

Incredible and Crazy Stories from History

David Barrow

Red Dagger Press
30 Broad Street
ELY
Cambs CB7 4AH

First Published in Great Britain
in 2009 by Red Dagger Press

Copyright © David Barrow 2009

David Barrow has asserted his rights under the Copyright, Designs
and Patents Act 1988 to be identified as the author of this work.

This books is a work of fiction and, except in the case of historical fact,
any
resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not,
by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, resold, hired out,
or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior
consent in any form of binding or cover other than that
in which it is published and without a similar condition,
including this condition, being imposed on the
subsequent purchaser.

Incredible and Crazy Stories from History

David Barrow

Terrifying Historic Villains

From Adolf Hitler to Charles Manson, there is no shortage of frightening figures in our history books. However, not all of these awful people receive so much attention. In fact, many of them are barely remembered.

Pietro Caruso

When fascist Italy aligned itself with the Nazis, few embraced the alliance more than Pietro Caruso. He was the police chief of Rome and responsible for upholding law and order. However, he ended up doing the exact opposite. Caruso was a loyal bloodhound of Mussolini. Together with Herbert Kappler, the Gestapo commander of Rome, he participated in many horrors and gleefully pursued Mussolini's enemies. His greatest atrocity was the mass execution of Fosse Andeatine in 1944: In just one day, he gathered over 300 people in front of Nazi rifles. Caruso was especially famous for his sadism—a notable achievement during a time when bloodthirsty Nazis freely roamed the country. After the war, Caruso was put on trial for his crimes. He was found guilty and sentenced to death by firing squad. But he almost didn't make it to his own execution: The furious Romans stormed his guard before the shooting and attempted to drown him in the Tiber River.

Hiroko Nagata

Western people often think of Japan as a restrained, misogynistic culture with little room for extremists—let alone female extremists. While this may be true to a certain extent, Hiroko Nagata managed to break the mold way back in 1972. Unfortunately, she broke it by forming a terrorist faction and killing a bunch of people. Nagata was the leader of United Red Army, a militant leftist group that wanted a Communist revolution in Japan. Her group was notorious for its extreme brutality, and before long, she got in trouble for conspiring to kill two people who tried to leave the group. But mere conspiring wasn't enough for her. In a single year, she led a number of horrifyingly violent group killings. The 12 victims were brutally beaten, tortured, and stabbed. These people weren't even her enemies—they were fellow members of her faction that she said weren't "revolutionary enough." She was eventually arrested in an incident that involved hostages and the deaths of two police officers and one civilian. In the end, she died a lonely death, perishing on death row after a brain tumor operation and a long illness. She was 65.

Goran Jelusic

When a person is commonly known as "Serb Adolf," you know he's probably not a particularly nice person. Goran Jelusic certainly lived up to his nickname. Originally a humble farm machinery mechanic, Jelusic's talent for murder and cruelty became apparent during the Bosnian War. Fighting for the Bosnian Serb forces, who were responsible for 90 percent of the war crimes during the conflict, Jelusic rose in the ranks until he was placed in charge of a detention camp. His camp held hundreds of Muslims and Croats, who were all tortured, murdered (often by Jelusic himself), and buried in hidden graves during the Serbs' ethnic cleansing campaign in 1992. Jelusic, who was only 23 at the time of his crimes, was arrested in 1998. He pleaded guilty to charges of war crimes and

crimes against humanity. However, he was acquitted on the charges of genocide because the prosecution could not prove them conclusively. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison and is currently serving his sentence in Italy.

Kenji Doihara

Kenji Doihara was a Japanese general during World War II. He was in charge of operations during the Japanese invasion of Manchuria, which earned him the nickname "Lawrence of Manchuria" (a reference to Lawrence of Arabia). But this was merely because he was able to dress and act like Chinese natives—not because he was heroic. Unlike his movie counterpart, Doihara wasn't out to help people. He was in it for personal gain and didn't care how many people he hurt to get there. Despite his high rank, Doihara was a rampant opium user and a thoroughly corrupt soul. He was heavily involved in Japan's conquest of massive areas of China, which broke traditional Chinese societal structures and plunged the country in deep confusion. Doihara seized the opportunity to become the mastermind behind all Manchurian crime. He controlled the drug trade and was the kingpin behind almost every criminal faction. Luckily, his near-total control of the underworld didn't last. After numerous terrifying deeds, he was caught, prosecuted for a long list of war crimes, and hanged in December 1948.

Laszlo Baky

Laszlo Baky had two passions: politics and violence. His brutal, counterrevolutionary work in Hungary earned him a high-ranking place in the Gendarmerie (a military faction acting as a police force). Baky became a prominent figure in the Hungarian Nazi party and eventually rose to the rank of state secretary. In 1944, Nazi Germany invaded Hungary, and Baky was the happiest man on earth. Teaming up with SS leader Adolf Eichmann and a fellow Hungarian Nazi named Andor Jaross, Baky became responsible for gathering Hungary's Jews and sending them to concentration camps. Baky loved his job and was horrifyingly good at it. In a terrifying display of efficient logistics, Baky and his companions shipped hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews to their deaths. Luckily, Baky was removed from power before the end of 1944. He fled the country but was caught a year later and sentenced to hang.

Pedro the Cruel

Tall, muscular, and well educated, Pedro of Castile seemed like the perfect king for Castile (a part of Spain). However, he soon proved the opposite. A petty and angry man with little talent as a leader, Pedro reacted to most situations with violence. He was an immoral and unfaithful husband and thought little of killing his wives and lovers if they became a burden. Pedro was originally a decent ruler, but the combination of bad political decisions, a controlling mother, and a close call with the Black Death changed him. Pedro started to brutally murder anyone and everyone in Castile he perceived as a threat. A series of awful deaths followed, and it seemed that no one in Castile was safe from Pedro's cruel madness. Ironically, he was kind of right about his paranoia: In the end, he was assassinated by his own brother.

Ion Antonescu

Ion Victor Antonescu was one of the lesser-known despots of World War II. He was a career officer who seized power in Romania by forcing the king into exile. Antonescu sympathized with the Nazis in their mission to "purge" the world. Antonescu was a cruel man who had no problem with killing hundreds of thousands of people in vain. During his rule, 300,000 Jews and up to 100,000 members of other "impure" ethnicities were murdered. His powerful army also provided more military support to the Nazis than all other Axis powers combined. Because he wished to keep Romania strong, he allowed most Jews within his "Old Romania" borders to live and continue working. He even refused Hitler's requests to deport them to Nazi death camps. Still, a death toll of up to 400,000 people and a close alliance with Hitler were more than enough to earn him a death sentence when the war was over.

Ieng Saryleng

Sary was a rather strange villain. By his own admission, he only ever killed one person (who he seemed to think doesn't count). He consistently claimed to be a nice, innocent man. As the foreign minister of Cambodia, he was the smiling face of their government. He used his charisma and diplomatic skills to negotiate support for his government and direct hatred toward Cambodia's enemy, Vietnam. However, behind his flawless facade he hides unspeakable deeds. In reality, Ieng Sary was Brother No. 3 in the dreaded Khmer Rouge. He was close friends with their leader, Pol Pot, and was well aware of (and actively participating in) their terrifying, genocidal rule. Ieng Sary's task was to mask the horrors of the Khmer Rouge and gather support from their only ally, China. Sary's propaganda was a lethal weapon in itself; he presented Pol Pot's Cambodia as a utopia of pure Communism—where all possessions, family, and religion were truly and successfully thrown away. With such talk, he lured thousands of Cambodian students and intellectuals back to their home country. As soon as they arrived, they were thrown in jail as spies, tortured, and killed. Ieng Sary was too slick and well-connected to suffer the fate of many other historical monsters. When the Khmer Rouge fell to Vietnam in 1979, he escaped to Thailand, where the Chinese embassy provided him with new clothes and a ticket to Beijing. There, he kept the Khmer Rouge movement going for two more decades, using his contacts to get filthy rich in the process. Although he was finally arrested in 2007, he was able to stall the process until his death in 2013.

Bleda The Hun

Attila the Hun was the ruler and creator of the Hunnic Empire. His sheer, over-the-top supervillain antics earned him the nickname "Scourge of God." Bleda the Hun was Attila's meaner big brother. For years, Attila and Bleda ruled the Huns as equals. They fought wars, razed their enemies, and conquered everyone else's lands together. Attila, the guy who's now remembered as a fearsome, powerful, warrior king, was actually the small, brainy kid brother of the duumvirate. Bleda was the physically imposing barbarian chieftain type. Bleda was not only an imposing figure and a dangerous conqueror, but a true supervillain in all senses of the word: He even got himself a Moorish dwarf that he kept around as a cruel combination of "pet," jester, and (during battles) an Austin Powers-style, armor-clad Mini-Me. The reason Bleda isn't better known is that he was unlucky enough

to cross the only person more dangerous than himself: Attila. The younger Hun started getting fed up with Bleda, particularly with his dwarf fixations. The brothers' relationship spiraled into a power struggle. Soon enough, Bleda mysteriously perished in either a genuine hunting accident or—more likely—an “accident” orchestrated by his brother.

Lavrentiy Beria

Lavrentiy Beria was, on the surface, the silver-tongued lackey of Joseph Stalin. However, his meek appearance was deceiving: Beria was one of the few men who could frighten even Stalin. During the 1920s and 1930s, Beria rose through the Communist ranks like a rocket. He specialized in the intelligence and counterintelligence operations of Cheka (the secret police) and its many successors, ultimately becoming the leader of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD). According to legend, he personally strangled the man who held the job before him. Beria was a skilled political player. What's more, he was a remorseless killer who didn't hesitate to terminate anyone in his way. As head of NKVD, he would do anything to get a confession. Wherever he went, people went missing. Beria personally oversaw many of Stalin's political purges and used this as an opportunity to satisfy his desire for mass murder. The infamous Gulag work camps all operated under his supervision. And then there was his main job: Beria's NKVD charged and convicted hundreds of thousands of Russians for high treason, often under false or absurd accusations. Beria also created an effective worldwide spy system and dabbled in assassinations. By February 1941, Beria became the deputy prime minister. Along with his other duties, he oversaw strategic raw materials production for the war effort, naturally using the people he sent to the Gulag camps as slave labour. If he wasn't despicable enough already, Beria was also a sexual deviant of the highest order. He routinely raped and abused women who had often been taken from the street for that purpose. Those who resisted were murdered. His depravity was well known, and Stalin himself was said to be terrified when he heard his daughter was alone with Beria.

Fascinating Facts About Knights

From the Knights of the Round Table to *Game of Thrones*, our culture has no shortage of stories about knights, so it's strange how little we really know about them. We know they wore armor and fought in wars and tournaments . . . but what else did they do? What were their lives like?

The Arbalest Knights

The Arbalest Knights were the supreme force on the battlefield for centuries and it was starting to look as if no one could ever replace them. Ironically, their end was brought about by a very simple invention called the arbalest. The arbalest, invented in the 12th century, was a kind of super crossbow. It was made of steel, so it could endure much higher tension than ordinary bows and produce greater force. An arbalest was accurate up to 300 meters (984 feet), relatively quick to reload, and easy to operate. Its bolts could pierce armor. Suddenly, the mighty knight with all his combat skills, fancy armor, and a lifetime of training was nothing more than an easy target for a guy who had been learning to shoot for a couple of weeks. A skilled arbalestier could drop two knights a minute, yet stay safely out of reach. Although knights called arbalests unchivalrous, it was clear that their time as the alpha males of the battlefield was over, especially since gunpowder weapons were invented soon afterwards.

Spiral Staircases

Many medieval castles featured cleverly designed spiral staircases between the floors. They were usually located next to the castle wall (in a tower, the staircase usually ran along the outer wall and the rooms were constructed in the space in the middle). They might seem like a clever way to save space, but actually spiral staircases were invented for warfare. If an enemy army invaded the castle, their knights had an extremely difficult time walking up the narrow, curving staircase while fighting. The design also gave the defenders a bonus advantage. Medieval spiral staircases were designed so that they wound clockwise going up. That meant the invading knights had to advance with their left side to the front, which was a serious problem because pretty much all knights wielded their swords with their right hands.

Money Matters

Being a knight was extremely expensive. The armor, the weapons, the horse, and the servants all cost an obscene amount of money, on top of normal living expenses. Still, as skillful horseback fighters, knights were a vital part of any army, so the ruler had to provide them with the means to support themselves. The solution to this problem was knight-service, a system in which the ruler gave his knights a plot of land—and, in effect, the people living on said land—in a pact called a knight's fee or "fief." The knight was a tenant of the lord, with rights to rule over his fiefdom as he saw fit. In exchange, the lord could summon the knight and his men to fight in his army.

Virtues Of Chivalry

Chivalry was an overall system of proper knightly conduct. Its borders were loosely defined and often extended beyond the battlefield and into everyday behavior. The codes of conduct and etiquette were extremely strict, but their essence could be condensed into the vows a knight made during his dubbing ceremony. A knight should never traffic with traitors. He should never give evil counsel to a lady (regardless of her marital status) and should always treat her with respect and defend her against any danger. What's more, he must take part in fasts and abstinences, attend daily Mass and make offerings to the Church. The last of those vows was obviously inserted into the ceremony by the Church themselves. When they started preaching for the First Crusade in the 11th Century, they devised a cunning plan to get knights on board with their mission. The Church introduced its own code of chivalry, a code of conduct all knights were to follow. Unsurprisingly, it revolved largely around doing what the Church said and upholding Christianity. Although chivalrous behavior was common at social events, not many knights kept to chivalrous ideals when they entered battle. Instead, most opted to butcher and pillage as much as they wanted. They were soldiers and practical men, after all—they weren't going to risk getting killed because their opponent might be less chivalrous than them.

The Origins Of Knighthood

Knights were always associated with horses—their armored warhorses, known as destriers, were massive and trained for battle. Because of that, it's believed that the concept of knighthood comes from ancient horse troops. Knights are thought to have originated way back in the heyday of the Roman Empire. The ancient Romans had an elite equestrian order known as the Ordo Equestris. Although the Ordo Equestris can't be conclusively linked to knights, scholars note that they shared many similarities with knights of the Middle Ages—they were lesser nobility who fought on horseback and commanded considerable respect. When Charlemagne, Emperor of the Franks in the ninth century, combined a similar mounted nobleman class with the concept of feudalism, knighthood was born.

Armour

No knight would dream of entering the battlefield without his suit of armor. The armour had to be tailor-made (since the garments were made of metal and other inflexible materials, it was essential that they fit as well as possible). It got sturdier and sturdier over time—originally knights' armor was a collection of padded garments and chainmail. As technology progressed, plate armour and finally full plate armour (the full knights' armour seen in most movies) entered the knight's wardrobe. Full plate armour was complex and weighed around 50 pounds. It could deflect blows from most medieval weapons. The quality and impressiveness of the armour was not only a life-saver but also a status symbol—the better the armor was, the more important the knight was thought to be.

Jousting And Hastilude

Jousting wasn't just something knights did in between wars. In fact, when jousting developed into the sports-like event popular culture depicts it as, there

weren't many wars to fight. Jousting began as an exercise in medieval combat tactics. However, when the crusades ended and knights had no more wars to fight, jousting quickly became a *hastilude*, the medieval name for a combat-themed sport. Popular *hastilude* events included the *pas d'armes* (passage of arms), in which a knight had to fight his way through a group of challengers, and *melee*, in which a group of knights were divided into two teams that fought each other on foot. Surprisingly, jousting was seldom the main event—usually the *melee* was the center of attention.

Training

A knight's training was an arduous process that began at the age of seven and lasted for 14 years. The future knight would first serve as a *page*. At that point he was just a servant boy who had to run errands and serve his lord. Although most of his training was in the form of different games and sports, they were extremely serious games. Instead of toys and action figures, the medieval page played with two-handed maces and practiced horsemanship. At the age of 14, the page graduated to become a *squire*. Each squire usually served a specific knight, acting as a butler of sorts and helping to dress the knight and maintain his armor and weapons. A squire was seen as a man who was capable of fighting on the battlefield. As such, his training became more and more dangerous. Injuries were commonplace, and traditional knightly skills such as jousting and quarterstaff-fighting became part of the training regime. At 21, the squire was finally knighted. The *knighting* process was called *dubbing*, and it was originally very simple—the nobleman performing the ceremony would just slap the squire on the neck with an open hand and say a few quick words.

The Crusades

The *crusades*, Church-orchestrated war campaigns to conquer the Holy Land and seize it from the Muslims, were for centuries the main stage for knights to show their prowess. Many people think there were just a couple of *crusades*, but in reality there were quite a lot more. The *crusades* were a near-constant religious war that raged for almost 200 years. There were eight major *crusades* (or nine, if you include the unfortunate *Peasants' Crusade* led by Peter the Hermit and Walter the Penniless) and many more minor *crusades* in between. Unfortunately for the knights, the *crusades* were ultimately a failure and resulted in the Holy Land falling into *Saracen* hands. Still, that didn't stop a succession of *Popes* from ordering further *crusades* against multiple enemies (mostly their political enemies from Europe) for centuries to come.

Modern Knights

Since 1560, *knighthood* has essentially ceased to exist as a military honor. There are still a few hereditary "true" knights around today, but most new *knighthoods* are bestowed because of the contributions their recipients have made to society in one way or another. Although there are still many *chivalric orders*, most that were created after the Middle Ages were specifically designed as means to decorate deserving individuals. For instance, the *knighthoods* given to famous people such as Sir Elton John, Dame Judi Dench, and Sir Paul McCartney are purely honorific and do not require them to saddle up and charge the enemy.

Did You Know?

The shortest war in history was fought between Zanzibar and England in 1896. The war lasted only 38 minutes before Zanzibar surrendered.

The longest reigning monarch in history was Pepi II, who ruled Egypt for 90 years, 2566 to 2476 BC.

Many men who acted as guards along the Great Wall of China in the Middle Ages spent their whole lives there. They were born there, raised there, they married there, died there, and were even buried within the wall.

Ancient Romans at one time used human urine as an ingredient in their toothpaste.

The first bomb dropped on Germany in World War II, killed the only elephant in the Berlin Zoo.

In Ancient Greece, if a woman watched even one Olympic event, she was executed.

Attila the Hun bled to death from a nosebleed on his wedding night.

In ancient Rome, it was considered a sign of leadership to be born with a crooked nose.

The flu killed over 20 million people in Spain from 1918 to 1919.

Julius Caesar wore a laurel wreath to cover the onset of baldness.

Roman Emperor Caligula was so upset by the death of his sister Drusila that he imposed a year of mourning. During this time, everyone in the empire was forbidden to dine with his family, laugh or take a bath. The penalty for transgression was death.

When Albert Einstein died, his last words died with him. The nurse close to him did not understand German.

People have been wearing glasses for about 700 years.

Coffee is the second largest item of international commerce in the world. The largest is petrol.

In 200 BC, when the Greek city of Sparta was at the height of its power there were 20 slaves for every citizen. Great news if you were free, not such good news for the slaves.

Ancient Egyptians used slabs of stones as pillows.

In Ancient Egypt, cats were considered sacred. When a family pet cat died, the entire family would shave off their eyebrows and remain in mourning until they had grown back.

Peter the Great executed his wife's lover, and forced her to keep her lover's head in a jar of alcohol in her bedroom.

Abraham Lincoln was shot with a Derringer.

During the reign of Elizabeth I, there was a tax put on men's beards.

February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

Marie Currie, who twice won the Nobel Prize, and discovered radium, was not allowed to become a member of the prestigious French Academy because she was a woman.

Christmas didn't become a national holiday in the USA until 1890.

Atilla the Hun is thought to have been a dwarf.

One of Queen Victoria's wedding gifts was a 3 metre diameter, half tonne cheese.

Silly facts

Wearing headphones for just an hour will increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.

The original basket in basketball, as invented by James Naismith in 1891, was a peach basket.

Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.

The world's population grows by 100 million each year.

Dentists have recommended that a toothbrush be kept at least 6 feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush.

In most American states, a wedding ring is exempt by law from inclusion among the assets in a bankruptcy estate. This means that a wedding ring cannot be seized by creditors, no matter how much the bankrupt person owes.

The hair of an adult man or woman can stretch 25 percent of its length without breaking.

Ninety percent of New York City cabbies are recently arrived immigrants.

By law, information collected in a U.S. census must remain confidential for 72 years.

You are more likely to get attacked by a cow than a shark.

The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.

Anti-modem laws restrict Internet access in the country of Burma. Illegal possession of a modem can lead to a prison term.

It would take a car traveling at 100 mph nearly 30 million years to reach our nearest star.

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.

China uses 45 billion chopsticks per year, using 25 million trees to make them.

The Hoover Dam was built to last 2,000 years. The concrete in it will not even be fully cured for another 500 years.

Alfred Hitchcock didn't have a belly button. It was eliminated when he was sewn up after surgery.

Jack Nicholson holds the record for most individual Golden Globe wins, which is six.

Approximately sixty circus performers have been shot from cannons. At last report, thirty-one of these have been killed.

The longest interval between an original film and its sequel is forty-six years – between *The Wizard of Oz* and *Return to Oz*.

The launching mechanism of a carrier ship that helps planes to take off, could throw a pickup truck over a mile.

The average person is half an inch taller upon rising in the morning.

Watermelons are a popular gift to bring to a host in China or Japan.

If you put a raisin in a glass of champagne, it will keep floating to the top and sinking to the bottom.

Every time Beethoven sat down to write music, he poured ice water over his head.

Humans are the only mammals that use a smile as an emotional response.

The Japanese word "Arigato" meaning thank you is derived from the Portuguese word "Obrigado". Portugal once had a thriving trade with Japan.

It's against the law to catch fish with your bare hands in Kansas.

Tipping at a restaurant in Iceland is considered an insult.

Astronauts are not allowed to eat beans before they go into space because passing wind in a space suit damages them.

Most cows give more milk when they listen to music.

To burn off one plain M&M, you need to walk the full length of a football field.

Celery has negative calories. It takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with.

During one seven year period, Thomas Edison obtained approximately three hundred patents. In his whole life he obtained over one thousand patents.

Everyone drinks coffee to perk themselves up, but in fact an apple can perk one up more than a cup of coffee can.

There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

The sun's total lifetime as a star capable of maintaining a life-bearing Earth is about 11 billion years. Nearly half that time has passed.

A clam can switch its gender from male to female, and it will take place few times throughout its life.

On a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament building is an American flag.

A study at Harvard has shown that eating chocolate can actually help you live longer.

A rose picked during afternoon can survive longer than a rose picked in the morning.

In an average lifetime the average American receives 31 prank phone calls.

If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee.

Crocodiles and alligators are surprisingly fast on land. Although they are rapid, they are not agile. So, if being chased by one, run in a zigzag line to lose him or her.

More calories are wasted by sleeping than sitting and watching TV.

The Earth experiences 50,000 Earth quakes per year and is hit by Lightning 100 times a second.

"Go." is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

In the United States, a pound of potato chips costs two hundred times more than a pound of potatoes.

Table tennis balls have been known to travel off the paddle at speeds up to 160 km/h.

Some Amazing Facts

The country with the highest consumption of candy at 29.5 pounds annually per person is Denmark.

85,000,000 tons of paper are used in the United States each year.

Hydra - an aquatic creature is the only living creature that never die. It regenerates, replacing its cells with fresh ones.

A Baboon called "Jackie" became a private in the South African army in World War I.

Coca-Cola was originally green because of fresh cocoa leaves.

The Nobel Peace prize was first awarded in 1901 to Jean Henry Dunant, who was the founder of the Swiss Red Cross.

A bibliophile is a collector of rare books. A bibliopole is a seller of rare books.

Babies are born without knee caps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2-6 years of age.

During World War II, the Japanese used shark liver oil in the engines of their fighter planes.

A diamond will not dissolve in acid. The only thing that can destroy it is intense heat.

Leaving the water running while brushing your teeth can waste four gallons of water in a minute.

There are over one hundred billion galaxies with each galaxy having billions of stars.

A father sea catfish keeps the eggs of his young in his mouth until they are ready to hatch. He will not eat until his young are born, which may take several weeks.

Beetles taste like apples, wasps like pine nuts, and worms like fried bacon.

The more a person struggles to get out of quicksand the faster they will sink. Staying still, and being calm will actually make the body float in the quicksand because the body is less dense than the quicksand is.

The average lead pencil will draw a line 35 miles long or write approximately 50,000 English words.

A humming bird flaps its wings up to 90 times in one second or over 5000 times a minute.

"Almost" is the longest word in the English language with all the letters in alphabetical order.

Women are twice as likely to be diagnosed with depression than men in the United States.

If the population of China walked past you in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.

A mosquito will become restless and start flying around if there is an increase of carbon dioxide in the surrounding air.

Walmart-mart sells more apparel a year than all the other competing department stores combined.

A dog can hear sounds that are 100 times fainter than the faintest sounds that a person can hear. If a person can just hear a noise that is coming from 10 feet away, a dog could hear that same noise from 100 feet away.

A person uses approximately fifty-seven sheets of toilet paper each day.

Victoria's Secret model Karolina Kurkova doesn't have a belly button. A belly button is always photo shopped into her bikini shots.

The best time for a person to buy shoes is in the afternoon. This is because the foot tends to swell a bit around this time.

A polar bears skin is black. Its fur is actually clear, but like snow it appears white.

Internet Addiction will be classified as a real psychological disorder in 2013.

Before air conditioning was invented, white cotton slipcovers were put on furniture to keep the air cool.

Each nostril of a human being registers smells in a different way. Smells that are made from the right nostril are more pleasant than the left. However, smells can be detected more accurately when made by the left nostril.

A quarter of raw potato placed in each shoe at night will keep the leather soft and the shoes smelling fresh and clean.

The reason why hair turns gray as we age is because the pigment cells in the hair follicle start to die, which is responsible for producing "melanin" which gives the hair colour.

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

