. Imagine living in a world where the temperatures can drop to -40°F (-40°C) and the sea is covered in thick, impenetrable ice. Sounds like a nightmare, right? Well, narwhals laugh in the face of danger and dive deep into icy waters to find food.

Narwhals are expert divers, capable of plunging to depths of over 4,900 feet (1,500 meters) in search of food. They're like the deep-sea explorers of the whale world, plunging to extreme depths to hunt for fish and squid. But how do they breathe? They're not equipped with a convenient snorkel, so they rely on a system of breathing holes in the ice. They swim under the ice, locate a gap, and pop up for air—much like how you'd catch your breath after sprinting for the bus, but way cooler and more sophisticated.

5. How Narwhals Keep It Cool: The Real Magic of Arctic Life

So, how do narwhals live in these freezing, inhospitable waters? A thick layer of blubber keeps them insulated from the cold, like a built-in puffer jacket. They also have small dorsal fins and narrow bodies that reduce heat loss. And let's not forget their ability to navigate through thick sea ice. Narwhals can dive beneath the ice and find cracks or openings in the frozen surface to breathe, like they've got an insider's map to the Arctic underworld. No big deal.



Narwhals in the Arctic

But while narwhals have adapted to life in the frozen north, their survival is increasingly threatened by climate change. As the ice melts and shipping routes open, narwhals are facing new challenges, such as disruptions to their migration patterns and the threat of predators like

orcas moving into their territory. Basically, if climate change were a horror movie, narwhals would be the plucky heroes trying to escape the clutches of a looming, ice-free future
.

6. Narwhals in Human Culture: Unicorns, but Make It Real

You can't talk about narwhals without mentioning their cultural significance. For centuries, their tusks were traded as unicorn horns, with people believing they held magical properties. You know, the usual medieval nonsense. The Inuit and other Arctic peoples, however, had a much more grounded relationship with narwhals, using their tusks for tools and ceremonial objects and their meat for food. Talk about maximizing your resources—narwhals are basically the Swiss Army knives of the Arctic, both in terms of physical abilities and cultural importance. The narwhal's mystique remains strong today, with many seeing them as symbols of the Arctic's wild, untamed nature. And while no one's trying to turn their tusks into magical relics anymore, they remain a symbol of the Arctic's fragile beauty and the need to protect its ecosystems.

7. Conservation: Protecting the Unicorns of the Sea.

And now, the part where we get serious again: conservation. Narwhals aren't endangered (yet), but their future is far from guaranteed. Climate change is slowly melting their icy habitat, and with it, their access to food and safe places to breathe. As sea ice recedes, shipping traffic increases, making narwhals more vulnerable to boat strikes, noise pollution, and other human-induced threats.

The good news is that there are efforts underway to monitor and protect narwhal populations. Environmental organizations and governments are working together to study their migration patterns and preserve their habitats. But here's the kicker: if we don't act now to reduce carbon emissions and protect the Arctic, narwhals might not be the sea unicorns we know and love for much longer
.

8. Conclusion: The Sea's Most Fabulous and Endangered Unicorn

To wrap it all up, narwhals are pretty much the perfect blend of awe-inspiring, mysterious, and totally absurd. With their iconic tusks, deep-diving abilities, and ability to survive in one of the most extreme environments on Earth, they've earned their title as the unicorns of the sea. But the real magic of the narwhal lies in how well they've adapted to the Arctic—no other species can quite compare to their resilience in the face of climate change and habitat loss.

So next time you spot a narwhal (hopefully, you'll be in the Arctic at the time), just remember: these animals may look like something out of a fairytale, but they're also survivors, playing an essential role in their ecosystem. And if we don't act fast, we might just lose these sea unicorns for good—no fairy godmother is going to save them.
In short, narwhals are cool, and we need to do everything we can to keep them that way.

I Forgot Narwhals are Real



and they're so cool!



Let Them Eat Cake

Mahalia W.



Marie Antoinette

Marie Antoinette was not just any queen. She was a queen of high drama, extravagant fashion, and a penchant for cake. Born in 1755 in Austria, she was the daughter of Holy Roman Emperor Francis I and Empress Maria Theresa, a powerful mother who had a reputation for producing a lot of children. Marie, the youngest daughter, was destined to be a pawn in European political games, a mere piece in the puzzle of power plays and alliances. At 14, she was shipped off to France to marry the awkward and socially shy Louis XVI, who was next in line for the French throne. Imagine being married off to someone you don't know at 14! A lot to handle, even for a princess. But she managed, creating a legacy that's a mix of fame, luxury, and controversy.

However, history seems to have misunderstood her. From the infamous line “Let them eat cake!” (which, spoiler alert, she probably never actually said), to her reputation for being out of touch with her people’s struggles. Marie Antoinette's life is filled with moments of glamour, absurdity, and tragedy. In this light-hearted and somewhat satirical exploration, we’ll follow the highs and lows of her life. Through all the court drama, wigs, parties, and cake, we’ll see what really made her infamous—beyond the headlines.

From Austria to Versailles: Welcome to the Drama!

Marie Antoinette’s childhood wasn’t exactly typical for an average teenager. Imagine being raised in an empire, surrounded by more siblings than you could count on one hand (she had 15 siblings!).

Life for young Marie in Austria was a blend of royal etiquette, courtly manners, and the constant preparation for a political marriage. At just 14, Marie was sent to France, a foreign land where the language, culture, and customs were all unfamiliar to her. It was an era of intense political maneuvering, and Marie was one of the key pieces in the puzzle.

She arrived at the opulent court of Versailles in 1770, a young girl eager to make a good impression, but quickly realized the bar was set impossibly high. Versailles was not just a palace; it was a battlefield of beauty, fashion, and gossip. Her first royal duty was to marry Louis XVI, a man who, despite being king-in-waiting, had a penchant for locking himself away in his room and obsessing over locks and keys.

The "Great Royal Mystery" of whether Louis and Marie would ever consummate their marriage became a matter of much speculation and royal gossip. Spoiler alert: they eventually did, but the pressure to produce an heir was immense.

But beyond the awkwardness of royal duties, Marie Antoinette had to face something far more difficult—being constantly judged by the people of France. No longer just a naive Austrian princess, she now had to navigate the political and social pressures of being France’s future queen. As she struggled with the marriage and court life, she turned to fashion, parties, and her court entourage for solace. Little did she know, her new life in France would set the stage for one of the most dramatic chapters in royal history.

Shoes, Dresses, and... More Shoes.

Marie Antoinette’s love affair with fashion wasn’t just about looking pretty—it was about making a statement. And what a statement it was! Versailles wasn’t just a court of power; it was the epicenter of European fashion. Marie knew this well, and with every gown, every shoe, and every powdered wig, she was not just following the trends—she was setting them.
Let’s take a moment to talk about the hair. Marie didn’t just wear a simple wig. No, no. She wore towering, powdered masterpieces that could reach heights taller than some small trees. It

wasn’t uncommon for her hair to stand at a foot or more in height, and each extravagant hairstyle required hours of work and countless pins and rolls. And let's not forget the bizarre addition of birds, ships, or even small model gardens placed in her hair for extra flair. The more outrageous, the better.



But the dresses were just as extravagant. Marie Antoinette didn't just wear gowns; she wore statements. With fabrics like silk, velvet, and satin, often adorned with lace and embroidery, each outfit was a work of art. One of her most famous outfits? A gown made of 3,000 pearls. Talk about showing off your wealth!

And her shoes? Well, they were no different. Marie was a true shoe enthusiast, and her collection was legendary. In an era where most women wore simple wooden clogs or flat slippers, Marie's shoes were meticulously crafted, often in bright colors with extravagant details. At one point, it was reported that she had 200 pairs of shoes in her collection.

But here's the twist: while Marie lived in a world of silk, pearls, and towering wigs, her people were starving. The extravagance of her fashion choices wasn’t just a matter of personal taste—it became a symbol of her disconnect from the struggles of the French population. Her fashion-forward mindset made her the subject of ridicule, with the commoners dubbing her “Madame

Deficit” due to her extravagant spending on clothes and accessories while the rest of the country was struggling with poverty.

The "Let Them Eat Cake" Debacle.

Cake? Really?
Perhaps no quote has plagued Marie Antoinette more than the one about cake. The phrase “Let them eat cake!” is widely attributed to her, but was it true? Did she really say this callous line while her people were starving? Or is this just another piece of royal gossip gone rogue? The truth, as historians argue, is that it’s likely a fabrication, or at least an exaggeration. But the damage was done. The phrase symbolized everything that was wrong with the monarchy at the time.

Let’s think about it. Marie was a queen who lived in luxury while her people struggled to get even a slice of bread. And while there were rumblings of hunger in France, it seems the "cake" line was a bit of royal spin to make her look completely out of touch. It was a metaphorical dagger in her reputation, and it quickly spread like wildfire. It also didn't help that she was seen flaunting her excessive wealth, buying extravagant items while France’s debt spiraled out of control.

In truth, she may have never uttered the phrase. There are no contemporary records that link the queen to this quote. It was likely the invention of revolutionary pamphleteers who wanted to paint her as the embodiment of royal excess. And while it’s not certain that Marie ever said it, the perception of her as a queen who didn’t care about the struggles of her people stuck. It was the perfect piece of propaganda for the revolutionaries.

Regardless of whether the quote was ever actually spoken, the image of Marie Antoinette as a detached and irresponsible queen was cemented. And with that, the revolutionary mobs in Paris were already preparing for their ultimate show of dissatisfaction: the overthrow of the monarchy.



The Secret Affair with Fashion.

What's a Queen Without a Wardrobe?

Marie's obsession with fashion didn't just make her an object of fascination for the court. It also became a way for her to exert power and control in a society where women were often expected to be seen and not heard. In a court dominated by men, her style of dressing became her most powerful form of expression. And as her political influence grew (well, sort of), her outfits did too.

Marie's relationship with fashion went beyond just wearing beautiful clothes—it was a way of asserting her dominance in a world where women didn't have many other avenues to do so. While her male counterparts were preoccupied with affairs of state, Marie kept herself busy with her extravagant wardrobe. But as history shows, her fashion choices didn't always sit well with the people.

For example, let's talk about the "," a white muslin dress she wore to a court gathering in 1783. This dress was revolutionary in its simplicity, in stark contrast to the layers of luxurious silks and corsets that dominated the fashion scene. Some historians argue that Marie wore the gown as a political statement—an attempt to show she was a modern, forward-thinking queen. But the people of France didn't see it that way. They were scandalized, accusing her of being too informal, too common. The fact that she was wearing a less extravagant dress at a royal event became a symbol of her inability to understand the reality of French life. It was a fashion faux pas, and the public's criticism of her only grew.



As Marie's wardrobe became more and more over-the-top, it served as a distraction from her political shortcomings. She became known not for her contributions to the state, but for her extravagant lifestyle and her ability to wear dresses that cost the equivalent of an entire peasant family's annual wages. Whether she meant it as a statement of power or simply as an expression of personal taste, Marie's clothing choices became synonymous with her downfall.

Facts and phrases

She Was Born an Austrian Princess.

Marie Antoinette was born in Vienna, Austria, on November 2, 1755. She was the 15th child of Holy Roman Emperor Francis I and Empress Maria Theresa, so she wasn't exactly the center of attention growing up. But hey, 15 kids? That's one way to avoid sibling rivalry.

She Was Married at 14.

At the tender age of 14, Marie Antoinette was married off to Louis XVI of France, who was only 15. Talk about a teenage romance! It wasn't exactly the start of a love story; it was more of a political strategy. Awkward, right?

Her Marriage Wasn't Consummated Right Away

The royal couple took years to consummate their marriage. Louis XVI was a bit shy and, well, perhaps not the best in the romance department. The pressure was on, and the French people were... very interested in this detail.

Her Famous Hairstyle Was Absolutely Outrageous

Marie Antoinette's hair was a true work of art. Some styles reached up to three feet in height, often featuring miniature ships, birds, or even entire gardens. If she had a bad hair day, she could probably get a ticket for public disturbance.

She Never Actually Said "Let Them Eat Cake"

Contrary to popular belief, Marie Antoinette never said the infamous line, "Let them eat cake!" It was more likely a revolutionary piece of propaganda meant to paint her as a heartless queen. But let's be honest, the cake quote is a better story.

She Was Obsessed with Fashion.

Marie Antoinette was known for her extravagant wardrobe and love of high fashion. She even had a whole team of tailors, wigmakers, and dressers at her disposal. Fashion was her escape from the chaos of royal life (and a way to distract everyone from the growing discontent).

She Was Accused of Wasting Money.

As the French economy spiraled downward, Marie Antoinette's lavish spending on clothes and luxury items didn't sit well with the French populace. They were struggling with famine while she was out buying silk gowns. This earned her the nickname "Madame Deficit."

She Was a Fan of the Simple Life... Sort of.

Marie built a "Hameau de la Reine" (a tiny village) at Versailles, where she could pretend to live like a humble farmer. There, she'd dress up in peasant clothes and milk cows. But let's be real—her idea of simplicity was a little... over-the-top.

She Loved Jewelry (Like, A Lot)
Marie's collection of jewelry was legendary, with her most famous piece being the necklace scandal. A set of diamonds worth a small fortune became part of a famous fraud scandal that contributed to her downfall. Nothing says "luxury" like an alleged jewelry con.



She Was a Terrible Cook.
Despite her extravagant tastes in food, Marie wasn't much of a cook. Her meals were prepared by chefs, and she was more into eating than preparing her own food. It's safe to say, she wasn't hosting dinner parties anytime soon.

She Had an Adorable Pet Poodle
Marie Antoinette had a pet poodle named Mops. Mops was probably the only creature in her life that didn't have a political agenda. But we can't blame her for seeking comfort in a dog when the revolution was just around the corner.

Her Reputation Suffered Due to Her Affairs (Sort Of)
There were rumors about Marie's involvement with other men at court, most famously with Count Axel von Fersen. While there's no concrete evidence of infidelity, these rumors fueled her image as a queen more interested in romance than running the country.

She Was Imprisoned During the Revolution
As the French Revolution gained momentum, Marie and her family were imprisoned in 1792. Despite her royal status, she faced an increasingly hostile mob that had little sympathy for her past luxuries. Talk about a dramatic fall from grace.

She Was Executed at the Age of 37
On October 16, 1793, Marie Antoinette was executed by guillotine. Her death marked the tragic end of her reign as queen and was a symbol of the fall of the French monarchy. Her final words? "Pardon me, sir, I did not mean to step on your foot." The ultimate example of grace under pressure.



The Beginning of Black History: Juan Garrido

By Mahalia W.



Juan Garrido's life, though largely forgotten by history, was anything but ordinary.

Born somewhere in Spain during the early 1500s (It was 1487), he was a mischievous child with an insatiable curiosity and a knack for getting into trouble. From the very beginning, it was clear that Juan was not meant to be just another face in the crowd. He was destined for something… different. And by "different," I mean that he had a remarkable talent for finding himself in absurd situations.

At a young age, Juan made a name for himself in his small town, mostly by breaking things. A dish here, a chair there, nothing was safe when little Juan was around. His parents were exasperated, constantly shaking their heads at his antics. However, it wasn't long before young Juan realized that his real talent lay not in breaking things, but in telling stories. And so, his reputation grew, he wasn't just the kid who knocked over the milk jug anymore, he was the one who could spin tales about it for hours, often making even the most mundane events seem like grand adventures.

It wasn't surprising that when, as a young adult, Juan decided to leave his small town behind. Spain was calling, and so was the allure of the New World. Everyone around him assumed he was following the Spanish conquistadors for fortune and glory. They were half right. While some may have sought gold, Juan, for all his ambitions, simply wanted to be part of something bigger, something exciting. He probably didn't have a solid plan, but what young man does when faced with the idea of sailing across the ocean to an unknown land? And so, off he went, with nothing

but the clothes on his back and a smile that hinted he was more prepared to tell a joke than face battle.

Upon landing in the Americas, Juan's sense of adventure was immediately put to the test. As one of the first African, Spanish men to reach the New World, he was part of something significant, though not as he imagined.

While many of the other conquistadors sought to conquer new lands and claim them for Spain, Juan's strategy was far more practical—he simply tried to survive. And, to his surprise, that often meant pretending to be braver than he truly was. Juan's first major involvement in the Spanish conquest of the Americas was during the conquest of Florida. Here, his resourcefulness came into play, though more often than not, his plans involved hiding behind trees and hoping no one noticed how out of his depth he truly was.

When it came time for him to fight, he would jump into the fray with the same enthusiasm as a man who was certain the battle would end in a grand victory, only to be secretly terrified. Yet, miraculously, Juan survived. It wasn't due to any grand heroics, of course. He survived simply by being very, VERY lucky. And pretending to be more competent than he was, but let's not kid ourselves Juan was no warrior. He was more of a bumbling opportunist, eager to seize any opportunity that came his way.

Once, after a particularly difficult day of fighting, he "discovered" a treasure chest, which he proudly showed to his comrades. It turned out to be an old, empty box filled with rocks. But hey, everyone had a good laugh about it, and Juan got to tell his story for years. By the time Juan found himself in Mexico, he was getting a little older and wiser, or so he thought. He decided that perhaps it was time to settle down and make something of his life like a proper landowner.

So, he acquired land. But that didn't go as smoothly as he hoped. Turns out, owning land required more than just having a deed it involved actual work. As it turned out, Juan wasn't particularly good at farming. His land was mostly a series of failed crops, a collection of weeds, and one very confused chicken that may or may not have been a duck. His "farm" quickly became the subject of laughter among the other settlers. But Juan took it all in stride, finding humor in the ridiculousness of it all.

Despite his less-than-stellar farming career, Juan's reputation as a man of many talents continued to grow. He had become an important figure, not because of his military achievements or his land management skills, but because of his ability to weave himself into the larger story of Spanish conquest and colonization.

In time, he even found himself involved in the overthrow of the Aztec Empire, where his role was, once again, mostly one of survival. At the frontlines, Juan would often be seen amid battle though more likely behind a shield than charging forward. But, somehow, he made it through. He wasn't brave; he wasn't skilled; he was just really, really good at staying out of the way when

it mattered most. In the end, Juan Garrido's life was a testament to the power of humor and resilience. He wasn't one of great battles, but for those who knew him, he was something even better: a reminder that life doesn't always have to be serious. Sometimes, it's the mishaps, the mistakes, and the laughter that make it all worthwhile. Juan might not have set out to change the world, but in his own peculiar way, he did. And I think that's the spirit of black history month.



Juan Garrido, the first African American to set foot in the Americas.

The Emperor Who Took It Too Far: Napoleon Bonaparte

By Mahalia W.



Ah, Napoleon Bonaparte.

The name alone conjures up images of a short, fiery Frenchman strutting about in a too-tight uniform and a hat that looked like it could double as a decorative table centerpiece. Napoleon is a figure who has been the subject of much scholarly debate, political intrigue, and, of course, countless comedic interpretations. His rise to power is one of history's most dramatic and shortest success stories. Napoleon was a man who would stop at nothing to prove that height was just a number, and that being "vertically challenged" was no reason not to take over the entire continent of Europe.

But before we get ahead of ourselves, let's dive into the life of this diminutive dynamo and explore how he became one of history's most famous and frequently mocked figures. Buckle up, because we're about to embark on a rollercoaster of humor, historical inaccuracies (for comedic effect, of course), and, perhaps most importantly, the shortest man ever to dream big.

Early Life: A Short History of a Short Man

Napoleon Bonaparte was born on August 15, 1769, on the beautiful island of Corsica, a place where people are still arguing about whether the wine is better than the weather (spoiler: it's not). As a child, Napoleon wasn't particularly gifted in sports. Unlike other boys who spent their

time climbing trees or playing football, young Napoleon could usually be found climbing the ranks of the military academy. After all, what's a bit of childhood awkwardness compared to the sweet taste of power?

Though Napoleon had a talent for math, history, and a healthy obsession with glory, his early years were filled with one thing: Napoleon being very, very short. It was said that he stood at around 5'2", though some claim that his height was inflated much like his ego. As an adult, Napoleon was often seen towering over his enemies, though in reality, his stature might not have been as intimidating as his appetite for conquest.
Imagine being a young man, full of ambition, and having to look up literally and figuratively to everyone around you. That's probably why he developed such a big personality; if you can't be the tallest in the room, you might as well be the loudest and most ambitious.
But let's not forget about his family. Napoleon's parents were certainly supportive, but you can imagine the awkward family gatherings. "Napoleon, you're going to do great things, we just hope you don't end up on the bottom shelf at the dinner table," they might have said, trying to make light of his size.
His obsession with height likely began during these formative years, considering the constant reminders from his siblings and friends that he was "vertically challenged." But instead of letting it hold him back, Napoleon did what any self-respecting, power-hungry future emperor would do: He used it as motivation.

Napoleon's Rise: Climbing the Ladder (or Should We Say, the Stairs?)

Napoleon's rise to power was nothing short of impressive. He went from being a lowly officer in the French army to emperor of France, all within a relatively short period of time. It was the ultimate underdog story, except the underdog had a penchant for wearing elaborate uniforms and tiny hats that made him seem even smaller than he really was.
To say that Napoleon was ambitious would be an understatement. This was a man who, at one point, looked at an entire continent and said, "That looks like a good place to get started." Forget modest goals Napoleon set his sights on European domination, one awkward step at a time. But before he could do that, he needed a plan.
Napoleon was a military genius, able to strategize with precision and outsmart his enemies. And if anyone doubted his brilliance, he was always ready to remind them. In fact, it's been said that Napoleon could talk about his military strategies for hours perhaps as a distraction from the fact that he was never quite tall enough to reach the top shelf.
It was during this time that Napoleon's famous "Napoleon Complex" first began to take shape. That is, of course, the theory that short men (or "vertically impaired" men, as some might prefer to be called) are driven to prove themselves through grand acts of ambition. Napoleon was a man who needed to make an impression on a world that seemed to be taller than him at

every turn. His success wasn't just about his military genius, it was about proving to the world that height is irrelevant when you've got the ambition of an entire continent inside your soul. Napoleon didn't let a little thing like size get in the way of his big dreams. He was the original underdog who was going to make sure no one forgot his name or at least, no one would forget his oversized dreams.

The Napoleon Complex: Small Man, Big Dreams

One of the most famous aspects of Napoleon's legacy is the idea of the "Napoleon Complex" that psychological condition where short people feel the need to overcompensate for their lack of height by acting in an aggressive or domineering manner. This has become a pop-culture shorthand for any person (typically under 5'5") who has big dreams and a bigger attitude.
While it's true that Napoleon was quite ambitious and often took bold actions to achieve his goals, we can't help but wonder: Did his height truly shape his destiny, or was it just a convenient excuse for his actions? One could argue that if Napoleon were taller, he might have had a better sense of humor. But, alas, we will never know.
Of course, some historians argue that Napoleon's height is often exaggerated in popular culture. Perhaps he wasn't that short, just a little below average for his time. Yet, no one ever talks about how short he might have been in comparison to his own ambitions. Napoleon's dreams weren't just large; they were extra-large, with a side of "I'm going to conquer Russia and still look fabulous doing it."
Napoleon's complex became so well-known that it transcended even his military exploits. If Napoleon wasn't winning battles, he would flex his muscles in other ways usually by challenging any form of authority. He was famously rebellious, and the bigger the challenge, the more Napoleon seemed to enjoy it. His "complex" was less of a psychological condition and more of a way of keeping the world on its toes.

Napoleon's Military Genius: How He Conquered Europe, One Tiny Step at a Time

Napoleon's military career was marked by some truly remarkable victories. In fact, it was said that Napoleon could win a battle in his sleep well, after a hearty breakfast, some vigorous planning, and a quick consult with his personal astrologer (just in case the stars weren't aligned).
Napoleon was known for his ability to outthink and outmaneuver his enemies. He created strategies that seemed too good to be true, which is probably why they worked so well. For example, when invading Russia, Napoleon's troops were forced to retreat in the brutal winter, resulting in one of the greatest military disasters in history. It's unclear whether this was due to poor planning or the fact that his army couldn't find any good, warm socks in Russia.

Nevertheless, Napoleon remained defiant and determined. His motto might have been: “I may be short, but I am also mighty!” He was convinced that his size didn’t matter when it came to ruling the world. What mattered, he believed, was his vision, his mind, and his ever-present need to prove to everyone that short guys could be just as powerful as the tallest rulers of the time.

But here’s the kicker: Napoleon didn’t just want to conquer countries he wanted to impress them. This wasn’t just about power; this was about legacy. The more countries he took over, the bigger his hat seemed. And let’s be honest, Napoleon’s hat was a sight to behold. It was practically an entire country’s worth of ambition crammed into a single accessory. His hats were so big that some historians argue they were responsible for his military successes after all, who would dare mess with a man who could wear a hat that large?

Exile and Return: The Napoleon BOUNCE BACK

Even after being exiled to the island of Elba (which, we imagine, was probably a bit of a letdown who wants to be exiled to an island with no good coffee shops?), Napoleon wasn’t about to let his defeat define him. He escaped from Elba in 1815 and returned to France with the intention of reclaiming his empire.

This move, known as the “Hundred Days,” lasted for exactly 100 days proof that, even in exile, Napoleon was good at sticking to a schedule. It was like he had a vision board of all the countries he wanted to conquer, and Elba was just a quick pit stop on his way to a very ambitious bucket list.

Unfortunately, his return was short-lived. Napoleon met his match at the Battle of Waterloo (which, frankly, sounds more like a name for a spa than a battlefield), and this time, his luck had run out. But Napoleon, ever the optimist, was still thinking A LONG term. He may have been defeated in battle, but his legacy, much like his height, would tower over history for centuries.

Napoleon's Legacy: Small but Mighty

Napoleon’s death in 1821 did nothing to slow down his legend. In fact, he became one of the most fascinating figures in history, his name immortalized in the annals of power, politics, and comedy. Napoleon became the quintessential underdog, a figure who proved that with enough ambition, you could stand tall even if you weren’t exactly tall to begin with.

As the years passed, Napoleon’s legacy only grew, and so did the jokes. He became the subject of countless parodies, cartoons, and impersonations. His stature might have been small, but his influence was gigantic.

Conclusion: The Short Man Who Conquered the World

In conclusion, Napoleon Bonaparte’s life was one of great triumphs and even greater jokes. He proved that no matter your height, you can conquer Europe but you might have to deal with a few mean comments along the way. He had dreams as grand as the pyramids of Egypt (which, ironically, he never managed to conquer), and his legacy remains as complex as his personality and the height of his ambitions.

Perhaps, in the end, Napoleon's greatest achievement was not his military prowess, but his ability to make people laugh, even centuries later. After all, the shortest man in the room managed to be the biggest figure in history, and that is, in its own way, a comedy all its own. Whether we view Napoleon as a tragic figure or a punchline, we can all agree on one thing: he was one small man with one very, very big impact.



The (Fictional) Grand Saga of Nicholas III: Ruler of Russia, Resplendent and Ridiculous

By Mahalia Williams



Ah, Nicholas III.

You might think he was just another Tsar in a long line of Russian monarchs, but let me tell you, this guy was something else. Not quite Tsar Nicholas II, not quite anyone historically significant, Nicholas III was a true gem of regal eccentricity. He might not have ruled Russia, but he certainly ruled over all the fun in this article, so listen up.

Chapter 1: The Rise of Nicholas III the Eccentric and the Mysterious.

Some say Nicholas III was born in the quiet countryside, raised by wolves. Others say he was the illegitimate son of a potato and a cabbage. But who really knows? Historical records are, as always, highly debatable. What we do know is that Nicholas III came from a long line of Tsars with more flair than a ballroom full of Russian nobles.

It is said that as a child, Nicholas III took up knitting. Not just any knitting—he could knit an entire palace in one afternoon, his nimble fingers working faster than the Russian winters. As he grew older, his interests shifted from knitting to the fine art of actually ruling an empire. He wasn't particularly good at it, but he was remarkably good at making people laugh.

Chapter 2: The Golden Years of Nicholas III—Creating Chaos, One Caviar Jar at a Time.

Nicholas III's rule was marked by the kind of decisions that left even the most seasoned historians scratching their heads. For example, he once declared that every citizen of his empire must wear a hat made entirely of borscht. "The richness of the soup will fortify your spirit!" he proclaimed, though none of his subjects were particularly convinced.
The Tsar, ever the practical leader, introduced laws that were both absurd and strangely thoughtful. "No one shall wear their shoes on the wrong foot," he decreed, making his legions of bureaucrats work overtime to ensure compliance with this fashion-forward footwear mandate.

And who could forget the Great Potato Rebellion of 1902?

Nicholas III decided that Russia needed a new national, dish potato pancakes, and the people, long accustomed to their dumplings, rose up in protest. Nicholas III, always one for diplomacy, solved the crisis by hosting an all-you-can-eat potato pancake banquet. Problem solved; happiness restored.

Chapter 3: The Political Fiascos More Laughable Than a Russian Circus

The Tsar was a master of political mishaps. It's rumored that one of his first acts as ruler was to invite foreign dignitaries to a grand banquet and then promptly serve them nothing but vodka and pickles. "The best food is the food you can't remember," he is quoted as saying. Naturally, relations with other nations were not improved.

His policies on foreign affairs were equally perplexing. Nicholas III once tried to negotiate peace with a neighboring country by sending them a dozen babushkas and a map of Siberia, but they mistakenly thought it was a declaration of war. Talk about a diplomatic disaster! But Nicholas III shrugged it off and continued to roll with his absurd charm. He even attempted to form an alliance with a group of Swedish chefs—again, not entirely successful, but it did result in some excellent meatball recipes.

Chapter 4: The Revolutions—Betrayed by Borscht

No ruler can escape the revolution, and Nicholas III's reign was no exception. In 1917, as the empire began to crumble around him (largely due to his love for quirky reforms and his inability to keep a straight face during serious state meetings), the people began to lose faith in their borscht-clad Tsar.

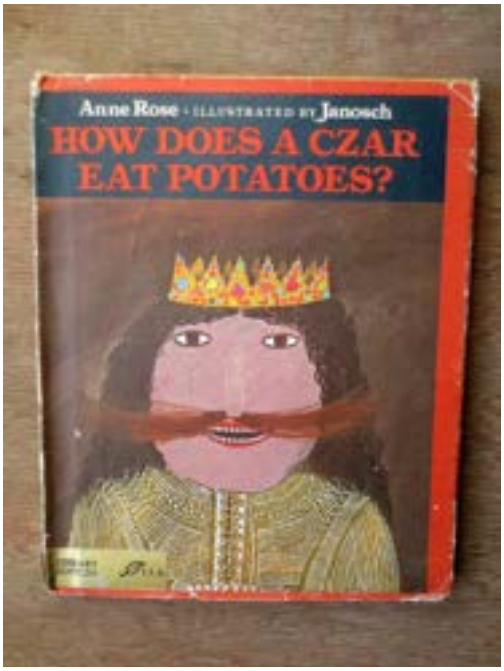
Protests erupted, and the peasants had had enough. They were tired of wearing hats made of soup and being told what kind of potatoes they had to eat. In the face of the Revolution, Nicholas III did what any sensible ruler would do: he threw a giant party in an attempt to calm the unrest. He called it "The Last Great Pancake Bash."

Alas, the revolutionaries were not interested in pancakes. They were interested in, well, ending Tsarist rule. The party ended with Nicholas III being whisked away by a group of angry chefs, and his reign, though short and delightfully ridiculous, came to a close.
Chapter 5: The Legacy of Nicholas III Remembered for His Sense of Humor
While Nicholas III was not remembered for his strategic prowess or his ability to handle state affairs, he will forever be remembered for his sense of humor. Generations of Russians still tell tales of the Tsar who wore mismatched shoes and demanded that everyone eat nothing but potatoes and borscht.

In his honor, statues were erected in his image, mostly of him holding a large, overflowing bowl of soup. Children would gather around these statues, placing tiny shoes on his feet, as a tribute to his reign of eccentricity.

Conclusion: The Absurdity of Nicholas III—A Tsar Who Laughed in the Face of History

Though Nicholas III may never have been a great ruler by traditional standards, he was certainly a ruler who understood that sometimes history doesn't need to be taken too seriously. With his ridiculous laws, his unexpected love of potatoes, and his unorthodox diplomacy, he showed the world that leadership could be both absurd and memorable.
So, let us raise a glass of borscht (or vodka, or pickle juice) to Nicholas III—the Tsar of Laughter, the Lord of Potatoes, and the ruler who reminded us that sometimes, the most important thing in life is to wear your shoes on the right feet, and to never underestimate the power of a good pancake.



The Queen of Drama: Cleopatra!

By Mahalia W.



"My honor was not yielded but conquered merely. I will not be triumphed over."
(Brainy quotes)
Cleopatra

Cleopatra. The name alone conjures up images of royal elegance, dramatic entrances, and possibly a few cats with little crowns on their heads. Cleopatra, the Queen of Egypt, is one of history's most fascinating and frequently portrayed figures, and not just because she had one of the most famous beauty routines of the ancient world. She was a master of drama, politics, and, quite possibly, the world's first reality TV show, long before it was cool.

Some call her a political genius, some call her a seductress, and others call her the ultimate overachiever who did everything she could to get to the top—and then made sure everyone knew she was there. Cleopatra wasn't just queen of Egypt; she was the queen of keeping it dramatic. She knew how to work the crowd, command a room, and always make an entrance that said, "You've never seen anything like this before, but you'll never forget it."

Early Life: An Ancient "Royalty with a Side of Sass."

Cleopatra VII, born in 69 BCE, came from a long line of Ptolemaic rulers who were, let's just say, extremely good at royal family drama. When your ancestors have been marrying each other for

generations to keep the bloodline “pure,” you can bet there’s going to be some weirdness in the family dynamic. Cleopatra, however, was a standout in this family. She was no ordinary royal who just sat around waiting for the throne to be handed to her. Oh no, Cleopatra was the kind of girl who looked at the royal court and said, “I think I’ll take over now, thanks.”

Cleopatra’s early years were marked by intense competition. Her father, Ptolemy XII, was the king, but he wasn’t exactly a household name when it came to competence. In fact, he was so ineffective at ruling Egypt that Cleopatra’s brothers (yes, she had them) might have been more concerned with the throne than their studies. But, as we know, the drama of royal succession is never straightforward.



Ptolemy XII

At the ripe old age of 18, Cleopatra was thrust into a battle for power. After her father died, she became co-regent with her younger brother, Ptolemy XIII (weird name). Of course, she quickly realized that it was easier to rule alone, so she gently nudged him out of the way. This wasn’t just a power move this was Cleopatra saying, “I came to rule, not to babysit.”

The Queen Who Knew How to Make an Entrance.

Cleopatra wasn’t just a ruler; she was a showman, an artist of the dramatic entrance, and the very first person who could have made a career in reality television. One of her most famous entrances was when she decided to play Julius Caesar in Rome. But she didn’t just stroll in and say “Hello” like a normal person. No, Cleopatra decided she would really make an impression.

She had herself smuggled into Caesar's palace… inside a carpet. Yes, you read that right. Cleopatra, the future Queen of Egypt, entered Rome rolled up in a rug—the ancient equivalent of showing up in a luxury car and demanding a red carpet at the door. Picture the scene: Caesar unrolls the rug, expecting some sort of official paperwork, and instead, out pops Cleopatra, all glammed up, probably thinking, "Is this dramatic enough? Do I have their attention?"

And oh, did she ever have their attention. Imagine the expression on Caesar's face. "What is this?" he probably thought, "Is she royalty, or is this some sort of performance art?" From that moment, Cleopatra became the world's first influencer—though instead of Instagram selfies, she was all about political power and charm.

Cleopatra and Julius Caesar: A Love Affair with Power.

Let's talk about Cleopatra's relationship with Julius Caesar. History tends to focus a lot on the romance between the two, but let's not forget that Cleopatra wasn't just playing the role of the lovestruck woman—she was playing the role of the ultimate power player. Sure, there was probably some genuine affection there, but let's not kid ourselves into thinking Cleopatra wasn't thinking, "You're a powerful Roman general, and I'm a queen of Egypt. How can we make this partnership even more beneficial for me?"

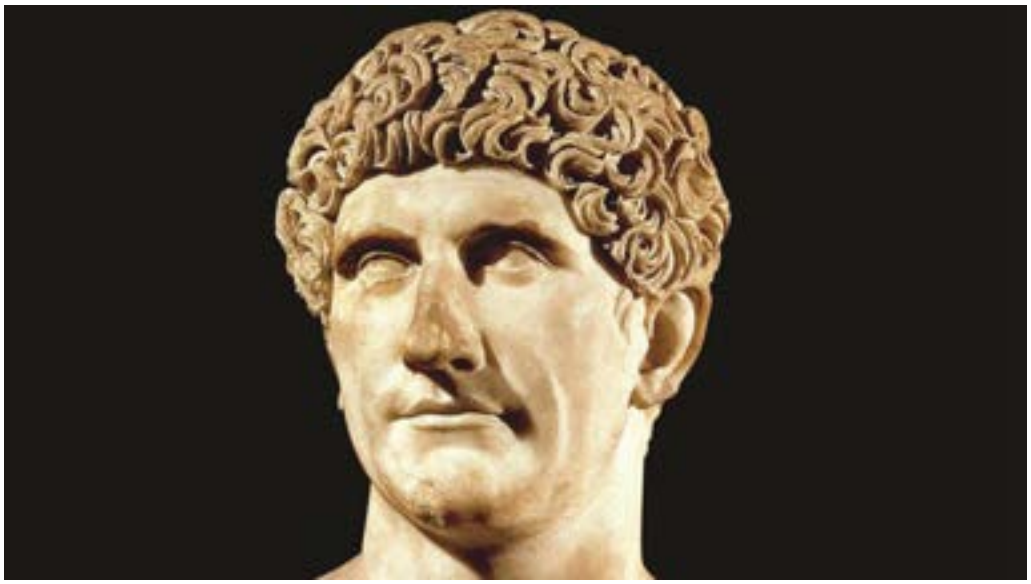
Cleopatra's priority wasn't to just woo Caesar; it was to ensure her power in Egypt. So, she used her beauty and charm in the most strategic ways possible playing the long game. After all, if you want to hold onto a throne in ancient Egypt, you don't just wear fabulous robes; you make alliances with the most powerful men on the planet. And that's exactly what Cleopatra did.

Her relationship with Caesar wasn't just about seduction (though there was plenty of that); it was about securing Egypt's future. After all, if she could have a child with Caesar, she could potentially have a half-Roman heir to the throne. Enter Caesarion, her son with Caesar—though, let's be real, the little guy probably wasn't doing much on his own but hanging out in the royal crib while Mom worked her political magic.

Cleopatra, of course, knew how to play her cards. When Caesar went back to Rome, Cleopatra didn't just sit around in her palace eating grapes. Oh no, she was already planning her next move. Soon enough, Cleopatra was back in Rome—this time a guest of honor, draped in silk and diamonds, making her royal presence known.

The Drama with Mark Antony: A Love Triangle Worthy of Soap Operas.

Now, just when you thought Cleopatra's romantic life couldn't get any more dramatic, enter Mark Antony, Rome's own hunky general, and yet another powerful ally. Antony and Cleopatra's relationship is what truly cemented her place in the history books—not only because they were a political power couple, but because their love affair was practically Shakespearean in its tragic intensity.



Mark Antony

Cleopatra and Mark Antony's relationship was a lot like that one couple at the party who can't stop talking about each other. They had chemistry, passion, and the world's attention. Their alliance was a powerful one, but of course, it also came with a heavy dose of drama.

Cleopatra and Antony had three children together, and their relationship was marked by lavish feasts, epic parties, and so much political maneuvering. Cleopatra wasn't just Antony's lover; she was his equal partner, his co-ruler, and the woman who would one day share the throne of Rome. But, as all good soap operas go, things didn't exactly end in happily ever after. Cleopatra and Antony's combined forces were eventually crushed by Augustus (formerly Octavian), leading to their tragic downfall. After their defeat, the two lovers chose to end their lives rather than be paraded in triumph. Cleopatra, ever the dramatic icon, famously took her own life using a venomous snake one of her many "how to go out with a bang" moments.

The Legacy: Cleopatra, Queen of the Stage.

What makes Cleopatra so unforgettable isn't just her ability to seduce powerful men or her political savvy. It's her ability to perform to create a legacy so grand that it would span centuries, inspiring countless films, plays, and books. Cleopatra wasn't just a queen; she was the original diva, the first person to make sure that everyone in the room knew she was the star.

Her life was a whirlwind of ambition, charisma, and unmatched flair. She used her intellect, charm, and—let's be real, some clever PR to ensure her spot in history. Cleopatra's image has been immortalized as both a ruler and an icon, someone who could blend politics with performance art and leave everyone around her wondering, "Did she just do that?"

Conclusion: The Queen Who Ruled the World, One Dramatic Moment at a Time.

In conclusion, Cleopatra wasn't just a queen of Egypt; she was the queen of showing up—whether it was in a rug, on a luxury yacht, or in the midst of political negotiations. Her life was a living testament to the power of presence, beauty, brains, and, above all, sheer audacity.

Cleopatra may have ruled Egypt, but her legacy is that of a woman who conquered the hearts and minds of history itself.

Her romantic entanglements with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony? Certainly unforgettable. But let's not forget: Cleopatra was in control the entire time. She wasn't just playing the game of thrones—she was rewriting the rulebook, making sure no one ever forgot her name. Cleopatra proved that you don't need to sit quietly in the background; you just need to know how to enter the room—and once you do, take over.

Long after her death, Cleopatra's life and legacy continue to shine brightly in the history of power, drama, and supreme confidence. She was the ultimate queen—royalty with a side of sass, intelligence, and a dash of charm. And who knows? If she were around today, she'd probably have her own reality show.



(Cleopatras Tomb)



The year was 30 BC, and the Roman Empire was at the height of its power. In Egypt, the last queen of the Ptolemaic dynasty, Cleopatra, had just died under mysterious circumstances.

Who Made Stanley Cups and Why Are They So Popular?

By Myleigh and Skyllar

William Stanley Jr. would never know that his creation would get so popular here in 2025. On July 8, 1915, Stanleys introduced, an all-steel, double-walled, vacuum-sealed water bottle. The steel cup keeps liquid cool for 48 hours.

Why are Stanleys so popular?



Stanleys are popular because a lady bought one and posted it on social media and because now Stanleys are cute and half of the people who buy it are mostly girls. Stanleys come in red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, and pink too! But mostly all colors. Stanleys can come in patterns too like if you want stripes, you can find stripes Stanley. If you want your drink cold, then Stanleys are a good cup to do that. Stanleys come in 20,30,40,50,60 ounces

Bad News About Stanleys

According to David k.li of NBC news on Dec 12 2024, Stanley issued a recall on 2.6 million of its popular steel cups, citing concerns about loose tops that have led to dozens of burn injuries, officials said Thursday.

According to United states consumer product safety commission the action revolves around "all Stanley Switchback and Trigger Action stainless steel travel mugs sold in the United States" from June 2016 through this month, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said in a statement.

Where Stanleys are found. According to NBC news Stanleys cups were often sold through Amazon and at Walmart, Dick's Sporting Goods and Target. The company has received 91 reports, 16 in the U.S., of the targeted mugs' "lids detaching during use, resulting in 38 burn

injuries worldwide, including two burn injuries in the U.S., with 11 consumers worldwide requiring medical attention," the safety commission said. By David K. Li

Stanley urged customers to reach out to the company and arrange for replacement tops to be sent to them. Stanley cups have become wildly popular, go-to hydration tools for millions of people seeking to have water or other beverages close at hand at all times. The century-old company has taken off in recent years, producing its tumblers in a never-ending variety of colors and designs, appealing to more female and younger consumers. Social media, TikTok in particular, has also played a key role in the company's rapid growth.

A woman was arrested this year in Northern California and accused of stealing 65 Stanley stainless steel drinking cups worth almost $2,500 from a Dick’s Sporting Goods store in Roseville, officials said. Stanley Headquarters is in Seattle, WA, that’s where Stanleys came from.



Meme Legends That Have Died

By Rylee Cinfici

Memes are typically humorous in nature, and they are copied and spread rapidly by internet users, often with slight variations.

The popular meme creator Saint Hoax, who has three million Instagram followers, defines a meme as a piece of media that is repurposed to deliver a cultural, social or political expression, mainly through humor. “It has the ability to capture insight in a way that is in complete alignment with the zeitgeist,” Saint Hoax said.



Doge suffered from leukemia and liver cancer and died on May 2, 2024.



Tartar Sauce, passed away on May 14, 2019, due to complications from a urinary tract infection.



Cincinnati Zoo, died on May 28, 2016. He was killed by zoo staff after a 3-year-old child fell into his enclosure.



Eduard Van De Walle, also known as “wow meme guy,” died from a brain hemorrhage on 6 February 2016 in Zelzate, Belgium. He was aged 83.

“Edge Control”

By Serenity M.



Josephine Baker

While no single person “invented” edge control, the style was very popularized in the early 1920’s by Josephine Baker. Freda Josephine Baker, naturalized as Joséphine Baker, was a renowned American-born French dancer, singer, and actress.

Baker, is credited with making signature hairstyles, featuring gelled-down edges in swoop-like patterns, which became a defining element of her performances. Her iconic hairstyles featured a baby hairs strategy styled to enhance her facial contours.

According to *Essence*, dancer, singer, and civil rights activist Josephine Baker is one of the early pioneers of baby hairstyles. She was one of the first entertainers to be seen with styled edges, and her signature styles. This sparked a trend among Black women, and edge styling has continued to evolve and become a significant part of many beauty routines.

During her early career, Baker was among the most celebrated performances. Freda Josephine was born in St Louis, Missouri. By age 12 she had dropped out of school. At 13, she worked as a waitress at the Old Chauffeur's Club at 3133 Pine Street. She also lived as a street child in the slums of St. Louis, sleeping in cardboard shelters, scavenging for food in garbage cans, and making a living with street-corner dancing.

Her career was centered primarily in Europe, but mostly in France. She was the first black woman to star in a major motion picture, the 1927 French silent film *Siren of the Tropics*. On November 30, 2021, Baker was inducted into the Panthéon in Paris, the first black woman to receive one of the highest honors in France.



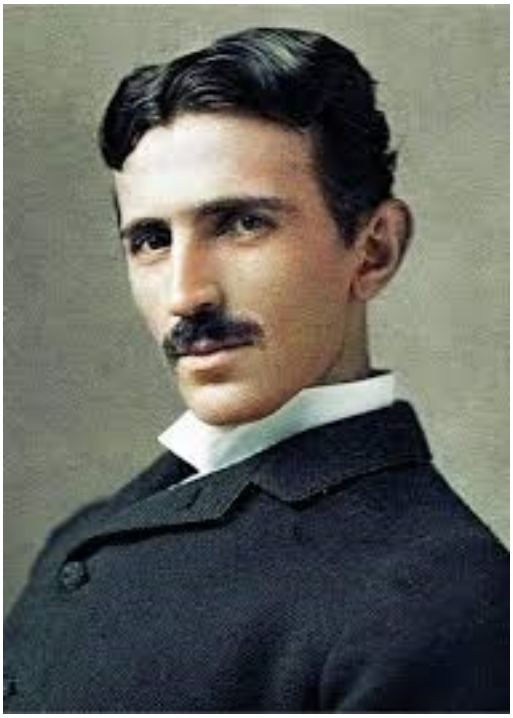
Who Invented the Name Tesla?

By Venesha Mckenzie

You might think the name tesla was created by Elon Musk. In fact, the name Tesla was named after Nikola Tesla who was born in 1856 in Austria-Hungary and emigrated to the U.S. in 1884 as a physicist. He pioneered the generation, transmission, and use of alternating current (AC) electricity.

Nikola Tesla's inspiration for invention largely came from his mother, Duka Mandic, who was known to invent small household appliances during his childhood, which sparked his interest in creating and innovating new technologies; essentially inheriting her inventive spirit and applying it to larger scale inventions like alternating current (AC) electricity and the Tesla Coil.

Tesla was founded in July 2003 by Martin Eberhard and Marc Tarpenning as Tesla Motors. Its name is a tribute to inventor and electrical engineer. Tesla's mother, Georgina Duka Mandić (1822–1892), whose father was also an Eastern Orthodox Church priest, had a talent for making home craft tools and mechanical appliances and the ability to memorize Serbian epic poems. Duka had never received a formal education.



Tesla didn't own a permanent residence and lived in hotels for most of his life…He was a germaphobe and obsessive about cleaning.

Nikola Tesla was a brilliant Serbian American inventor and engineer who made significant contributions to the modern world, particularly in the field of electricity. He is best known for

his work on alternating current (AC) power systems, which are used worldwide. He also made groundbreaking inventions such as the Tesla coil and contributed to wireless communication and X-ray technology.



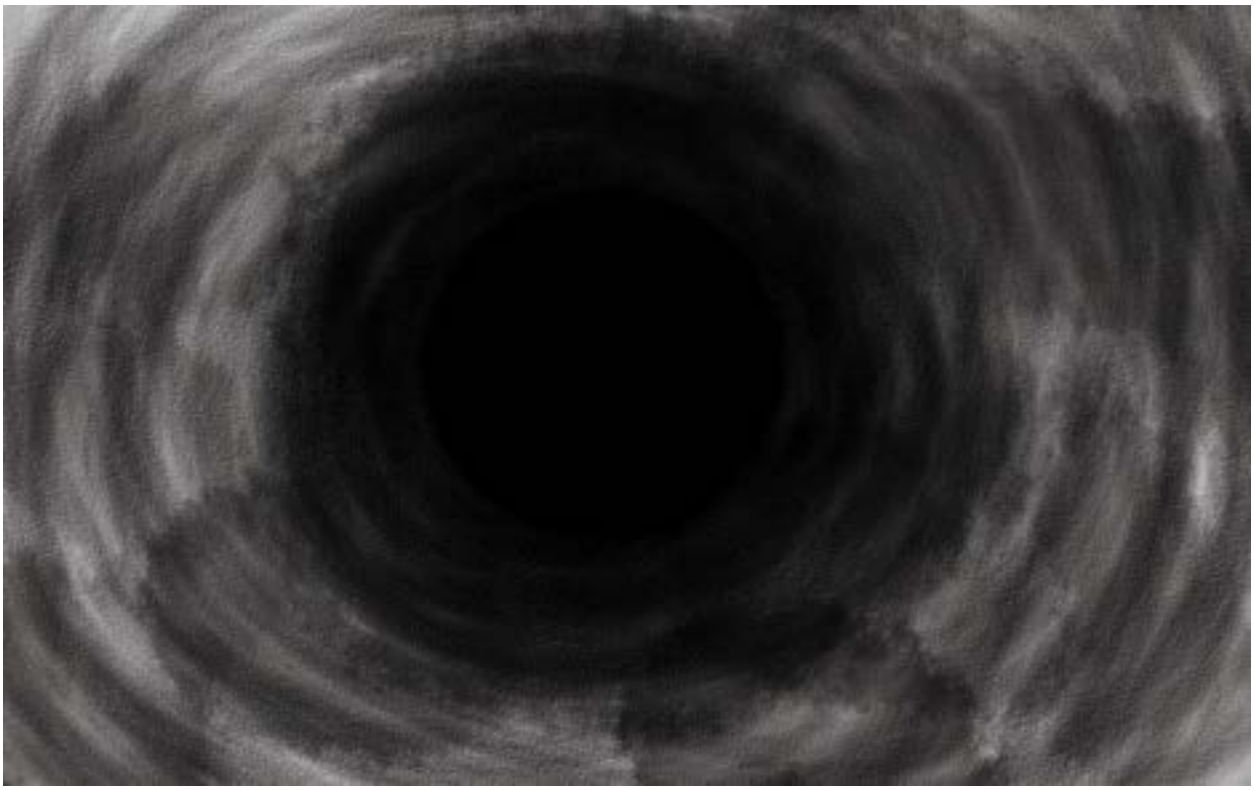
Unleashing the Power of Nikola Tesla's Tesla Coil

Indian River Academy



Something About Nothing

By Jennifer Lopez



Have you ever wondered… what IS nothing?! Have you ever asked someone this question and maybe they replied, “nothing is nothing?” But what could nothing really be or mean?

Well, if you think about it, nothing really is nothing, but he we still don’t know what that means or looks like. The concept of nothing is at least thousands of years old. According to some early Greek philosophers, nothing is “the complete absence of anything as the opposite of something and an antithesis of everything.” For some reason, my little pea brain with ADHD cannot comprehend any of this! And, the word “antithesis” means opposite, so everything is the opposite of nothing. So, nothing is the complete lack of anything which I guess is like a void or something. But if you’re looking at nothing, shouldn’t there be something there? I don’t really know how to explain any of this because it’s too confusing.

Liberty Magnet





Slavery

By Abrianna Jones



Slavery in America

We are not just black!

Today we will be talking about slavery. Slavery is a very controversial topic in this world today. Some schools only teach the bare minimum about slavery but there is so much more to it than can be said here. On the contrary to what most people think, slaves were not just black individuals but also white, but there were very few. Praise the lord.

Slaves also enjoyed the lord, as they made a slave bible. Slaves were limited to what passages in the bibles they could read because some passages contained material about slaves. Slaves found a way around this by removing the old testimony and a huge chunk of the new testimony. While we know that the slave's bible was written in the time of slaves, we aren't curtained who wrote it.

Negro dogs

Today you might hear about police dogs hunting people down, but did you know that if slaves escaped, they would be hunted by many dogs??? When slaves were found gone from their plantation, dogs called Negro dogs, known to be aggressive and strong, were set out to find the escaped slaves and were known to kill them.

The first slave owner was a black man!!

John Williams and Harry Potter Versus Star Wars

By Beatrice Spillis



John Williams

Legendary composer John Williams composed the scores for both films, released in 2002. The shared musical cue is nearly identical in both films due to the similar pace and energy of the two scenes, but the cue is slightly different in each film, highlighting the difference between both scenes. They both begin with a boy who doesn't know he has special powers. They are both living with an aunt and uncle in what we'll call less than ideal circumstances.

They are both orphans in both stories, our magical boy meets an elder mentor, a big hairy guy, a highly capable girl, and a loveable rogue. They also are both about boys with dead parents. Another thing is that both movies have such thing as the force in them.



Harry Potter



Star Wars

Now I'm going to tell you about the composer John Williams. First off, did you know that John Williams was the composer for all the Star Wars movies but only the first three Harry Potter

movies. John Williams' path to becoming a composer was influenced by his musical upbringing, early experiences in music, and a shift in focus from performance to compassion.

According to Wikipedia, "John Towner Williams (born February 8, 1932) is an American composer and conductor. In a career that has spanned seven decades, he has composed some of the most popular, recognizable, and critically acclaimed film scores in cinema history.

I wish I could tell you more, but I'll save that for another article.



Paintings by Vincent Van Gogh

By Beatrice Spillis

Van Gogh decided to become an artist at the age of 27. His first experience with painting was in 1881. In just 10 years, he created approximately 900 paintings and sketches. Art historians believe Van Gogh's first painting is Still Life with Cabbage and Clogs, which was created sometime during November or December of 1881. His three most famous paintings are Starry Night, The Potato Eaters and Sunflowers. You can see his work at the Vincent Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, Netherlands.



The impasto technique is usually associated with the work of Vincent Van Gogh. It is said that he applied the paints directly onto the canvas and simply mixed them together with his own fingers. One of the examples of the impasto technique in his oeuvre is the painting The Starry Night.

Van Gogh worked with oil paint. He used both paint with (natural) pigments, made the same way for centuries, as well as paint with new synthetic colorings. In Van Gogh's time, an age of revolutionary scientific advancement, these colorings were being developed for the textile industry.

Van Gough had a sad life some terrifying things happened to him in his life here is some of those things: he cut of his ear, he shot himself with a revolver and died three days later.
Also, oeuvre means: the works of a painter, composer, or author.

Goldfish

By Heath Todd Bryant



Goldfish were created in 1958. Smiling faces were added to the crackers in 1997.

The original creator of Goldfish, a Swiss biscuit manufacturer named Oscar J. Kambly, wanted to invent a new cracker for his wife's birthday. Goldfish crackers were marketed as a bar and party snack for adults. Pepperidge Farm founder Margaret Rudkin introduced Goldfish crackers to the United States in 1962 after having tried them while on vacation in Switzerland.

Goldfish is the best snack for the or lunch. You can have it with pizza or a sandwich on the side. The Goldfish brand in the second quarter ended Jan. 29 climbed closer toward a company goal of $1 billion (about $3.1 per person in the US)) in annual sales, said Mark A. Clouse, president and chief executive officer of the Campbell Soup Co., who owns Pepperidge Farms.

The brand's performance led the company's Snacks division to sales of $1.08 billion (about $3.3 per person in the US), up 15% from $934 million in the previous year's second quarter.
Some Goldfish crackers contain ingredients derived from genetically modified organisms (GMOs), specifically soybeans. According to healthline.com, although most notable organizations and research suggest that GMO foods are safe and sustainable, some people claim they may harm your health and the environment.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, also called FDA, lists MSG as a food ingredient that's safe to eat in typical amounts. But some people may react to MSG. For that reason, when MSG is added to food, the FDA says it must be listed on the label.

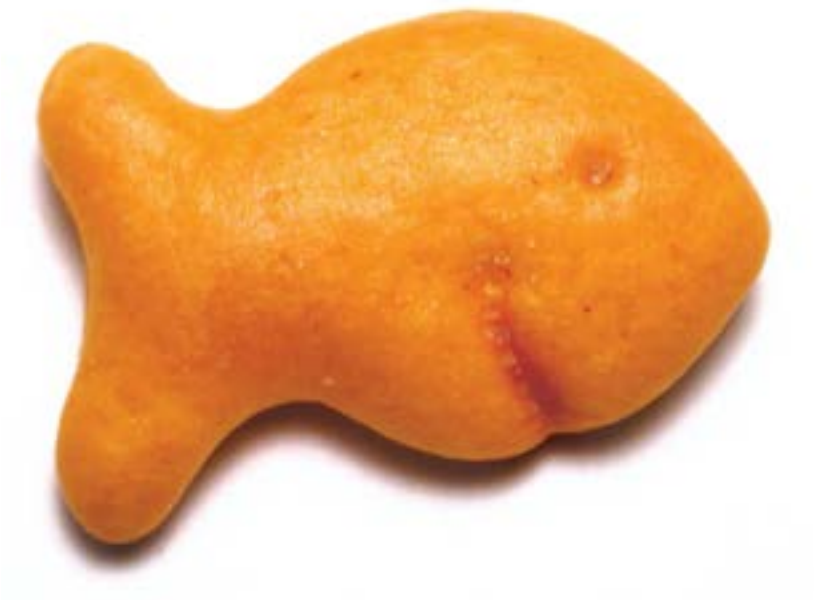
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Sodium is an essential nutrient, but you don’t need much — only around 500 mg (about half the weight of a small paper clip) each day.

In contrast, most Americans are eating around 3,500 mg (about the weight of a penny) per day. Ultra-processed foods are typically high in sodium. Everyone should watch their salt intake, especially those with high blood pressure.

According to the Mao Clinic, the daily limit set by nutrition experts in the U.S. is 2,300 mg for people ages 14 and older. The World Health Organization suggests a limit of 2,000 mg of sodium a day.

Most of the sodium you eat is hidden in prepared foods. And for that reason, many people worldwide take in more sodium than their bodies need. This can put them at higher risk of a long-term illness such as high blood pressure, also called hypertension.



Beyoncé

By Madison Glafenhein



Let's learn about Beyoncé, a pop icon. Beyoncé was born on September 4, 1981, in Houston Texas. In 2025 she finally earned the award for Album of the Year at the 2025 GRAMMYs for Cowboy Carter. The pop icon was stunned as she received the news.

With a total of 35 wins and 99 nominations from the Awards for her music (including her work in Destiny's Child and the Carters), she is the most-awarded and most nominated artist in Grammy history.

She also formed a girl group at age nine and won more than 30 singing and dancing competitions as a child. Oh, and if you go to see her don't wear perfume, (Yes, there are reports suggesting that Beyoncé may be allergic to perfume.) Even if she's allergic to perfume, she developed three of her own: Heat, Rush, and Beyonce Pulse. Her favorite make-up is mascara.

On April 4, 2008, Beyoncé married rapper Jay-Z and changed her name to Beyoncé Giselle Knowles-Carter. Beyoncé released a Spanish version of her album 'B'Day' after the Spanish version of Irreplaceable became a big hit. The word 'bootylicious' was added to the Oxford English Dictionary due to her same-named song becoming such a huge phenomenon.

A Flying Beauty

By Milana Ahje Williams



As to the title you might be wondering what A Flying Beauty is supposed to mean.

To me it means a butterfly, which means hope and transformation. Butterflies have a variety of colors ranging from red to purple and so many other colors.

In journalism our logo is a butterfly "because we are helping children open their wings and fly!

THE YOUNG JOURNALIST

We are helping them grow from little caterpillars to beautiful butterflies who learn how to read, comprehend what they read and express what they learned in complete sentences.

It is like a cycle, just like the logo. First, we start Out fresh not knowing anything about journalism or what it is. Next, we know a little, then this is when we get to the good part, and lastly, we are successful just like a butterfly.



Butterfly cycle

Monarch Butterflies are at risk.



Though Monarch butterflies may be pretty they are nearly becoming extinct, because a few reasons, such as Loss of environment, changes in weather, and Sickness.

But there are many questions about these pretty butterflies so the next time you see one of these butterflies think and stay curious.

The Little Bee Making Us Proud

By Malaysia Smith



Have you ever thought bees were scary. Well, most people think that bees and very harming, but they are not because they help us.

You may be thinking how in the world do bees help us. Well, they do a lot for us, and I will tell you more and will go into detail about this. There are approximately 20,000 different types of bees.

According to UN Environment Programme, “Bees are part of the biodiversity on which we all depend for our survival. They provide high-quality food—honey, royal jelly and pollen — and other products such as beeswax, propolis and honeybee venom. A third of the world’s food production depends on bees.”

As you know or if you don't know bees are black and furry insects. You also may be wondering why bees buzz. Well, the buzz is the sound of their wings beating thousands of times per minute.

Here are four facts about bees.

1. Bees have five eyes
2. A honeybee can fly up to 15 miles per hour.
3. Honeybees dance to communicate
4. Honeybees can see ultraviolet light.

Now you know what bees do. There’s no need to worry about bees hurting you.

Tacos

By Tatianna



Did you know that tacos, a Mexican food, date back to the 18th Century? Some people think that they were invented between 1000 and 500 B.C. Before the arrival of Europeans tacos were enjoyed by indigenous people. In 1914, the first taco dish was included in an English cookbook.

Taco Bell was named after Glen Bell. Bell opened the first Taco Bell restaurant back in 1962 in Downey, California. Before Taco Bell, he originally owned and operated a hamburger stand called Bell's Hamburgers in California, built in 1948 on the border of San Bernardino and the city of Colton.

There are about 800,000 restaurants that serve Mexican food. According to *The Hill*, the Pew Research Center counted 788,018 restaurants operating nationwide, based on SafeGraph's data as of March 23, 2023.

Do you want to know the weight of the largest Taco? Around 1,000 pounds!



World's largest taco, made in Mexico.

Tacos can be built with anything, so who knows what was in that one!

We celebrate tacos on October 3rd, as this is National Taco Day. Usually, people eat an average of three to four tacos. At the most, maybe seven, but did you know that Joey Chestnut ate the most tacos in 2017 in eight minutes? That was 126 tacos, a world record. His prize was $ 2.00! He also holds the world records for eating hot dogs and chicken wings.



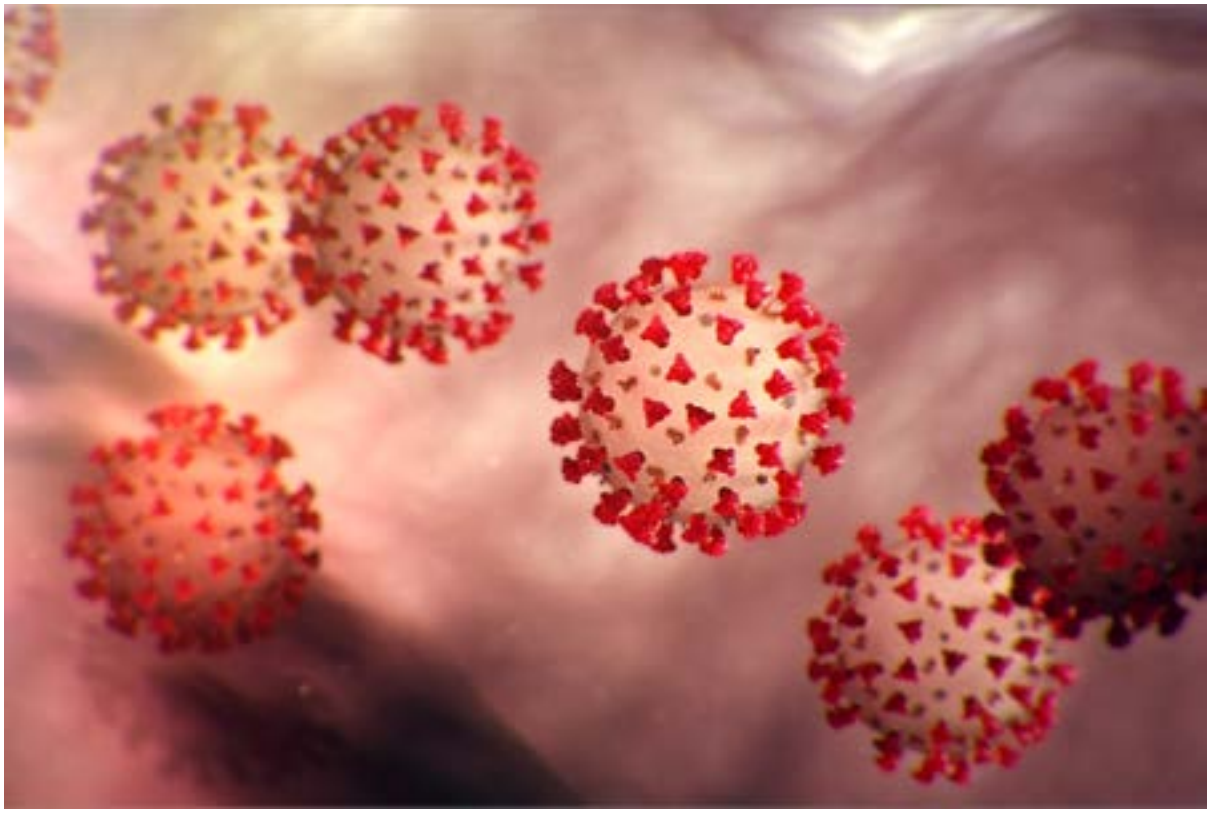
Joey Chestnut

Treasure Coast Elementary



The Talk of COVID-19

By Aaliyah Rivera



Today, we are going to talk about COVID-19, a serious illness that has affected many people around the world. In this article, I will help you understand COVID-19 and everything you need to know about taking action. Let's get started.

The Basics Of COVID-19

COVID-19, also known as coronavirus disease 2019, is an illness caused by a virus. It started spreading in late 2019 and became a global pandemic in 2020. Many people who test positive for COVID-19 have barely any symptoms, but others may be predisposed to a more serious illness. For individuals at risk, COVID-19 can lead to more urgent medical care or possibly even conclude to death.

Well… What Does COVID-19 Mean?

This question confuses a lot of people! Well, the definition of “coronavirus” comes from a family of coronaviruses that make up a number of different diseases. Some coronaviruses cause the common cold while others can lead to more emergent illnesses, like COVID-19. The name, COVID-19, is actually a mixture of three words. CO stands for “corona,” meaning crown in Latin inspired by the crown-like spikes on the virus’ surface. VI stands for “virus” and D stands for

“disease.” The 19 is used because it spread wild in the year of 2019. can cause diseases in both animals and humans.

How Did COVID-19 Begin?

The exact beginnings of COVID-19 are still technically unknown. Many scientists believe COVID-19 started in Wuhan, China at a market that sold wild animals. They think the virus may have come from bats, but it's unclear how it transferred over to humans. When animal illnesses jump to humans, it is known as a zoonotic spillover.

How Is COVID-19 Spread?

The main cause of the spread of COVID-19 is close contact. When an infected person talks, breaths, or coughs, tiny droplets release into the air. These droplets can travel through the air and land on surfaces. If someone comes in contact with these microscopic air droplets, they can become infected with COVID-19. This is why it's important to wash your hands regularly and avoid touching your face!



Symptoms of COVID-19

People with COVID-19 experience symptoms like fever, cough, tiredness, sore throat, and shortness of breath. Some people might be asymptomatic and not show any symptoms at all. It is important to remember that COVID-19 symptoms are similar to flu or common cold symptoms. Because of this, testing is needed to confirm if someone has COVID-19.

Who Is at Risk?

While anyone can get COVID-19, certain groups are at higher risk of becoming seriously ill. This includes older adults and people with underlying health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease. Younger children, especially newborns, are also highly predisposed to getting COVID-19.

Preventing the Spread

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, it's important to do the following:
Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
Wear a mask in crowded areas.
Social distance: stay 6 feet away from others.
Do not touch your face
Stay home if you're feeling unwell
Follow local health guidelines.

Quarantine

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many people had to stay home to help stop the spread. For over a year, most children went to school from their own homes. For most parents, work was done from home. This was called quarantine. People could not visit friends, go to group events, or travel like they once did. It was a big change for the world. Quarantine sometimes felt lonely or hard for many people around the world. However, quarantine helped keep people safe and gave doctors time to learn more about how to treat COVID-19.

Conclusion

About 190 million people worldwide have gotten COVID-19, the human brain cannot even comprehend such a large number! Sadly, because many people have not gotten the care they need, over 4 million deaths happened due to COVID-19. Thanks to coronavirus testing, vaccines, and other preventative measures, COVID-19 rates have largely declined. COVID-19 is a serious illness that changed the way we live forever. By understanding how it spreads and taking steps to protect ourselves, we can help reduce the impact. Remember to stay informed, follow health guidelines, and take care of each other!

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

By Abigail James



Ruth Bader Ginsburg has inspired tens of thousands of women to break gender barriers, even after facing such discrimination herself. Ginsburg's most well-known achievement is becoming the second woman, and first Jewish woman, to serve on the Supreme Court. Ginsburg is commonly called "R.B.G." by her supporters.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was born into a Jewish family in Brooklyn, New York on March 15, 1933. Her father, Nathan Bader, came to the United States as an immigrant when he was only 13! Ginsburg's mother, Celia Bader, was born and raised in New York. Ginsburg's family cared deeply about education and encouraged her to love learning. Before continuing her education journey at Cornell University, Ginsburg went to P.S. 238 Anne Sullivan Elementary School and James Madison High School in Brooklyn. Ginsburg graduated Cornell in 1954 with a bachelor's degree. She earned high honors in Government and did well in all of her classes. She also became the Marshal for the College of Arts and Sciences Class. That same year, she married Martin D. Ginsburg. The couple eventually had two children together: Jane Ginsburg and James Steven Ginsburg.

After graduating from Cornell, Ginsburg started attending Harvard Law School. At Harvard, she was one of only nine women in a class of 500!

Harvard Law School was mostly male, causing Ginsburg to face frequent gender discrimination. Because the law program was very male dominated, many of Ginsburg's male peers thought she was simply there for "comic relief." Ginsburg was even excluded from using some parts of the library.

In 1958, Ginsburg transferred to Columbia Law School for her last year. In 1959, she graduated from Columbia at the top of her class with her law degree. Even with all of these academic and personal achievements, it was hard for Ginsburg to find a job after graduating. According to her own words, Ginsburg said, "In the fifties, the traditional law firms were just beginning to turn around on hiring Jews … But to be a woman, a Jew, and a mother to boot, that combination was a bit much." In 1959, she found a position as a law clerk for Edmund L. Palmieri. Palmieri was a judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Ginsburg stayed at this job until 1961.

In 1980, Ginsburg was chosen by President Jimmy Carter to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. She worked there for thirteen years. In 1993, President Bill Clinton nominated Ginsburg to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. On August 10, 1993, she accepted the nomination and took her seat in the Supreme Court.

She became the first Jewish woman, and the second woman ever, to serve on the Supreme Court! As a justice, Ginsburg strongly believed in gender equality and women's rights. She wrote the Supreme Court's opinion in the *United States v. Virginia* case, saying that qualified women could not be denied the chance to go to the Virginia Military Institute. In 2009, Ginsburg also worked with President Barack Obama on the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to fight unfair pay differences.

Sadly, Ginsburg died at the age of 87 on September 18, 2020, from metastatic pancreatic cancer. Ruth Bader Ginsburg is an amazing person who deserves to be remembered and respected. Her hard work and courage continue to inspire people all around the world. From breaking barriers in law school to becoming the first Jewish woman on the Supreme Court, Ginsburg changed history, fought for fairness, and proved that one voice can make a powerful difference!

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Disney's Epcot

By Aspen Furphy



Disney's Epcot is a theme park that shows many different countries from around the world. When you go to Epcot, you can experience countries that you might not have traveled to before. You can learn about their food, culture, music, and history all in one place!

Epcot's Spaceship Earth is the main ride inside the big Epcot ball, which is called a geodesic sphere. This ride tells the story of how humans have shared ideas and invented new things through time. It has had four different narrators over the years, including Scar from The Lion King! Spaceship Earth is the most famous landmark in the park and is one of the first things you see when you walk in.

Epcot's original name was Epcot Center, but the name officially changed in 1993. The word "Epcot" stands for "Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow." That means it was meant to be a place where people could see new inventions and ideas for the future.

Epcot is one of the four theme parks at Walt Disney World in Florida. It celebrates human achievement, cool technology, and cultures from all around the world. There are 11 countries in the World Showcase part of Epcot. These countries are Canada, United Kingdom, France, Morocco, Japan, United States, Italy, Germany, China, Mexico, and Norway. Each country has special food, shops, and buildings that look like real places from that country.

There are also 11 rides in Epcot!

Here is a list of these rides: Journey into Imagination with Figment, Mission Space, Living with the Land, Gran Fiesta Tour with The Three Caballeros, The Seas with Nemo and Friends, Soaring' Around the World, Remy's Ratatouille Adventure, Guardians of the Galaxy Cosmic Rewind, Spaceship Earth, Frozen Ever After, and Test Track. Some rides are calm and relaxing, while others are super-fast and exciting!

Do not worry if you dislike rides, there are tons of shops and stores all around the park. You can buy toys, clothes, snacks, and souvenirs from all the different countries. There are also shows and music performances. There is something fun for everyone at Epcot!

Epcot is a fun and educational place where you can explore the world, go on awesome rides, and learn new things—all in one day. Epcot has something for everyone.

The Dusky Dolphin

By Chloe Cregut



The Dusky Dolphin is a beautiful dolphin with special markings. Their faces are con shaped and their foreheads slope down to a short, dark-colored beak. Dusky Dolphins look like they are wearing eye masks that stand out against their lighter faces. They also have dark lips and snout tips. Their bodies are patterned: the back is dark gray to bluish black, the belly is white, and the sides are gray. The dorsal fin is tall and curved with two colors: a dark front edge and a lighter back edge. The flippers are dark, long, and curved with pointed tips. Their tails, called flukes, have pointy ends and are dark all over.

Where Do They Live?

Dusky Dolphins live in parts of the Southern Hemisphere in cool coastal and temperate waters. They usually live near the continental shelf or slope but can also live in deeper water close to shore. They are found off the coasts of New Zealand, South America, southwestern Africa, and some other ocean islands. There are four subspecies of Dusky Dolphins, and they are all separated by entire oceans. The largest Dusky Dolphins are found off the coast of Peru.

What Is It Like to Live as a Dusky Dolphin?

Life as a Dusky Dolphin is full of action! Experts say they are the most active of all dolphin species. Dusky Dolphins are super social and love to be in groups. They are fast swimmers and are always on the move. They are amazing at acrobatics and are known for their high jumps, flips, and twists.

Dusky Dolphins usually live in groups of 20 or more, and sometimes in huge groups of 500-1,000 dolphins! Even larger groups of up to 2,000 gather to feed near Kaikōura, New Zealand in April and May when prey is easy to find. They work together to catch fish and often show off cool acrobatic tricks while doing it. These leaps and flips help them see each other and stay in sync while hunting.

Dusky Dolphins are always interacting and watching each other. Scientists have learned a lot about Dusky Dolphins by studying their bodies in Peru, where thousands have been killed. These studies have helped us learn about how they live. Female Dusky Dolphins can start having babies when they are between 4.3 and 6.3 years old. Each Dusky Dolphin pregnancy lasts about 12.9 months. The babies nurse for about a year and the mothers usually wait 3-4 years before having another baby.

How Fast Can Dusky Dolphins Swim?

Dusky Dolphins can swim up to 55 kilometers per hour (34 miles per hour)! They are super-fast and very playful. They live in groups called pods and love to jump, race, and play in the water.

What Do Dusky Dolphins Eat?

Dusky Dolphins eat a variety of different fish. They like schooling fish such as anchovies, mackerel, and sardines. Dusky Dolphins also eat deep water fish like hake, lantern fish, and different kinds of squid. Their hunting style changes depending on what they are trying to catch. In New Zealand, they often rest during the day and go into deeper water at night to hunt. When food is close to shore, they feed during the day with their pod. Some common foods include anchovies, hake, sculpins, lantern fish, horse mackerel, red cod, and different squids like Lorigo, Nototodarus, and Todarodes.

Do Dusky Dolphins Mate with Other Dolphins?

Yes, Dusky Dolphins do mate with other dolphin species. There have been many sightings of hybrid dolphins. Hybrid dolphins are a mix between Dusky Dolphins and another kind, such as a Southern Right Whale Dolphin or a Common Dolphin. These hybrid dolphins have characteristics from both kinds of dolphins.

What Are the Main Threats to Dusky Dolphins?

The main threat to Dusky Dolphins is hunting. In Chile and Peru, tens of thousands of Dusky Dolphins have been killed for shark bait and human food. Although hunting dolphins is now illegal, it still happens often and poses a serious impact to the population of Dusky Dolphins. In the 1990s, about 15,000-20,000 dolphins were deliberately killed each year. Almost 79% of those were Dusky Dolphins.

Another big threat is entanglement in fishing nets. Dusky Dolphins often get caught in fishing gear like trawl nets, purse seines, and gillnets. This still happens often in South America, causing a dangerous threat to the Dusky Dolphin population.

Disturbance is also a serious threat to Dusky Dolphins. In places like New Zealand and Argentina, there are concerns about the year-round whale-watching and swim-with-dolphin tours. These boats can disturb the dolphins especially during their rest times. If they do not get enough rest, it can affect their fitness levels and cause poor health.

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Paper Mario Games

By Eliot Baker

Today we will review all the Paper Mario games and facts to help you understand how to play. For those of you who do not know what Paper Mario is and want to know more about each of the five games, you came to the right place!



What are the Paper Mario games?

Let's begin with where it all started. The Paper Mario series was published by Nintendo in the year of 2000. There are five different games in the Paper Mario series. Players of the game control a paper cutout version of Mario to defeat the enemy. The games are in 3D, but the characters are drawn in 2D. Mario is the main character of the game. The goal is to role play and move around to conquer obstacles. The cute and creative paper-like battles are just one of the many things that make Paper Mario a great game. The visual design of this series helps players stretch their imagination and distract them from the hard quests.

Paper Mario – 2000

Paper Mario is the first game of the series. It was released in Japan in 2000 and became available internationally in 2001. In this game, Bowser steals the Star Rod from Star Haven and Mario must defeat him. The focus of the game is the battle against Bowser, but Mario can also interact with the outside environment. In the beginning, Blue Toad is introduced to talk to

players. Make sure to listen to Blue Toad because there will not be another chance to talk to him! This game can be played on the Nintendo 64.

Paper Mario The Thousand Year Door – 2004

As the second game of the Paper Mario series, The Thousand Year Door was released in July of 2004. Players will encounter many surprises in this exciting version. Some main characters of The Thousand Year Door include Mario, Peach, Bowser, Goombella, etc. There are special moves in this game, such as collecting crystal stars to unlock more power moves. The goal for The Thousand Year Door is to earn and master badges to grow your character's statistics. In 2008, this game created a lawsuit because of the song *You're So Cool.* Nintendo needed special permission to use this song, but the lawsuit was quickly dropped. In 2023, Nintendo created a remake of The Thousand Year Door with better graphics, enhanced animation, and new music. This game can be played on the Nintendo GameCube.

Super Paper Mario – 2007

In this third game of Paper Mario, Luigi's and Mario's relaxing afternoon is interrupted by terrible news: someone kidnapped Princess Peach! Believing Bowser is the kidnapper, Mario and Luigi immediately head to his castle, but Bowser is sadly surprised by the bad news. Players will meet a butterfly Pixl named Tippi and a wizard named Merlon. Tippi and Merlon help defeat the antagonist, Dimentio, who threatens with the Chaos Heart. The Chaos Heart is Count Bleck's power plan to force Bowser and Peach to get married. Mario and Merlon become close friends, and Merlon helps cheer Mario up from the stress of Count Bleck's minions. In this version, you can stomp through beautiful 2D worlds, and with a press of a button, flip right into 3D. In the 3D universe, players can discover hidden pathways and uncover deep secrets. The Super Paper Mario of 2007 sure is a wild adventure! This game can be played on the Wii.

Paper Mario Sticker Star – 2012

Paper Mario Sticker Star is the fourth game of this series. In this game, something sticky (but fun!) is going on in Decalburg. When Bowser comes along, he messes up the whole Sticker Fest by smashing the Sticker Comet. Now shiny royal stickers and comet pieces are everywhere, and it's up to Mario to fix everything. Get ready for a cool adventure in Sticker Star if you want to explore colorful places, fight bad guys, and find awesome stickers to use in smart ways. This game is great for new and old fans of Paper Mario. Get ready to have a blast in this universe! This game can be played on the Nintendo 3DS.

Paper Mario The Origami King – 2020

The final game in the Paper Mario series is The Origami King. This game is my personal favorite in the franchise because of its' advanced development and high popularity. Many players believe The Origami King to be the best Paper Mario game ever created, and you might too!

In this game, the kingdom is in big trouble because of some scary origami. You, as Mario, and your sidekick, Olivia, go on a journey to fight the bad paper guys. Mario and Olivia go through lots of tricky challenges full of sad and happy moments. There are toads in The Origami King that are very nice if you help them. They will compliment you if you save them and help you in a battle if you give them coins. The main goal of this game is to fix the world, defeat bad guys, and save Princess Peach's castle. Get ready for a super funny adventure if you want to play Paper Mario the Origami King! This game can only be played on the Nintendo Switch.

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Unveiling the Magic of Harry Potter

By Elizabeth Brown

Harry Potter lived with his aunt, uncle, and cousin— The Dursleys— until he was eleven years old. Then everything changed. One day while getting the mail, Harry found a letter addressed to him. It was from a place called Hogwarts. Harry got so many letters that his Uncle Vernon decided they had to move so no one could find them. In the middle of the night, someone came to find Harry. His name was Rubeus Hagrid. He brought Harry a happy birthday message and a new letter. Then he took Harry to a magical place called Diagon Alley.

The Owl, The Books, The Wand, and The Train

Harry and Hagrid got to Diagon Alley through the Leaky Cauldron. Hagrid went off to buy Harry's school books, robes, and owl. Harry went to a shop called Ollivanders to find his wand. He tried many wands until he found the perfect one: a holly wood wand with a phoenix feather core. But the wand maker, Mr. Ollivander, told Harry to beware because his wand was the twin of the one that gave him the scar from Voldemort.

Later, Hagrid took Harry to King's Cross Station and gave him a ticket for Platform Nine and Three Quarters. Harry did not know what this meant, but he saw a kind family— the Weasleys— and asked them for help. Mrs. Weasley was very nice and assured him it was okay. She told Harry that her son, Ron, was going to Hogwarts for the first time too. She helped him get onto the platform. Once on the train, Harry found an empty compartment. Ron decides to sit with him, and Harry did not yet know how important their friendship would be. Little did he know what was in store for the next several years!

The Perseverance of Harry Potter

Harry Potter was in for a wild and bumpy ride. As the years continued on, Harry's life at Hogwarts was full of danger and adventure.
In his first year, Harry fought Voldemort who was hiding on the back of Professor Quirrell's head. In his second year, he fought Tom Riddle— young Voldemort— and a giant snake called the Basilisk. In his third year, he faced and fought scary creatures including Dementors and his teacher, Professor Lupin, who was a werewolf. In his fourth year, he fought Lord Voldemort again after the last task of the Triwizard Tournament. In his fifth year, he battled Voldemort at the Ministry of Magic. In his sixth year, he started hunting for Horcruxes with Professor Dumbledore. In his seventh year, Harry fought in the Battle of Hogwarts and finally defeated Voldemort. Harry Potter's final year at Hogwarts ended Lord Voldemort's reign of terror once and for all.

In the end, Harry and his friends grew up and lived peaceful lives. They got married, had children, and put away their battle wands for good. They all had an amazing adulthood after persevering through the trials and tribulations of Hogwarts.

The Magic of Harry Potter

The magic of Harry Potter is more than just spells and wands. This story is about friendship, courage, and never giving up— even when things are hard. Harry shows us that anyone can be a hero, no matter where they come from. We learn the power of love, hope, and standing up for what's right through all his adventures. That's the real magic!



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Cane Corso vs. German Shepard

By Evelyn Smith

If you have ever wondered about the differences and similarities of a German Shepard and a Cane Corso, you are in the right place! Both dog breeds are very popular for some of the same reasons. In this article, I will tell you everything you need to know about German Shepards and Cane Corsos and what makes them unique!

All About German Shepards



German Shepherds are a medium to large dog breed that can grow as tall as 22-26 inches and weigh 55-95 pounds. Their fur color can be pale gray, white, or black. German Shepards have big, strong, muscular bodies. Their snout is long and wedge-shaped with a black nose. Shepards have slightly pointed ears that stick up 180 degrees. German Shepherds can live up to 14 years with proper care.

Some proper care practices to prolong a Shepard's life may include physical activity, affection, and healthy foods. It is very important for owners to understand German Shepards require daily exercise to keep them healthy. An ideal German Shepard owner will enjoy playing outdoors often.

According to USA Today, German Shepherds are the fourth most popular dog breed. Considering they are loyal, intelligent, playful, and protective, Shepards are an extremely likable dog breed. German Shepards are naturally emphatic and protective, they crave attention and remain very devoted to their owners. Shepards make great family members because they are affectionate, good with children, and will always have time for you. They love to play, snuggle, and guard. In Britain, German Shepherds are known as Alsatians.

Here are some fun facts about German Shepards:

Confident, brave, and obedient
Average life span of 7-10 years
Originated in Germany in the 1800s
Belong to the herding group of dogs
Lifetime care cost of $15,000-$17,000
Double coat: dense outercoat and soft undercoat
May have straight or wavy fur that is resistant to cold weather
Bred to guide herds of sheep and now often serve as military or police dogs

All About Cane Corsos



In the USA, the Cane Corso is a very popular dog breed. The Cane Corso is an Italian dog breed of mastiff. They are a large dog breed, standing as tall as 24-28 inches and often weighing over 100 pounds. Surprisingly enough, Cane Corsos date all the way back to Roman times! In the past, Cane Corsos were used to hunt and herd. Nowadays, they are often cared for as companion dogs or guard dogs.

Cane Corsos are known to have a strikingly strong appearance because of their large head and muscular body. While they do have a protective personality, Cane Corso's can make the perfect companion for the right owner. They are protective, loyal, affectionate, and active. The Cane Corso breed enjoys constant activity, both mental and physical. A fierce protector of their owners, Cane Corso's are ranked the twelfth strongest dog it the world!

Here are some fun facts about Cane Corsos:

Descends from ancient Roman dogs
Belong to the working group of dogs
Average life span of 9-12 years
Weight range of 88-120 pounds
Lifetime care cost of $10,000-$20,000
Short fur with smooth texture, double coat
Fur color can be black, gray, maroon, or brown
Worked as warrior dogs in ancient Greece during Roman wars

Can you put German Shepards and Cane Corso's together?

With proper training and socialization, you can pair German Shepards and Cane Corso's with no problems! Though they usually get along, there are some factors to consider before putting these two dog breeds together. It is important to socialize them with other dogs during their early puppy years to encourage friendly interaction.

Both German Shepards and Cane Corso's have strong guarding instincts, which could lead to conflicts in dominance. Depending on their lifestyles, the Cane Corso has a potential advantage of physical strength over the German Shepard. Always be cautious when putting German Shepards and Cane Corso's together and make sure they have a safe environment to meet in. If you train these two dog breeds as puppies and gradually introduce them together, they may become lifelong friends!

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Vero Beach Elementary



The Importance of Nature

By Josie Smithson



Nature is important to all living things such as people, animals, and plants. Nature provides homes for people, plants, and animals. For example, birds live in trees, and trees are a part of nature. Many houses that humans live in are built from wood. Wood is a very useful resource of nature that comes from trees. Floors, tools, and house decor come from wood as well. Many children nowadays spend most of their time inside. Time in nature is not only fun, but it is important! Research proves that students who spend more time outside are happier, more focused, and less anxious.

Will Nature Always be with Us?

Many people believe that nature will always be with us, but this is not true. Many animals are endangered such as starlings, tigers, house sparrows, red pandas, giant pandas, blue whales, and many more. The blue whales and all the other endangered creatures are endangered because of us! About half of the ocean animals have eaten or gotten trapped by trash that people throw in the ocean. Many other animals eat or get trapped in trash on land that human's litter.

We Must Protect Nature

Nature is very important because it gives us food, clean air, fresh water, and a safe place to live. Animals and plants also need nature to survive. If we do not take care of the Earth, we will lose beautiful forests, oceans, and animals forever. We can help protect nature by picking up trash, recycling, saving water, and being kind to animals. Every little action makes a big difference. We must work together to keep nature safe and healthy for everyone!

Fun Facts About Nature

Trees can communicate with their roots
Dolphins give each other names
African buffalos make decisions by voting
Bamboo is the world's fastest growing plant
There are more trees on Earth than stars in the Milky Way
Forests can make rain
Elephants never forget
Sharks were around before dinosaurs
Dolphins can show signs of empathy
Trees can fight back
Orcas are dolphins

I hope you enjoyed reading all about the importance of nature and perhaps learned something new! Below, enjoy a survey of questions about the information written in this article:

Were sharks born before dinosaurs?
O Yes
O No

2. How are humans affecting animals?
O Littering trash
O Hunting them
O Taking away their lands
O All of the above

3. Trees communicate through their leaves.
O True
O False

4. Which of the following is an endangered species?
O Red pandas
O Blue whales
O Tigers
O All of the above

5. What can we do to protect nature?
O Mining
O Littering
O Recycling
O Hunting

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Idaho Knowledge

By Lilith Camunas



Archaeologists have recently discovered something big about Idaho! You are probably curious about what they discovered. Well, they discovered a blade, not just an ordinarily common blade, but a blade that has been around for an estimated time of 13,500 years! This is proof that people lived here a long time before us! Archaeologists did research on this blade and discovered that lots of Native American tribes lived in Idaho. Six of these tribes are known as: Nez Perce, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai, Shoshone, Bannock, and Blackfoot. These six tribes still live in Idaho today!

Around 1805, the first non-native people traveled into Idaho. These two individuals were Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Idaho was originally claimed by the U.S. and Great Britain during the Oregon Treaty. After the discovery of gold across the land, around the year of 1863, Idaho quickly became its' own territory. About 17 years later, Idaho became the 43rd state.

How Did Idaho Get Its Name?

When a few officials proposed the name “Idaho” people thought it came from a Native American word that meant “Gem of the Mountains,” but they were mistaken. Though it may refer to the number of metals, gems, and crystals dug up in Idaho’s mountains, the name “Idaho” was completely made up! Some of these discoveries from the mountains in Idaho even include star garnet, the state’s gem.

Idaho’s Geography and Landforms

Idaho is bordered in the north by Canada, in the east by Montana and Wyoming, in the south by Nevada, and in the west by Oregon and Washington. Idaho can be divided into three different major regions.

The first major region is the Rocky Mountains, which rise across the north and middle of the state. The state’s highest point is about 12,662 feet (about half the height of Mount Everest!). There is also something called the “panhandle,” which is the narrow northernmost part of Idaho. The Rocky Mountains also have deep river-cut canyons and glacial trenches. This includes Hells Canyon, one of the deepest gorges in North America. Hells Canyon is even deeper than the Grand Canyon!

The second major region in Idaho is called the Columbia Plateau. It spreads across the southern part of Idaho. This part of Idaho is very flat because of volcanic eruptions that happened from around 15,000 years ago to 2,000 years ago. Some mountains are still standing there today, but not many.

The last major region is the Basin and Range Province in the southeast of Idaho. This part is full of grassy plains and plateaus. It also includes part of the fertile Bear River Basin and a few high ridges.

Wildlife in The Potato State

Some of Idaho’s mammals are large. These may include black bears, moose, bighorn sheep, woodland caribou, and more. The state’s smaller mammals include the Idaho pocket gopher and the Idaho ground squirrel.

Don’t forget the 400 distinct species of birds! Some birds that fly across the region include yellow-billed cuckoos, great horned owls, downy woodpeckers, Lincoln's sparrows, and bobolinks (tiny blackbirds).
Some of the amphibians here are the Idaho giant salamanders, Coeur d’Alene salamanders, tailed frogs, and others. Some reptiles found in Idaho are painted turtles, northern alligator lizards, and western terrestrial garter snakes slithering across the state.

Idaho has the largest stand of western white pines in North America! The largest western white pine stands at 219 feet (which is taller than Cinderella's Castle at Disney World!). Other trees you are likely to see are the Douglas fir, western hemlock, ponderosa pine, and the western redcedar. Some bright, colorful wildflowers in Idaho include pink fairies, orange daylilies, sticky purple geraniums, and crown vetch.

Natural Resources

Even if Idaho being called the Gem State came from a made-up word, believe it or not, the state is full of gems and minerals. In fact, Idaho produces around 72 different gemstones a year! Some of these gemstones that sometimes get mined are rare star garnets, amethyst, rubies, and diamonds. Other materials more commonly mined are silver, zinc, lead, and a type of marble called travertine.

Fun Facts!

In Blackfoot, there is the Idaho Potato Museum where people can get a tuber-themed tour excursion. This place is also known for its healthy crops. If you are searching for the museum just look for a huge giant baked potato in front of the building!

Idaho, being the Potato State, has inspired a place to make weird but cool treats! Some of these weirdly cool treats are vanilla ice cream coated in cocoa topped with whipped cream and a treat called "ice cream potatoes." Ice cream potatoes look like a baked potato with sour cream. There is also a sweet treat called the "Idaho spud," which is a marshmallow covered in both chocolate and coconut!

A place called "Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve" in central Idaho is going to feel like a moonwalk! Instead of being on the actual moon, it is actually dried up land that was flooded in lava from eight different volcanic eruptions. This happened over thousands, maybe even millions, of years ago. These volcanoes will not erupt again anytime soon since they are not dead, just dormant.

Sacagawea was a Native American guide for tourists and explorers Lewis and Clark. With her knowledge of local geography, Sacagawea was essential to Lewis' and Clark's success.
The Bitterroot National Forest stretches around Idaho and Montana and is 1.6 million acres. This national park is a beautiful place full of national heritage. The large availability of natural resources allows for a variety of fun opportunities including fisheries, minerals, recreation, wildlife, and more.

An old mining town called Silver City still looks the same as it did a hundred years ago. Today, it is a tourist stop. In the 1860s, its' mines produced about $60 million worth of valuable materials mostly consisting of metals. Tourists and visitors can even stay in a hotel where old-time miners used to sleep!

There is an ice cave in Shoshone called the "Shoshone Ice Cave." This place is a 1,000 foot long lava tube! It also has a depth of around 8-30 feet. The ice forms when air currents flow through the tunnel. If you want to go here and explore the wonders of this lava tube, make sure to dress warmly, even in the summer!

Glossary

Archaeologists: person who studies prehistoric cultures by artifacts, inscriptions, and monuments.

Officials: someone elected to an office who oversees certain duties.

Grand Canyon: a gorge in Arizona that’s over 200 miles long and around a mile deep.

Excursion: a special trip; a group of people going on a journey.

Sacagawea: a Shoshone woman who acted as a guide and interpreter for the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804–1806) by helping them explore the American West.

Beyond The Stats: Cristiano Ronaldo

By Tyler Sanders

Cristiano Ronaldo is a Portuguese professional soccer player who currently plays for Al-Nassr and the Portugal national team. Al-Nassr is a soccer club from Saudi Arabia. It was founded in 1955 and plays in the Saudi Pro League.



Cristiano Ronaldo was born on February 5, 1985, in Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.

Before joining Manchester United in 2003, Ronaldo started his professional soccer career with Sporting CP in Portugal. He played there until he was signed by Manchester United. Ronaldo spent six seasons with Manchester United before joining Real Madrid in 2009. At Real Madrid, he became one of the best soccer players in the world.

Ronaldo joined Juventus in 2018 and won two Series A titles with the club. In 2021, he returned to Manchester United for a second time.

Ronaldo's father, José Dinis Aveiro, worked as the equipment manager for a local soccer club called Andorinha. Cristiano was named after his father's favorite actor, Ronald Reagan, who was the President of the United States when Cristiano was born.

Ronaldo was the first male player to score 900 career goals in official matches. His nickname, CR7, comes from his initials and his favorite jersey number: 7.

Ronaldo is not retired yet. In fact, he might even play in the 2026 World Cup! His professional soccer career has lasted more than 21 years. Everything began with his debut in 2002 when he played for Sporting CP. CR7 continued with teams like Manchester United, Real Madrid, Juventus, and Al-Nassr, as well as the Portugal national team.

Cristiano Ronaldo is known for being a strong and serious competitor on the field, but off the field he is a true family man. He has five children and is married to Georgina Rodríguez. Ronaldo is teaching his kids how he worked hard to become a soccer star.

CR7 shows his children that he did not grow up with a lot of money and had to work very hard to succeed. He learned how to play soccer by going to practice and never giving up. Cristiano Ronaldo has earned his way through life and remains passionate about encouraging his kids to work hard.

In 2009, Ronaldo transferred to Real Madrid for a world record fee of £80 million at the time. He spent nine seasons with Real Madrid and became one of the greatest soccer players of all time.

When Ronaldo was 15 years old, he had heart surgery to fix a problem that made his heart race too fast. After the surgery, he recovered and continued playing soccer at a high level.

Cristiano Ronaldo, also known as CR7, is one of the greats soccer players of all time. Ronaldo has worked hard is entire life, even when times were tough. His story shows that with skill, practice, and determination, you can achieve anything you dream of.



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