

MARIE-CLAUDE
OUELLET



BENOÎT
LAVERDIÈRE



BEN & BOB



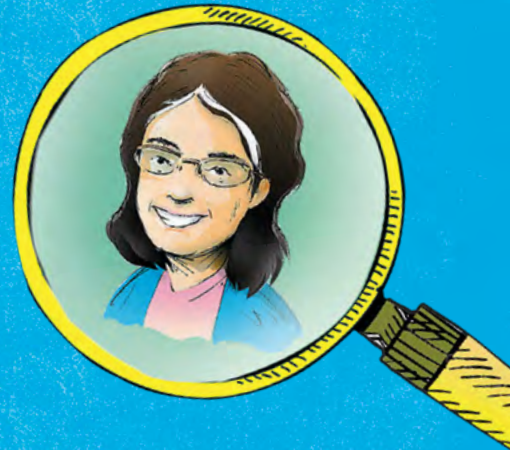
RECORDS, STATISTICS
AND OTHER CURIOSITIES





Benoît Laverdière worked in the field of graphic design for ten years. This experience led him to the profession of illustrator. Combining humour and surrealism, Benoît quickly developed a particular style appealing to young people. Since 1997, Benoît has regularly collaborated in the production of numerous illustrated albums for children. Thanks to his vivid imagination, drawings, caricatures and comics easily come to life.

A biological sciences grad, **Marie-Claude Ouellet** has worked in the field of popular science for over thirty years. Her work allows her to combine her two passions: science and children. The author of two books on the Saint Lawrence river and whales, she has also written articles for numerous media, notably *Les Débrouillards* and *Les Explorateurs* magazines, *Agence Science-Press*, and children's television programs. She has also contributed to exhibitions at the Montreal Insectarium, the Biosphere, and the Montreal Science Centre.



EXCERPT FROM THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE SERIES ORIGINALLY ENTITLED
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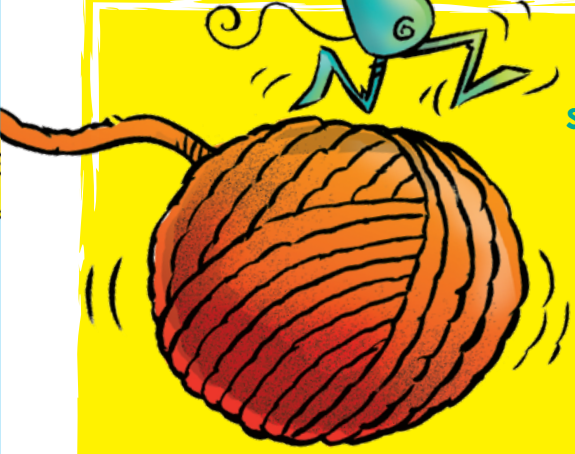
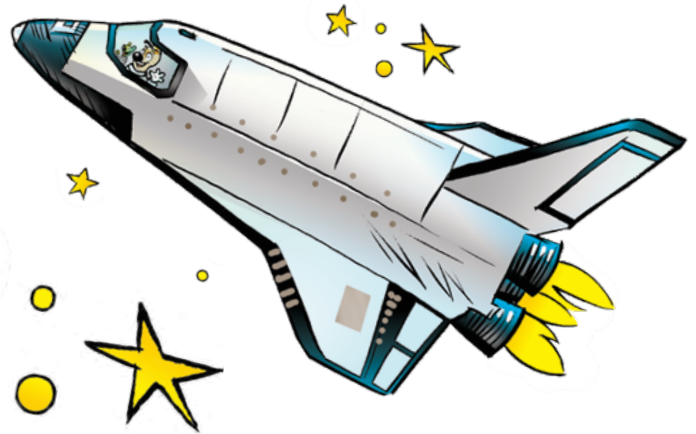
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The potato was the first vegetable to be cultivated in space. That was in 1995 aboard a space shuttle.



In 2001, **AUSTRALIANS** knit 15,000 tiny sweaters for **PENGUINS** affected by an oil spill. On top of keeping the **PENGUINS WARM**, these sweaters prevented them from swallowing **PETROL** while trying to groom themselves.

Once they **RECOVERED**, the penguins were released into the wild without their sweaters.



Why

DO

FLIES

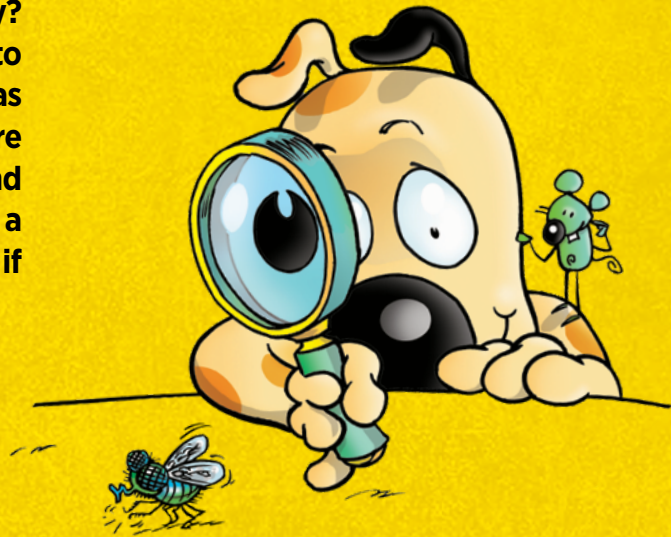
RUB THEIR FRONT

LEGS

TOGETHER?



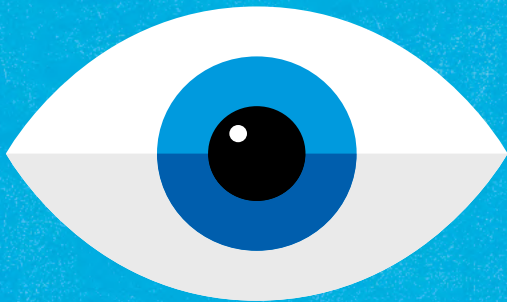
Flies do this to keep their legs permanently clean. Why? Because they use them to taste and smell (as well as walk of course). Flies' legs are equipped with tiny taste and smell receptors. So as soon as a fly lands on a surface, it knows if the object is edible or not.



Every day,
we **BLINK**
over
1000 times.

This REFLEX spreads
a THIN layer
of **TEARS**

over our **EYEBALLS**
to keep them moist.



A SINGLE
AVERAGE-SIZED TREE
PRODUCES UP TO 15,000
SHEETS OF PAPER.





It takes a
SPACECRAFT
6 TO 8
months to travel to
MARS.

A

medium-sized

potato

produces



CHIPS.

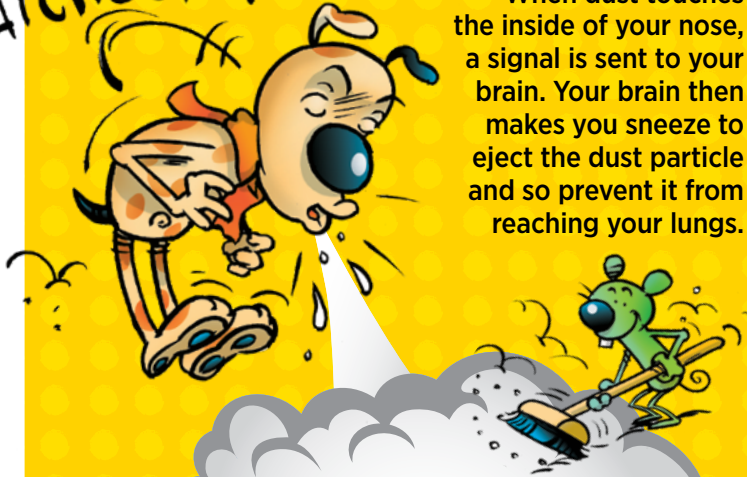


The
scientific
name for
salt is
**SODIUM
CHLORIDE.**

Why does dust make us sneeze?

ATCHOUM!

When dust touches the inside of your nose, a signal is sent to your brain. Your brain then makes you sneeze to eject the dust particle and so prevent it from reaching your lungs.



150 km/h

When you sneeze, air is expelled at around 150 km/h!

To communicate with each other, ants rub their antennae together. This produces sounds and, above all, odorous substances.





Teeth are covered in a thin layer of enamel. This is the hardest substance in the human body.

INSECTS THAT HELP FLOWERS REPRODUCE ARE CALLED INSECT POLLINATORS.



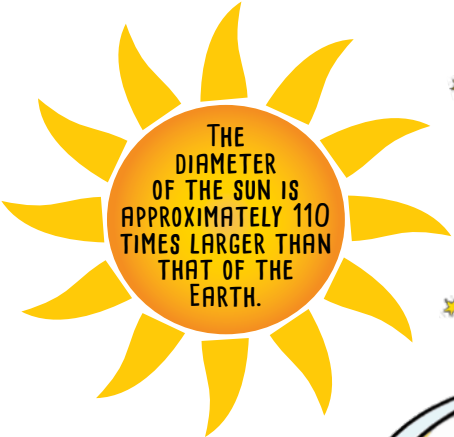
Why is gold so expensive?

BECAUSE IT IS RARE AND IN HIGH DEMAND. PEOPLE PREFER IT TO OTHER METALS BECAUSE IT DOES NOT REACT TO AIR. GOLD DOES NOT RUST OR BECOME TARNISHED.

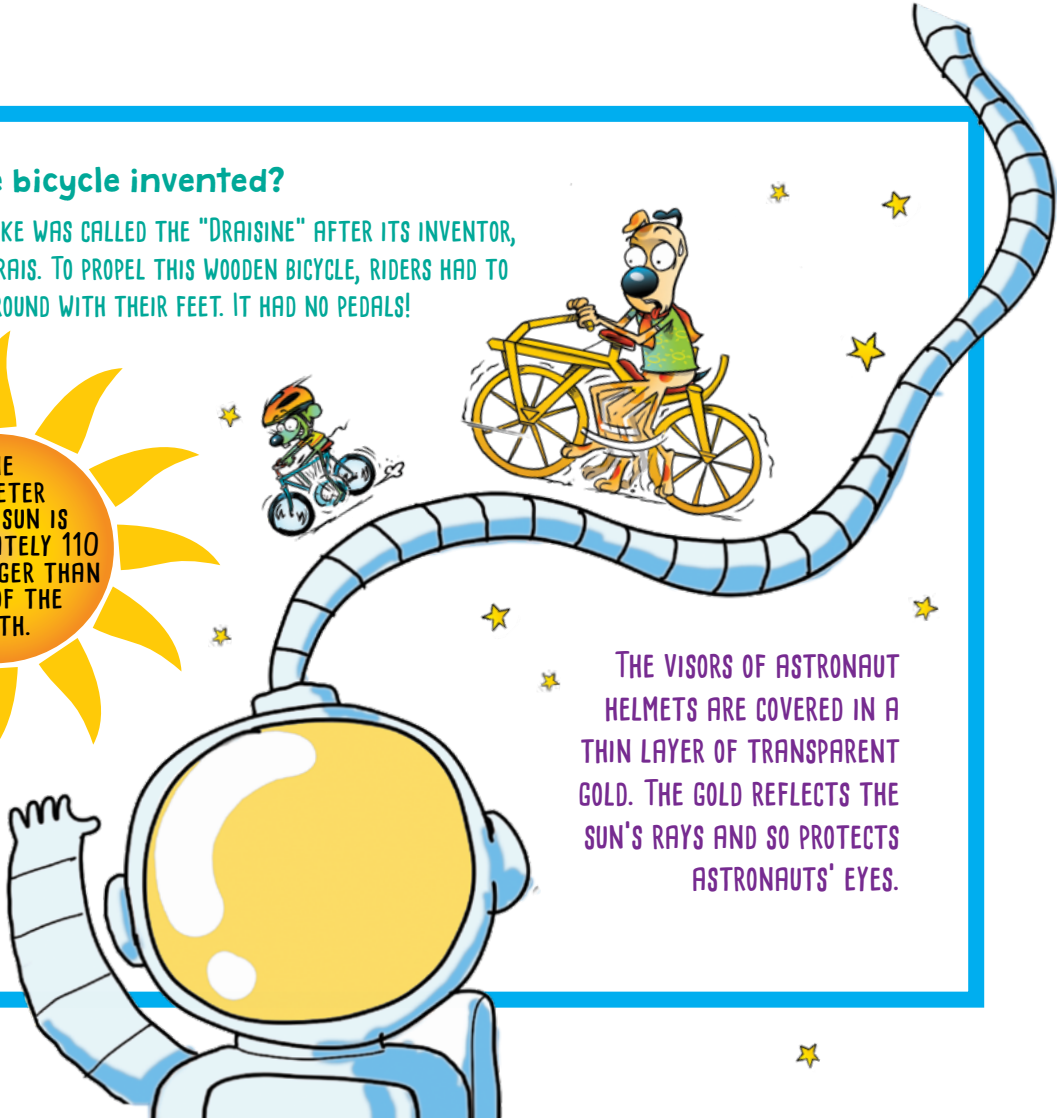


When was the bicycle invented?

IN 1817. THE FIRST BIKE WAS CALLED THE "DRAISINE" AFTER ITS INVENTOR, THE GERMAN KARL DRAIS. TO PROPEL THIS WOODEN BICYCLE, RIDERS HAD TO PUSH AGAINST THE GROUND WITH THEIR FEET. IT HAD NO PEDALS!



THE
DIAMETER
OF THE SUN IS
APPROXIMATELY 110
TIMES LARGER THAN
THAT OF THE
EARTH.



THE VISORS OF ASTRONAUT
HELMETS ARE COVERED IN A
THIN LAYER OF TRANSPARENT
GOLD. THE GOLD REFLECTS THE
SUN'S RAYS AND SO PROTECTS
ASTRONAUTS' EYES.

BEN AND HIS FAITHFUL COMPANION,
BOB, SHARE A DEEP HUNGER FOR LEARNING.
THE TWO FRIENDS LOVE HAVING FUN AND
ABOVE ALL, SHARING THEIR KNOWLEDGE.



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