

# Trivia

We might think of people with black belts as experts in martial arts who have endured years of rigorous training. But the word used for the ranking in Japanese, "shodan," can be broken down and translated to "first step."



Inventor Richard James, a naval engineer, was trying to create a spring that could help stabilize equipment on boats in choppy waters. However, his spring's ability to move seemingly on its own proved more interesting and became the prototype for the Slinky in 1943.

Around 300 BC, the Roman censor Appius Claudius Caecus had Z removed from the alphabet due to the fact that it wasn't used that much. The letter S was also nixed, and the letter G was added. It took another 200 years for Z to make its way back to the end of the alphabet.

There's actually a word for when you're trying to say something and suddenly forget a specific word. It's "lethologica."

The Nishiyama Onsen Keiunkan in Yamanashi, Japan, holds the Guinness World Record for being the oldest hotel in the world. The hot-spring hotel sits at the foot of the stunning Akaishi Mountains and has been in operation since it was founded by Fujiwara Mahito in 705 A.D. Since then, it's been in the hands of some 52 generations of the same family for more than 1,300 years.

The largest waterfall on the planet is underwater beneath the Denmark Strait, an area that separates Iceland and Greenland. At the bottom, there is a series of waterfalls that begin 2,000 feet under the surface and drop nearly two miles down to a depth of 10,000 feet.

Polar bears fur appears to be white to the human eye but it is actually two layers of clear fur. Underneath that coat, their skin is actually black.



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## Dates in History

476

On September 4th, Romulus Augustus, the last emperor of the Western Roman Empire, was deposed by Odoacer, a German barbarian who proclaimed himself king of Italy. Although Roman rule continued in the East, the crowning of Odoacer marked the end of the original Roman Empire, which was centered in Italy.

1519

On September 20th, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan set sail from Spain in an effort to find a western sea route to the rich Spice Islands of Indonesia. On October 21, he finally discovered the strait he had been seeking. It took 38 days to navigate the treacherous strait, and when ocean was sighted at the other end, Magellan wept with joy.

1813

On September 10th, U.S. Captain Oliver Hazard Perry led a fleet of nine American ships to victory over a squadron of six British warships at the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. The battle was closely contested for hours, and Perry's flagship, Lawrence was reduced to a defenseless wreck. He then transferred to the Niagara and sailed directly into the British line, firing broadsides and forcing the British to surrender.

1985

On September 1st, seventy-three years after it sank to the North Atlantic ocean floor, the wreck of the RMS Titanic was found. Efforts to locate and salvage the Titanic began almost immediately after it sank. But technical limitations, as well as the sheer vastness of the North Atlantic search area, made it extremely difficult. The sunken liner was found about 400 miles east of Newfoundland in the North Atlantic, some 13,000 feet below the surface.

## On the Lighter Side



A book fell on my head the other day. I only have my shelf to blame though.

My teachers told me I'd never amount to much because I procrastinate too much. I told them, "Just you wait!"

Geology rocks, but geography's where it's at.

How was the handsome runner described?  
Dashing.

Why don't phones ever go hungry?  
They have plenty of apps to choose from.

I like telling Dad jokes...sometimes he laughs.

If a child refuses to nap, are they guilty of resisting a rest?

Sore throats are a pain in the neck.

What does a house wear?  
Address.

Why did the scarecrow win an award?  
He was out standing in his field.

Can someone please tell me what the lowest rank in the military is?

Every time I ask someone, they say, "It's Private."

A doctor gets a phone call from a colleague while having dinner at home with his wife.

"We need a 4th for poker."

"I'll be right over," says the doctor.

"Is it serious?" His wife asks when she notices him quickly putting on his coat.

"Oh yes... there are 3 other doctors there already."

