

Trivia



Andromeda, also known as M31 and NGC224 is a spiral galaxy similar to our own Milky Way but twice as large. It contains about 400 billion stars.

Urushiol oil is what causes the painful rash in most people who touch poison ivy. Only one-billionth of a gram of urushiol oil is needed to cause a rash.

IKEA is an acronym which stands for Ingvar Kamprad Elmtaryd Agunnaryd, which in order is the founder's first and last name, the farm where he grew up, and his hometown.

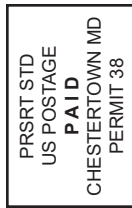
While the phrase "flotsam and jetsam" is mainly used to describe odds and ends each term actually has a specific meaning under maritime law. Flotsam is defined as debris in the water that was not deliberately thrown overboard while jetsam is defined as debris that was deliberately thrown overboard usually by a ship in distress.

Karaoke is a word formed by putting two Japanese words together. "Kara" that comes from Karappo that means empty or void and "Oke", shortened from "Okesutura" meaning orchestra.

The name May is the modern-day English adaptation of the Latin word Maius, which has origins going back to the time of the ancient Greeks. They named the month of May (or Maius) after the Greek goddess of growth.



The Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) may be a small bird, but each year it travels almost pole to pole. After breeding in the Arctic Circle, these birds migrate during the Northern Hemisphere winter to the border of the Antarctic ice pack. The roundtrip migration is almost equal to flying all the way around the earth -- totaling approximately 25,000 miles (40,000 kilometers).



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Dates in History

1671 On May 9th, Thomas Blood, an Irish adventurer better known as "Captain Blood," was captured attempting to steal the Crown Jewels from the Tower of London. Blood and his four conspirators were arrested by the tower guard, and Blood was brought before the king. Instead of imprisoning him, the king was so impressed with Blood's audacity that he restored all of his estates in Ireland and made him a member of the court with an annual pension.

1810 On May 3rd, George Gordon, also known as Lord Byron, swam across the Hellespont, a tumultuous 4 mile long strait in Turkey that is now known as the Dardanelles. The legendary Greek hero Leander is supposed to have made the same famous swim.

1883 On May 24th, the Brooklyn Bridge opened, connecting the great boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn for the first time in history. Thousands of residents of Brooklyn and Manhattan Island turned out to witness the dedication ceremony, which was presided over by President Chester A. Arthur and New York Governor Grover Cleveland. Designed by the late John A. Roebling, the Brooklyn Bridge was the largest suspension bridge ever built to that date.

1933 On May 2nd, the legend of the Loch Ness Monster was born when a sighting made local news. The newspaper Inverness Courier related an account of a local couple who claimed to have seen an enormous animal "roiling and plunging on the surface" of the Loch.

1941 On May 15th, the first jet-propelled allied aircraft flew over Cranwell, England. The Gloster-Whittle E 28/39 was the first successful test of an allied jet-propelled fighter. The engine was designed by English aviation engineer and pilot Frank Whittle who is regarded as the father of the modern jet engine.

On the Lighter Side

Why did the man get fired from the orange juice factory?
He just couldn't concentrate!

As a security guard, my Boss said my job is to watch the office. I'm on season 6 so far, and not sure what this has to do with security.

What do you call an excited fireplace?
Stoked.

What do you call an iron/carbon alloy that never gets embarrassed?
Shameless steel.

I was in a job interview today when the manager handed me his laptop and said, "I want you to try and sell this to me." So I put it under my arm, walked out of the building and went home. Eventually, he called me on my phone and said, "Bring it back here right now!" I replied, "\$100 and it's yours."

I told my daughter, "Go to bed, the cows are sleeping in the field." Puzzled, she asked, "What's that got to do with anything?" I chuckled, "Well, that means..."
"It's pasture bedtime!"

I bought my wife a fridge as an anniversary present.
I can't wait to see her face light up when she opens it.

My coworkers laugh at my jokes in our in-person meetings, but never in online meetings.

When I asked them why, they said that my jokes weren't remotely funny.