

Trivia

Did you know ...

The first webcam watched a coffee pot. It allowed researchers at Cambridge to monitor the coffee situation without leaving their desks.

There is a word that rhymes with orange! Sporange is a botany term that means "spore case."

Since octopi have no bones, their bodies are incredibly flexible. They can squeeze through openings not much bigger than their eyeballs.

Marie Curie's notebooks are still radioactive.

The Pittsburgh Penguins made Mister Rogers an honorary captain in 1991.

Before Google launched Gmail, "G-Mail" was the name of a free email service offered by (the animated cat) Garfield's website.

It doesn't matter how fresh-picked they are, coffee beans are actually tasteless until they're roasted.

The final speech by Gregory Peck in *To Kill a Mockingbird* was done in one take.

Just before the Nazis invaded Paris, H.A. and Margret Rey fled on bicycles. They were carrying the manuscript for *Curious George*.

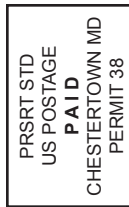
During the first Super Bowl in 1967, NBC was still in commercial when the second half kicked off. Officials asked the Packers to kick off again.

About one in every 2 million lobsters is born with a rare genetic defect that turns it blue.

The fax machine was invented more than a quarter-century before the telephone.

The familiar piano tune we know as "Chopsticks" was written by a 16-year-old girl in 1877 and was published as "The Celebrated Chop Waltz."

(mentalfloss.com)



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Dates in History

- 1652** In Massachusetts, silversmith John Hull opened the first mint in America, in defiance of English colonial law. The first coin issued was the Pine Tree Shilling, designed by Hull.
- 1783** The first sustained flight occurred as a hot-air balloon was launched at Annonay, France, by brothers Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier. Their 33-foot-diameter globe aerostatique ascended about 6,000 feet. In September, they repeated the experiment for King Louis XVI, using a sheep, rooster and duck as the balloon's passengers.
- 1842** A society was established in Germany, the Verein zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer in Texas—the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas, or the Adelsverein. The goal was to organize a mass immigration movement to colonize the Republic of Texas, thereby creating a new German state in the heart of America. By 1847, over 5,000 German immigrants had made their way to Texas and established five settlements. Another 2,000 immigrants arrived by 1853. However, the New Germany didn't happen, mainly through a lack of business sense, mistrust among the members, and losses through land speculation.
- 1951** Univac 1, the world's first commercial electronic computer was unveiled in Philadelphia. It was installed at the Census Bureau and utilized a magnetic tape unit as a buffer memory.
- 1983** Dr. Sally Ride, a 32-year-old physicist and pilot, became the first American woman in space, beginning a six-day mission aboard the space shuttle Challenger, launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

(thehistoryplace.com, listverse.com)

On the Lighter Side

I was sitting behind an enthusiastic mom at my son's Little League game. Her boy was pitching for the opposing team and she cheered as he threw wild pitch after wild pitch. The poor kid walked every batter. It was only the first inning and the score was 14–0. Then one batter finally smacked the ball. "Oh no," the mom wailed. "There goes his no-hitter."

When my 15-year-old son, Pat, stepped up to the plate during a Colt League baseball game, the young announcer declared, "Now batting, the right fielder, number 12, Pathogen!" After some confusion in the stands, the announcer came back on over the loudspeaker. "Oh, I get it — Pat Hogan!"

The Unathletic Camper's Baseball Glossary:

Baseball bat: a wooden or metal bar that can easily fly out of someone's hands.

Babe Ruth: someone who people tell you was also overweight.

Right field: a quiet place where you can sit for long stretches and play with dandelions.

Fly ball: when the sun drops a boulder on your head.

Line drive: the reason you can't play shortstop.

Innings: the amount of time left before afternoon snack, divided by nine.

(rd.com)