

365 Brainy Fact-A-Day Calendar

Collated by Eric H. Chudler

Neuroscience for Kids

For references and sources of these brainy facts, please visit:

<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/neurok.html>

- Instructions:
- 1) Print out each page.
 - 2) Cut out each square.
 - 3) Stack squares by date.

<p>January 1</p> <p>---</p> <p>The cortex gets its name from the Latin word for "bark" (of a tree).</p>	<p>January 2</p> <p>---</p> <p>There are approximately 100 billion neurons in the human brain.</p>
<p>January 3</p> <p>---</p> <p>The average human brain weighs about 3 pounds (1.4 kilograms).</p>	<p>January 4</p> <p>---</p> <p>Unlike humans, the octopus does not have a blind spot.</p>
<p>January 5</p> <p>---</p> <p>The average length of the adult spinal cord is 45 cm for men and 43 cm for women.</p>	<p>January 6</p> <p>---</p> <p>The skin of an adult human covers about 18-20 square feet (~2 square meters) and weighs about 6 lb (2.7 kg).</p>
<p>January 7</p> <p>---</p> <p>The sponge is the only multicellular animal without a nervous system.</p>	<p>January 8</p> <p>---</p> <p>The word "hypnosis" comes from the Greek word meaning "sleep."</p>

<p>January 9</p> <p>---</p> <p>A butterfly can taste with its feet.</p>	<p>January 10</p> <p>---</p> <p>The pufferfish, eaten as a delicacy in Japan, contains a potent neurotoxin called tetrodotoxin.</p>
<p>January 11</p> <p>---</p> <p>The heaviest human brain ever recorded weighed 5 lb., 1.1 oz (2.3 kg).</p>	<p>January 12</p> <p>---</p> <p>Stroke ("brain attack") is the 3rd leading cause of death in the US.</p>
<p>January 13</p> <p>---</p> <p>The Greek philosopher Aristotle believed that the heart, not the brain, was the seat of mental processes.</p>	<p>January 14</p> <p>---</p> <p>Information travels in the nerves at speeds up to 268 miles per hour (429 kilometers/hour).</p>
<p>January 15</p> <p>---</p> <p>The smallest bone in the human body is the "stapes." This bone, found in the ear, is only 0.25 to 0.33 cm long (0.10 to 0.13 inches) and weighs only 1.9 to 4.3 milligrams.</p>	<p>January 16</p> <p>---</p> <p>400 to 500 ml of cerebrospinal fluid is produced each day.</p>

<p>January 17</p> <p>---</p> <p>Some of the oldest cells in the human body are neurons...they last a lifetime.</p>	<p>January 18</p> <p>---</p> <p>If people sleep 8 hours each day, they sleep the equivalent of 122 days per year.</p>
<p>January 19</p> <p>---</p> <p>Most people dream about 5 times during each 8-hour period of sleep. Based on this number, people have about 1,825 dreams every year.</p>	<p>January 20</p> <p>---</p> <p>An average yawn lasts about 6 seconds.</p>
<p>January 21</p> <p>---</p> <p>The distance separating two neurons at a synapse is 20-40 nanometers. (1 nanometer is equal to one-billionth of a meter.)</p>	<p>January 22</p> <p>---</p> <p>People typically blink about 15 times per minute. If you are awake for 16 hours each day, then you blink approximately 14,400 each day.</p>
<p>January 23</p> <p>---</p> <p>Bicycle helmets reduce the risk for head injury by as much as 85% and reduce the risk for brain injury by as much as 88%.</p>	<p>January 24</p> <p>---</p> <p>Percentage of total cerebral cortex volume (human): frontal lobe = 41%; temporal lobe = 22%; parietal lobe = 19%; occipital lobe = 18%.</p>

<p>January 25</p> <p>---</p> <p>Schizophrenia affects about 1 out of every 100 people.</p>	<p>January 26</p> <p>---</p> <p>People can distinguish between 3,000 and 10,000 different smells.</p>
<p>January 27</p> <p>---</p> <p>Bees and butterflies can see ultraviolet light.</p>	<p>January 28</p> <p>---</p> <p>Each year in the US, about 200,000 people require hospitalization for head injury and 52,000 people die due to head injuries.</p>
<p>January 29</p> <p>---</p> <p>The human cerebellum weighs about 150 grams.</p>	<p>January 30</p> <p>---</p> <p>There are about 300 million neurons in the octopus brain.</p>
<p>January 31</p> <p>---</p> <p>Fevers are controlled by the part of the brain called the hypothalamus.</p>	

<p>February 1</p> <p>---</p> <p>Sounds as loud as 130 dB can cause pain.</p>	<p>February 2</p> <p>---</p> <p>Epilepsy affects about 2.5 million people in the US.</p>
<p>February 3</p> <p>---</p> <p>The brain of the great physicist Albert Einstein weighed 1,230 grams.</p>	<p>February 4</p> <p>---</p> <p>A 12 oz. can of Coca Cola has 46 mg of caffeine, a central nervous system stimulant. A cup of coffee has 60-150 mg of caffeine.</p>
<p>February 5</p> <p>---</p> <p>It is estimated that there are 60 trillion (yes, trillion) synapses in the cerebral cortex.</p>	<p>February 6</p> <p>---</p> <p>Each eye of a dragonfly has about 30,000 lenses.</p>
<p>February 7</p> <p>---</p> <p>In the US, one third of all adults complain about sleep problems.</p>	<p>February 8</p> <p>---</p> <p>The channel catfish has 100,000 taste buds on the outside of its body.</p>

<p>February 9</p> <p>---</p> <p>About 4 million people in the US have Alzheimer's disease.</p>	<p>February 10</p> <p>---</p> <p>The corpus callosum, the fiber tract that connects the right and left hemispheres of the brain, contains more than 300 million axons.</p>
<p>February 11</p> <p>---</p> <p>The venom of the black widow spider is called "latrotoxin." This toxin causes a massive release of acetylcholine from neuromuscular junctions.</p>	<p>February 12</p> <p>---</p> <p>The X-ray was invented by Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen in 1895.</p>
<p>February 13</p> <p>---</p> <p>The human cerebral cortex has an area of about 2.5 square feet, has 25 billion neurons, is interconnected by over 100,000 kilometers of axons and receives 300 trillion synapses.</p>	<p>February 14</p> <p>---</p> <p>The eardrum (tympanic membrane) is only 0.1 millimeter thick and weighs only 14 milligrams.</p>
<p>February 15</p> <p>---</p> <p>The "four-eyed" fish ("Anableps") has TWO pupils in each of its eyes. Therefore it can see above and below the water at the same time.</p>	<p>February 16</p> <p>---</p> <p>Approximately 50% of the population of the US is nearsighted.</p>

<p>February 17</p> <p>---</p> <p>The human hypothalamus weighs about 4 grams.</p>	<p>February 18</p> <p>---</p> <p>A giraffe sleeps only two hours each day.</p>
<p>February 19</p> <p>---</p> <p>The human eyeball is 24.5 mm (~ 1 in) long.</p>	<p>February 20</p> <p>---</p> <p>There are about 1,200,000 nerve fibers in each human optic nerve.</p>
<p>February 21</p> <p>---</p> <p>The adult human spinal cord weighs about 35 grams (0.1 lb).</p>	<p>February 22</p> <p>---</p> <p>The brain of a cat weighs about 30 grams.</p>
<p>February 23</p> <p>---</p> <p>There are about 3 million miles of axons in the human brain.</p>	<p>February 24</p> <p>---</p> <p>As many as one in five Americans will be affected by a mental illness sometime in their lives.</p>

<p>February 25</p> <p>---</p> <p>The aplysia ("sea hare") has a nervous system with only 20,000 neurons.</p>	<p>February 26</p> <p>---</p> <p>Of the 31,000 suicides in the US each year, 60-80% are associated with depression or manic-depression.</p>
<p>February 27</p> <p>---</p> <p>The economic cost of stress and stress-related disorders in the US is \$200 billion each year.</p>	<p>February 28</p> <p>---</p> <p>Odin, a central character in Norse mythology, used two ravens named "Thought" and "Memory" to bring him news from around the world.</p>

<p>March 1</p> <p>---</p> <p>The cerebral cortex makes up about 77% of the total volume of the human brain.</p>	<p>March 2</p> <p>---</p> <p>After early childhood, synapses in the human neocortex are lost at a rate of 100,000 synapses per second.</p>
<p>March 3</p> <p>---</p> <p>Approximately 8% of all males and about 0.5% of all females are colorblind.</p>	<p>March 4</p> <p>---</p> <p>Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness in the US. Approximately 5,400 Americans go blind from glaucoma each year.</p>
<p>March 5</p> <p>---</p> <p>Head injuries account for 62% of bicycle-related deaths.</p>	<p>March 6</p> <p>---</p> <p>The gene responsible for Huntington's disease was discovered in 1993.</p>
<p>March 7</p> <p>---</p> <p>Humans can hear sounds with frequencies between 20 and 20,000 Hz; cats can hear frequencies between 100 and 60,000 Hz; elephants can hear frequencies between 1 and 20,000 Hz.</p>	<p>March 8</p> <p>---</p> <p>Written about 1,700 B.C., the Edwin Smith surgical papyrus contains the first recorded use of the word "brain."</p>

<p>March 9</p> <p>---</p> <p>The world's largest invertebrate (animal without a backbone) is the giant squid (<i>Architeuthis dux</i>).</p>	<p>March 10</p> <p>---</p> <p>The National Institutes of Health was established in 1887.</p>
<p>March 11</p> <p>---</p> <p>The term "homo sapiens" comes from the Latin words meaning "wise man."</p>	<p>March 12</p> <p>---</p> <p>There are approximately 1 billion neurons in the human spinal cord.</p>
<p>March 13</p> <p>---</p> <p>In 1891, Wilhelm von Waldeyer coined the term "neuron."</p>	<p>March 14</p> <p>---</p> <p>A giraffe has seven vertebrae in its neck...this is the same number of neck bones as in people and most other mammals.</p>
<p>March 15</p> <p>---</p> <p>Venomous snakes can be dangerous even after they are dead. People have been "bitten" by snakes that were dead or thought to be dead.</p>	<p>March 16</p> <p>---</p> <p>When asleep, humans spend 23.1% of the time in rapid eye movement (REM) sleep.</p>

<p>March 17</p> <p>---</p> <p>Receptor cells in the taste buds are replaced about once every 10 days.</p>	<p>March 18</p> <p>---</p> <p>The word "carotid" (carotid artery) comes from the Greek word karotis meaning "deep sleep."</p>
<p>March 19</p> <p>---</p> <p>The cerebellum makes up 10% of the total volume of the human brain.</p>	<p>March 20</p> <p>---</p> <p>Agenesis of the corpus callosum (ACC) is a birth defect in which the structure that connects the two hemispheres of the brain (the corpus callosum) is partially or completely absent.</p>
<p>March 21</p> <p>---</p> <p>Taste buds are not just found on the tongue; they are also found on the palate, pharynx and larynx.</p>	<p>March 22</p> <p>---</p> <p>The brain of the fly contains 337,856 neurons.</p>
<p>March 23</p> <p>---</p> <p>Opossums do not have a corpus callosum (the large bundle of axons that connects the right and left cerebral hemispheres).</p>	<p>March 24</p> <p>---</p> <p>Many spiders have eight eyes.</p>

<p>March 25</p> <p>---</p> <p>The Controlled Substances Act of 1970 states that the mandatory penalty for possession of 1 gram of LSD is 5 years in prison.</p>	<p>March 26</p> <p>---</p> <p>The human eye weighs about 7.5 g.</p>
<p>March 27</p> <p>---</p> <p>The barbiturate "pentobarbital" is also known as truth serum.</p>	<p>March 28</p> <p>---</p> <p>A 12 oz can of Jolt cola has 71 mg of caffeine. A cup of coffee has 60-150 mg of caffeine.</p>
<p>March 29</p> <p>---</p> <p>The first lobotomy in the US was performed by Walter Freeman in 1936.</p>	<p>March 30</p> <p>---</p> <p>The brain of a goldfish makes up 0.3% of its total body weight. An adult human brain is about 2% of total body weight.</p>
<p>March 31</p> <p>---</p> <p>Approximately 2 million people in the U.S. are impaired by the effects of cerebrovascular disease, including strokes.</p>	

<p>April 1</p> <p>---</p> <p>More than 28 million Americans (about 10% of the population) have hearing impairments.</p>	<p>April 2</p> <p>---</p> <p>Cerebrospinal fluid is 99% water.</p>
<p>April 3</p> <p>---</p> <p>The human brain has 100 trillion synaptic connections.</p>	<p>April 4</p> <p>---</p> <p>A Purkinje neuron in the cerebellum may receive 150,000 contacts from other neurons.</p>
<p>April 5</p> <p>---</p> <p>About 100 million Americans need eye glasses.</p>	<p>April 6</p> <p>---</p> <p>Each year there are about 300,000 brain concussions that occur during sports activities.</p>
<p>April 7</p> <p>---</p> <p>There are over 1,000 disorders of the brain and nervous system.</p>	<p>April 8</p> <p>---</p> <p>The word "glia" comes from the Greek word meaning "glue."</p>

<p>April 9</p> <p>---</p> <p>Young adults spend about 20-25% of sleep time in REM sleep.</p>	<p>April 10</p> <p>---</p> <p>Aphasia is the name of speech and language problems caused by brain injury.</p>
<p>April 11</p> <p>---</p> <p>The knee jerk reflex takes about 30 milliseconds.</p>	<p>April 12</p> <p>---</p> <p>Humans sleep for 17-18 hours a day at birth, 10-12 hours at age 4 and 7-8.5 hours by age 20.</p>
<p>April 13</p> <p>---</p> <p>The vagus nerve, important for controlling heart rate and other internal functions, is the longest of the 12 cranial nerves.</p>	<p>April 14</p> <p>---</p> <p>The cerebellum is only 10% of the entire volume of the brain, but contains more than half of all of the neurons in the brain.</p>
<p>April 15</p> <p>---</p> <p>About 3% of all people living to the age of 80 will be diagnosed with epilepsy.</p>	<p>April 16</p> <p>---</p> <p>Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin) was first synthesized by Felix Hoffmann in 1897.</p>

<p>April 17</p> <p>---</p> <p>In 1998, illegal drug use or nonmedical use of legal drugs resulted in 542,544 visits to emergency departments in the US.</p>	<p>April 18</p> <p>---</p> <p>About 50 ml of blood travels through 100 g of brain tissue each minute.</p>
<p>April 19</p> <p>---</p> <p>The human corticospinal tract, the pathway from the cerebral cortex to the spinal cord that is important for movement, contains over one million axons.</p>	<p>April 20</p> <p>---</p> <p>The Society for Neuroscience, with more than 36,000 members, is the largest professional organization in the world dedicated to the study of the nervous system.</p>
<p>April 21</p> <p>---</p> <p>The facial, glossopharyngeal and vagus nerves all carry information about taste.</p>	<p>April 22</p> <p>---</p> <p>Atropine, a drug that blocks the action of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine, comes from the plant called "the deadly nightshade." Belladonna is Italian for "beautiful lady."</p>
<p>April 23</p> <p>---</p> <p>The three most common fears are: snakes (#1), heights (#2) and flying (#3).</p>	<p>April 24</p> <p>---</p> <p>Some butterflies have ears on their wings.</p>

<p>April 25</p> <p>---</p> <p>Between 20-28 million American have some form of hearing loss.</p>	<p>April 26</p> <p>---</p> <p>The human ear canal is about 2.5 cm in length and 0.6 cm in diameter.</p>
<p>April 27</p> <p>---</p> <p>Each of your eyeballs is moved by six muscles.</p>	<p>April 28</p> <p>---</p> <p>In 1904, US President Theodore Roosevelt threatened to outlaw football after 19 college football players were killed or paralyzed from brain or spinal cord injuries.</p>
<p>April 29</p> <p>---</p> <p>As you age, the amount of rapid eye movement ("dream") sleep you have decreases.</p>	<p>April 30</p> <p>---</p> <p>When children are six years old, they can understand approximately 13,000 words; high school graduates know at least 60,000 words.</p>

<p>May 1</p> <p>---</p> <p>The active ingredient in catnip is called nepetalactone.</p>	<p>May 2</p> <p>---</p> <p>The dura mater is the outermost covering of the brain. The term "dura mater" comes from Latin meaning "hard mother."</p>
<p>May 3</p> <p>---</p> <p>The roundworm (<i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i>) has 302 cells in its nervous system.</p>	<p>May 4</p> <p>---</p> <p>Charles Scott Sherrington coined the term "synapse" in 1897.</p>
<p>May 5</p> <p>---</p> <p>Each year approximately 7,000 sledders age 16 and younger are taken to the emergency room for head injuries.</p>	<p>May 6</p> <p>---</p> <p>Mountain Dew soda (12 ounces) contains 55 mg of caffeine. A cup of coffee has between 60-150 mg of caffeine.</p>
<p>May 7</p> <p>---</p> <p>Dr. James Parkinson first described a neurological disorder called the "shaking palsy" (later to be called Parkinson's disease) in 1817.</p>	<p>May 8</p> <p>---</p> <p>The folds and ridges of the outer ear are called the pinna.</p>

<p>May 9</p> <p>---</p> <p>The chemical known as ether was first used to manage pain during surgery in 1846 at Massachusetts General Hospital.</p>	<p>May 10</p> <p>---</p> <p>Physicist Albert Einstein did not speak until he was three years old</p>
<p>May 11</p> <p>---</p> <p>The pupil of the eye can vary in diameter from 1.5 to 8.0 mm. Therefore, the amount of light entering the eye can change 30-fold.</p>	<p>May 12</p> <p>---</p> <p>There are 10 billion neurons in the human cerebral cortex.</p>
<p>May 13</p> <p>---</p> <p>The word "cerebellum" comes from the Latin words meaning "little brain."</p>	<p>May 14</p> <p>---</p> <p>The brain of the bottle-nosed dolphin weighs about 1,500 grams.</p>
<p>May 15</p> <p>---</p> <p>Worker honey bees have a ring of iron oxide ("magnetite") in their abdomens that may be used to detect magnetic fields for navigation.</p>	<p>May 16</p> <p>---</p> <p>The term "dendrite" was introduced by C. Golgi in about 1870.</p>

<p>May 17</p> <p>---</p> <p>Each year about 10,000 babies born in the US develop cerebral palsy.</p>	<p>May 18</p> <p>---</p> <p>The part of the brain called the "amygdala" gets its name from the Greek word for "almond" because its shape.</p>
<p>May 19</p> <p>---</p> <p>The aroma of coffee contains over 800 different chemicals, but only 20-30 of them contribute to the characteristic quality.</p>	<p>May 20</p> <p>---</p> <p>Monarch butterflies migrate up to 3000 kilometers (1,864 miles).</p>
<p>May 21</p> <p>---</p> <p>In 1504, Leonardo da Vinci produced wax casts of the ventricles of the human brain.</p>	<p>May 22</p> <p>---</p> <p>There are 1 quadrillion synapses in the human brain. That's 1,000,000,000,000,000 synapses! This is equal to about a half-billion synapses per cubic millimeter.</p>
<p>May 23</p> <p>---</p> <p>The weight of the human brain triples during the first year of life, going from 300 grams to 900 grams.</p>	<p>May 24</p> <p>---</p> <p>Thomas Willis coined the term "neurology" in 1681.</p>

<p>May 25</p> <p>---</p> <p>Every 33 minutes someone dies in an alcohol-related traffic accident.</p>	<p>May 26</p> <p>---</p> <p>The word "axon" comes from the Greek word meaning "axle" or "axis."</p>
<p>May 27</p> <p>---</p> <p>The lumbar puncture, a method to obtain cerebrospinal fluid by inserting a needle between the lumbar vertebrae and into the subarachnoid space of the spinal cord, was introduced in 1891 by Heinrich Quinke.</p>	<p>May 28</p> <p>---</p> <p>About 30 million people (10% of the population) in the US have functionally significant hearing loss.</p>
<p>May 29</p> <p>---</p> <p>The cerebral cortex is composed of six layers of cells.</p>	<p>May 30</p> <p>---</p> <p>The olfactory epithelium of the human nose contains about 12 million olfactory receptor neurons.</p>
<p>May 31</p> <p>---</p> <p>The human olfactory system is anatomically complete before birth.</p>	

<p>June 1</p> <p>---</p> <p>There are an estimated 300,000 sports-related brain concussions in the US each year.</p>	<p>June 2</p> <p>---</p> <p>Women comprise 22% of the US scientific and engineering workforce.</p>
<p>June 3</p> <p>---</p> <p>A jellyfish has no brain.</p>	<p>June 4</p> <p>---</p> <p>Roman emperors believed that eating lettuce would help a person sleep.</p>
<p>June 5</p> <p>---</p> <p>The word "cochlea" comes from the Latin word meaning "snail shell."</p>	<p>June 6</p> <p>---</p> <p>The US Drug Enforcement Agency seized 9.3 million ecstasy pills in 2000 (up from 400,000 in 1997).</p>
<p>June 7</p> <p>---</p> <p>Americans consume about 45 million pounds of caffeine each year.</p>	<p>June 8</p> <p>---</p> <p>In the season finale (May 14, 1998) of the TV show "Seinfeld," Jerry Seinfeld said, "Maybe if we lie down our brains will work."</p>

<p>June 9</p> <p>---</p> <p>Birds are insensitive to the effects of hot peppers because they do not have receptors for the chemical (capsaicin) that makes hot peppers "hot."</p>	<p>June 10</p> <p>---</p> <p>At least 56,000 motor vehicle accidents each year in the US are attributed to sleepiness behind the wheel.</p>
<p>June 11</p> <p>---</p> <p>Normal vision for people is 20/20. A hawk's vision is equivalent to 20/5. This means the hawk can see from 20 feet what most people can see from 5 feet.</p>	<p>June 12</p> <p>---</p> <p>The entire last name of the person for which Tourette Syndrome is named is Gilles de la Tourette. People dropped the "Gilles de la" and the disorder is known simply as "Tourette Syndrome."</p>
<p>June 13</p> <p>---</p> <p>The expression "memorize by heart" is derived from the old belief that the heart, not the brain, was important for memory. Also, the word "record" comes from the Latin word for "heart."</p>	<p>June 14</p> <p>---</p> <p>The word "physician" comes from the Greek word "physis" meaning "nature."</p>
<p>June 15</p> <p>---</p> <p>Three neuroscientists were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2000.</p>	<p>June 16</p> <p>---</p> <p>When tests for speed and accuracy are given, people who stay awake continuously for 20-25 hours have similar problems as people who have a blood alcohol level of 0.10%.</p>

<p>June 17</p> <p>---</p> <p>Slime eels have no eyes, but they do have light-sensitive sensors in their tails.</p>	<p>June 18</p> <p>---</p> <p>Compared to humans, houseflies are 10 million times more sensitive to the taste of sugar.</p>
<p>June 19</p> <p>---</p> <p>Epilepsy was once called "morbus Herculeus" because it was thought that Hercules had epilepsy. Epilepsy was later called "morbus sacer" which means "sacred disease."</p>	<p>June 20</p> <p>---</p> <p>The giant axon of the squid can be 100 to 1000 times larger than a mammalian axon.</p>
<p>June 21</p> <p>---</p> <p>The octopus and squid belong to the class of animals known as the "Cephalopoda" meaning "head-footed."</p>	<p>June 22</p> <p>---</p> <p>A textbook on phrenology, the "science" correlating bumps on the skull with personality traits, sold over 100,000 copies in 1827.</p>
<p>June 23</p> <p>---</p> <p>There are an estimated 300,000 sports-related concussions in the US each year.</p>	<p>June 24</p> <p>---</p> <p>Tarantulas and other spiders sense vibration with hairs on their legs.</p>

<p>June 25</p> <p>---</p> <p>Nine out of 10 people are right-handed, 8 out of 10 people are right-footed, 7 out of 10 people are right-eyed and 6 out of 10 people are right-eared.</p>	<p>June 26</p> <p>---</p> <p>After age 30, the brain shrinks a quarter of a percent (0.25%) in mass each year.</p>
<p>June 27</p> <p>---</p> <p>The neurotransmitter serotonin was first isolated in 1933.</p>	<p>June 28</p> <p>---</p> <p>12.5 billion aspirin tablets, gelcaps and caplets are consumed each year in the US.</p>
<p>June 29</p> <p>---</p> <p>Sleepwalking is also known as "somnambulism"; sleeptalking is also known as "somniloquy."</p>	<p>June 30</p> <p>---</p> <p>The iris, the colored part of your eye, gets its name from the Greek word meaning "rainbow." In Greek mythology, the goddess of the rainbow is named Iris.</p>

<p>July 1</p> <p>---</p> <p>When neuroanatomist Santiago Ramon y Cajal was 11-years-old, he destroyed a neighbor's gate with a homemade cannon and spent three days in jail.</p>	<p>July 2</p> <p>---</p> <p>The Tokay gecko (Gekko gekko) uses its tongue to clean its eyes.</p>
<p>July 3</p> <p>---</p> <p>Without myelin, the human brain would have to be 10 times bigger than it is now and we would have to eat 10 times as much to maintain our brain.</p>	<p>July 4</p> <p>---</p> <p>The giant anteater has no teeth.</p>
<p>July 5</p> <p>---</p> <p>Approximately 450 million people suffer from neuropsychiatric (mental and behavioral) disorders.</p>	<p>July 6</p> <p>---</p> <p>"Neuroptera" is the name of an insect order including the lacewings and antlions. "Neuro" comes from the Greek word for "nerve" and "ptera" comes from word for "wing."</p>
<p>July 7</p> <p>---</p> <p>The pupil in the eye of the giant cuttlefish (a squid-like animal) is rectangular.</p>	<p>July 8</p> <p>---</p> <p>The Snellen Eye Chart (the one with the letter E pointed in different directions) was invented by Dr. Hermann Snellen in 1862.</p>

<p>July 9</p> <p>---</p> <p>The "absolute threshold" in humans for vision is a candle flame, 30 miles away, on a dark, clear night.</p>	<p>July 10</p> <p>---</p> <p>The "absolute threshold" in humans for hearing: A ticking watch 20 feet away in a quiet place.</p>
<p>July 11</p> <p>---</p> <p>The "absolute threshold" in humans for taste is a teaspoon of sugar in 2 gallons of water.</p>	<p>July 12</p> <p>---</p> <p>The "absolute threshold" in humans for smell is a drop of perfume in a three-room apartment.</p>
<p>July 13</p> <p>---</p> <p>The "absolute threshold" in humans for touch is the wing of a bee falling from 1 centimeter onto your cheek.</p>	<p>July 14</p> <p>---</p> <p>Eagles have more than 1 million photoreceptors per square millimeter in their retinas; humans have 200,000 photoreceptors per square millimeter.</p>
<p>July 15</p> <p>---</p> <p>In 2000, 495 doctorates were awarded in neuroscience; 39.4% of these new PhDs were women.</p>	<p>July 16</p> <p>---</p> <p>Approximately 80% of the dragonfly brain is devoted to processing visual information.</p>

<p>July 17</p> <p>---</p> <p>Every year 27 million people in the US benefit from pain relief, sedation and unconsciousness from anesthetics.</p>	<p>July 18</p> <p>---</p> <p>In 1921, Hermann Rorschach developed the inkblot test to assess personality. Each day in the US, 33 babies are born with permanent hearing loss.</p>
<p>July 19</p> <p>---</p> <p>Rats will die after two to three weeks of total sleep deprivation.</p>	<p>July 20</p> <p>---</p> <p>The average (median) amount of sleep each day by university students was 7.75 hrs (in 1969); 7.13 hrs (in 1979), 6.75 hrs (in 1989); 6.65 hrs (in 2001).</p>
<p>July 21</p> <p>---</p> <p>Approximately 600,000 people in the US have a stroke every year, and 167,000 die from it. Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the US.</p>	<p>July 22</p> <p>---</p> <p>Approximately 1 in every 1,000 people in the US has the autoimmune disease multiple sclerosis.</p>
<p>July 23</p> <p>---</p> <p>Between 1987 and 1997, the number of people in the US being treated for depression more than tripled, from 1.8 million to 6.3 million, while those taking antidepressants doubled.</p>	<p>July 24</p> <p>---</p> <p>On May 13, 1935, World War I hero Colonel T.E. Lawrence (better known as "Lawrence of Arabia") suffered a fractured skull when he lost control of his motorcycle. He fell into a coma and died five days later.</p>

<p>July 25</p> <p>---</p> <p>Worldwide, 120,000 tons of caffeine are consumed each year.</p>	<p>July 26</p> <p>---</p> <p>In the US, 10% of children and adolescents suffer from mental illness severe enough to cause impairment. However, only 20% of these children and adolescents receive mental health services.</p>
<p>July 27</p> <p>---</p> <p>Sharks can detect electrical fields generated by animals. To detect these fields, sharks use special organs called ampullae of Lorenzini that are located below their eyes.</p>	<p>July 28</p> <p>---</p> <p>Another word for sneezing is "sternutation."</p>
<p>July 29</p> <p>---</p> <p>A shark's hearing is similar to that of a whale or dolphin.</p>	<p>July 30</p> <p>---</p> <p>Botox temporarily paralyzes muscles by interfering with acetylcholine, which transmits nerve signals to muscles.</p>
<p>July 31</p> <p>---</p> <p>Sharks have a fantastic sense of smell. Fish extracts with concentrations of only 1 part per 10 billion parts of water can alter a shark's behavior.</p>	

<p>August 1</p> <p>---</p> <p>Huntington's disease, an incurable, untreatable inherited illness, affects 30,000 people in the US, slowly killing their brain cells and eroding muscle coordination, memory, judgment, and emotional stability.</p>	<p>August 2</p> <p>---</p> <p>In 1999, 30.1% of all traffic accidents resulting in a fatality involved alcohol.</p>
<p>August 3</p> <p>---</p> <p>The first Ph.D. with "Psychology" in its title was given to Granville Stanley Hall at Harvard University in 1878.</p>	<p>August 4</p> <p>---</p> <p>Women metabolize caffeine about 25% faster than men.</p>
<p>August 5</p> <p>---</p> <p>Raccoons can smell an acorn buried up to two inches under dry powdery sand.</p>	<p>August</p> <p>---</p> <p>Sharks can detect pressure that depresses their skin only eight ten-thousandths of an inch (10 microns).</p>
<p>August 7</p> <p>---</p> <p>Pesticides which disrupt the nervous system are part of the reason why 32 species of frogs have become extinct in the last few decades.</p>	<p>August 8</p> <p>---</p> <p>Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness in the US. The number one cause of blindness in the US is macular degeneration.</p>

<p>August 9</p> <p>---</p> <p>Allan MacLeod Cormack, who won the 1979 Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology for the invention of computer-assisted tomography, never received a PhD or MD.</p>	<p>August 10</p> <p>---</p> <p>Cats can hear sounds in a 10.5 octave range. Humans have a hearing range of about 9.3 octaves.</p>
<p>August 11</p> <p>---</p> <p>One child goes blind every minute.</p>	<p>August 12</p> <p>---</p> <p>The annual salary range for a neurologist is \$106,000 to \$199,701. The annual salary range for a psychiatrist is \$110,000 to \$152,008.</p>
<p>August 13</p> <p>---</p> <p>Approximately 160 million people in the US wear glasses or contact lenses.</p>	<p>August 14</p> <p>---</p> <p>In 2001, eight young U.S. football players died as a direct result of injuries suffered on the field. Of these eight players, six died of brain injuries, 1 died of a fractured neck and one died of a ruptured spleen.</p>
<p>August 15</p> <p>---</p> <p>It is estimated that more than seven million people become blind every year.</p>	<p>August 16</p> <p>---</p> <p>At the 2002 USA Memory Championship, Scott Hagwood correctly matched 97 of 99 faces and names after spending 15 minutes studying the pairs.</p>

<p>August 17</p> <p>---</p> <p>The original recipe for Coca-Cola contained a small amount of cocaine (about 22.5 milligrams of cocaine per gallon). Cocaine was removed from Coca-Cola in 1903.</p>	<p>August 18</p> <p>---</p> <p>The average daily consumption of caffeine among adults is 200 mg/day.</p>
<p>August 19</p> <p>---</p> <p>The country with the most neurologists per person is Lithuania where there are approximately 6,240 people for every neurologist.</p>	<p>August 20</p> <p>---</p> <p>Americans spend \$11 billion each year for glasses and contact lenses.</p>
<p>August 21</p> <p>---</p> <p>Sharks can detect water movement through a series of pit organs (the lateral line system) located under their skin.</p>	<p>August 22</p> <p>---</p> <p>In the US, more than 80% of adults consume caffeine on a daily basis.</p>
<p>August 23</p> <p>---</p> <p>The "cauda equina" is the name for the collection of spinal nerves at the lower end of the spinal cord. The term "cauda equina" comes from the Latin words meaning "tail of a horse."</p>	<p>August 24</p> <p>---</p> <p>Percentage of university students who are "dissatisfied" with their sleep: 24% (in 1978), 53% (in 1988), 71% (in 2000).</p>

<p>August 25</p> <p>---</p> <p>A 19-year-old man died after smoking 100 cigarettes and 21-year-old man was seriously poisoned after smoking 80 cigarettes.during a "smoking contest."</p>	<p>August 26</p> <p>---</p> <p>An estimated 180 million people worldwide are visually disabled.</p>
<p>August 27</p> <p>---</p> <p>The giant squid has the largest eyeball of any living animal. The diameter of the giant squid's eyeball is 25 cm. The diameter of a human's eye is 2.4 cm and that of the blue whale is 15 cm.</p>	<p>August 28</p> <p>---</p> <p>As people age, their ears get larger. Ear circumference increases on average 0.51 millimeters per year.</p>
<p>August 29</p> <p>---</p> <p>All invertebrate taste receptor cells are bipolar primary sensory neurons.</p>	<p>August 30</p> <p>---</p> <p>In the early 1920s, Hans Berger recorded the first human electroencephalogram (EEG).</p>

<p>September 1</p> <p>---</p> <p>Parkinson's disease affects 1-3% of people over the age of 65 years and 10% of those over 80 years.</p>	<p>September 2</p> <p>---</p> <p>In 2001, 17,448 people died in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes. That is 41% of the year's total traffic deaths</p>
<p>September 3</p> <p>---</p> <p>The word "neurology" was coined by Thomas Willis in 1681.</p>	<p>September 4</p> <p>---</p> <p>Humans can feel a dot that is only 0.006 mm high and 0.04 mm across when it is moved across a fingertip. A standard Braille dot is 167 times higher.</p>
<p>September 5</p> <p>---</p> <p>The word "dendrite" (the part of a neuron that brings information toward the cell body) comes from the Greek word meaning "tree."</p>	<p>September 6</p> <p>---</p> <p>The vertebral column, the collection of bones (back bone) that houses the spinal cord, is approximately 70 cm long.</p>
<p>September 7</p> <p>---</p> <p>Bipolar disorder, a serious brain disease that causes extreme shifts in mood, energy, and functioning, affects approximately 2.3 million adults in the U.S. or about 1.2% of the population.</p>	<p>September 8</p> <p>---</p> <p>The complete inability to taste is called ageusia and the reduced ability to taste is called hypogeusia.</p>

<p>September 9</p> <p>--</p> <p>Thomas Edison is reported to have said, "Sleep is an acquired habit. Cells don't sleep. Fish swim in the water all night. Even a horse doesn't sleep. A man doesn't need any sleep."</p>	<p>September 10</p> <p>---</p> <p>In 2001, the use of GHB (gamma hydroxybutyrate) resulted in 3,340 emergency-room visits in the U.S.</p>
<p>September 11</p> <p>---</p> <p>The average number of neocortical neurons lost is 1 each second or approximately 85,000 each day or approximately 31 million each year.</p>	<p>September 12</p> <p>---</p> <p>The average intelligence quotient (IQ) score is 100. About 68% of the population has IQ scores between 85 and 115.</p>
<p>September 13</p> <p>---</p> <p>The word "retina" comes from the Latin word meaning "net."</p>	<p>September 14</p> <p>---</p> <p>Normal eye pressure ranges from 10-22 mm Hg.</p>
<p>September 15</p> <p>---</p> <p>"Cataract" comes from the Latin word "cataracta" meaning "waterfall" because looking through a waterfall is similar to the vision that results from cataracts.</p>	<p>September 16</p> <p>---</p> <p>The number of neurons in the neocortex of females is 19.3 billion; in males, the number of neurons in the neocortex is 22.8 billion.</p>

<p>September 17</p> <p>---</p> <p>An eagle can see a rabbit from three miles away.</p>	<p>September 18</p> <p>---</p> <p>In a 7-year study, people who ate at least one serving of seafood once a week had a 30% lower risk of developing dementia than those who ate less seafood.</p>
<p>September 19</p> <p>---</p> <p>Smells and tastes are experienced in approximately 1% of all dreams.</p>	<p>September 20</p> <p>---</p> <p>The length of myelinated nerve fibers in the brain is 150,000-180,000 km.</p>
<p>September 21</p> <p>---</p> <p>Composer Ludwig van Beethoven may have been poisoned by lead; his hair had lead levels 100 times greater than normal.</p>	<p>September 22</p> <p>---</p> <p>The brain of a grasshopper has approximately 16,000 neurons.</p>
<p>September 23</p> <p>---</p> <p>The average number of neocortical glial cells in young adults is 39 billion; in older adults, there are 36 billion glial cells.</p>	<p>September 24</p> <p>---</p> <p>The number of synapses in the cortex is 0.15 quadrillion.</p>

<p>September 25</p> <p>---</p> <p>"Rabies" comes from the Latin word "rabere," meaning "to rave" as well as a Sanskrit word for doing violence.</p>	<p>September 26</p> <p>---</p> <p>The vagus nerve, important for controlling the functions of many internal organs, gets its name from the Latin word meaning "wandering."</p>
<p>September 27</p> <p>---</p> <p>Rubbing baby teeth with the brain of a rabbit is an old folk remedy to prevent tooth decay.</p>	<p>September 28</p> <p>---</p> <p>Roman emperor Elagabalus (3rd Century) was served 600 ostrich brains at a single meal.</p>
<p>September 29</p> <p>---</p> <p>Some people, such as professional perfumers, can distinguish between 100,000 different smells.</p>	<p>September 30</p> <p>---</p> <p>The word "brain" appears 66 times in the plays of William Shakespeare.</p>

<p>October 1</p> <p>---</p> <p>The bill of the platypus is equipped with sensory receptors to detect electrical fields. It may use this ability to find food.</p>	<p>October 2</p> <p>---</p> <p>The famous French writer/philosopher Voltaire (born 1694, died 1778) is said to have consumed 50 cups of coffee a day or approximately 3,750 mg of caffeine a day.</p>
<p>October 3</p> <p>---</p> <p>The ancient Roman goddess of wisdom and war is named Minerva supposedly was born when she leaped from Jupiter's brain, completely grown and dressed in armor.</p>	<p>October 4</p> <p>---</p> <p>The human retina contains approximately 120 million rods and 6 million cones. Rods are cells used in dim light; cones are cells used for color vision.</p>
<p>October 5</p> <p>---</p> <p>The movie "Rainman" starring Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise was inspired by a real person named Kim Peek who has memorized 7,600 books and every area code, zip code, highway and television station in the US.</p>	<p>October 6</p> <p>---</p> <p>John Styth Pemberton, the man who invented Coca-Cola, was addicted to morphine.</p>
<p>October 7</p> <p>---</p> <p>Competitive eating champion Takeru Kobayashi set a world record by eating 57 pan-seared cow brains (17.7 pounds) in 15 minutes.</p>	<p>October 8</p> <p>---</p> <p>The channel catfish has a chemical sensing system that can detect the equivalent of less than one-hundredth of a teaspoon (1 to 100 micrograms per liter) of alanine (an amino acid) in an Olympic-size swimming pool.</p>

<p>October 9</p> <p>---</p> <p>Atropine, a drug that blocks receptors for the neurotransmitter acetylcholine, is made from the poisonous <i>Atropa belladonna</i> plant.</p>	<p>October 10</p> <p>---</p> <p>Some unusual phobias are aerophobia (fear of the air), chromatophobia (fear of colors), spectrophobia (fear of mirrors), odontophobia (fear of teeth) and basiphobia (fear of walking).</p>
<p>October 11</p> <p>---</p> <p>In the US, 50 billion aspirin tablets are consumed each year.</p>	<p>October 12</p> <p>---</p> <p>An octopus has receptors for taste on the suckers in its arms.</p>
<p>October 13</p> <p>---</p> <p>The rate of fatal alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes among drivers between 16 and 20 years old who use alcohol is more than twice the rate for drivers aged 21 years and older.</p>	<p>October 14</p> <p>---</p> <p>Louis Braille invented the system of reading by touch (the Braille system) when he was only 15 years old.</p>
<p>October 15</p> <p>---</p> <p>Within the US in 1990, approximately \$1.6 billion was used to eliminate or mask underarm odors.</p>	<p>October 16</p> <p>---</p> <p>In 2001, the three drugs that caused the most visits to emergency departments were alcohol (34%), cocaine (30%) and marijuana (17%).</p>

<p>October 17</p> <p>---</p> <p>Right-footed African Grey parrots have a larger vocabulary than left-footed African Grey parrots.</p>	<p>October 18</p> <p>---</p> <p>The bacterium <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> causes more than 3,000 cases of meningitis in the US each year.</p>
<p>October 19</p> <p>---</p> <p>Adolf Eugen Fick coined the term "contact lens." He made the first contact lens for vision correction from glass in 1887.</p>	<p>October 20</p> <p>---</p> <p>Drunken behavior and violent crimes involving adolescent drinking cost the US \$53 billion per year, including \$19 million from traffic accidents.</p>
<p>October 21</p> <p>---</p> <p>In 2001, approximately 22.8% of the adults in the US were smokers. In 1993, approximately 25.0% of the adults in the US were smokers.</p>	<p>October 22</p> <p>---</p> <p>Mr. Jeffries, a Bassett Hound, is the dog with the longest ears. His ears measure 29.2 cm (11.5 in) in length.</p>
<p>October 23</p> <p>---</p> <p>John Adams (2nd President of the US) and his son, John Quincy Adams (6th President of the US), were both born in Braintree, Massachusetts.</p>	<p>October 24</p> <p>---</p> <p>Leonardo da Vinci designed contact lenses made of glass filled with water.</p>

<p>October 25</p> <p>---</p> <p>Eight hours in a smoky bar breathing second-hand smoke is the equivalent to smoking a pack of cigarettes.</p>	<p>October 26</p> <p>---</p> <p>A sperm whale's click is the loudest sound produced by any organism on the planet.</p>
<p>October 27</p> <p>---</p> <p>The corpus callosum, the fiber tract that connects the right and left hemispheres of the brain, is approximately 10 cm long and 1 cm wide.</p>	<p>October 28</p> <p>---</p> <p>"Ammon's horn," an area of the hippocampus was named after a character from Egyptian mythology who had a ram's head and large curved horns similar to the shape of the hippocampus.</p>
<p>October 29</p> <p>---</p> <p>Neuroanatomist Santiago Ramon y Cajal (1906 Nobel Prize winner) worked as a barber's apprentice and a shoemaker before his career in neuroscience.</p>	<p>October 30</p> <p>---</p> <p>In 2001, approximately 22.8% of the adults in the US were smokers. In 1993, approximately 25.0% of the adults in the US were smokers.</p>
<p>October 31</p> <p>---</p> <p>The esophagus goes right through the brain of an octopus.</p>	

<p>November 1</p> <p>---</p> <p>Morphine, the analgesic (pain reliever) drug from the opium poppy, is named after the Greek god of dreams, Morpheus.</p>	<p>November 2</p> <p>---</p> <p>Approximately 3.3% of snowboarding injuries involve the spinal cord; 1.4% of skiing injuries involve the spinal cord.</p>
<p>November 3</p> <p>---</p> <p>Alexander Graham Bell, who invented the telephone in 1876, suffered from headaches (probably migraines) that lasted hours to days.</p>	<p>November 4</p> <p>---</p> <p>The human brain uses 15-20% of the body's oxygen supply. The brain of the African elephant nose fish uses 60% of its body's oxygen supply.</p>
<p>November 5</p> <p>---</p> <p>Impressionist painter Claude Monet (1840-1926) had cataracts and was almost blind by 1922. He had cataract surgery on his right eye in 1922.</p>	<p>November 6</p> <p>---</p> <p>Cerebral oxygen consumption is 3.5 ml/100g of brain/minute or 49 ml/minute for a whole brain. The energy consumption of the brain is equal to that of a 20 W light bulb.</p>
<p>November 7</p> <p>---</p> <p>Sailors once believed that smelling the bad breath of whales could cause brain disorders.</p>	<p>November 8</p> <p>---</p> <p>Neurophysiologist and Nobel prize winner (1932) Edgar Douglas Adrian was an expert fencer and mountaineer.</p>

<p>November 9</p> <p>---</p> <p>Bruxism, or grinding of the teeth, causes tooth and jaw pain in 15-20% of people in the US.</p>	<p>November 10</p> <p>---</p> <p>An octopus has twice as many nerves in its body than it has in its brain.</p>
<p>November 11</p> <p>---</p> <p>Approximately 24.5% of people between the ages of 53 and 97 years have an impaired sense of smell.</p>	<p>November 12</p> <p>---</p> <p>A severe lack of vitamin A can result in night blindness, the inability to see in low light conditions.</p>
<p>November 13</p> <p>---</p> <p>There are 186 million MORE neurons in the left cerebral hemisphere of the brain than in the right hemisphere.</p>	<p>November 14</p> <p>---</p> <p>The venom of some scorpions affects a victim's nervous system. In 2002, scorpions stung 15,687 people in the US and two people died.</p>
<p>November 15</p> <p>---</p> <p>Forty years ago, 42% of adults in the US smoked. Today, approximately 23% do. Surveys report that 70% of smokers want to quit.</p>	<p>November 16</p> <p>---</p> <p>The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 500,000 people in the US exhibit symptoms of chronic fatigue syndrome.</p>

<p>November 17</p> <p>---</p> <p>Panic disorders affect 2.4 million adults in the US each year.</p>	<p>November 18</p> <p>---</p> <p>The average duration of a single blink is 0.1 - 0.4 seconds.</p>
<p>November 19</p> <p>---</p> <p>The eye of an octopus does not have a cornea.</p>	<p>November 20</p> <p>---</p> <p>In the US each year, 1.4 million people have cataract surgery, making it the most common operation.</p>
<p>November 21</p> <p>---</p> <p>Oilbirds have the highest density of rod receptors (1 million rods per square millimeter) of any vertebrate eye. The highest density of rod receptors in humans is only 175,000 per square millimeter.</p>	<p>November 22</p> <p>---</p> <p>There are more than two million cases of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in the US each year. Most TBIs are caused by motor vehicle accidents, falls, gunshot wounds and sports injuries.</p>
<p>November 23</p> <p>---</p> <p>In 1921, Austrian scientist Otto Loewi discovered the first neurotransmitter that he named "Vagusstoff." We now call this chemical "acetylcholine."</p>	<p>November 24</p> <p>---</p> <p>The octopus is color blind.</p>

<p>November 25</p> <p>---</p> <p>The iris is the circular band of muscles that controls the size of the pupil in the eye and gives color to the eye. The iris was named after the mythological character Iris, the Greek goddess of the rainbow.</p>	<p>November 26</p> <p>---</p> <p>The word "doctor" comes from the Latin word "doceo" that means "to teach."</p>
<p>November 27</p> <p>---</p> <p>An estimated 20.5 million people in the US older than 40 years have a cataract in either eye. It is estimated that 30.1 million people will have cataracts by 2020.</p>	<p>November 28</p> <p>---</p> <p>At least 30 million neurons in the entire visual cortex are activated by the single image of a house or face.</p>
<p>November 29</p> <p>---</p> <p>The word "pain" comes from the Latin word "poena" that means punishment or penalty.</p>	<p>November 30</p> <p>---</p> <p>The world's smallest vertebrate (animal with a backbone) is the stout infantfish (<i>Schindleria brevipinguis</i>).</p>

<p>December 1</p> <p>---</p> <p>Central and South American poison frogs produce about 600 chemicals in their skin.</p>	<p>December 2</p> <p>---</p> <p>Humans can detect one molecule of green pepper smell when it is mixed in the air with 3 trillion other molecules.</p>
<p>December 3</p> <p>---</p> <p>The first football helmet used during a game was worn when Army played Navy in 1893.</p>	<p>December 4</p> <p>---</p> <p>Aspirin, the commonly used pain reliever, gets its name by combining the "a" from acetyl and "spirin" from "spiraeic acid," the old term for salicylic acid.</p>
<p>December 5</p> <p>---</p> <p>Almost 50% of the people in the US wear eyeglasses. The total spent for eyeglasses in the US is \$13 billion.</p>	<p>December 6</p> <p>---</p> <p>The average amount of time required to attain a PhD in the biomedical sciences is approximately 6.9 years.</p>
<p>December 7</p> <p>---</p> <p>The upper canine teeth are sometimes called the "eye teeth" from the false belief of ancient physician/anatomist Galen who thought that a nerve in these teeth came from a nerve that also supplied the eye.</p>	<p>December 8</p> <p>---</p> <p>The first cervical vertebra (backbone) is also called the atlas. Atlas was one of the Titans in Greek mythology.</p>

<p>December 9</p> <p>---</p> <p>Most walruses appear to be right-"handed."</p>	<p>December 10</p> <p>---</p> <p>In 1863, Adolf von Baeyer synthesized barbituric acid, the first barbiturate. He named this chemical after his girlfriend Barbara.</p>
<p>December 11</p> <p>---</p> <p>Bhutan was the first country to ban the sale of tobacco.</p>	<p>December 12</p> <p>---</p> <p>A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.</p>
<p>December 13</p> <p>---</p> <p>Some snails can sleep for three years.</p>	<p>December 14</p> <p>---</p> <p>The brain of a worker honeybee weighs only 1 milligram.</p>
<p>December 15</p> <p>---</p> <p>The word "alcohol" comes from the Arabic "al" and "kohl." Kohl is a powder that was used to paint eyebrows.</p>	<p>December 16</p> <p>---</p> <p>About 2 to 3 out of every 1,000 children in the US are born deaf or hard-of-hearing. Nine out of every 10 children who are born deaf are born to parents who can hear.</p>

<p>December 17</p> <p>---</p> <p>Depression occurs in 2% of elementary school-aged children and 4-8% of adolescents.</p>	<p>December 18</p> <p>---</p> <p>Squid and cuttlefish have eye with W-shaped pupils.</p>
<p>December 19</p> <p>---</p> <p>Swordfish have special tissue (a "brain heater") behind their eyes that warms their brains as much as 14 degrees centigrade above the temperature of the water.</p>	<p>December 20</p> <p>---</p> <p>Although stroke is the third most common cause of death in the US, its death rate has declined 65% since 1950.</p>
<p>December 21</p> <p>---</p> <p>Several types of beetles are attracted to forest fires. These beetles detect the heat of forest fires with receptors for infrared radiation.</p>	<p>December 22</p> <p>---</p> <p>Some fish (e.g., sharks, sturgeon), lampreys, salamanders and the platypus can detect weak electrical fields.</p>
<p>December 23</p> <p>---</p> <p>Every day, people worldwide light up 15 billion cigarettes.</p>	<p>December 24</p> <p>---</p> <p>There are approximately 6,800 languages spoken in the world today.</p>

<p>December 25</p> <p>---</p> <p>The stapedius muscle is the smallest muscle in the body. This muscle, 6.3 mm in length, helps move the stapes bone in the middle ear.</p>	<p>December 26</p> <p>---</p> <p>A "Mickey Finn" is a drink made with alcohol and chloral hydrate. This drink was developed in the 1870s by a group of tavern owners to make customers unconscious. Customers were robbed after they became unconscious.</p>
<p>December 27</p> <p>---</p> <p>Caffeine is the most widely used behaviorally active drug in the world.</p>	<p>December 28</p> <p>---</p> <p>The preying mantis has been called an "auditory cyclops" because it has only one ear. The ear of this insect is located in the middle of its underside, between its legs.</p>
<p>December 29</p> <p>---</p> <p>The brain of a 136 kg (300 pound) swordfish weighs only 2.2 grams (0.005 pounds).</p>	<p>December 30</p> <p>---</p> <p>Emil Kraepelin coined the term "Alzheimer's disease" in 1910.</p>
<p>December 31</p> <p>---</p> <p>Sleepwalking affects 2-14% of all children and 1.6-2.5% of all adults.</p>	