

# THE OGA TIMES

DECEMBER 22, 2023



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**“We cannot solve problems with the kind of thinking we employed when we came up with them.”**



**-Albert Einstein**

# Clubs and Posters

**5TH GRADE LITERACY NIGHT**

We kindly are asking for donations of:

- used/ old books
- newspapers
- magazines

We will use these to complete our blackout poetry station at Literacy Night.

**PLEASE BRING ANY DONATIONS TO ROOM 3 BY JANUARY 12TH.**

**JOURNALING CLUB**

When: Mondays from 3:00-4:00 P.M.

Location: Room 3 (Mrs. Moody's room in the 5th grade hallway)

Cost: FREE! ALL supplies will be included.

Who can join? Everyone is welcome to apply!

How do I join?  
Fill out the google form below by December 22nd. You will be contacted by January 15th to let you know if you secured a spot in the club.

Application: Google Form/ QR Code  
<https://forms.gle/ZCLEV33mK4p3rQyBA>



You're invited!

**OGA FAMILY CAMPING**

Saturday, January 6, 2024  
Magnolia Park, Apopka, FL

Bring your tent, sleeping bags, and a dish for a pot-luck dinner

\$25 per family  
Space is limited

For more info and to register visit:  
[www.ogafund.com](http://www.ogafund.com)

**AXOLOTL CLUB**

RAN BY: FELICIA MARSHALL

2ND-5TH GRADE STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US AS WE LEARN ABOUT THESE AMAZING CREATURES!

OUR CLUB WILL RUN FROM 1/23- 3/11

WE MEET EVERY OTHER TUESDAY FROM 3:15-4:00

SPACE IS LIMITED!




SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO THE LINK TO SIGN UP!  
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/WDNEPqFS7sO35ID4A](https://forms.gle/wDNEPqFS7sO35ID4A)

Middle School **D&D Club**



**Thursdays 3:15 - 4:15**

Contact Dr Roz for more information  
Players must be able to attend all sessions

**ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY**

**Magnet School Open House**

January 16, 2024  
6pm - Auditorium

Information Session To Include:  
Application Requirements  
Instruction Delivery & Enrichment Opportunities  
Coursework - Advanced/High School  
Campus and Classroom Tour



Registration for the event: <https://forms.gle/Q4EY3oYbSNPAPy066>

## Owl Messenger Crew



Editor In Chief: Kristina K.  
Co-Editor 1: Natalie B.  
Co-Editor 2: Lexi G.

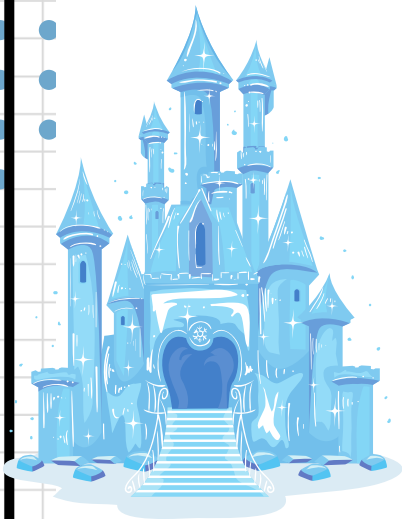
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Advisor: Mrs. Olowu



# Ice Sculptures

By: Damien K.



A room of ice, a grand display  
Days wrapped in fake snow  
A place of children's delight  
Forever a Christmas show

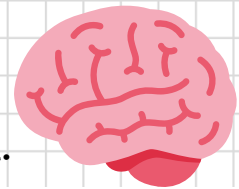
Themes differ from every year  
So we're kept in coolers until winter  
The sculptures are our puppeteers  
They work until we're ready for reenter

As children walk past in delight  
At colors that were driven in by vultures  
Trapped in a room of cold  
Don'cha know, we're Ice Sculptures



## 6 Facts About The Human Brain

By: Alexis M.



The human brain is a very complicated system which there is very little information about, but we do know of some really interesting facts about the human brain, so here they are!

- 60% of the human brain is made up of only fat
- Your brain isn't fully developed until age 25
- Brain information travels up to 268 MPH (miles per hour)
- It's a myth that you only use 10% of your brain, you use all of it
- The human brain weighs 3 pounds
- Last but not least, a brain freeze is actually an SPG (sphenopalatine ganglion neuralgia) the pain happens when the cold hits the receptors on the outside of the brain

Long story short, there is a lot of false information about the brain but on trusted websites, there is an abundance of interesting facts about the human brain.



# Why do we open Advent Calendars?

By: Sloane H.

Advent calendars are celebrated every year as a countdown to Christmas. But why do we have advent calendars?

You open an advent calendar every day for 24 days before Christmas. Each one is filled with a different gift or candy. You can buy many different types of advent calendars filled with chocolate, small gifts, jewelry, etc. Most commonly they are filled with small chocolates that are shaped like something holiday-related, but as the years pass more businesses are coming out with advent calendars filled with their products.

So where did the idea of this advent calendar come from? The first commercial advent calendar was produced in the early 1900s by Gerhard Lang with partner, Ernst Kepler. Others caught onto this idea and started to make more and more advent calendars by the 1920s. In the 1930s advent calendars became highly popular in Germany, and by the 1950s the first ever chocolate-filled advent calendar was invented.

Concluding, advent calendars are a very traditional and exciting way to countdown the days until Christmas. The backstory behind these treat-filled calendars is very interesting. Many brands fill advent calendars with their own products so there is something for everyone.

"Advent Calendars, Explained: Where They Came from and Why They're Everywhere Now." NPR, 11 Dec. 2022, [www.npr.org/2022/12/11/1141855237/advent-calendar-history-evolution#:~:text=Advent%20calendars%20have%20their%20roots,stairs%20in%20a%20Nativity%20crib.org](http://www.npr.org/2022/12/11/1141855237/advent-calendar-history-evolution#:~:text=Advent%20calendars%20have%20their%20roots,stairs%20in%20a%20Nativity%20crib.org).



# Lobbying: Is it Bribery?

By: Kristina K.

Lobbying is very controversial, with many debating whether lobbying should be illegal. Lobbying is when a group/individual tries to influence people in power with money, services, or something to benefit/show the person in power. Technically, lobbying isn't bribery as the lobbyist is only trying to influence the person. There are different types of lobbying though, some of which don't even have to do with money. Going to a protest against the abolishment of Roe V Wade is a form of lobbying. However, the accusations of bribery form when companies want a law to be made. For example, when a mega company can't make more money because of a law that bans a cheap chemical, but dangerous for humans. All a company has to do is lobby, if the company pays enough people in the Senate and House of Representatives. The law will be abolished. Lobbying isn't technically bribery, but it sure is scamming the people of the U.S. Lobbying treads a fine line, but the fact it even comes close to bribery is questionable in itself. People/companies with deep enough pockets simply buy both politicians in a campaign, so either way they still get to do whatever they please. The U.S. is claiming to be a country for the people and yet politicians can be bought out.

"Bribery Vs. Lobbying: What's the Difference?" Investopedia, 16 Aug. 2012, [www.investopedia.com/financial-edge/0912/the-differences-between-bribery-and-lobbying.aspx](http://www.investopedia.com/financial-edge/0912/the-differences-between-bribery-and-lobbying.aspx).





By: Sloane H.

## Social Media

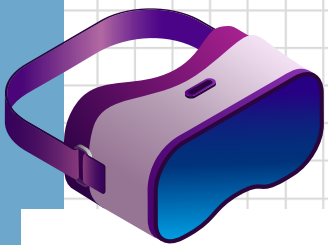
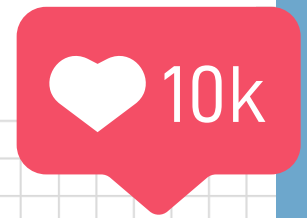
Social media can be a very useful tool. It can inform you about current events or news, it can help educate you on specific topics and expand your interests. On the other hand, it can give you wrong information, bad advice, and make you believe something that is far from the truth. But do the pros outweigh the cons?

When using social media at a young age it can be very bad for the user. It can give them false images of reality or show standards that can be very hard for someone to fulfill. Therefore, it can leave a lasting impression of standards on a young child if exposed at too young of an age.

Also, when used at an acceptable age, social media can be very beneficial for an adult or mature teen. It can expand your knowledge on a topic that may be important for a school topic or current issue. But, it can also spread fake news. This is very bad for someone to read because one piece of fake news can counterfeit 10 pieces of real news and can make someone have a very strong opinion on something that is false.

To conclude, social media can be very beneficial if used for the right purpose by the right people. For example, if a 5-year-old kid is using social media and sees a false image of reality, it can set them up for a life filled with insecurity. When used the right way social media can help inform many adults on important subjects.

"Essay on Social Media - Advantages & Disadvantages | 500 Words Essay." Toppr-guides, 25 Oct. 2019, [www.toppr.com/guides/essays/essay-on-social-media/](http://www.toppr.com/guides/essays/essay-on-social-media/).



## Virtual Reality

By: Alexis M.

Almost everyone knows what VR (virtual reality) is, but most people don't know how it works. As of March 2022, a survey conducted in the US reported that 18% of the people they interviewed stated that they owned a VR headset, which is a small percentage. The way virtual reality works isn't that complicated, putting the headset on replaces the natural field of view with a computer-generated field of view. For that to happen the headset contains infrared LEDs, motion sensors, cameras, and screens. You might feel dizzy or have a headache after wearing a VR headset, especially after a long period of time, because wearing a VR headset is basically like holding up your phone directly to your face or sitting close to the TV. Also, while wearing a VR headset if you are standing still and the virtual environment on the headset around you is moving, you end up disturbing the brain's equilibrium, causing you to feel dizzy or nauseous. Wearing a VR headset is basically like holding an iPad up to your face and it can be very dangerous if you're wearing a VR headset in a cluttered room or moving around while wearing one since you can't see. Virtual reality is an advanced technology that a lot of people don't know much about because they think it's simpler than it actually is. VR is an extremely cool thing and the more you know about it the better the experience of using VR will be!

Leroux, Aurélie. "Virtual Reality Headset: How Does It Work?" *Healthy Mind*, 25 Aug. 2021, [healthymind.fr/en/virtual-reality-headset-how-does-it-work/#:~:text=VR%20glasses%20work%20by%20stereoscopy,in%20front%20of%20each%20eye](http://healthymind.fr/en/virtual-reality-headset-how-does-it-work/#:~:text=VR%20glasses%20work%20by%20stereoscopy,in%20front%20of%20each%20eye). Accessed 13 Dec. 2023.

"Motion Sickness in VR: Why It Happens and How to Minimize It." *VirtualSpeech - Soft Skills Training in VR with AI Feedback*, [virtualspeech.com/blog/motion-sickness-vr#:~:text=In%20VR%2C%20this%20essentially%20means,you%20start%20to%20feel%20nauseous](http://virtualspeech.com/blog/motion-sickness-vr#:~:text=In%20VR%2C%20this%20essentially%20means,you%20start%20to%20feel%20nauseous). Accessed 13 Dec. 2023.

"U.S. Adults Who Own VR Headset 2022." *Statista*, 11 Apr. 2022, [www.statista.com/statistics/1302581/us-adults-who-own-vr-headset/#:~:text=According%20to%20a%20March%202022,currentl%20own%20a%20VR%20headset](http://www.statista.com/statistics/1302581/us-adults-who-own-vr-headset/#:~:text=According%20to%20a%20March%202022,currentl%20own%20a%20VR%20headset). Accessed 13 Dec. 2023.



# A Day In the Life of a Marine Biologist

By: Damien K.

A marine biologist is a science professional studying how organisms live in the sea and interact. This can include what organisms eat, how they evolve and what factors might influence their behaviors. Marine biologists can specialize in specific areas such as studying a specific species or region, or a specific area of science like oceanography or chemical biology. Some roles that marine biologists might have include:

- Ecology
- Dive operations
- Project management
- Reef restoring
- Data research and management
- Environmental engineering
- Teaching
- Consulting
- Biotechnology



Including these points, marine biologists have a wide array of tasks, like collecting sea specimens, collecting/organizing data, writing research reports/presentations, and much more.

Becoming a Marine Biologist means that you must have an education consisting of a high school diploma, and most companies require their workers to have a bachelor's degree in biology or marine biology. Other companies require a master's degree in marine biology to be a full-time researcher. However, wanting to teach marine biology at a university requires a doctorate in the same subject.

<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/day-in-the-life-of-marine-biologist>

## Cold As Ice

By: Amaya A.

My remorse is storming,  
My hands are so cold,  
With no sign of warming.

My face is now a mask,  
Impartial to my task.

To stop the impending doom of the things they have wrought,  
I am now a juggernaut,  
Of the horrid and dreadful forethought of my commander.





By: Courtney Z.

# Deep Sea Mining

Deep Sea mining is mining the deep sea bed at depths of 2,000 meters or greater. Deep sea mining is a potential solution to gathering raw materials that are scarce on land, but is it the best solution?

Most of the mining is done to get materials such as lithium, nickel, manganese, cobalt, and graphite due to their common uses in everyday life such as in batteries, wind turbines, a range of technologies, etc. Though those materials aren't necessarily "scarce" they are only found in certain countries and to get these materials they need to build trade relationships which aren't the easiest to form compared to just mining in the deep waters that no country can claim as theirs.

Like other forms of mining deep-sea mining also causes pollution, but how will this pollution affect the world? Well... it's not going to be good, to say the least. First off the deep sea is the largest habitat for life in the world, with a vast variety of different species and ecosystems being home to a rich biodiversity.

Noise pollution: Now you're probably asking "How do you pollute noise?" well in the deep sea where there is 0 light noise is the main form of communication. Since sound travels faster through water than in oxygen and mining machines make a lot of noise, especially with these animals' heightened sense of hearing everything gonna get messed up.

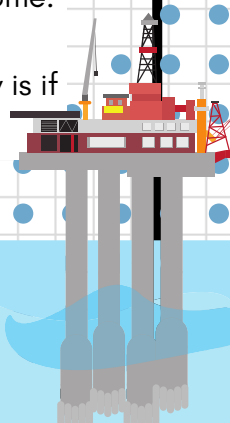
The discharge of toxic compounds: If land mining already terribly pollutes our waters, then what do you think releasing these chemicals in the ocean directly is going to do? These mining materials may release toxic materials that naturally occur on the ocean floor into the water where they don't occur naturally for a reason. When nodules are extracted and the steams of water are released the temperature of the waters around heat up and oxygen levels drop, which fish need to breathe because fish don't breathe water.

Economic Disruption: This plays in part of with toxic compounds being discharged into the ocean because if the fish are taking in toxic oxygen and people are eating those toxic fish two things are guaranteed to happen, A. People are going to get sick and die and B. If the fish are too toxic to eat then they are too toxic to sell which means money bye-bye. This especially affects countries and communities that rely on fish as their main source of protein and income.

In conclusion, deep sea mining most likely will pollute the ocean even worse than it already is if we were to do it now, but maybe if more research is done we could find more safe ways.

"What is Deep-sea Mining and How is It Connected to the Net Zero Transition?" Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, 27 July 2023, [www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/explainers/what-is-deep-sea-mining-and-how-is-it-connected-to-the-net-zero-transition/](http://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/explainers/what-is-deep-sea-mining-and-how-is-it-connected-to-the-net-zero-transition/).

"The Promise and Risks of Deep-sea Mining." Reuters, 15 Nov. 2023, [www.reuters.com/graphics/MINING-DEEPSEA/CLIMATE/zjgqezqzjpx/](https://www.reuters.com/graphics/MINING-DEEPSEA/CLIMATE/zjgqezqzjpx/).





# Boggy Creek Airboat Adventures

By: McKenzie L.

Florida is most known for its amusement parks, from Walt Disney World to Universal Studios. However, these well-known attractions are notorious for their tourists. A hidden gem called "Boggy Creek Airboat Adventures" is a landscaped park that consists of 32 acres of land. This is the ultimate outdoor adventure if you want the perfect nature experience in Florida. There are multiple different tours that you are free to participate in: a 30-minute tour which is around \$30-\$35, an hour tour which is around \$50-\$55, a sunset tour which is around \$58-\$68, and finally, a night tour which is around \$63-\$73. On these tours, you are guaranteed to see a variety of wildlife. From birds, to turtles, to American alligators, and more, in their natural habitat. However, that is not all, you can walk through Lily's Butterfly Garden, where you can experience the beauty of native butterflies and the natural plants of Florida. You can also view the Native American's authentic village replica, which features the rooms of the traditional Native American tribes. If you're ever looking for a non-tourist attraction, Boggy Creek Airboat Adventures is the perfect pick. Whether you are a kid or an adult, you can enjoy this obscure location. These tours are ideal for any age to enjoy!

Just a Moment..., bcairboats.com/.

"Things to Do in Orlando Beyond Theme Parks." Visit Orlando | Hotels, Restaurants, Things to Do & Vacation Guide, www.visitorlando.com/things-to-do/attractions/beyond-theme-parks/.



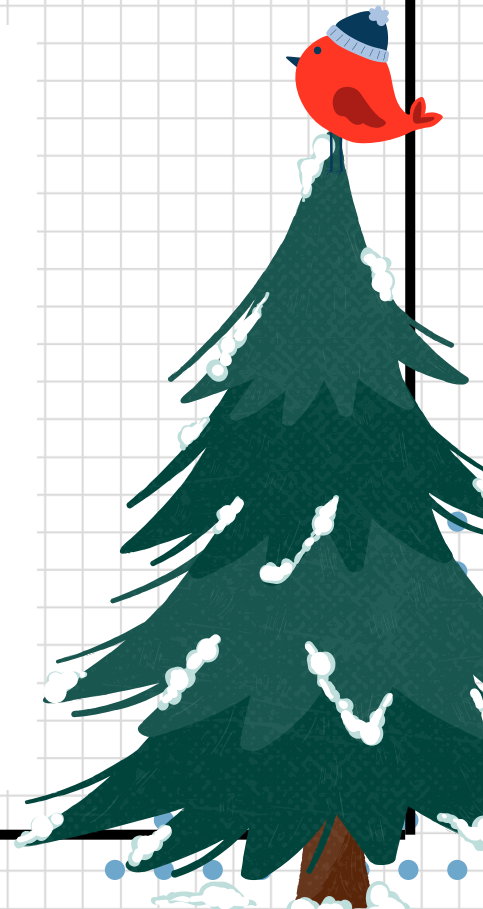
By: Amelia L.

## Winter: A Poem

When the snow first falls,  
One cold winter night,  
The crunch of snow can be heard,  
As the children fight  
With snow flying through the air.

Inside, blankets are piled,  
As some stay warm by the fire,  
Drinking hot cocoa  
Covered in scarfs.

Not all like the cold snow,  
But most find joy  
While spending time with family  
Sitting in the winter sun



By: Amelia L.

## Montezuma Castle

Montezuma Castle is a national monument in Arizona. It is a small castle carved out into the side of a limestone cliff that the Sinagua Indians created. Over time, this abode has held for 700 years! It is known as an American national monument, declared by President Rosavelt in 1906. This famous structure is visited by around 350,000 tourists every year, and you used to be able to tour it from the inside, however, the structure started to crumble with so many tourists climbing into it, so going inside was no longer allowed in 1951. The castle has also suffered from infestations, such as a huge carpenter bee infestation in the mid-1990s, however restoration attempts have been made for every disaster in hopes to keep this ancient treasure alive.



Montezuma Castle. (2018, January 31). HISTORY. <https://www.history.com/topics/landmarks/montezuma-castle>

## Thing to do in Orlando

By: Courtney Z.

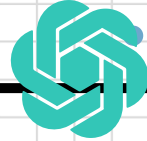
-If you live or have been to Orlando you probably have seen the big Ferris wheel known as the "Eye of Orlando" but what is even there with it? The Ferris Wheel is located in a "plaza" you could call Icon Park, and there are a lot of things to do there.

To start with are all the little booths. There are tons of them near the Aquarium entrance and they sell many things popular among kids like those reversible octopuses, squeaky dogs, etc. On to the Aquarium, it's a very immersive experience for all ages. There is this big hallway you walk through that is completely surrounded by all species of sea creatures including mermaids! There is even an area where you get to be part of a fish-feeding frenzy!

Another big attraction at Icon Park is the Sugar Factory. They are mostly known for their sweet sugary desserts but they also have some very good savory dishes like steak and frites and their burgers. If you're visiting Orlando or live here and want something to do Icon Park is definitely the place to go.

"SEA LIFE Orlando Aquarium Florida | ICON Park Attraction." SEA LIFE Orlando, [www.visitsealife.com/orlando/](http://www.visitsealife.com/orlando/).

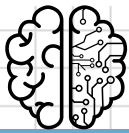




We have recently seen a large increase in the use of AI worldwide. The AI can be used in many ways, solve math, generate artwork, hold good conversations, etc. But one thing they don't do is deliver news very well, until now.

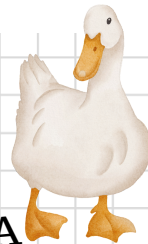
The popular AI platform, ChatGPT has partnered with OpenAI and Axel Springer, a global news publisher, to help summarize articles written by Politico and Business Insider. This is a huge leap for the future as people can now use AI as their news source. This most likely coincides with the deal OpenAI made with The Associated Press. Once it is taken into effect, ChatGPT will answer questions with summaries of articles written by Politico and Business Insider and possibly other sources in the future.

This deal can lead to more possibilities for partnerships. Maybe with even larger sources like the Daily Mail and The Wall Street Journal.

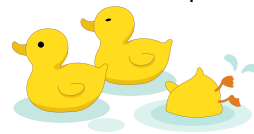


## Why I Would Fight a Horse-Sized Duck

By: Jacob A



An age-old question everyone has been asked is "Would you rather fight a horse-sized duck or 100 duck-sized horses?" Whatever you pick is mostly my preference, but for most of my life, I would have chosen 100 duck-sized horses. Now, I believe the opposite. Fighting 100 duck-sized horses is extremely difficult, due to the severe risk of getting trampled, as well as not being able to knock out the duck-sized horses with one punch, meaning you would have to punch with your maximum strength hundreds of times to knock out all the small horses winning the battle, all these punches would quickly tire you, eventually exhausting you to the point where you can no longer fire any more punches. This isn't even mentioning the fact that the horses might swarm you, meaning you would be turning frequently to defend yourself, tiring you even faster than if they all came at you from only one direction. This doesn't mean that fighting a horse-sized duck would be any easier, but all these reasons prove that defending from both will be quite a difficult challenge.



Although I had never thought that I could win against a horse-sized duck, it would be much more fun than fighting an army of tiny horses, it would be the closest thing in my life to a boss battle. Avoiding the duck's massive beak and wings while desperately trying to attack the massive swan in any way possible. Fighting a duck also comes with advantages over fighting a horse. Many birds, including ducks, have hollow bones, making blunt force attacks, like punching and kicking much more effective. However, the duck might fly for some time, making it much more challenging to defend yourself, as it is difficult to predict when it may dive down to attack you and difficult to dodge. Overall, both of these battles have downsides and upsides that could be debated for a long time, which is why it is a question that many people have asked. I chose the horse-sized duck because I believe that this would be more fun to fight against and easier at the same time.

# 9 Weird Laws

By: Reagan C.

In France naming a pig Napoleon is illegal because the French king decided that if you name a pig after him that is considered offensive and rude. But the law was lifted because protesters started insulting the king in many offensive ways so they decided to lift the law and now it is legal to offend the king.

If you are a tourist on some beaches in Spain you could get fined up to 230 dollars for just building a sand castle and having some fun. This law was put in place in 2016 at Benidorm town hall vote to ban sandcastles on Levante beach. Then, many more beaches followed along with this law and that is why it is well known to people in Spain.

In some monuments in Greece, it is illegal to wear heels or other shoes that can puncture the 2500-year-old monuments that are still standing in Greece. This rule came into place in 2009 when some women were wearing stilettos to visit the Acropolis or the Parthenon and their shoes were puncturing the fragile stone. So now you have to wear shoes that will not puncture the stone on the monuments.



In Singapore, they banned chewing gum, one of the reasons is because they want to keep their city clean. Another reason is that when people were done with their gum they would stick it on the train doors, then the train doors would not close all the way causing people to be able to escape the train as it was going and sometimes the train would get delayed and people would be late every day.

In Victoria, Australia, if you want to enjoy your day and fly a kite around, think again because you can get charged up to 165 dollars for flying a kite in public. It became a law in 1966 because it was considered annoying and rude to disturb anyone else in public.

In 2011, France banned ketchup in school cafeterias. This is because France takes pride in their food and their culture so the only exception for ketchup is when it is served with french fries. That is why there is no ketchup in school lunches in France.

In Venice, Italy if you do a normal thing like feeding the pigeons, you could get fined or arrested. This law came into place in 2008 to try to help the population in the city. If you break this law you get fined up to 700 euros, Which could be the same amount that it would cost to stay in a fancy hotel.

In Mobile, Alabama it is illegal to throw confetti on the streets because it is hard to clean up and it is not biodegradable. It started with some towns banning it all together but after some time the whole city and area banned it all together. That meant that you could not sell, buy, manufacture, etc. any non-biodegradable confetti and it is still in place today.

In Turin, Italy if you don't walk your dog thrice a day you can be fined up to 650 dollars. In Turin, this is not the only violation you could be violating with your dog. There are also rules that you can not color your dog's fur, you cannot abandon them, etc.; if you do, you can get fined up to 10,000 dollars if someone finds out. This is all because Italy cares about animal safety a lot.



"Did You Know Facts? It's Illegal to Let Your Chickens Cross the Road in Outman, Georgia | Shortpedia." Shortpedia. www.shortpedia.com/en-in/did-you-know/did-you-know-facts/its-illegal-to-let-your-chickens-cross-the-road-in-outman-georgia-165882658.  
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# The Most Impressive World Records Ever!

By: Cadence L.

It is cool to get anywhere in the world records book, but here are some of my favorites

1. Largest human mattress dominos. This one is cool for so many reasons, how you do this is by getting a bunch of people, strapping mattresses to their backs, and then pushing one over and playing dominoes with them. The record for this occurred in the Philippines with 2,355 people
2. Longest nails on a live human being. This record belongs to Diana Armstrong, with nails 1,306.58 cm long, or more than 42 feet! She lives in Minneapolis. She says it takes 5 hours and more than one nail polish bottle to paint just one nail.
3. Longest time in an abdominal plank position. This plank was held for 9 hours, 38 minutes, and 47 seconds. Josef Salek achieved this crazy world record. He is a therapist, lecturer, and personal development coach.
4. Longest time breath held voluntarily. Budimir Šobat holds this world record with a time of 24 minutes and 37.36 seconds. He made this record in March 2021. He attempted this world record to promote the city of Sisak after it was hit by a big earthquake in 2020. He surpassed the previous world record by more than 33 seconds!
5. Most Taylor Swift songs identified by their lyrics in one minute. This super impressive record is held by Dan Simpson, a YouTuber who wanted to get his name in a world record book. He lives in London and correctly identified 27 songs in August 2019. He was the first one to attempt this world record, and he will not be the last.

"Most Popular." *Guinness World Records*, [www.guinnessworldrecords.com/records/showcase/most-popular](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/records/showcase/most-popular).



## The Most Popular Search Engine

By: McKenzie L.

Google is the most iconic search engine, everyone has used it, or at least has heard of it. It is the most popular search engine, with 92.82% of the search market using it. How did this excellent search engine get to where it is today? It started when two intelligent Stanford students, Larry Page and Sergey Brin 25 years ago dedicated 2 years to what we know today as Google. They used an advanced method called PageRank to uncover the internet's treasures. PageRank assigns a website's value of relevance and will determine how important a website is. Google is also a very diverse company, scoring 77/100 with diverse employees. The company is committed to creating an inclusive workforce. They build products that work for everyone. Not to mention, the Google homepage can be changed to over 80 different languages. This is because it is used all around the world today. Google is not only used as a search engine, it can be used for navigating as well—for example, Google Maps, which is used to navigate around. Continuing, Google can also be used to send emails every day, which is an excellent way to communicate. So, from sending emails, watching tutorials, and even navigating, Google can be used for practically anything. Google has it all.

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# How Pirates Fought in the Seas

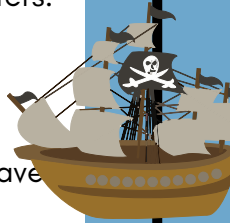
By: Jacob A.

In the movies, pirates swing with a rope to the other ship and fight each other with swords and pistols, but is that true? After learning how pirates fight on the sea, I discovered this is overdramatized and untrue. Pirates start an engagement on the seas by scouting the ship, attempting to gain information. Pirates try to find out the size of the ship compared to them, since from far distances pirates may overestimate or underestimate the size of the ship. They also try to learn if the ship is a merchant ship containing cargo, or a military ship abundant with trained men that can kill many pirates in the captain's crew. The process of gaining intelligence may take several days until the pirates can come up with a conclusion to either attack or disengage. If pirates do try to attack, they could employ many different tactics to start their assault. There are so many tactics that pirates would use to start an engagement with the enemy, so I can only explain one in this article. One way is a cat-and-mouse chase where the pirates chase the enemy ship to get a positional advantage to utilize in the brawl. This strategy was preferred by pirates as it lessened the time in combat by farther than one hundred meters. Pirates were typically more effective at closer ranges where muskets could be used since a musket's effective ranges were around one hundred meters. After the pirates get into close quarters, the true fight ensues.

The captains of both sides were very close to the men fighting the opposing side, so they gave their instructions clearly, and cowards or people who refused to follow instructions were commonly executed immediately. Pirates could throw grappling hooks to close the distance even further to board the enemy ship for melee combat, once the pirates got on, there wasn't any space to have one-versus-one fights as we see in the movies since there wasn't enough space to contain men from two or more crews on one boat. Fights were extremely makeshift, and strategies could vary for every battle. If the enemies were killed or surrendered, the pirates won the fight and kept or killed the prisoners they received, but they could have been invited to their crew if the captain wanted more men. The pirates didn't normally obtain gold from this, but usually rice, tobacco, sugar, chocolate, or people who were enslaved. There are many things the pirates did after with the crew and treasure, but that was my discovery of how I learned how pirates fight on boats, and how movies don't represent how fights typically work.

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By: Reagan C.

# Why Do Dogs Eat Grass?

Have you ever wondered why your dog eats grass? There are a few reasons why your dog might eat grass, the first one being that they might be trying to induce throwing up if they swallowed something that is making them feel ill. Another reason they could be eating grass is a nutritional deficiency and to solve this you could try to find another food or talk to your veterinarian about a new food supplement to make them feel better. If your dog keeps eating grass, dirt, cloth, ect. They might have pica so you should take them to the vet. Pica is a medical condition that causes them to try to eat non edible items. In conclusion you should not be worried about your dog eating grass unless they are continually.

