

Trivia



When armadillos go swimming, they don't need a flotation device to keep them from sinking, they are the flotation device. To stay afloat, the creatures swallow air to make themselves buoyant. However, they also have another option, which involves expelling air so they can sink and walk across the bottom of a body of water. Stunningly, armadillos can hold their breath for six minutes or more.

Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are* was inspired by the author's own childhood. But it wasn't always about the so called "wild things." The book was originally going to be about a young boy who finds himself in a land filled with wild horses. Although Sendak's editor loved the idea, there was one problem: Sendak, who was also the book's illustrator, couldn't draw horses. However, he was able to draw "wild things" and so the entire premise of the book changed.

The pressure of the deep sea is so intense that it would crush the bodies of any critter not equipped to withstand it. That's why *Hirondellea gigas*, a small, shrimp-like amphipod, adapted to form a layer of aluminum hydroxide gel to cover its exoskeleton, acting as a kind of pressure resistant armor, according to research published in the journal *PLoS One* in 2019.

There are an estimated 22,000 to 31,000 polar bears around the world, according to the World Wildlife Fund. And while you can find the beasts in a range of regions in the Arctic circle, including Greenland, Norway, Russia, and Alaska, the majority of them, around 60 to 80 percent, call Canada home.

If you're ever out at night and happen to see a hazy halo of light circling the moon, you can tell anyone you're with that you've spotted a brooch, which is a Scottish word used for the weather-related phenomenon, often regarded as an omen of bad weather.

Tornadoes have touched down on every continent except Antarctica. Although tornadoes aren't limited to any specific part of the world, there's no record thus far of tornadoes happening on Earth's southernmost continent. A tornado occurrence in Antarctica isn't impossible, however, according to NOAA.

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Dates in History

1580 On September 26th, English seaman Francis Drake returned to Plymouth, England, in the *Golden Hind*, becoming the first British navigator to circumnavigate the earth. Drake set out from England with five ships, only the *Golden Hind* reached the Pacific Ocean. Queen Elizabeth I knighted Drake on his return. Drake died in 1596 at the age of 56.

1972 On September 1st, in what was billed as the "Match of the Century," American chess grandmaster Bobby Fischer defeated Russian Boris Spassky at the World Chess Championship in Reykjavik, Iceland. In the world's most publicized title match ever, Fischer, a 29 year old Brooklynite, became the first American to win the competition since its inception in 1866. The victory also marked the first time a non-Russian had won the event in 24 years. Fischer, who started playing chess professionally at age 8, won the U.S. Open Championship when he was 14 (he would go on to win it seven more times) and become the world's youngest international grandmaster at age 15. Fischer took home \$156,250 (\$1,126,500 today) in prize money for the feat.

2008 On September 10th, scientists successfully flipped the switch for the first time on the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) lab in Geneva, kicking off what many call history's biggest science experiment. Testing particle physics theories, the \$8 billion LHC is the largest particle accelerator in the world, made up of superconducting magnets that allow engineers and physicists to study subatomic particles including protons, electrons, quarks, and photons. The LHC can create 600 million collisions per second.

history.com

On the Lighter Side



The waiter asked if I wanted a box for my leftovers, but I told him I'm not into fighting.

Keep the dream alive, and hit the snooze button.

I had a dream about being a muffler.

I woke up exhausted.

Did you know that milk is the fastest liquid on earth?

It's pasteurized before you can even see it.

Which is faster, hot or cold?

Hot, because you can catch a cold.

What did Tennessee?

The same thing as Arkansas.

Why are skeletons so calm?

Because nothing gets under their skin.

Why did the nurse need a red pen?

In case she needed to draw blood.

When I was a kid, my mother told me I could be anyone I wanted to be. Turns out, identity theft is a crime.

Where do fruits go on vacation?

Pear-is.

Why did the stadium get hot after the game?

All of the fans left.



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