

# Trivia

*did you know that ...*

When volleyball was first devised in 1895, William G. Morgan tried to use a basketball, but found it too heavy for what he had in mind. So instead he played with the basketball's inflatable rubber inside, until a custom ball was created just for the sport by A.G. Spalding.

*Until 1936, the jump ball in basketball took place at center court after every single made basket.*

Due to so many of their players serving in the military during World War II, the Eagles and Steelers combined in 1943 to form one team called the Steagles. And the next year, the Steelers joined with the Chicago Cardinals for the same reason.

*Olympic gold medals are actually made of silver. The 1912 Olympic Games were the last to include gold medals actually made of solid gold. Currently, the gold medals are 93 percent silver and six percent copper, leaving about one percent (or six grams) for the highly prized gold finish.*

The word "Soccer" is an 1800's slang term. "Soccer" comes from the abbreviation for "association," or "assoc," as in Football Association. According to the Online Etymology Dictionary, it began as "socca," then morphed into "socket," and finally into "soccer."

*Every ball used in Major League Baseball is dirty. In order to take the slick factory sheen off and allow pitchers to get a better grip, Major League Baseball wipes down each baseball with mud from an undisclosed location on the Delaware River. And it's been done this way for close to 75 years now.*

In Japan, avid golfers buy insurance to protect themselves on the course; however, it's not for what you might think. They purchase it because if they get a hole-in-one, they have to buy gifts and drinks for their friends. The policy covers them for a party worth up to \$3,000, for the low price of \$65 a year.

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# THE DIXON DRILLER

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# Dates in History

**1792** George Washington signed an act that created the U.S. Postal Service on February 20th. This federal service and subsequent agencies like the Federal Communications Commission assured that information would flow smoothly from coast to coast.

**1882** On February 7th, the Boston Strong Boy, John L. Sullivan, won the heavyweight championship of the world in Mississippi City, Mississippi. On this date, Sullivan knocked out Paddy Ryan in the ninth round with his bare-knuckled fists. After this fight, boxers had to wear gloves.

**1930** Astronomer Clyde Tombaugh discovered the planet Pluto on February 18. According to many modern astrologers, the dark planet at the farthest end of our solar system represents the dark underworld—nature's more nefarious side. Others believe that the planet Pluto represents our irrepressible desire to explore, and the vast potential—even in our modern times—for new discovery.

**1986** On February 8th, a man of average height reached for the sky and landed with the National Basketball Association's coveted Slam Dunk Competition award. Standing at five-feet-seven-inches, Atlanta Hawk's basketball player Spud Webb proved that anyone with the spirit and the will can win, even when he or she looks just like everyone else in a crowd.

(excerpted from On This Day in History)

# On the Lighter Side

## Old Standbys

Just when I was getting used to yesterday, along came today.

My pig learned karate. Now he's doing pork chops.

The early bird gets the worm, but it's the second mouse who gets the cheese.

Why is "abbreviation" such a long word?

Did you hear about the blind man who picked up a hammer and saw?

Did you hear about the frog who wanted to get out of the construction business, but sadly, all he could do was rivet, rivet, rivet...

What did the DNA say to the other DNA?  
Do these genes make me look fat?

Did you hear that NASA has launched several Holsteins into Earth's orbit?  
It was the shot herd around the world.

A farmer is milking his cow and as he is milking, a fly comes along and flies into the cow's ear. A little bit later, the farmer notices the fly in the milk. The farmer says, "Hmph. In one ear, out the udder."

A young snail bought a new sports car with a big red "S" painted on the side. He wanted to drive around town and hear people say, "Look at that little 'S' car go!"

(excerpted from Pretty Good Joke Book)