PARTY GAME BOOK

300 fun fact cards

Every fact on our fun facts and trivia page, ten to a sheet, with the page it was checked against printed on each card.

Topics (color bands)

Space and the solar system	33	Earth, weather and geology	22
Oceans, lakes and water	20	Animals	34
Food, plants and farming	24	The human body	24
Science and everyday physics	20	Inventions and technology	18
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Movies, TV and music	19	Words, books and art	13
Games, sports and the Olympics	10	Memory Lane: the 1950s to the 1980s	18

Ways to use them

- **Fact of the day.** Cut a few cards and read one aloud at breakfast, in class or on a long drive.
- **Quiz the room.** Read the fact and stop before the number or name. Let players guess, then finish the sentence.
- **Two truths and a lie.** Deal three cards and change one detail aloud. Players guess which one you changed.
- **Keep it whole.** The sheets work as a reference when you host a trivia night.

Reading the cards

The dots in the top corner show the level: one dot is easy, two is medium, three is hard. The line at the bottom names the source page, so you can settle an argument.

SPACE ●●○

One day on Venus, a single full spin, lasts about 243 Earth days. That is longer than the planet's 225-day year.

SOURCE NASA Science: Venus: Facts

SPACE ●○○

Mercury is closer to the Sun, but Venus is the hottest planet. Its thick atmosphere traps heat, with a surface about 872 degrees Fahrenheit, hot enough to melt lead.

SOURCE NASA Science: Venus: Facts

SPACE ●○○

Mars looks red because iron minerals in its dirt have rusted. Even today, people call it the Red Planet.

SOURCE NASA Science: Mars: Facts

SPACE ●○○

Neil Armstrong was the first person to walk on the Moon, on July 20, 1969. Buzz Aldrin stepped out after him and became the second.

SOURCE NASA: Apollo 11

SPACE ●○○

Jupiter is so big that if it were a hollow shell, more than 1,000 Earths could fit inside it.

SOURCE NASA Science: Jupiter Facts

SPACE ●●○

Ganymede, a moon of Jupiter, is the largest moon in the solar system. It is even bigger than the planet Mercury.

SOURCE NASA Science: Jupiter Facts

SPACE ●○○

Saturn is the only planet in our solar system that is less dense than water. If a bathtub were big enough, Saturn would float.

SOURCE NASA Science: Saturn: Facts

SPACE ●●○

Uranus is tipped over about 98 degrees, so it spins on its side. As it circles the Sun, it seems to roll along like a ball.

SOURCE NASA Science: Uranus: Facts

SPACE ●●●

Neptune was discovered in 1846, but one trip around the Sun takes 165 years. It finished its first full orbit since its discovery in 2011.

SOURCE NASA Science: Neptune: Facts

SPACE ●●○

Pluto got its name in 1930 from an 11-year-old girl in England, Venetia Burney, who suggested it over breakfast.

SOURCE NASA Science: Pluto: Facts

SPACE

The Moon is so far away that 30 Earth-sized planets could fit in the gap between Earth and the Moon.

SOURCE NASA Science: Moon Facts

SPACE

The Moon is slowly drifting away from Earth, getting about an inch farther away each year.

SOURCE NASA Science: Moon Facts

SPACE

Over all the Apollo missions, astronauts brought back a total of 842 pounds of Moon rocks and soil.

SOURCE NASA Science: Moon Facts

SPACE

On Apollo 11, the command module was named Columbia and the lunar module that touched down on the Moon was named Eagle.

SOURCE NASA History: Apollo 11 Mission Overview

SPACE

NASA estimates that about 650 million people watched Neil Armstrong on television as he took his first steps on the Moon in 1969.

SOURCE NASA History: Apollo 11 Mission Overview

SPACE

Armstrong and Aldrin spent 21 hours and 36 minutes on the Moon, but their moonwalk lasted only a little over 2 and a half hours.

SOURCE NASA History: Apollo 11 Mission Overview

SPACE

Neil Armstrong flew the Eagle partly by hand to steer around a crater. Apollo 11 touched down about 4 miles past its planned spot.

SOURCE NASA History: Apollo 11 Mission Overview

SPACE

The Apollo 11 crew left a tiny silicon disk on the Moon. It holds goodwill messages from 73 countries.

SOURCE NASA History: Apollo 11 Mission Overview

SPACE

After the Moon trip, the Apollo 11 astronauts completed a 21-day quarantine before they were free to celebrate with the public.

SOURCE NASA: Apollo 11

SPACE

The Sun is so big that it would take about 1.3 million Earths to fill its volume.

SOURCE NASA Science: Sun: Facts

SPACE ●●●

The Sun's visible surface is about 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit, yet its thin outer atmosphere reaches up to 3.5 million degrees. It gets hotter the farther out it stretches.

SOURCE NASA Science: Sun: Facts

SPACE ●●○

The International Space Station circles Earth every 90 minutes or so, so its crew sees 16 sunrises and 16 sunsets every 24 hours.

SOURCE NASA: International Space Station Facts and Figures

SPACE ●○○

The International Space Station is 356 feet long from end to end, nearly the length of an American football field with its end zones.

SOURCE NASA: International Space Station Facts and Figures

SPACE ●●○

The twin Voyager spacecraft carry a golden record from Earth. A committee led by Carl Sagan of Cornell University chose what went on it.

SOURCE NASA Science: Voyager

SPACE ●●○

If the Sun were swapped for a black hole of the same mass, the solar system would get a lot colder, but the planets would stay in their orbits.

SOURCE NASA Science: Black Holes

SPACE ●●○

Every planet in our solar system is named for a Greek or Roman god except one. Earth's English name comes from an old word meaning "the ground."

SOURCE NASA Science: Facts About Earth

SPACE ●●●

Our solar system orbits the center of the Milky Way, and one lap takes about 230 million years.

SOURCE NASA Science: Solar System Exploration

SPACE ●●○

The James Webb Space Telescope's five-layer sunshield works like sunscreen with an SPF of 1 million.

SOURCE NASA Science: James Webb Space Telescope

SPACE ●○○

Mercury is the smallest planet in our solar system. It is only slightly larger than Earth's Moon.

SOURCE NASA Science: Mercury: Facts

SPACE ●●○

Mars has two small moons, Phobos and Deimos. They are shaped like potatoes because they have too little mass for gravity to pull them into a ball.

SOURCE NASA Science: Mars: Facts

SPACE ●●○

The Sun holds 99.8 percent of all the mass in our solar system. The planets and everything else share the rest.

SOURCE NASA Science: Sun: Facts

SPACE ●○○

Earth is the only planet in our solar system with liquid water on its surface, NASA says.

SOURCE NASA Science: Facts About Earth

SPACE ●●○

Nobody saw the far side of the Moon until 1959, when a Soviet spacecraft flew past it. We only ever see one side from Earth because the Moon is tidally locked.

SOURCE NASA Science: Moon Facts

EARTH ●●○

A lightning bolt can heat the air around it to about 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit, roughly 5 times hotter than the surface of the Sun.

SOURCE National Weather Service: Understanding Lightning Science

EARTH ●○○

Thunder travels about a mile every 5 seconds. Count the seconds between the flash and the boom, divide by 5, and you have the miles to the lightning.

SOURCE National Weather Service: Understanding Lightning Science

EARTH ●●○

Raindrops are not shaped like teardrops. Small ones are round, and larger ones flatten into a shape more like a hamburger bun.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey: Are Raindrops Shaped Like Teardrops?

EARTH ●○○

Death Valley, California, recorded an air temperature of 134 degrees Fahrenheit on July 10, 1913. The National Park Service lists it as the world record high.

SOURCE National Park Service: Weather – Death Valley National Park

EARTH ●●○

The South Pole is much colder than the North Pole. In each pole's own summer, the North Pole averages 32 degrees Fahrenheit, but the South Pole averages about minus 18.

SOURCE NASA Science: Which Pole Is Colder?

EARTH ●○○

Most of the air we breathe is not oxygen. Earth's air is about 78 percent nitrogen and only 21 percent oxygen.

SOURCE NASA Science: Facts About Earth

EARTH ●●●

High in the thermosphere the temperature can hit 3,600 degrees Fahrenheit, yet it would not heat your skin, because there are so few air molecules there.

SOURCE NOAA JetStream: Layers of the Atmosphere

EARTH ●●○

California's San Andreas Fault Zone moves about 2 inches a year on average, roughly the rate your fingernails grow.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey: Cool Earthquake Facts

EARTH ●●●

After a huge earthquake in Chile in 1960, seismic waves traveled all the way around the planet and kept the whole Earth shaking for many days.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey: Cool Earthquake Facts

EARTH ●○○

About 90 percent of the world's earthquakes happen in the Ring of Fire, a zone of volcanoes and ocean trenches around the Pacific Ocean.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey: Cool Earthquake Facts

EARTH ●●●

A 1985 earthquake in Mexico sloshed so much water out of a swimming pool at the University of Arizona, about 1,240 miles away, that the pool lost water.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey: Cool Earthquake Facts

EARTH ●●○

The Himalaya-Karakoram range in Asia holds 96 of the world's 109 peaks taller than 24,000 feet.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey: Cool Earthquake Facts

EARTH ●●●

Everest has the highest summit above sea level, but Ecuador's Mount Chimborazo sticks out farthest from Earth's center. The planet bulges at the Equator, and Chimborazo sits right near it.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: What is the highest point on Earth as measured from Earth's center?

EARTH ●●○

Hawaii's Mauna Loa is Earth's largest active volcano. It covers just over half of the Big Island.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey: Mauna Loa

EARTH ●○○

The 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens in Washington State blew away the top 1,300 feet of the mountain, leaving a giant horseshoe-shaped crater.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey: Mount St. Helens

EARTH ●●●

After Mount Pinatubo erupted in the Philippines in 1991, a cloud of ash and gas drifted around the world, cooling temperatures a bit and making brilliant sunsets.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey: How many active volcanoes are there on Earth?

EARTH ●●●

A typical eruption of Old Faithful sends up about 7,370 gallons of water, which is roughly the same as 140 bathtubs.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey, Yellowstone Volcano Observatory: How much water erupts from Old Faithful Geyser?

EARTH

Kentucky's Mammoth Cave is the world's longest known cave system. Its network of passages stretches over 400 miles.

SOURCE National Park Service: Mammoth Cave National Park

EARTH

The trunk of the General Sherman Tree, a giant sequoia in California, weighs nearly 1,400 tons, about as much as 15 adult blue whales.

SOURCE National Park Service: The General Sherman Tree

EARTH

More than 80 percent of Earth's surface, counting both land and the sea floor, is of volcanic origin.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey: How many active volcanoes are there on Earth?

EARTH

Most of the rumbling noise you hear in an earthquake comes from buildings and their contents shaking, because the quake waves themselves are mostly too low-pitched to hear.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey: Cool Earthquake Facts

EARTH

Yellowstone's Steamboat Geyser is the geyser with the tallest eruptive plume in the world, and its big eruptions send out far more water than Old Faithful's.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey, Yellowstone Volcano Observatory: How much water erupts from Old Faithful Geyser?

WATER

Scientists say Earth has just one global ocean, covering 71 percent of the planet. The Pacific, Atlantic and the rest are named regions of it.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: How many oceans are there?

WATER

Earth's longest mountain range is mostly underwater. The mid-ocean ridge winds 40,389 miles around the globe like the seams on a baseball.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: What is the longest mountain range on earth?

WATER

About 97 percent of all the water on Earth is in the ocean. Another 2 percent or so is frozen in glaciers and ice caps.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: How much water is in the ocean?

WATER

Roughly half of the oxygen produced on Earth comes from the ocean, mostly from drifting plankton too small to see.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: How much oxygen comes from the ocean?

WATER

According to NOAA, the world's highest tides are in Canada's Bay of Fundy, the body of water between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: Where is the highest tide?

WATER ●●●

The Sargasso Sea in the Atlantic is the only sea in the world with no land boundary. Ocean currents, not coastlines, form its edges.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: What is the Sargasso Sea?

WATER ●○○

Coral looks like a plant, but it is an animal. Reefs are built by tiny soft-bodied polyps, most no thicker than a nickel, that make hard limestone skeletons.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: Are corals animals or plants?

WATER ●●○

Most of the ocean is completely dark. Hardly any sunlight reaches below 656 feet, and none reaches deeper than 3,280 feet.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: Why is the ocean blue?

WATER ●●●

By one estimate, the ocean's salt spread evenly over all of Earth's land would form a layer more than 500 feet thick, about as tall as a 40-story building.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey: Why is the Ocean Salty?

WATER ●○○

Explorer Ferdinand Magellan named the Pacific Ocean in 1520 because its water was so calm. The word "pacific" means peaceful.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: How did the Pacific Ocean get its name?

WATER ●○○

The Pacific Ocean covers more than 30 percent of Earth's surface. It is bigger than all of the world's continents put together.

SOURCE NOAA Ocean Exploration: How big is the Pacific Ocean?

WATER ●●○

The deepest known spot in the ocean is Challenger Deep, in the Pacific's Mariana Trench. It lies 35,876 feet (10,935 meters) down.

SOURCE NOAA Ocean Exploration: How deep is the ocean?

WATER ●●○

Sailors told tales of freak waves for centuries, but scientists only accepted rogue waves as real in the last few decades. These waves are more than twice the size of the waves around them.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: What is a rogue wave?

WATER ●●○

Out in deep water, a tsunami can travel as fast as a jet plane without growing much in height. It slows down and builds up only as it nears shallow water.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: What is a tsunami?

WATER ●●○

Ice experts call a small chunk of floating ice, about the size of a truck or a grand piano, a growler.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: What is an iceberg?

WATER ●●○

Crater Lake in Oregon fills the hole left when a volcano collapsed about 7,700 years ago. It is the deepest lake in the United States.

SOURCE National Park Service: Frequently Asked Questions – Crater Lake National Park

WATER ●●○

Lake Baikal in Siberia holds about as much water as all of North America's Great Lakes put together, more than 23,000 cubic kilometers.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey: Lakes and Reservoirs

WATER ●●○

Greenland's ice is nearly 2 miles thick in places. It is so heavy that it has pressed parts of the land well below sea level.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey: Glaciers and Icecaps

WATER ●●○

Ocean waves carry energy across the sea, not water. The water itself mostly moves in circles as each wave passes through.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: Why does the ocean have waves?

WATER ●○○

A hurricane and a typhoon are the same kind of storm. The only difference is where it forms: typhoons are in the northwest Pacific.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: What is the difference between a hurricane and a typhoon?

ANIMALS ●●○

A giraffe's neck is about 6 feet long, yet it has just seven neck bones, the same number a human has.

SOURCE San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance: Giraffe

ANIMALS ●●○

A cheetah can go from standing still to 45 miles per hour in just 2.5 seconds.

SOURCE Smithsonian's National Zoo: Cheetah

ANIMALS ●○○

Koalas are not bears. They are marsupials, in the same pouched-mammal group as kangaroos and wombats.

SOURCE San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance: Koala

ANIMALS ●●○

Hippos spend their days in the water, yet they cannot swim or even float. Their bodies are too dense, so they walk along the river bottom.

SOURCE San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance: Hippo

ANIMALS ●●○

An owl cannot move its eyes in their sockets, so it turns its whole head to look around. Most owls cannot turn their heads a full circle, only up to about 270 degrees.

SOURCE San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance: Owl

ANIMALS ●○○

Bats are the only mammals capable of true flight. Their wings are built on bones like those in a human hand, with thin skin stretched between them.

SOURCE San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance: Bat

ANIMALS ●●○

Elephant tusks are really teeth. They are the only incisors an elephant has, and they keep growing throughout its life.

SOURCE San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance: Elephant

ANIMALS ●○○

The killer whale, or orca, is the largest member of the dolphin family.

SOURCE NOAA Fisheries: Killer Whale

ANIMALS ●○○

The blue whale is the largest animal ever known to have lived on our planet. It feeds almost entirely on krill, which it strains from the water through baleen plates.

SOURCE NOAA Fisheries: Blue Whale

ANIMALS ●●●

Some humpback whales swim from Alaska to Hawaii, a trip of about 3,000 miles, in as few as 28 days.

SOURCE NOAA Fisheries: Humpback Whale

ANIMALS ●○○

The long, spiraled “horn” of a male narwhal is really a tooth. It grows into a clockwise-spiraled tusk that looks like a unicorn horn.

SOURCE NOAA Fisheries: Narwhal

ANIMALS ●●●

Sperm whales hunt during deep dives that routinely reach about 2,000 feet down, and a dive can last about 45 minutes.

SOURCE NOAA Fisheries: Sperm Whale

ANIMALS ●●○

A white shark, also called a great white, is born about 4 feet long. Adults can grow to about 20 feet and weigh over 4,000 pounds.

SOURCE NOAA Fisheries: White Shark

ANIMALS ●●○

The leatherback is the only sea turtle with no hard shell. Its back is covered in tough, rubbery skin, and it is the largest turtle in the world.

SOURCE NOAA Fisheries: Leatherback Turtle

ANIMALS ●○○

In seahorses, the male gets pregnant. The female places her eggs in his brood pouch, and he later gives birth to as many as 1,000 fully formed babies.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: How do seahorses differ from all other animals?

ANIMALS ●○○

A jellyfish has no brain, no heart and no blood, and its body is about 95 percent water.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: What are jellyfish made of?

ANIMALS ●●○

Atlantic salmon hatch in freshwater rivers and grow up in the ocean. Then they swim back to the river where they were born to spawn.

SOURCE NOAA Fisheries: Atlantic Salmon

ANIMALS ●○○

In the fall, monarch butterflies from eastern North America may fly more than 2,000 miles to reach their wintering sites in Mexico.

SOURCE U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Monarch (Danaus plexippus)

ANIMALS ●●○

Fireflies are really beetles. Most of their one-to-two-year life cycle is spent as larvae, feeding on snails and worms on the forest floor.

SOURCE National Park Service: Synchronous Fireflies – Great Smoky Mountains National Park (U.S. National Park Service)

ANIMALS ●●○

A honey bee that finds good flowers returns to the hive and performs a waggle dance. The dance tells other workers the distance, direction and quality of the food.

SOURCE Penn State Center for Pollinator Research: Happy National Honey Bee Day! – The Center for Pollinator Research

ANIMALS ●●○

A ruby-throated hummingbird weighs about as much as a nickel, only about 5 grams.

SOURCE Smithsonian's National Zoo: Ruby-throated hummingbird

ANIMALS ●●○

A kiwi, the flightless bird of New Zealand, has nostrils at the tip of its long bill, which it uses to sniff out food in the soil.

SOURCE Smithsonian's National Zoo: North Island brown kiwi

ANIMALS ●●○

Flamingo chicks hatch covered in white down. It takes them several years and several molts to turn pink.

SOURCE Smithsonian's National Zoo: American flamingo

ANIMALS ●●○

A Komodo dragon can eat up to 80 percent of its own body weight in a single meal.

SOURCE Smithsonian's National Zoo: Komodo dragon

ANIMALS ●●●

The Gila monster, named for the Gila River, is the largest lizard native to the United States. It grows up to about 22 inches long.

SOURCE Smithsonian's National Zoo: Gila monster

ANIMALS ●○○

Aldabra giant tortoises can reach ages of more than 100 years.

SOURCE Smithsonian's National Zoo: Aldabra tortoise

ANIMALS ●●○

Algae grow in grooves in a sloth's hairs and tint its fur green. The color helps camouflage the sloth in the forest canopy.

SOURCE Smithsonian's National Zoo: Two-toed sloth

ANIMALS ●●●

A giant anteater has no teeth. Its 2-foot-long tongue can flick in and out up to 150 times per minute.

SOURCE Smithsonian's National Zoo: Giant anteater

ANIMALS ●○○

Scientists have found that an axolotl, a salamander from Mexico, can regrow a lost limb perfectly, in a few weeks and without a scar.

SOURCE San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance: Axolotl

ANIMALS ●●○

When a wombat is threatened, it dives headfirst into its tunnel and blocks the entrance with its sturdy backside.

SOURCE San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance: Wombat

ANIMALS ●●●

Naked mole-rats never drink. They get all the water they need from the underground plant tubers they eat.

SOURCE Smithsonian's National Zoo: Naked mole-rat

ANIMALS ●○○

The fennec fox is the smallest member of the dog family, but its ears are the largest for its body size of any canid.

SOURCE Smithsonian's National Zoo: Fennec fox

ANIMALS ●○○

Guinea pigs are not pigs at all. They are rodents from South America, and the Incas are believed to have domesticated them more than 3,000 years ago.

SOURCE San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance: Guinea Pig

ANIMALS ●●○

Some pet parrots can live about 60 years in captivity, nearly a whole human lifetime.

SOURCE San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance: Parrot

FOOD ●●○

Broccoli, cabbage, kale, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts look nothing alike, yet they all belong to the same single species of plant.

SOURCE UF/IFAS Extension: Cole Crop Confusion – Gardening Solutions

FOOD ●●○

The peanut is a legume, like peas and beans, but unlike most legumes its pods ripen underground.

SOURCE UF/IFAS Extension: Peanuts – Gardening Solutions

FOOD ●●●

By the botanical definition, almonds are not true nuts. Like a plum, an almond grows surrounded by a fleshy coat.

SOURCE USDA Forest Service: Nuts

FOOD ●●○

Vanilla flavor comes from the seed pod of an orchid. On farms the flowers are pollinated by hand, and each flower makes just one vanilla bean.

SOURCE University of Vermont Extension: Vanilla: A Tropical Treat

FOOD ●●○

It takes about 40 gallons of maple sap, boiled down, to make just 1 gallon of maple syrup.

SOURCE Ohio State University Extension: Selecting, Storing, and Serving Ohio Maple Syrup

FOOD ●○○

Apples float because about 25 percent of an apple is air.

SOURCE University of Vermont Extension: All About Apples

FOOD ●●●

More than 7,500 varieties of apples are grown around the world, and more than 2,500 of them are grown in the United States.

SOURCE University of Vermont Extension: All About Apples

FOOD ●○○

In 1893 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that tomatoes count as vegetables under the tariff law, even though botanically a tomato is the fruit of a vine.

SOURCE Cornell Legal Information Institute: NIX et al. v. HEDDEN, Collector.

FOOD ●●●

In just one year, an average mature giant sequoia adds enough wood to make a 60-foot-tall oak tree that is 3 feet across.

SOURCE National Park Service: The General Sherman Tree – Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (U.S. National Park Service)

FOOD ●●○

Every cranberry has four tiny air pockets inside. They make the berries float when farmers flood a bog to harvest them, and they make a fresh cranberry bounce.

SOURCE Texas A&M University: Cranberries Can Bounce, Float And Pollinate Themselves – Texas A&M Stories

FOOD ●●●

The tiny specks on the outside of a strawberry are the plant's real fruits. Each one holds a seed, and a single strawberry can carry up to 200 of them.

SOURCE UConn Extension: Strawberries

FOOD ●●○

Bamboo can shoot up as much as 3 feet in a single day, which makes it one of the fastest-growing plants on Earth.

SOURCE USDA Agricultural Research Service: Exhibit Displays Versatility of Bamboo : USDA ARS

FOOD ●○○

A hen needs about 24 to 26 hours to produce one egg, so she cannot lay more than about one egg a day.

SOURCE Ohio State University Extension: The Making of an Egg

FOOD ●●●

Browned toast and roasted meat get their flavor from the Maillard reaction between amino acids and sugars, which generally begins above about 285 degrees Fahrenheit.

SOURCE Kansas State University: The Maillard Reaction

FOOD ●●○

A pineapple plant takes about 18 to 24 months to go from planting to harvest.

SOURCE UF/IFAS Extension: HS7/MG055: Pineapple Growing in the Florida Home Landscape

FOOD ●●●

Each potential kernel on an ear of corn grows its own strand of silk. A pollen grain has to land on that silk before the kernel can form.

SOURCE University of Wisconsin Extension: Determining Corn Pollination Success – Wisconsin Corn Agronomy

FOOD ●○○

Whether popcorn is popped with hot air or in oil, it is the water inside each kernel that makes it pop.

SOURCE Exploratorium: Popping Popcorn

FOOD ●●●

Botanically, watermelons and cucumbers are berries, but strawberries and raspberries are not.

SOURCE UC Agriculture and Natural Resources: What makes a berry a berry?

FOOD ●●○

Bread rises because yeast, a tiny fungus, feeds on the sugars in flour and gives off carbon dioxide gas. One gram of yeast holds about 25 billion cells.

SOURCE Exploratorium: Science of Bread: Yeast-air Balloons Activity

FOOD ●●○

A coffee bean is not a bean. It is one of two seeds found inside a coffee cherry, the fruit of the coffee plant.

SOURCE University of Nebraska-Lincoln: Researchers from Nebraska, Ethiopia rethinking the coffee 'cherry'

FOOD ●●○

Chocolate is made from the seeds of the cacao tree. Each pod holds 30 to 50 of these seeds, called beans, which are fermented and dried before they are processed.

SOURCE Iowa State University Extension: For the Love of Chocolate

FOOD ●●○

Most of the “yams” sold in U.S. supermarkets are really sweet potatoes.

SOURCE Iowa State University Extension: Yam or Sweet Potato? • AnswerLine • Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

FOOD ●●○

According to South Dakota State University, an average dairy cow can typically produce 8 to 10 gallons of milk per day.

SOURCE South Dakota State University Extension: National Dairy Month

FOOD ●○○

A banana plant is not a tree. It is a fast-growing herb, and its thick “trunk” is really made of leaves.

SOURCE UC Agriculture and Natural Resources: Banana

BODY ●○○

People get two sets of teeth: 20 baby teeth first, then 32 permanent teeth that start to replace them around age 6.

SOURCE Nemours KidsHealth: Mouth & Teeth

BODY ●○○

The hardest tissue in your body is tooth enamel, the outer layer of each tooth.

SOURCE Nemours KidsHealth: Mouth & Teeth

BODY ●○○

The smallest bone in the human body is the stapes, one of three tiny bones in the middle ear.

SOURCE Cleveland Clinic: Ossicles: Function & Anatomy

BODY ●●○

A baby is born with about 300 bones. Many of them fuse as the child grows, leaving most adults with 206.

SOURCE NIAMS (NIH): Health Lesson: Learning About Bones

BODY ●○○

The thigh bone, or femur, is the longest and strongest bone in your body. It can support up to 30 times your body weight.

SOURCE Cleveland Clinic: Bones: How Many Do Humans Have, Types, Anatomy & Function

BODY ●●○

Your body has more than 600 muscles, and you use them almost constantly.

SOURCE Cleveland Clinic: Muscles of the Body: Types, Groups, Anatomy & Functions

BODY ●●○

Your heart circulates about 2,000 gallons of blood every day.

SOURCE Cleveland Clinic: How Your Circulatory System Works

BODY ●●○

Scientists estimate that your blood vessels, laid end to end, would stretch about 60,000 miles, far enough to circle the Earth more than twice.

SOURCE Texas Heart Institute: Heart Anatomy

BODY ●●●

The human brain contains close to 86 billion nerve cells, called neurons.

SOURCE Cleveland Clinic: Brain: Parts, Function, How It Works & Conditions

BODY ●○○

An adult brain weighs about 3 pounds. A newborn's brain weighs about 1 pound and grows to about 2 pounds during childhood.

SOURCE Cleveland Clinic: Brain: Parts, Function, How It Works & Conditions

BODY ●○○

Your skin is your body's largest organ, and its outer layer renews itself about every 30 days.

SOURCE Cleveland Clinic: Skin: Layers, Structure and Function

BODY ●●○

The "lub-dub" sound of a heartbeat is the sound of your heart valves closing.

SOURCE Nemours KidsHealth: Heart & Circulatory System

BODY ●●●

By the end of a long life, a person's heart may have beaten more than 3.5 billion times.

SOURCE Texas Heart Institute: Heart Anatomy

BODY ●●●

Red blood cells live about 120 days, and then your body makes new ones to replace them.

SOURCE MedlinePlus (NLM): Blood

BODY ●●○

An adult's digestive tract, from the mouth to the end, is about 30 feet long.

SOURCE Nemours KidsHealth: Digestive System

BODY ●○○

The liver is the largest internal organ in your body, and it performs more than 500 important functions.

SOURCE Cleveland Clinic: Liver: Where It's Located, Function & Anatomy

BODY ●●●

Each person has hundreds of millions of alveoli, tiny sacs at the ends of the airways in the lungs, where oxygen passes into the blood.

SOURCE Nemours KidsHealth: Lungs & Respiratory System

BODY ●●○

Most of your blood cells are made in bone marrow, the soft, spongy tissue inside many of your bones.

SOURCE Nemours KidsHealth: Bones, Muscles & Joints

BODY ●●○

Deep inside your ear is the cochlea, a snail-shaped structure filled with fluid. Sound vibrations make that fluid ripple.

SOURCE NIDCD (NIH): How Do We Hear?

BODY ●●○

The three tiny bones of the middle ear are the hammer, the anvil and the stirrup. They pass sound vibrations from the eardrum to the cochlea.

SOURCE Cleveland Clinic: Ossicles: Function & Anatomy

BODY ●○○

Experts recommend that babies up to 3 months old sleep 14 to 17 hours a day, including naps.

SOURCE Nemours KidsHealth: How Much Sleep Do Kids Need?

BODY ●●●

By the time kids start school, one full sleep cycle lasts about 90 minutes, which is similar to an adult's.

SOURCE Nemours KidsHealth: How Much Sleep Do Kids Need?

BODY ●●●

About 1 in 12 men have color vision deficiency, which means they see colors differently than most people. It is most often passed down in families.

SOURCE National Eye Institute (NIH): Color Blindness

BODY ●●○

Some parts of the human brain do not fully mature until people are in their 20s.

SOURCE Nemours KidsHealth: All About the Brain & Nervous System

SCIENCE ●●○

Helium was spotted in the Sun's light in 1868, decades before it was isolated on Earth in 1895. Its name comes from helios, the Greek word for sun.

SOURCE Royal Society of Chemistry: Helium: Element information, properties and uses

SCIENCE ●●○

Gallium, a metal that Mendeleev predicted before anyone found it, melts at about 30°C (86°F), so on a hot day a lump in your pocket could melt.

SOURCE Royal Society of Chemistry: Gallium: Element information, properties and uses

SCIENCE ●●●

Technetium was the first element ever made by people. Its name comes from the Greek word for artificial.

SOURCE Royal Society of Chemistry: Technetium: Element information, properties and uses

SCIENCE ●●●

Four different elements, ytterbium, yttrium, terbium and erbium, are all named after one town near Stockholm, Sweden, called Ytterby.

SOURCE Royal Society of Chemistry: Ytterbium: Element information, properties and uses

SCIENCE ●○○

Hydrogen is easily the most abundant element in the universe, making up about 75 percent of its detectable content.

SOURCE Royal Society of Chemistry: Hydrogen: Element information, properties and uses

SCIENCE ●●●

The Royal Society of Chemistry calls osmium the densest of all the elements, about twice as dense as lead. Its name comes from the Greek word for smell.

SOURCE Royal Society of Chemistry: Osmium: Element information, properties and uses

SCIENCE ●○○

Neon gets its name from neos, the Greek word for new. When its discoverers first tested it in 1898, a brilliant red glow startled them.

SOURCE Royal Society of Chemistry: Neon: Element information, properties and uses

SCIENCE ●●○

In 1811, French chemist Bernard Courtois added acid to seaweed ash and saw purple fumes. They came from a new element, iodine, named for the Greek word for violet.

SOURCE Royal Society of Chemistry: Iodine: Element information, properties and uses

SCIENCE ●●○

For almost a century and a half, much of the world used a polished, golf-ball-sized cylinder of platinum alloy as its standard for the kilogram.

SOURCE NIST: Kilogram: The Past

SCIENCE ●●○

French scientists planned the meter as one ten-millionth of the distance from the North Pole to the equator, measured along a line through Paris.

SOURCE NIST: Meter

SCIENCE ●●○

In England, the inch was once defined as the length of three barleycorns laid end to end.

SOURCE NIST: Meter

SCIENCE ●○○

The word mile comes from the Latin phrase mille passus, which means 1,000 paces.

SOURCE NIST: Meter

SCIENCE ●●●

Early mechanical clocks from the 14th century were accurate to only about 15 minutes per day, about the same as a sundial.

SOURCE NIST: Second: The Past

SCIENCE ●●●

Isaac Newton once made a temperature scale where 0 was the freezing point of water and 12 was the temperature of a healthy human body.

SOURCE NIST: Kelvin: History

SCIENCE ●●○

Water is unusual because ice is less dense than liquid water. When water freezes, its density drops by about 9 percent, so ice cubes float.

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey: Water Density

SCIENCE ●○○

Sunsets look red and yellow because the Sun's light passes through more air, which scatters away even more of the blue light.

SOURCE NASA Space Place: Why Is the Sky Blue?

SCIENCE ●○○

Isaac Newton showed that a second prism can bring the rainbow colors from the first prism back together into white light.

SOURCE NASA Goddard Space Flight Center: The Many Colors of Sunlight

SCIENCE ●●○

Tungsten gets its name from old Swedish words meaning heavy stone. Its other name, wolfram, comes from a different mineral, wolframite.

SOURCE Royal Society of Chemistry: Tungsten: Element information, properties and uses

SCIENCE ●○○

The Latin word for lead is plumbum, which is where English gets the words plumb and plumber.

SOURCE Royal Society of Chemistry: Lead: Element information, properties and uses

SCIENCE ●●○

Sound can travel thousands of miles in the ocean because a zone called the sound channel bends sound waves up and down and keeps them from losing much energy.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: How far does sound travel in the ocean?

TECH ●○○

On December 17, 1903, the Wright brothers' first powered flight lasted 12 seconds and covered 120 feet. Their best flight that day lasted 59 seconds.

SOURCE National Air and Space Museum: 1903 Wright Flyer

TECH ●●○

A bicycle shop mechanic named Charles Taylor helped the Wright brothers build the 12-horsepower gasoline engine that powered their 1903 airplane.

SOURCE National Air and Space Museum: 1903 Wright Flyer

TECH ●○○

On October 14, 1947, the Bell X-1, flown by Chuck Yeager, became the first airplane to fly faster than the speed of sound.

SOURCE National Air and Space Museum: Bell X-1 Glamorous Glennis

TECH ●●○

The first message sent over the ARPANET, a forerunner of the internet, was supposed to be “login.” The system crashed after two letters, so the message was just “lo.”

SOURCE Leonard Kleinrock, UCLA: The Day the Infant Internet Uttered its First Words

TECH ●●○

CERN put the World Wide Web software in the public domain on April 30, 1993, which helped the web flourish.

SOURCE CERN: The birth of the Web

TECH ●●○

Bill English built the first computer mouse prototype at SRI in 1964. Its patent called it an “X-Y Position Indicator for a Display System.”

SOURCE SRI International: The computer mouse and interactive computing

TECH ●●●

On December 9, 1968, Douglas Engelbart gave a 90-minute public demo in San Francisco that showed a computer mouse, hypertext links, multiple windows and shared-screen teleconferencing.

SOURCE SRI International: The computer mouse and interactive computing

TECH ●●○

IBM’s RAMAC, the first computer to use a random-access disk drive, took up much of a room and stored just 5 megabytes.

SOURCE IBM: RAMAC

TECH ●●○

When fully operational, the 1946 ENIAC computer filled a room 30 by 50 feet, weighed 30 tons and used 18,000 vacuum tubes.

SOURCE Penn Engineering: ENIAC

TECH ●○○

In 1991, researchers in a computer lab pointed a camera at their coffee pot so they could check from their screens whether it was full.

SOURCE University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory: The Trojan Room Coffee Pot: A (non-technical) biography

TECH ●●○

In 1958, a physicist built “Tennis for Two,” a two-player electronic tennis game, for a visitors’ day at Brookhaven National Laboratory. Its screen was an oscilloscope.

SOURCE Brookhaven National Laboratory: The First Video Game?

TECH ●●○

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, around 1900 electric cars made up about a third of the vehicles on the road.

SOURCE U.S. Department of Energy: The History of the Electric Car

TECH ●●●

The first U.S. patent, signed by George Washington in 1790, was for a better way to make potash, a chemical made from wood ashes and used in soap and glass.

SOURCE Invention & Technology Magazine: The First U.S. Patent

TECH ●●●

Alexander Graham Bell's famous 1876 patent for sending voices over wires was titled "Improvement in Telegraphy." The word telephone does not appear in the title.

SOURCE U.S. Patent Office (patent No. 174,465): Improvement in telegraphy

TECH ●○○

In December 1877, Thomas Edison wrapped tin foil around a cylinder and recited "Mary Had a Little Lamb." His first phonograph played the words back to him.

SOURCE National Park Service, Thomas Edison NHP: Timeline of Edison and His Inventions

TECH ●●○

In 1903, Mary Anderson of Birmingham, Alabama, patented a hand-turned swinging arm that cleared snow, rain and sleet from a vehicle operator's window. Her patent called it a window-cleaning device.

SOURCE U.S. Patent Office (patent No. 743,801): Window-cleaning device

TECH ●●○

The world's first website was about the World Wide Web project itself, and it ran on Tim Berners-Lee's NeXT computer at CERN.

SOURCE CERN: The birth of the Web

TECH ●●●

Mathematician Dorothy Vaughan led the West Area Computing Unit at NASA's predecessor agency from 1949 to 1958 and became NASA's first African-American manager.

SOURCE NASA: Dorothy Vaughan

U.S. ●●○

The copper skin of the Statue of Liberty is only 3/32 of an inch thick, about the same as two pennies placed together.

SOURCE National Park Service: Statue Statistics – Statue Of Liberty National Monument (U.S. National Park Service)

U.S. ●○○

About 90 percent of Mount Rushmore was carved with dynamite, while workers were lowered over the cliff on steel cables in a bosun chair to shape the faces.

SOURCE National Park Service: Carving History – Mount Rushmore National Memorial (U.S. National Park Service)

U.S. ●●●

The wide "crack" people see on the Liberty Bell is really a repair. In 1846, metal workers widened the thin original crack to stop it from spreading.

SOURCE National Park Service: The Liberty Bell – Independence National Historical Park (U.S. National Park Service)

U.S. ●●○

The tip of the Washington Monument is a 100-ounce pyramid of aluminum. In 1884, aluminum was still so costly that it sold for $1.10 an ounce.

SOURCE National Park Service: The Point of the Matter (U.S. National Park Service)

U.S. ●●○

The Lincoln Memorial is surrounded by 36 columns, one for each of the 36 states in the Union when Lincoln's presidency ended.

SOURCE National Park Service: Exterior Features – Lincoln Memorial (U.S. National Park Service)

U.S. ●●○

The Gateway Arch in St. Louis is as wide as it is tall: its top is 630 feet high, and its outer legs span 630 feet at ground level.

SOURCE National Park Service: Materials and Techniques – Gateway Arch National Park (U.S. National Park Service)

U.S. ●○○

President Ulysses S. Grant signed the law creating Yellowstone on March 1, 1872. The National Park Service calls it the world's first national park.

SOURCE National Park Service: Birth of a National Park – Yellowstone National Park (U.S. National Park Service)

U.S. ●●○

Ellis Island processed over 12 million future Americans between 1892 and 1954, making it the nation's first and largest federal immigrant processing station.

SOURCE National Park Service: Frequently Asked Questions – Ellis Island Part of Statue of Liberty National Monument (U.S. National Park Service)

U.S. ●●○

Abraham Lincoln is the only U.S. president to be granted a patent. His invention used inflatable chambers to lift boats over sandbars.

SOURCE U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: A guide through troubled waters | USPTO

U.S. ●●○

A 50-star U.S. flag began as a high school project. In 1958, Robert Heft of Lancaster, Ohio, designed one and got a B minus, but his teacher promised a higher grade if Congress adopted it.

SOURCE Library of Congress: A Grand Old Flag | Timeless

U.S. ●●○

William Howard Taft is the only person to have served as both President of the United States and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

SOURCE Supreme Court of the United States: Frequently Asked Questions on Justices – Supreme Court of the United States

U.S. ●●●

Construction of the first Oval Office began in the summer of 1909, and it was ready for President William Howard Taft by October of that year.

SOURCE White House Historical Association: The History of the Oval Office – White House Historical Association

U.S. ●●○

When electric lights came to the White House in 1891, President Benjamin Harrison and his wife refused to touch the switches because they feared being shocked.

SOURCE White House Historical Association: The White House Gets Electric Lighting, 1891 – White House Historical Association

U.S. ●●○

The Pony Express carried mail more than 1,800 miles from Missouri to California in about 10 days, yet it operated for only 18 months.

SOURCE National Park Service: History & Culture – Pony Express National Historic Trail (U.S. National Park Service)

U.S. ●●●

The 27th Amendment was first proposed in 1789 but was not ratified until 1992, more than 200 years later.

SOURCE National Archives: The National Archives' Role in Amending the Constitution

U.S. ●●○

The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 cost $15 million, about 4 cents an acre, and doubled the size of the United States.

SOURCE National Archives: Louisiana Purchase Treaty (1803) | National Archives

U.S. ●●●

The Statue of Freedom that crowns the U.S. Capitol dome is made of bronze and stands 19 feet 6 inches tall.

SOURCE Architect of the Capitol: Statue of Freedom | Architect of the Capitol

U.S. ●●●

In 1815, Congress paid $23,950 for Thomas Jefferson's personal library of 6,487 books to replace the Library of Congress collection lost in 1814.

SOURCE Library of Congress: Jefferson's Library – Thomas Jefferson

U.S. ●○○

The United States bought Alaska from Russia in 1867 for $7.2 million, a deal that skeptics dubbed "Seward's Folly."

SOURCE U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian: Milestones in the History of U.S. Foreign Relations – Office of the Historian

U.S. ●○○

Hawaii became the 50th U.S. state on August 21, 1959, when President Eisenhower signed the proclamation admitting it.

SOURCE National Archives: Hawaii's long road to statehood – Pieces of History

U.S. ●●○

The White House has 132 rooms and 35 bathrooms spread over 6 levels, plus 412 doors and 28 fireplaces.

SOURCE The White House: The White House Building

U.S. ●●○

The Library of Congress was founded in 1800, which makes it the oldest federal cultural institution in the United States.

SOURCE Library of Congress: Fascinating Facts

U.S. ●●●

The Constitution was copied out by hand by a clerk named Jacob Shallus. The convention records list just $30 for clerks hired to transcribe and engross it.

SOURCE National Archives: Constitution questions and answers | National Archives

WORLD ●○○

The Rosetta Stone, found in Egypt in 1799, repeats one decree in three kinds of writing: hieroglyphs, Demotic script and ancient Greek.

SOURCE National Geographic: How the Rosetta Stone unlocked the secrets of ancient civilizations

WORLD ●●○

Most of Stonehenge's smaller stones, called bluestones, were brought about 240 kilometers (150 miles) from the Preseli Hills in Wales, probably largely by boat.

SOURCE English Heritage: 30 things you might not know about Stonehenge | English Heritage

WORLD ●●○

In 1086, William the Conqueror's inspectors surveyed England, and the Domesday Book recorded who owned each piece of land and what it was worth.

SOURCE The National Archives (UK): What does Domesday Book tell us? – The National Archives

WORLD ●○○

The Great Pyramid of Giza rose to about 479 feet and stayed the tallest human-made structure on Earth for more than 3,000 years.

SOURCE World History Encyclopedia: Great Pyramid of Giza – World History Encyclopedia

WORLD ●○○

Machu Picchu, high in the Andes of Peru, was built in the mid-1400s by the Inca ruler Pachacuti and could house about 1,000 people at its peak.

SOURCE World History Encyclopedia: Machu Picchu – World History Encyclopedia

WORLD ●●○

In 1974, workers digging a well near Xi'an, China, struck a life-size clay soldier, the first of thousands found in the Terracotta Army.

SOURCE National Geographic: About Emperor Qin's Terra Cotta Army | National Geographic

WORLD ●○○

The Colosseum in Rome opened in 80 CE with 100 days of games and could hold about 50,000 spectators.

SOURCE World History Encyclopedia: Colosseum: Rome's Great Flavian Amphitheatre – World History Encyclopedia

WORLD ●○○

Australia's Great Barrier Reef stretches about 1,429 miles and is the largest coral reef system in the world.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: What is the largest living structure on Earth?

WORLD ●●○

Russia's Lake Baikal is the world's oldest and deepest lake, about 25 million years old and about 1,700 meters deep. It holds about 20 percent of Earth's unfrozen fresh water.

SOURCE NASA Earth Observatory: Fog over Lake Baikal – NASA Science

WORLD ●○○

Antarctica gets only about 2 inches of precipitation a year, which makes it the driest place on Earth, even though ice covers about 98 percent of the land.

SOURCE U.S. Antarctic Program (NSF): The USAP Portal: Science and Support in Antarctica – About the Continent

WORLD ●○○

Gustave Eiffel built himself a small apartment near the top of the Eiffel Tower, with plush rugs, oil paintings and a grand piano.

SOURCE National Geographic Kids: Eiffel Tower | National Geographic Kids

WORLD ●●○

The famous Easter Island statues called moai are not just heads. They have bodies too, but many are partly or completely buried.

SOURCE National Geographic: Everything to know about Easter Island's iconic statues

WORLD ●●○

Angkor Wat, the huge temple complex in Cambodia, is so important that a picture of it appears on Cambodia's national flag.

SOURCE National Geographic: Angkor Wat, the world's biggest religious complex, is sacred to two faiths

WORLD ●●○

Five ships set out with Magellan in 1519 to sail around the world, but only one, the Victoria, finished the trip, arriving back in Spain in 1522.

SOURCE World History Encyclopedia: Ferdinand Magellan – World History Encyclopedia

WORLD ●○○

The prime meridian, 0 degrees longitude, is an arbitrary line. In 1884, a conference in Washington, D.C., chose to run it through the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England.

SOURCE NOAA National Ocean Service: What is longitude?

WORLD ●●○

Cuneiform writing was developed by the Sumerians of Mesopotamia around 3500 BCE. Its name comes from the Latin word for "wedge."

SOURCE World History Encyclopedia: Cuneiform: The Writing System That Made History – World History Encyclopedia

WORLD ●○○

The ancient Olympic Games were held every four years at Olympia in Greece, starting in 776 BCE and lasting until 393 CE.

SOURCE World History Encyclopedia: Ancient Olympic Games – World History Encyclopedia

WORLD ●○○

Australia's capital, Canberra, was created as a compromise between the country's two largest cities, Sydney and Melbourne.

SOURCE Wikipedia: Canberra

WORLD ●●●

Iceland's parliament, the Althing, was founded in the year 930 at Thingvellir, more than a thousand years ago.

SOURCE Wikipedia: Althing

WORLD ●●○

Nepal's national flag is the only one in the world that is not a rectangle or square. Its shape combines two pennants.

SOURCE Wikipedia: Flag of Nepal

WORLD ●○○

The Parthenon, the great temple on the Acropolis in Athens, was built between 447 and 432 BCE during the Age of Pericles.

SOURCE World History Encyclopedia: Parthenon: Temple of Athena Parthenos – World History Encyclopedia

WORLD ●●○

The Silk Road was not one road. It was a network of trade routes that linked China and the rest of the ancient world for well over a thousand years.

SOURCE World History Encyclopedia: Silk Road – World History Encyclopedia

SCREEN

Sesame Street was almost named “123 Avenue B,” but that is a real New York City address. The “sesame” in the final name came from the phrase “open sesame.”

SOURCE Sesame Workshop: Five Things You May Not Know About Sesame Street – Sesame Workshop

SCREEN

In the first season of Sesame Street, Oscar the Grouch was orange. He turned green in season two and joked that a muddy vacation had changed his color.

SOURCE Sesame Workshop: Five Things You May Not Know About Sesame Street – Sesame Workshop

SCREEN

Fred Rogers first wore sneakers in the studio so he could hurry from the organ to the puppet area without being heard. Later the shoe change became part of his show opening.

SOURCE PBS KIDS for Parents: 12 Facts About Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood

SCREEN

All of the original sweaters worn on Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood were hand knit by Fred Rogers’s mother, Nancy McFeely Rogers.

SOURCE PBS KIDS for Parents: 12 Facts About Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood

SCREEN

Before he played Batman on the big screen, Michael Keaton worked on Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood, where he ran the Trolley.

SOURCE PBS KIDS for Parents: 12 Facts About Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood

SCREEN

The Hollywood Sign first spelled “Hollywoodland.” It went up in 1923 as a $21,000 billboard advertising a new housing development.

SOURCE Hollywood Sign Trust: Hollywood Sign: The Birth of an Iconic Landmark in 1923

SCREEN

The first Kermit the Frog puppet, made in 1955, had ping pong ball eyes and green felt from a coat that Jim Henson’s mother had thrown away.

SOURCE The Jim Henson Company: Kermit the Frog Comes Home to Washington – Jim Henson

SCREEN

Both writers of “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” (1908) said they had never seen a big league game. The Baseball Hall of Fame says that was probably true of composer Albert Von Tilzer.

SOURCE National Baseball Hall of Fame: Baseball’s anthem began as Tin Pan Alley hit | Baseball Hall of Fame

SCREEN

The New York Philharmonic, founded in 1842, is the oldest symphony orchestra in the United States.

SOURCE New York Philharmonic: History of NY Phil

SCREEN

Adolphe Sax, a Belgian-born instrument maker, patented the saxophone family in 1846, first designing one group for orchestras and another for bands.

SOURCE Library of Congress: Pic of the Week: Birth of the Sax Edition | In The Muse

SCREEN ●●○

In L. Frank Baum's book, Dorothy's magic slippers were silver. The 1939 movie made them ruby red, reportedly to take full advantage of color film.

SOURCE Library of Congress: To See the Wizard – The Wizard of Oz: An American Fairy Tale

SCREEN ●●○

Before it was "Happy Birthday to You," the tune was a kindergarten song called "Good Morning to All," by sisters Mildred and Patty Hill.

SOURCE Songwriters Hall of Fame: "Happy Birthday To You" | Songwriters Hall of Fame

SCREEN ●●●

On November 2, 1920, station KDKA in Pittsburgh aired the presidential election results before newspapers could report them. PBS calls it the nation's first commercial broadcast.

SOURCE PBS A Science Odyssey: A Science Odyssey: People and Discoveries: KDKA begins to broadcast

SCREEN ●○○

For Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Walt Disney received a special honorary Oscar made of one full-size statuette and seven miniature ones.

SOURCE Wikipedia: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (film)

SCREEN ●●○

An Oscar statuette is made of gold-plated bronze, stands 13.5 inches tall and weighs 8.5 pounds. It shows a knight holding a sword and standing on a film reel.

SOURCE Wikipedia: Academy Awards

SCREEN ●●○

Steamboat Willie, from 1928, was the first Mickey Mouse cartoon officially released to the public and one of the first cartoons with fully synchronized sound.

SOURCE Wikipedia: Steamboat Willie

SCREEN ●●●

Elvis Presley's 1954 single "That's All Right" began when he goofed around to blow off steam during a dull recording session. Producer Sam Phillips hit record.

SOURCE Rock & Roll Hall of Fame: Elvis Presley | Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

SCREEN ●●○

There is a real Sesame Street in New York City. In 2019, for the show's 50th anniversary, a block of West 63rd Street was officially renamed "Sesame Street."

SOURCE Sesame Workshop: Five Things You May Not Know About Sesame Street – Sesame Workshop

SCREEN ●●●

The piano's ancestor, the fortepiano, was invented around the year 1700 by Bartolomeo Cristofori, an Italian harpsichord maker who worked for the Medici family.

SOURCE Wikipedia: Piano

CULTURE ●●○

Without the First Folio of 1623, 18 of Shakespeare's plays, including As You Like It and The Tempest, might have been lost forever.

SOURCE Folger Shakespeare Library: Shakespeare First Folio

CULTURE ●●○

Emily Dickinson wrote almost 1,800 poems, but fewer than a dozen were published while she was alive.

SOURCE Emily Dickinson Museum: Poetry

CULTURE ●●●

Samuel Clemens was a Mississippi riverboat pilot before he first used the pen name Mark Twain, while writing for a Nevada newspaper.

SOURCE Mark Twain House & Museum: Mark Twain Biography

CULTURE ●○○

The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., says it is the largest library in the world, with millions of books, recordings, photographs, maps and manuscripts.

SOURCE Library of Congress: About the Library of Congress

CULTURE ●●○

Edward Hopper's 1942 painting Nighthawks shows an all-night diner with no entrance. It was inspired by a real New York restaurant but is not a realistic copy of any place.

SOURCE The Art Institute of Chicago: Nighthawks

CULTURE ●○○

Georges Seurat's A Sunday on La Grande Jatte is made of tiny dots and dashes of color placed side by side, a style called pointillism.

SOURCE The Art Institute of Chicago: A Sunday on La Grande Jatte, 1884

CULTURE ●●○

The two people in Grant Wood's American Gothic are a farmer and his daughter, not a married couple. Wood based the house on one he saw in Eldon, Iowa.

SOURCE The Art Institute of Chicago: American Gothic

CULTURE ●●●

Pablo Picasso, born in 1881, was about 22 when he painted The Old Guitarist in Barcelona, during his Blue Period, when he restricted himself to a cold, blue palette.

SOURCE The Art Institute of Chicago: The Old Guitarist

CULTURE ●●○

The word OK most likely began around Boston in the late 1830s, as part of a fad of abbreviating misspellings. It likely stood for "oll korrect," a misspelling of "all correct."

SOURCE Wikipedia: OK

CULTURE ●○○

Dr. Seuss wrote Green Eggs and Ham after a $50 bet that he could not write an engaging children's book using just 50 words.

SOURCE Wikipedia: Green Eggs and Ham

CULTURE ●●○

James Smithson, whose bequest started the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., never visited the United States.

SOURCE Wikipedia: James Smithson

CULTURE

Lewis Carroll, author of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, was a pen name. The author, Charles Dodgson, taught math at Christ Church, Oxford, for 26 years.

SOURCE Wikipedia: Lewis Carroll

CULTURE

Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa was not painted on canvas. It is oil paint on a panel of white poplar wood.

SOURCE Wikipedia: Mona Lisa

SPORTS

In the winter of 1891, James Naismith, a physical education instructor in Springfield, Massachusetts, invented basketball. He wrote its original 13 rules.

SOURCE Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame: James Naismith

SPORTS

Basketball inventor James Naismith's biggest thrill was watching his game become an Olympic sport at the 1936 Games in Berlin.

SOURCE Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame: James Naismith

SPORTS

William Morgan's new net game from the Holyoke YMCA was first called "Mintonette." A professor suggested the name "Volley Ball" after seeing it played in 1896.

SOURCE International Volleyball Hall of Fame: William G. Morgan, Father of Volleyball

SPORTS

Pierre de Coubertin claimed in 1913 that the Olympic flag's five ring colors plus its white background reproduce the colors of every nation's flag.

SOURCE Olympedia: Olympic Flag

SPORTS

Tug-of-war was an Olympic sport from 1900 to 1920, and Great Britain won the most medals in it, with five.

SOURCE Olympedia: Tug-Of-War

SPORTS

From 1912 to 1948, the Olympics also awarded gold, silver and bronze medals for art, in fields such as painting, sculpture, music, literature and architecture.

SOURCE Olympedia: Art Competitions

SPORTS

Pierre de Coubertin, who inspired the Olympic art contests, won a gold medal in literature in 1912 for "Ode to Sport," which he entered under two fake names.

SOURCE Olympedia: Art Competitions

SPORTS

At the 1976 Olympics, Romania's Nadia Comăneci became the first female gymnast to earn a perfect 10.0, and judges gave her that top mark seven times.

SOURCE Olympedia: Nadia Comaneci

SPORTS

The 1924 Winter Games in Chamonix, France, were not first called Olympic Games. They were billed as International Winter Sports Week and were recognized later as the first Winter Olympics.

SOURCE Olympedia: 1924 Winter Olympics Overview

SPORTS

The 1896 Olympics in Athens used a refurbished ancient stadium that had been built in 330 BCE.

SOURCE Olympedia: 1896 Summer Olympics Overview

MEMORY LANE

The Hula Hoop became the biggest fad of the 1950s. Wham-O sold about 25 million of them within months.

SOURCE The Strong National Museum of Play: Hula Hoop | National Toy Hall of Fame | The Strong

MEMORY LANE

Mr. Potato Head starred in the first TV commercial ever made for a toy. It helped Hasbro earn more than $4 million in just the first few months.

SOURCE The Strong National Museum of Play: Mr. Potato Head | National Toy Hall of Fame | The Strong

MEMORY LANE

Play-Doh began as a wallpaper cleaner. Teachers and kids loved the squishy stuff, and by 1956 it had become the modeling compound Play-Doh.

SOURCE The Strong National Museum of Play: Play-Doh | National Toy Hall of Fame | The Strong

MEMORY LANE

Hungarian teacher Erno Rubik built his first cube puzzle in 1974 and called it the Magic Cube. After it reached stores in 1980, buyers snapped up 100 million within two years.

SOURCE The Strong National Museum of Play: Rubik's Cube | National Toy Hall of Fame | The Strong

MEMORY LANE

After Johnny Carson played Twister with Eva Gabor on The Tonight Show, the one New York store stocking it sold out the next day. Over 3 million sold in 1967.

SOURCE The Strong National Museum of Play: Twister | National Toy Hall of Fame | The Strong

MEMORY LANE

Mario made his debut in the 1981 arcade game Donkey Kong. He was first called Jumpman, until Nintendo of America staff named him after their warehouse owner.

SOURCE The Strong National Museum of Play: Donkey Kong – The Strong National Museum of Play

MEMORY LANE

Mattel's first 16 Hot Wheels cars arrived in 1968, and sales topped 16 million in the first year.

SOURCE The Strong National Museum of Play: Hot Wheels | National Toy Hall of Fame | The Strong

MEMORY LANE

ZIP stands for Zoning Improvement Plan. The five-digit ZIP Code was launched in 1963 to help the Post Office handle growing amounts of mail.

SOURCE U.S. Postal Service: Introduction of the ZIP Code – U.S. Postal Facts

MEMORY LANE ●●●

Mr. ZIP, a mascot with no first name, appeared in ads urging Americans to use the new ZIP Code. Within four years, eight out of 10 Americans knew who he was.

SOURCE U.S. Postal Service: Mr. ZIP – U.S. Postal Facts

MEMORY LANE ●●○

The Census Bureau calls UNIVAC the world's first commercial computer. It received one on March 31, 1951, built with more than 5,600 vacuum tubes.

SOURCE U.S. Census Bureau: 1960 UNIVAC

MEMORY LANE ●●○

On U.S. Interstate highways, east-west routes get even numbers and north-south routes get odd numbers. Major cross-country routes end in 0 or 5.

SOURCE Federal Highway Administration: The Essential Interstate – Ten Things You Should Know About the Interstate System – 50th Anniversary – Interstate System – Highway History – Federal Highway Administration

MEMORY LANE ●○○

The Beatles' first appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show, in February 1964, drew 73 million viewers.

SOURCE PBS: Deconstructing the Beatles

MEMORY LANE ●○○

I Love Lucy was filmed with three cameras in front of a live audience, a method that became the standard for TV situation comedies.

SOURCE Library of Congress: The Cast, Crew, and Set – I Love Lucy: An American Legend

MEMORY LANE ●●●

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, which began in 1968, produced 895 episodes of about 24 minutes each.

SOURCE Fred Rogers Productions: Mister Rogers' Neighborhood – Fred Rogers Productions

MEMORY LANE ●●●

Berry Gordy started Motown in 1959 with an $800 loan from his family's Ber-Berry Co-op.

SOURCE Motown Museum: Berry Gordy | Motown Museum | Home of Hitsville U.S.A.

MEMORY LANE ●●●

The first Grammy Awards, on May 4, 1959, were held in two cities at once: a dinner in Los Angeles and a matching event in New York City.

SOURCE Recording Academy (Grammy.com): Sinatra To The Chipmunks: 7 Things To Know About The 1st GRAMMY Awards

MEMORY LANE ●○○

Disneyland in Anaheim, California, was dedicated on July 17, 1955, and opened to the public the next day.

SOURCE Wikipedia: Disneyland

MEMORY LANE ●○○

In 1979, Sony introduced the Walkman, a portable cassette player that let people carry their own music around.

SOURCE Wikipedia: Walkman