

11 Well Known Facts that Actually Aren't True

Penguins Mate for Life

During the mid-2000s, films like "Happy Feet" made penguins all the rage, and young lovers went around spouting off facts like "penguins mate for life."

" While the idea is sweet, it's not exactly true. Penguins usually stick with their partners through the mating season, but when it's time to mate again, they choose whomever is convenient, not necessarily their old flame.

George Washington Carver Invented Peanut Butter

While George Washington Carver did make great discoveries involving peanuts, peanut butter was not one of them.

The tasty spread has actually been around in some form since 950 B.C. A man named Dr. John Harvey Kellogg patented it in 1895, but no one knows who the real peanut butter inventor is.

Vincent Van Gogh Cut Off His Entire Ear

This is not entirely true. It was not his entire ear - just the tip of the lobe - and some say he didn't even do it.

Van Gogh lived with artist Paul Gauguin, who had quite a violent temper, and many believe Gauguin actually did the cutting.

Either way, Van Gogh did reportedly send the tip to a prostitute.

Napoleon Bonaparte was Short

Everyone knows Napoleon Bonaparte was a tiny man - after all, his nickname was "le Petit Corporal."

His reputation for being short even inspired the phenomenon known as the "Napoleon complex."

In reality, Napoleon stood around 5 feet and 7 inches tall, which was very average back in the day.

Many believe his nickname was meant as a term of endearment, not a reference to his height.

Ben Franklin Preferred a Turkey to a Bald Eagle

The bald eagle is certainly a well-known representation of America, but legend has it that if Ben Franklin had his way, a turkey would have been much better.

In reality, Franklin wrote a letter to his daughter mocking the eagle symbol used in a seal by the Society of the Cincinnati, an organization dedicating to preserving the ideals of the Continental Army which fought in the American Revolution.

11 Well Known Facts that Actually Aren't True

He said it looked like a turkey and may as well be one.

World War I was World War I

The concept of World War I and World War II is taught to students everywhere, but the naming of the wars is misleading.

Winston Churchill actually referred to the Seven Years' War between France and Britain as the first world war.

World War I originally went by the name "The Great War" until Hitler came along and incited another world war, which became World War II.

The Great War became World War I.

You Have Five Senses

If you remember learning about the senses in elementary school, you know humans possess five: sight, smell, hearing, touch, and taste.

Most scientists agree, however, that you have more like 10-20 senses, including pain, hunger, thirst, temperature, and more.

Middle Ages Life Expectancy was 30

You may think the average person living in the Middle Ages only lived to be about 30. While this is true, it's also misleading.

It does not mean that once you made it to 31, you sat at death's door. It means that many people died before they ever reached adulthood, and the high infant and childhood mortality rate factored into the average, as those who survived childhood usually lived to be about 64.

George Washington had Wooden Teeth

George Washington is known for three things: being the first president, chopping down a cherry tree, and having wooden teeth.

At least one of these is certainly not true. While Washington did have bad teeth, his dentures were not wooden.

They actually consisted of ivory, gold, lead, and real human teeth.

11 Well Known Facts that Actually Aren't True

Queen Victoria Was a Prude

The Victorian Era seems somewhat prudish looking back, and many people blame the late Queen Victoria for that attitude.

The Victorian Era seems somewhat prudish looking back, and many people blame the late Queen Victoria for that attitude.

After she married, her entries revealed an active romantic life.

Einstein was a Bad Student

If you ever made bad grades and pulled the old "Albert Einstein used to make bad grades" card with your parents or teachers, you are lucky you got away with it.

In reality, Einstein was at the top of his class and mastered calculus when he was barely a teenager.

The reputation he developed for being a bad student had more to do with his behavior. He liked to talk back to his teachers.

Marie Antoinette's Famous "Let them eat cake."

The phrase actually comes from Jean-Jacques Rousseau's autobiography. In "The Confessions," Rousseau tells a story of a time he was hesitant to enter a bakery as he was not dressed appropriately.

He commented, "Finally I recalled the stopgap solution of a great princess who was told that the peasants had no bread, and who responded: 'Let them eat brioche.'

" Since Marie Antoinette was a girl when this came out, he may be referring to Marie-Therese, the wife of Louis XIV.

Mount Everest Is The Tallest Mountain

Although it is the tallest from base to summit, the actual measurement of height is how high it is above sea level.

This award should really be given to Mauna Kea in Hawaii which from base to summit is only 13,799 feet but based on sea level, it's 33,465 feet tall whereas Mount Everest is only 29,029 feet above sea level.

Source: <http://www.answers.com/article/1187717/11-well-known-facts-that-actually-arent-true?param4=ob-us-de-lifestyle#slide=1>