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1,227 Quite Interesting Facts To Blow Your Socks Off



Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller From the creators of the hugely popular BBC quiz show QI and the best-selling Book of General Ignorance: 1,227 mind-bending facts. Did you know? • Cows moo in regional accents. • The international dialing code for Russia is 007. • The water in the mouth of a blue whale weighs more than its body. • Pants are responsible for twice as many accidents as chain saws. • Saddam Hussein's bunker was designed by the grandson of the woman who built Hitler's bunker. • Heroin was originally sold as cough medicine. 1,227 Quite Interesting Facts to Blow Your Socks Off is a trove of the strangest, funniest, and most improbable tidbits of knowledge—all painstakingly researched and distilled to a brilliant and shocking clarity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book seemed perfect for me because 1. I am a trivia and quiz show buff and 2. I find removing my socks quite tedious. This book did not disappoint and was filled with some amazing facts that I did not know, and will hopefully help me win a t-shirt the next time I attend trivia night at a local pub. There were some facts I already knew though and my socks remained firmly in place from beginning to end. So I guess my only criticism would be of the title. Perhaps it should have been called "1,200 Quite Interesting Facts and 27 Things You Already Knew. P.S. You Will Need To Remove Your Own Socks." I would recommend this book to any trivia enthusiast or anyone who enjoys learning new things. *I received this book free through goodreads.com's "First Reads" program.*

I don't know when I first came across the show QI but, ever since then, I've become quite interested in it. I've tracked down episodes on YouTube and have become totally taken in by its combination of humor and information. Stephen Fry is the perfect host for this, and the celebrity panelists make for plenty of wit and interest. It's a great show. Great shows, however, do not necessarily make for great books. I have numerous eBooks of facts on my shelf. Most of them are useful as resources but not particularly interesting to read. This one, on the other hand, not only pulls together many bits of fascinating information but also presents it in a way that is surprisingly easy to read. There are four statements of fact on every page (except one) connected in obvious but odd ways leading to wide-ranging pieces of information. Take this from p. 124: "Between 1948 and 1998, 20,362 Israelis were killed in wars and 20,852 were killed on the roads.//The American TV sex therapist Dr. Ruth Westheimer trained as an Israeli sniper.//Snipur is Icelandic for clitoris." One of the disappointments I often have in books like this is that the facts are not interesting enough and often I already know too many of them from other sources. That was not true here. I knew some of the things from this book (like the bit about Dr. Ruth above) but the vast majority of it was new to me. And I really found most of them interesting, though I did tire of the definitions of odd words after a while. Still, that's splitting hairs. I read this book straight through over a couple days, reading parts of it aloud to my family as I came across things I thought they might enjoy. All of us got into it and enjoyed it. It's strange but true: a collection of interesting facts can bring a family together.

This book contains a wealth of almost-useless facts--for example, if you have a pizza with radius "z" and thickness "a" its volume is $\pi \cdot z^2 \cdot a$. How cute is that? So schoolteachers who want to amuse their classes with this kind of attention-getting fact could use these in math classes. For example, half of all births in China are Caesareans. How many is that? Can you guess? If there are 1.2 Billion Chinese, how would you find out? (You need the birth rate, obviously.) I think either math teachers or social study teachers would find this book a good resource for stimulating discussions in class or illustrating some points. I met my husband playing trivia (our friends matched us up to see who'd come out on top!) and playing trivia has been something I've done my entire life. I still collect trivia and all kinds of statistics. If this is an interest of yours, this book is fun to read. It also makes good light reading for a waiting room, "bathroom" reading or reading aloud on a long car trip to stimulate a discussion. Some of the facts are ones you'd already know (most of the cocoa consumption is in Europe, well, we knew that this is the ancestral home of chocoholics) and some are unfamiliar. Either way, it's fun stuff.

I bought this book as a birthday present for a 7th grade girl. As described and advertised it would seem to be great for a smart kid with a great sense of humor, BUT the authors felt it necessary to include a number of vulgar "facts". Such as ? Well I would like to tell you and listed a few in the first version of this review and it was rejected by . So you get the idea... I'm no prude. Those entries were just stupid and should have been left out. I'm glad I read the book before I gave it as a gift to a child. The book was returned.

I was hoping for a little more background info behind the facts, but they really are just short sentence statements for each fact. My husband likes to learn random facts so I got this as a gag gift for him, but there was no info as to why the facts were true so it wasn't actually that interesting to read.

This is a fun book. Based on the BBC(British Broadcasting Corp.'s IQ program). While some of the "facts" are questionable, it still is so much fun. I told some Spanish speaking friends about one fact--what did the Lone Ranger program do to make the Lone Ranger's companion Tonto(Spanish for dumb or stupid)palatable? Toro. Hi Ho Toro.

Full of funny useless facts. We are a fan of useless facts in our house and this just gave us more things to laugh over and talk about. Bought for our pre-teen son who loved that he could share such useless things.

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