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Is Santa Real?



Have you heard of Santa? For most in America the answer to this would be yes. Not everyone celebrates Christmas, but for those who do, Santa is a very legendary and magical figure. You might be thinking "Why is this guy writing about Santa? The holiday season is over!" I know, but I just got to know if this guy is real!

Let us first take a look at the old tales and legends. Santa is a jolly, rather large old man with a big white beard who flies around on the night of Christmas Eve to deliver presents to all the children. Well, almost all of the children, unless you're on the naughty list, then you get coal! He flies across the whole

world with his team of magical flying reindeer. At each house he somehow gets down the chimney and delivers the presents. He gets all of his presents from the army of elves that he has back at his house in the North Pole. The elves work all year until Santa has all the presents necessary. By Christmas morning all the presents are delivered, and the cookies and milk you left out for Santa are gone. Meanwhile Santa's probably up at the North Pole rubbing his belly in front of the fire.

The facts don't really agree with this legend. There hasn't ever actually been a flying reindeer found. And there's nothing slippery enough to fit someone as big as this man down a chimney. There has never been a giant toy making place located in the North Pole, and it would be extremely hard to live there.

I have come to the decision that there is only one way to determine if Santa is real... To go on a four year journey to the North Pole with a team of highly trained specialists, many provisions, and extremely expensive gadgets and technology! But I can't do that. So I figure the closest thing to that is to take a vote from Kennedy's very own students, and after doing so the tally for Santa being real or not was about 70% real to 30% fake! It would have been about sixty to forty but Doctor Kenley was in favor of Santa's existence, so it went up an extra ten percent! There you have it, Santa is real.

By Davin Aguilar

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Friday the 13th

In this month of January, we will experience the first Friday the 13th of the year. These only come around one to three times a year, specifically in months that begin on Sunday. Although this means nothing to some people, Friday the 13th is not a cause for celebration to those who are superstitious. It is in fact the exact opposite; it's rather a day of bad

luck. According to theory, on this day bad luck can come your way if you walk under ladders, break mirrors, let a black cat cross your path, etc. However, it's been wondered how this odd tradition began, and there are actually many stories.

Friday and the number 13 both hold their own reputa-

tions, so I wanted to focus on each

one individually. Friday is said to be the day with the worst luck of the week. It is considered a bad day to start a project, and has also been associated with Black Friday, a day in which immense sales are produced and, as many shoppers would testify, is abso-

(continued on page 2)



Friday the 13th

lute chaos. According to Christianity, Jesus Christ came to Earth and was crucified. It may seem illogical to bring this up, but most superstitious people say that Christ was crucified on a Friday.

The number 13 is quite unlucky as well. Triskaidekaphobia is the fear of the number 13, and it plays a huge role in the superstition. Another factor is the number twelve, as it is recognized as a number of completions. You can see this in a number of things: The 12 months of the year, 12 hours on a clock, 12 gods of Olympus, the 12 tribes of Israel, etc.

The number 13 comes after, thus signifying the disruption of something complete. In religion, there were thirteen seats at the Last Supper, and after the supper, Christ was killed. Therefore, people believe that 13 is a symbol of death.

The superstition has many effects on believers. Records show that 17-21 million people believe in Friday the 13th. Some people don't even get out of bed in an attempt to avoid the bad luck in the air. About \$800-\$900 million are lost by businesses on this day in the U.S.

However, some people try to prove believers wrong. Some buy lottery tickets with the number 13 and try their luck. Studies have also shown that car accident rates are lower on Friday 13 than on other Fridays. This may seem like good luck, but some people say it's just because people avoid going out on this fateful day.

Influences for this day can come from almost anywhere. Books like *The Da Vinci Code* and *The Canterbury Tales* have made this day fearful. The thirteenth book in *A Series of Unfortunate Events* came out

Tigers Fade Away

In the future kids will be wondering what tigers are and if they really ever existed. As an answer to their question someone will recall seeing them at the zoo but only as a faint memory. Tigers are beautiful creatures in need of saving.



Tigers are critically endangered with only 3,200 tigers left a number that pales in comparison to the human population of 6.7 billion. These striped-felines are the largest

in the cat family. With a tail that measure two to three feet and the head and body measure five to six feet tigers can be nine feet in length. A typical tiger will weigh anywhere between 240 to 500 pounds when full grown. They are mammals and nurse their

young much like humans do, but have a litter of six to eight cubs. These adorable tiger cubs stay with their mother for two to three years and begin hunting at 18 months. Humans live about ten times longer than a tiger in the wild; it can live for ten to twelve years.

A spectacular feature about tigers is that they are not picky but adaptable. Evidence of a

tiger has been found in swamps and even 13000 feet above the surface of the earth. Sambar, (an Asian deer), and ox are among the tigers' diet although some have been able to survive off marine food. Tigers avoid humans other than occasionally snacking on some of their livestock. Being attacked by a tiger isn't common, because they won't prey on humans unless they are too sick, injured, or their natural prey has been hunted and is gone.

Tigers are stealthy silent animals especially when hunting. It will wait patiently, creep close, jump and pounce, and killing it with a swipe of its four-inch claws or bone shattering teeth. If a tiger is hungry enough it can consume sixty

Lonesome George: The Last of His Kind



Far away on the Galapagos Island, there lives a tortoise. He lives in the Charles Darwin Research Center. His name is Lonesome George, and he is the last known Pinta Island Tortoise living today.

The Pinta Island Tortoise is the rarest animal on earth, with there only being one known left. He is classified on the IUCN Red List as Extinct in the Wild. His species has been driven to this point because long ago whalers and travelers would

take them on their boat and use them as a food source when food became scarce, due to the fact that tortoises can survive 18 months without food.

The scientific name of The Pinta Island Tortoise is *Chelonoidis nigra abingdoni*. It is a subspecies of the Galapagos Tortoise, or *Chelonoidis nigra*. The Galapagos Tortoise is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

Will Lonesome George ever find love? Being the last of his kind, it is a bit difficult for him to make babies. People at the Charles Darwin Research Center

have attempted to breed him with two tortoises from Isabela Island. The three clutches of eggs that were created were infertile. There is a 10,000 dollar reward for anyone who can find a pure breed female Pinta Island Tortoise.

There is a lot we can learn from the situation of Lonesome George. Due to the carelessness of man, this amazing species has been driven to near extinction, and there is little chance of rejuvenation. We should strive to never let any species suffer the way the Pinta Island Tortoise has.

By Kendra Hurst

Don't punch...our
car



Kid History

One of this year's latest YouTube sensations is the Kid History episodes. These are short videos, where old family stories are retold by very young children. The kids narrate what happened to their older relatives, and the adults act out exactly how they tell the story.

So far they come out with seven episodes and a remix. The people who made these episodes are from here in Utah. What a hilarious family!

In every episode there is a main idea. Episode 1 is about two guys named John and Randy, who get bullied driving home. In Episode 2, Randy and Kyle have a play date. In Episode 3, Randy and John go to Chile. In Episode 4, Randy, John, Brett and Dave go to the Harlem Globetrotters. In Episode 5, Randy and Mike go to a boys and girls camp and get in trouble. In Episode 6, the Roberts kids' Mom makes them eat healthy food, but John and Nathan set up a candy stand. A remix was made from a little girl's rap video.

Recently, Episode 7 has come out, it is about Nathan who is Jewish and comes over to the Roberts' house for Christmas.

If you thought this sounded interesting, or if you've heard your friends quoting funny lines from the videos, then tune in to www.youtube.com and search for the Kid History episodes! When you watch these really funny videos, you'll get hooked! I hope you love these episodes.

By Mara Hutchinson

Friday the Thirteenth (cont.)

on this day, as well as four of the twelve movies in the series Friday the 13th.

It may seem like a silly holiday, but everyone should enjoy it for better or worse. So have a great (or bad) Friday the 13th, and remember,

bad luck can be just around the corner...

By: Hiram Herrera

Tigers (cont. from page 2)



Help Save Tigers

Right now, there are more tigers in captivity than there are left in the wild.

pounds in one night, but usually eats less. Ants and tigers are alike because of their superhuman strength; a tiger can drag a kill that is five times the tiger's weight.

Tiger parts are in high demand on the black market in China for their use in traditional medicines. This reason spurs poachers into illegally killing as many tigers as possible for one reason money. Poachers have been known to going to extreme measures to get a tiger. A morbid example of this is Sheila, a tiger

killed in the dead of the night by ruthless poachers at the zoo in Jambi, Indonesia. Tigers also suffer from lack of land (deforestation). They live in rich diverse landscapes with unique plants and animals.

Populations are declining rapidly and soon tigers will cease to exist. By saving tigers you also save land needed for other faltering species to survive. Organizations like World Wildlife and National Geographic are helping, but they need help. On World Wildlife's website: www.worldwildlife.org/gift-center/gifts/Species-Adoptions/Tiger.aspx?sc=AWYI200WC900 you

can adopt a tiger and receive a certificate and a plush tiger. National Geographic motto is 'Cause an Uproar' and unlike World Wildlife it supports all big cat species that are endangered and need to be helped. At <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/big-cats/cause-an-uproar/> this gives you five different options to help: donate, dress, share, wear, and text. Do something before tigers cease to exist and become just as saber-toothed tigers have become: forgotten.

By Kylee Aoyama

The Australian Justin Bieber: Cody Simpson

The amazing and wonderful Cody Robert Simpson was born on January 11, 1997 to the parents of Brad and Angie Simpson. He has a younger sister and brother, his sister, Alli, is

guitar, and piano.

Cody Simpson says his biggest fear is snakes and the best part of being Cody Simpson (or being famous) is being able to do what he loves

and being able to live his dream. He says that a lot of people mistake him for being sixteen or seventeen when he is actually 15. He says

are the majority of his fans). Cody says his worst subject in school is Science and he misses being a regular kid. He says he mostly loves to listen to Jack Johnson, Bruno Mars, and Kanye West. Cody loves to release music that his fans can relate to. He said that the craziest fan experience was one time at a concert a fan got so excited they were sent to the hospital, and that shows that Cody Simpson is AMAZING!

Cody Simpson began to record songs in his bedroom during the summer of 2009 on YouTube, performing "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz, "Cry Me a River" and "Señorita" by Justin Timberlake, "I Want You Back" by the Jackson 5, and his own songs, "One" and "Perfect." He was discovered by Shawn Campbell, a Grammy-nominated record producer who has produced for Jay-Z and other artists. In 2010 he was signed to Atlantic Record Company. His top singles in 2010 were "iYiYiY" and "Summertime," and in 2011 "All Day" "I Want Candy" "Love" "On My Mind" "Not Just You" and "Angel."

By Kate James



thirteen years old and his brother, Tom, is six years old. He was born and raised in Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. Some of his talents and hobbies that he started when he was a child were singing, dancing, swimming,

that he loves the United States and he also loves his fans. Cody is a fan of Justin Bieber and he says it is an honor to be compared to him.

Cody Simpson says he loves the attention from girls (which

NBA



On July 1, 2011, the NBA announced that they will be going into lockout until the NBA players and owners can come to a resolution dealing with the revenue (income) and also dealing with the salary cap (how much the players make). This particular lockout went on for about three months (July 1, 2011-November 25, 2011). However, on November 25, 2011, the NBA announced that the NBA Lockout had come to an end and

that training camps for the NBA players would soon begin.

It was announced that the NBA players would get to play with other team mates and would get to trade onto other teams on December 8, 2011. With that have being said, major team trades in the NBA are taking place. For example, it was announced that Boston Celtics' player Glenn Davis would be heading over to the Orlando Magic to play for them for the 2011-2012 season. Other players such as Lamar Odom (from the Los Angeles Lakers to the Dallas Mavericks), Chris Paul (from the New Orleans Hornets to the Los Angeles Clippers), Tyson Chandler (from the Dallas Mavericks to the New York Knicks),

and many more have traded teams for this particular season and may look to extend their contract.

So what teams in the NBA do fans go for? I went around and took a poll for what are the top five teams in the NBA (all grades were asked). Your school's favorite NBA teams are:

First place: The Los Angeles Lakers

Second place: The Boston Celtics

Third place: The Miami Heat

Fourth place: The Utah Jazz

Fifth place: The Orlando Magic

By Imad Ahmed

Liar!



Have you ever wanted to know what is on someone's mind? Or do you have a friend that lies all the time? If so, read this to know if someone is lying. If not, read this anyways since it's pretty interesting.

A person lying to you would usually avoid eye contact with you. They would seem a bit stiff and may scratch or touch their face often. The reason why they do

that is they are distracting themselves. The person lying usually says things more clearly for example, "I did not do that" instead of "I didn't do it." They often get defensive; normally a person would get offensive over things. They add details into the lie to convince you that they are not lying.

How can you tell if a person is really lying? Well you could try and change the topic. Normally the person would get confused and say, "wait I didn't..." or something along those lines, but if they are lying then they would let you change the topic

and generally grow more relaxed. Sometimes they would use sarcasm or humor to avoid a subject.

Of course if a person has shown more or one of these signs does not make them a liar. You should be cautious anyways. However you interpret this article, either for detecting if a person is lying to you or to get better at lying is all up to you. Hopefully it's the first option.

By Naava Leonard

Pick-up Lines

TRUE LOVE

I must be a snowflake... because I'm falling for you.

Have you ever had a boy or girl tell you something that made you fall in love? If you're the type of person that gets nervous and struggles to impress your crush? Well today is your lucky day, I'm here to give you some pointers to catch their hearts <3

Did you fart? ... Because you blew me away!

You're like a dictionary... you add meaning to my life.

If you were a flower I'd pick you first.

If you were a chicken you'd be impeccable.

Are you an alien? ... Because you abducted my heart.

You dropped something ... My Jaw.

Do you have a band aid? Because I scraped my knee falling for you.

Are you from Tennessee? ... Because you're the only ten I see!

Well here I am what's your second wish?

If I could rearrange the alphabet I'd put U and I together.

By: Maricela Medellin

Dance Company 2011

This year dance company has done a fabulous job! Ms. Howard is the teacher for Dance Company. There are twenty-one people in the class. All of them are very talented. It takes the class about a day to a week to learn a dance. It all depends on the dance, and skill level of the dancers. Right now they have to memorize about three to five different dances.

When I asked Ms. Howard about her feelings this year, she answered they are amazing.

Ms. Howard has been teaching dance for 4 years. Jazz and modern dance is her dance of choice. When

asked about ballet, she mentioned that ballet was hard for her. Pet peeves in dancing are chewing gum, hair in your face while dancing, and repeating herself after explaining.

The history of Modern Dance; it was created in the early 20th century. Modern is a more freely relaxed moving dance. They use emotion and expression to come up with their own dance. They don't have a strict code of how to dance unlike ballet. Ballet and Modern have very common histories. But are both very different today. Lots of people dance modern today. Modern is danced in bare feet.

The history of Jazz; it is a classification shared by different dance styles. It was originated from African American vernacular dance. Before the 1920's every jazz dance has roots. In the 1950's Modern was another genre of jazz. With roots going back to a traditional Caribbean dance. To dance jazz you wear these leather black shoes. They help the dancers do turns smoothly.

Keep up the good work Dance Company. You have lots of talent. Don't forget to use it.

References- Wikipedia

By-Chieli Florez



Sushi

Sushi: "a Japanese dish consisting of small balls or rolls of vinegar-flavored cold cooked rice served with a garnish of raw fish, vegetables, or egg." Sushi may also have dried seaweed. Many people think that sushi originated from Japan, but sushi was known from the 4th century B.C. in the South East Asia, it later spread to China, then Japan.

Sushi is actually very healthy for you. Eating only enough is healthy but if eaten more than necessary, it's not

so good anymore. Eating Japanese sushi is better for you because Western style is made with fatty fish and other things that are healthy but is high calories.

Sushi is naturally low in fat, high in protein, carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals, and Omega-3. Omega-3 fatty acid: "a polyunsaturated fatty acid whose carbon chain has its first double valence bond three carbons from the beginning." It is need it for your body to work properly. Omega-3 is a good fatty acid benefits

from reducing the risk of heart disease and stroke. It also helps with reducing symptoms of abnormal high blood pressures, depression, ADHD, joint pain and other diseases marked by inflammation and pain in the joints, muscles, or fibrous tissue. It also helps with certain skin ailments. Some research has even shown that omega-3s can boost the immune system and help protect us from an array of illnesses including Alzheimer's disease.

By Angelina Nguyen

Banh Bao

Banh bao sounds weird, doesn't it? Banh bao is in Vietnamese, in English it literally means "covering cake" or in another word steam bun. Banh bao is the most popular appetizer for any meals. You can eat it as part of your meal also. It is really healthy. It is also not expensive.

Banh bao has a shape like a dumpling, but absolutely does not taste like a dumpling. Banh bao has

many different stuffing like mushrooms, onions, and certain vegetables, but the most common stuffing in banh bao is pork with hard-boiling eggs and Chinese sausage. There is also a kind of banh bao for vegetarian people.

There are also sweet banh bao, but it is not very common and not many people have ever tasted it, unless they had been to Vietnam or

lived there.

Banh bao originally came from Cantonese people. They brought it to Vietnam during war time between Vietnam and China. Banh bao is an old fashioned Cantonese big bun called tai pao. It was also invented during the hardship time by the farmers back then.

-Nhi Le





Super Bowl Commercials

Super bowl commercials are funny and are one of the many reasons why you watch the super bowl. The only reason the super bowl commercials came to be is because of the first super bowl where the teams wanted to prove they were number one. The first super bowl was held in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on January 15, 1967 in that game was the Green Bay Packers vs. the Kansas City Chiefs (the Packers won that game) the stadium had almost 62,000 fans. Millions of people tuned in at their homes and ever since then it has been a big tradition for lots of people.

We all know that the super bowl commercials are almost the same every year, they have: beer ones, car ones, food ones, phone ones, insurance ones, T.V. programs, and of course the soda ones. They pay \$3 million for a 30 second commercial spot during this big

event. They can pay \$12 million for a two minute spot in the big event. They have the same purpose and that is to get people to buy their products. But they are different in lots of ways, like each year they have a new thing to say about it or a new idea about their product they are selling.

The super bowl commercials are really funny they make you laugh; sometimes they make you laugh so hard you cry. At times they are ridiculous and pointless so the only thing you can do is laugh and have a good time with your friends. Don't get me wrong I love the super bowl commercials but you have



to stop and think what's the point of them? The point is to make you laugh, well and to make you want to buy the products! Enjoy this year's super bowl commercials.

By Caroline Warren