

In the 1800s there were many news stories in Europe of people who said that their relatives had died and returned as vampires.

People liked to scare each other with the idea of a blood-drinking vampire, and so the legend of the vampire began.



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In 1819, John Polidori wrote a book called *The Vampyre* about a Vampire called Count Ruthden.

This spooky story became a bestseller. Everybody wanted to read about vampires.

A 'penny dreadful' was an ongoing magazine that only cost a penny. Stories would be printed in parts over a number of weeks. The most popular vampire story was 'Varney the Vampire'.



5. THE MIGHTY WORLD OF MARVEL

The Fantastic Four appeared in 1961.

Each of the Fantastic Four had a superpower.

- Mr Fantastic could stretch his body like rubber.
- Invisible Girl could disappear.
- The Human Torch could control fire.
- The Thing, an orange rocky monster, was super-strong.



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The Incredible Hulk

The Thing was the most popular character so in 1962 the comic writers created another monster – The Incredible Hulk.

Every time scientist Bruce Banner lost his temper he transformed into The Incredible Hulk.

The angrier he was, the more powerful he became.



In the very first Incredible Hulk comic, his skin was grey, not green!



4. MISSIONS TO THE MOON

The USA won the space race to land a human on the moon!

On 20th July 1969 Apollo 11 was launched by a Saturn V rocket.

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first people ever to step on ground outside Earth.



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When Neil Armstrong took the first step onto the moon he said:

“That’s one small step for a man – one giant leap for mankind.”

The North American Space Agency (NASA) made five more manned moon landings.

WOW! facts

The last moon landing was in 1972.

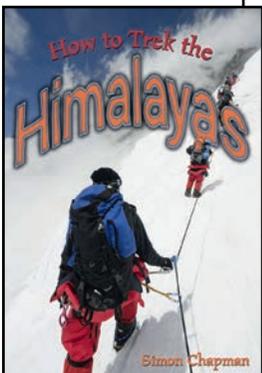


In some places in the Himalayas there are zip wires across rivers. This is a really fast way to cross the river, but watch you don't fall off the wire into the swirling waters below!



Tips for crossing rivers

1. Use a walking stick or pole to give you extra balance.
2. Walk facing the flow of the water
3. Lean forwards towards your pole.
4. Put old socks over your boots. This will give you a better grip on wet rocks than walking in your boots.



4. The gadgets

When Bond is on a mission he uses special gadgets given to him by the British Secret Service.

Q is the name of the man who gives Bond his cars and gadgets. The character Q was not in the original James Bond books but he has appeared in almost all of the Bond films.



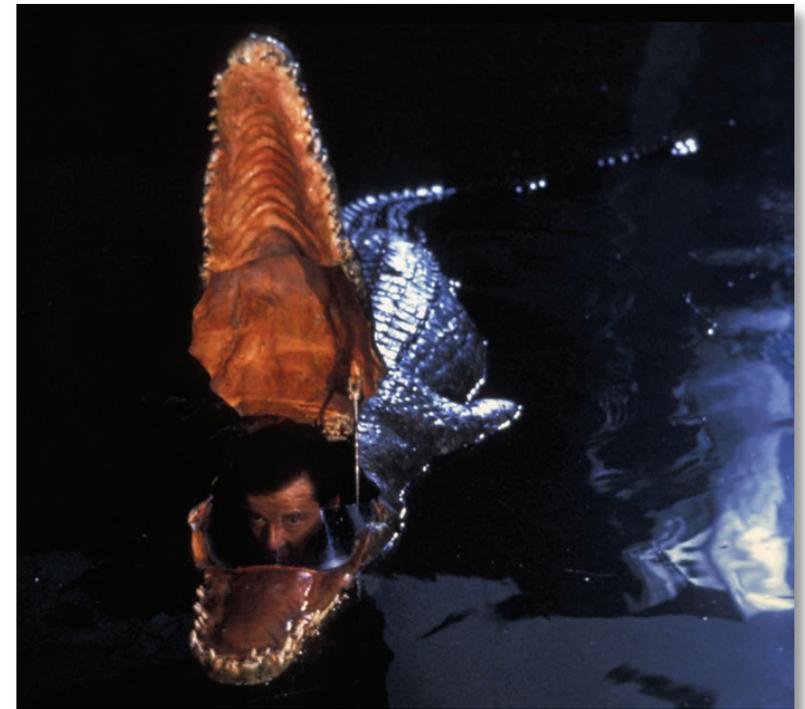
The actor Desmond Llewelyn has been in more Bond films than any other actor. He played Q in 17 films.

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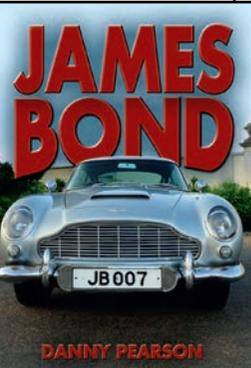
One of the strangest Bond gadgets was a submarine that looked like a crocodile. Bond used this to sneak into a floating palace.

A real crocodile was used for some of the scenes but it escaped under the film set at Pinewood studios in England.

It was found two weeks later!



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3. Road racing

The world's biggest road race is the Tour de France.

It takes place every year in France and the nearby countries. In 2014, Le Tour started in the UK.

The Tour de France lasts for three weeks and covers around 3500 kilometres. The hardest stages are the climbs through the mountains.



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Guide to Tour de France jersey colours:



Yellow jersey

Best overall time in the previous day's race



Green jersey

Best sprinter – has won the most sections



Polka dot jersey

Best at cycling the hills



White jersey

Youngest winner of each section

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Plague doctors

In the 1361–1364 outbreak of the plague there were special doctors who tried to help people.

But the doctors were scared of catching the plague so they wore special outfits to protect themselves. This was how a plague doctor looked:



The bird-like beak was filled with nice smelling things to protect the doctor from 'evil' bad smells.

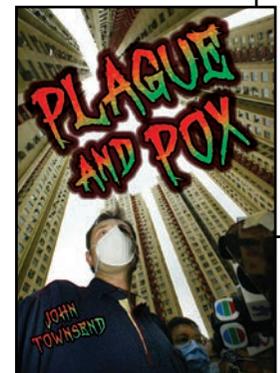
London's last plague

In 1665 the Great Plague of London killed almost 100,000 people in the city.

There were so many rats spreading the disease that in a few months it had killed two out of every ten people in London.

One year later there was a great fire in London that destroyed most of the city.

One good thing was that the flames helped to kill rats, fleas and the dreaded disease itself.



3. The first powered aeroplane flight

When:

17 December 1903

Where:

Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, USA

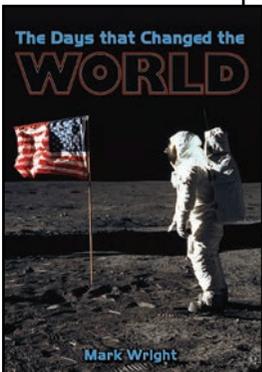
What happened?:

Brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright built the first aircraft that could actually fly. Lots of people had been trying to build an aircraft but the planes never took off.

How it changed the world:

The first flight made by the Wright brothers lasted just 12 seconds and was only over a distance of 120 feet, but it was the start of flying history.

After the Wright brothers' success, aeroplanes quickly became better and better, and less than 20 years later, planes were speeding across the skies.



1. LETHAL ARACHNIDS

The spider family (arachnids) can be a scary bunch of creepy crawlies. Lots of people are more afraid of spiders than any other 'mini-killers'.

Very few spiders are likely to kill you. But some can give you a nasty bite...



Black widow spider

The female black widow spider is not very big (just 40 millimetres long) but it is deadly. She often kills and eats the smaller male.

Her venom is strong but she only has a tiny amount of it.

If she bites you, it will feel like a pinprick and it might make you feel ill for a couple of days.



3. INTO BATTLE

Most Vikings went into battle with a long sword. However, some Vikings could not afford a sword, as they were very expensive, so they would use an axe instead.

Vikings would also carry a knife and use a small, round, wooden shield to protect themselves.



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Vikings wore helmets on their heads made of leather or iron.

People used to think that all Viking helmets had horns or wings but it turns out that isn't true.



Vikings liked to give their swords names like Leg-Biter or War Flame.

