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The Mental Floss History Of
From ancient Mesopotamia to the modern kids' meal, we cover the story of restaurant menus in the latest episode of Food History.

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The History of Restaurant Menus

(Mental Floss)-- Just hearing the word "champagne ... the bubbly region and its eponymous drink have produced a rich history worth toasting to. Today, the region synonymous with sparkling wine ...

Bubble trouble: Not-so-sweet champagne history

People have been playing Skee-Ball for more than 100 years, but they're not always playing it well. We asked some pro players (yes, that's a thing) to share their tips.

7 Pro Tips for How to Improve Your Skee-Ball Game

British actor Tom Hiddleston is best known for his tenured portrayal of Loki, Thor's morally compromised brother in the Marvel Cine ...

8 surprising facts about Tom Hiddleston

(Mental Floss)-- Investigators are trying to figure out whether the financial fraud allegedly perpetrated by Bernard L. Madoff was, in fact, the largest Ponzi scheme in history. The alleged scam ...

Who was Ponzi -- what the heck was his scheme?

The rules, which specify that players must dress "almost entirely in white," are so strict that the referee can force players to change under threat of disqualification. In the past, many of the sport ...

Why do Wimbledon players wear all white?

The movie tracks the process in reverse chronological order. Geographically, the movie starts in Shenzhen, China, and ends in Stockholm. Astonishingly, the movie can be streamed over the internet.

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This Is The Longest Movie In History

Americans eat an estimated 150 million hot dogs, which, if laid out horizontally, would stretch from Washington, DC, to Los Angeles more than five times.

16 facts about the Fourth of July you've never heard before

While Mental Floss notes using bone ash as a ceramic additive was explored in the mid-1700s, it wasn't until Josiah Spode I used it in his pottery near the turn of the century that it started to ...

Bone China Is Made from Actual Bone—And We Are Officially Fascinated and a Little Creeped Out

Which murders inspired the musical 'Chicago'? How much yak hair did the 'Cats' costume department use? And what does off-Broadway mean, anyway?

23 Dramatic Facts About Broadway

If you love all things autumn, then you're probably thrilled to have an October babe already. But here are 25 more reasons October babies are the best.

25 Reasons October Babies Are The Best Babies Of All

According to Mental Floss, Malek was starring in Mr. Robot ... But I had to get that down as well." The rest is history, as Bohemian Rhapsody was eventually greenlit for production, and Malek ...

Rami Malek Spend 4 Hours a Day Preparing for Freddie Mercury Role Before 'Bohemian Rhapsody' Was Funded

In the illustration above, created for Mental Floss by Mike Rogalski of Eyewashweb.com, there are three gold medals hiding in that pile of cryptocurrency. Set the stopwatch on your smartphone and ...

Can You Spot the Three Gold Medals Hiding In the Cryptocurrency?

Some sources say that George Morris from Hartford, Connecticut, suggested the idea of Flag Day in 1861, which led to his hometown observing the holiday, according to Mental Floss. Other sources ...

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Is Flag Day a Holiday? Only If You Live in This State

"The 'Roaring Twenties' are the only decade in American history with a nickname ... Read more at Mental Floss. The Xbox Series X mini fridge is no longer just a joke. Microsoft is selling ...

Link Tank: The Loki Series Is a "Love Letter" to Sci-Fi, Says Director

According to Mental Floss, Weiner remarked during a 2011 interview ... had it been sold to HBO instead of AMC. HBO has a long history of giving writers creative freedom due to its TV-MA rating ...

'Mad Men': Matthew Weiner Was Allowed a Specific Number of Swear Words Per Episode

Read more at Mental Floss. As Prime Day inches closer, so are Amazon scams spiking. Here's how you can protect yourself if you're looking to shop on Amazon on June 21 and 22. "Prime Day ...

Link Tank: Netflix Drops Trailer for Gunpowder Milkshake Starring Karen Gillan

On that day, the sun will rise at 5:36 a.m. and set at 8:37 p.m. The term summer solstice comes from the allusion of the sun standing still, according to Mental Floss. Solstice is derived from the ...

When is the first day of summer in 2021?

"This provides that connectedness and wellbeing that is so important to our mental health." In 2021 and 2022, the Hobart Royal Show and Sydney Royal Show – some of the oldest institutions in ...

Smarter than your old history teacher, funnier than the founding fathers, and more American than apple pie, The Mental Floss History of the United States is an almost (but not entirely) comprehensive primer on American history (or at least, the good stuff). From the editors of MentalFloss.com and mental_floss magazine—with its tagline: "Feel smart again"—comes an American History text packed with hilarious (but true!) trivia written in the smart-aleck tradition of The Mental Floss History of the World, Mental

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Floss Presents In the Beginning, and the first mental_floss book, Condensed Knowledge. Perfect for trivia buffs, history lovers, college students, and anyone who likes to laugh and learn. United States history has never been so fun.

Pop quiz! Who said what about history? History is . . . (a) more or less bunk. (b) a nightmare from which I am trying to awaken. (c) as thoroughly infected with lies as a street whore with syphilis. Match your answers: (1) Stephen Daedalus of James Joyce's Ulysses (2) Henry Ford (3) Arthur Schopenhauer It turns out that the answer need not be bunk, nightmarish, or diseased. In the hands of mental_floss, history's most interesting bits have been handpicked and roasted to perfection. Packed with little-known stories and outrageous—but accurate—facts, you'll laugh yourself smarter on this joyride through 60,000 years of human civilization. Remember: just because it's true doesn't mean it's boring! Now with Breaking News "If You Thought the Last Depression Was Great . . ." Answers: (a) 2 (b) 1 (c) 3

“An irreverent romp through history’s best bits,” The Mental Floss History of the World is an amazingly entertaining joyride through 60,000 years of human civilization. As audacious as it is edifying, here is a hilarious and irreverent—yet always historically accurate—overview of the ascent (or descent) of humankind, courtesy of the same rebel geniuses who brought you Mental Floss presents Condensed Knowledge and Mental Floss Presents Forbidden Knowledge. Updated with all the hot topics and events of the past few years, The Mental Floss History of the World is proof positive that just because something’s true doesn’t mean it’s boring.

The geniuses at mental_floss are back with mental_floss: The Book, a funny, surprising, fact-packed compendium of more than 200 of the Greatest Lists in the History of Listory. Commemorating the 10th anniversary of the award-winning mental_floss magazine, authors Will Pearson, Mangesh Hattikudur, and Ethan Trex offer a cornucopia of additive, edifying, oddball, and irreverent information guaranteed to make dedicated trivia fans “feel smart again.” In the spirit of their top-selling book, Condensed Knowledge, mental_floss: The Book is perfect for everyone who likes to laugh while they learn.

Chart your progress, organize your library, and get inspired with this journal for avid readers from Mental Floss! Having trouble keeping track of the books in your life? Ever buy a book you’ve already read—or recommend one book when you meant another? The Curious Reader Journal for Book Lovers helps organize bulging bookshelves, provides space to record and rate titles, and helps you reflect on past favorites. The Mental Floss team also entertains and inspires bibliophiles with prize-winning book

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lists, quotes about writing and reading, and the tomes famous authors admire, along with guided entries such as: "My Favorite Books This Year," "Titles Ideal for a Book Club," "Literary Places I'd Like to Visit," "Books I Loved as a Child," "Who I'd Invite to a Literary Dinner Party," "Books I Hate That Everyone Loves," and "The Most Romantic Book I've Read." The Curious Reader Journal for Book Lovers is a perfect gift for Goodreads addicts, book club members, librarians and teachers, and all lovers of literature.

From Mental Floss, the premier online destination for curious minds, comes a deep dive into the greatest television shows from the last 20 years. Filled with little-known facts and lists of must-see shows, this fascinating collection includes: The hardest role to cast on Game of Thrones • The DEA's involvement in Breaking Bad • The lost Black-ish episode deemed too divisive for TV • The real-life inspiration for Mad Men's Don Draper • The identity of "Ugly Naked Guy" on Friends • When George Lucas sued Battlestar Galactica • How Curb Your Enthusiasm saved a man from the death penalty • When Doctor Who's TARDIS went to court • The story behind Law & Order's iconic "dun-dun" sound effect The Curious Viewer also contains many of Mental Floss's famously fascinating lists, such as Actors Who Asked for Their Characters to Be Killed Off, The Most-Watched TV Series Finales Ever, TV Characters Who Were Inspired by Real People, Bizarre TV Crossovers, Amazing One-Season Shows, Important Moments in LGBTQ+ History on TV, and Unforgettable Television Cliff-Hangers.

"With sumptuous, visually stimulating spreads, this book delivers on its promise— to unearth strange stories, bizarre facts, or unexpected details about the books on our shelves. Good for curious readers, whether they want to delve into authors and books they love, feel competent faking knowledge about books everyone else seems to have read, or just dip into and out of literary worlds" – Library Journal Readers rejoice! From Mental Floss, an online destination for more than a billion curious minds since its founding in 2001, comes the ultimate book for lovers of literature. From Americanah to War and Peace, from Chinua Achebe and Jane Austen to Jesmyn Ward and George R.R. Martin, learn surprising facts about the world's most famous novels and novelists. The Curious Reader will delight bookworms everywhere. This literary compendium from Mental Floss reveals fascinating facts about the world's most famous authors and their literary works. Readers will learn about George Orwell's near-death experience during the writing of 1984; meet the real man who may have inspired Pride and Prejudice's Mr. Darcy; discover which famous author kept her husband's heart after he passed away; and learn about the influence of psychedelics on Dune. The Curious Reader also contains the most-loved book-related articles from 20 years of Mental Floss, including "Cat-Loving Writers," "Famous Authors' Unfinished Manuscripts," "Literary Characters Based on Real People," and "Books You Didn't Know Were Self-

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Published.” This literary miscellany is certain to inspire book lovers, aspiring writers, students, and teachers alike to discover a diverse selection of curated literary works—leading to an expansion of their library!

Enlighten Up Already! Monet? Manet? Who can even tell the difference? Well, with the help of the newest mental_floss tome, you can! Want to learn how to tell egg rolls from spring rolls, nuclear bombs from dirty nuclear bombs, or even how to tell an idiot from a moron (there's a real scientific difference)? Piece of cake! Whether you're trying to impress your boss, your mother-in-law, attractive singles, or a pack of fourth graders (you know how they love semantics), mental_floss gives you all the tips and tricks to have you sounding like a genius.

Loaded with meaty trivia and tasty, bite-sized facts! mental_floss is proud to offer a delicious, hearty helping of brain-food that's sure to fire up your neurons and tantalize your synapses. Condensed Knowledge is a mouthwatering mix of intriguing facts, lucid explanations, and mind-blowing theories that will satisfy even the hungriest mind! Ingredients include: 5 tiny nations that get no respect • 4 civilizations nobody remembers • 5 classics written under the influence • 4 things your boss has in common with slime mold • 3 schools of thought that will impress the opposite sex • 4 things Einstein got wrong • 5 classical tunes you know from the movies • 3 famous studies that would be illegal today • 2 religious mysteries solved by chemistry • 5 scandals that rocked art, and much more ...

Remember that time you bumped into Stephen Hawking at the clambake and his monologue on string theory went completely over your head? Man, was that awkward. Or remember the time you were at a party and someone asked, "Who knows how to perform open-heart surgery?" and you were the only one who didn't raise your hand? Well, put all of that embarrassment behind you. Want to dazzle crowds with your wondrous knowledge of Shakespeare and surgeries? Want to learn to woo just like history's greatest minds? Well, start reading already! The Genius Instruction Manual is a foolproof finishing school for polishing your brain. All you've got to do is dive in.

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