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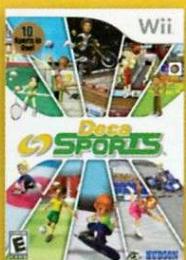
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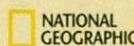
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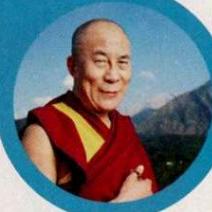


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## Just for KIDS online!

Go online to play games, watch Guinness World Records videos, and see the winning photos and essay excerpts from the Hands-On Explorer Challenge contest. [kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com)



## On the Cover

The leopard depends on its awesome superstrength to survive in the wild.

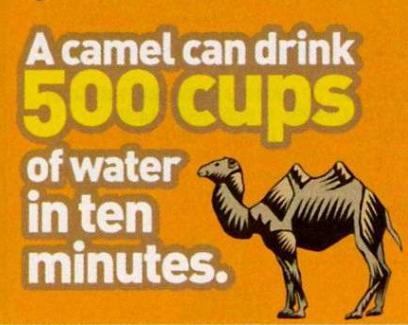
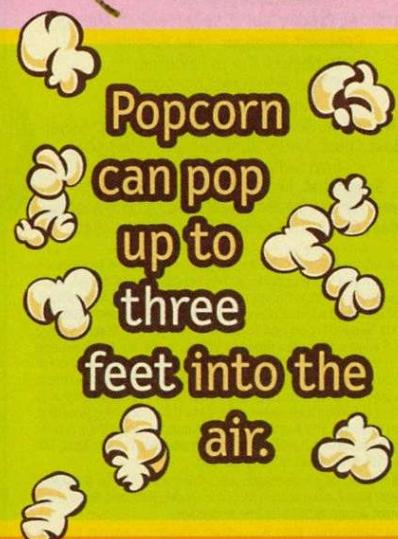
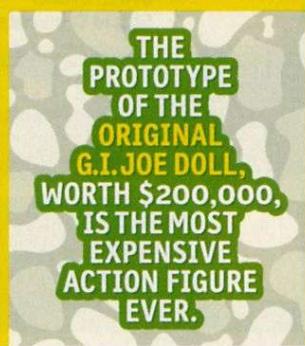
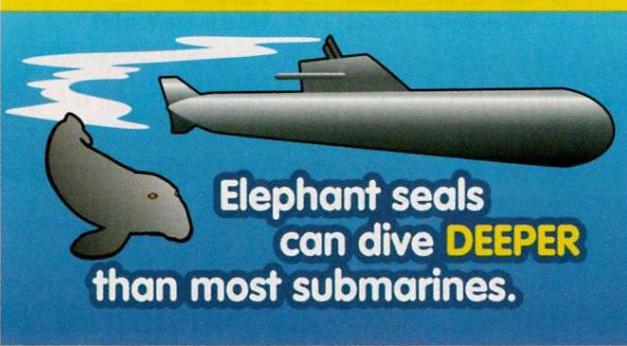
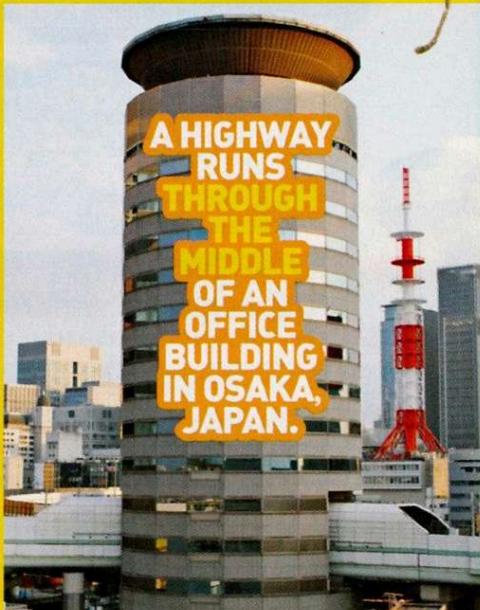
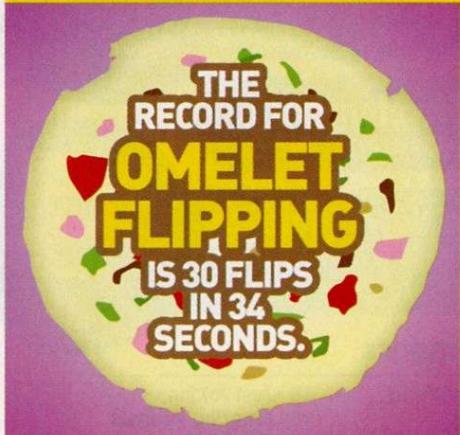
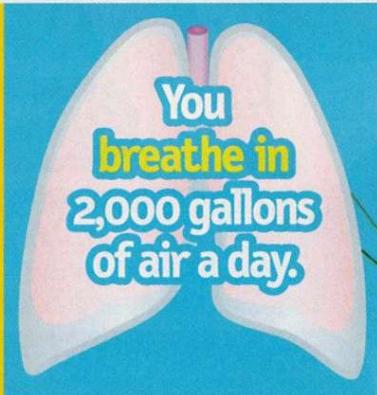
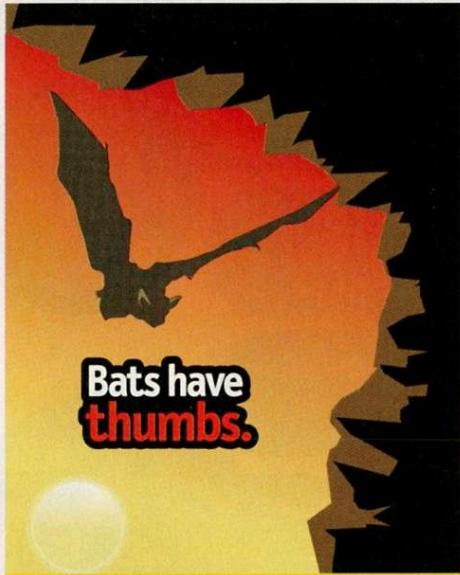
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BY MARILYN TERRELL

# Check out these 9 outrageous facts.



# COOL inventions

BY DOUGLAS E. RICHARDS

## PART HELICOPTER, PART PLANE

You're due at your grandparents' house in less than two hours. And they live 400 miles away! Good thing your family has a Falx Air Tilt Wing chopper in the backyard. Since this aircraft—a prototype for now—doesn't need a runway, you're ready to fly at a moment's notice. Just tilt the wings and propellers up to face the sky and take off straight up, like a helicopter. Once you're in the air, tilt the wings and propellers forward to fly like a plane. The lightweight aircraft has a hybrid electric motor that reduces noise and saves on fuel. And flying at more than 200 miles an hour, you'll land in your grandparents' driveway with a few minutes to spare.



## LASER SCISSORS

You've just cut out a border for your school project when, *argh*, it's all crooked! Time to start over—again. This time don't just get a new piece of paper. Get a new pair of scissors as well. Laser scissors. A red laser beam shoots from the handle of these scissors, marking a perfectly straight line across wrapping paper, construction paper, fabric, and anything else you might want to cut. Just follow the laser and you'll never cut a crooked line again. Now that's cutting-edge technology!



## POWER SUIT

Strap on the XOS Exoskeleton, and suddenly you can have superhuman strength and endurance. This computerized metal suit, a prototype right now, allows you to lift objects weighing hundreds of pounds over and over again—without even breathing hard. Sensors in the robot measure the movements of your hands, arms, and legs, some as often as several thousand times each second. In this way, the powered suit instantly copies your every movement. A firefighter wearing an XOS could effortlessly move heavy wreckage or carry multiple people away from danger. And you could use the suit to help your parents move the piano or lift furniture, or do anything else that, um, suits you.



# green scene

BY JILL YAWORSKI

## FOOD FOR YOUR GARDEN!

**G**row a healthy garden and reduce waste by using leftovers to make your own compost, which is organic material that adds nutrients to the soil.

### RECYCLE THE NATURAL WAY

By composting, you reduce the need for chemical fertilizers in your yard and you send less waste to landfills. Yard trimmings and food scraps make up about 25 percent of the trash from cities and towns in the United States. So put that banana peel to good use. Turn it—and a lot of other things in your trash can—into environmentally helpful compost. By making natural fertilizer, you will help the environment and have a great excuse to play with your food!

#### COMPOST THESE

##### "BROWN" MATERIALS

Dead leaves  
Eggshells  
Twigs  
Shredded newspaper  
Nutshells

##### "GREEN" MATERIALS

Grass clippings  
Fruit and vegetable scraps  
Coffee grounds  
Tea bags

GROW  
VEGGIES AND  
FLOWERS



### HOW TO MAKE COMPOST

- 1 Choose a dry, shady spot to create your compost pile.
- 2 Use a bin with a tight-fitting lid and plenty of airholes to hold your compost ingredients. In the bin, start with a six-inch layer of dry "brown" material (see examples in list above, right). Break down large pieces before you place them in the bin.
- 3 Add a three-inch layer of "green" materials (see list). Add a little bit of soil to this layer.
- 4 Mix the brown and green layers.
- 5 Finish with another three-inch layer of brown materials.
- 6 Add water until the contents are moist. If you accidentally add too much water, just add more brown materials to the bin. Mix your compost pile every week or two.
- 7 After one to four months, the compost will be almost ready. When it is dark brown and moist, and you can't identify the original ingredients, wait two more weeks. Then add your finished compost to your garden.

For more about helping the Earth, go online.  
[preserveourplanet.com](http://preserveourplanet.com)

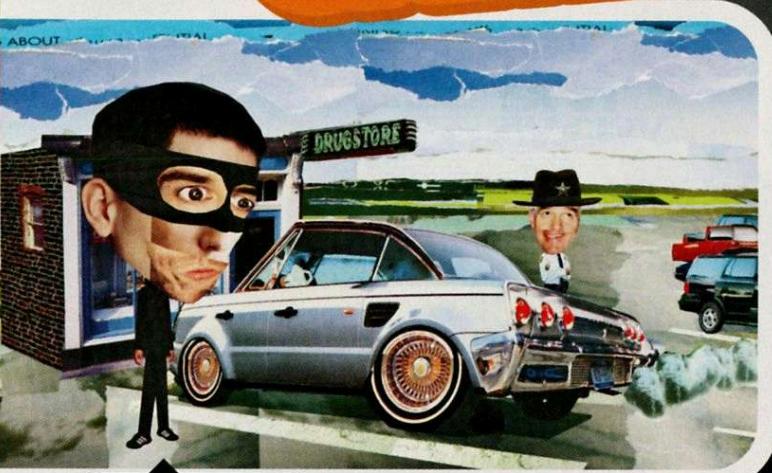


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# stupid Criminals

BY ELISABETH DEFFNER

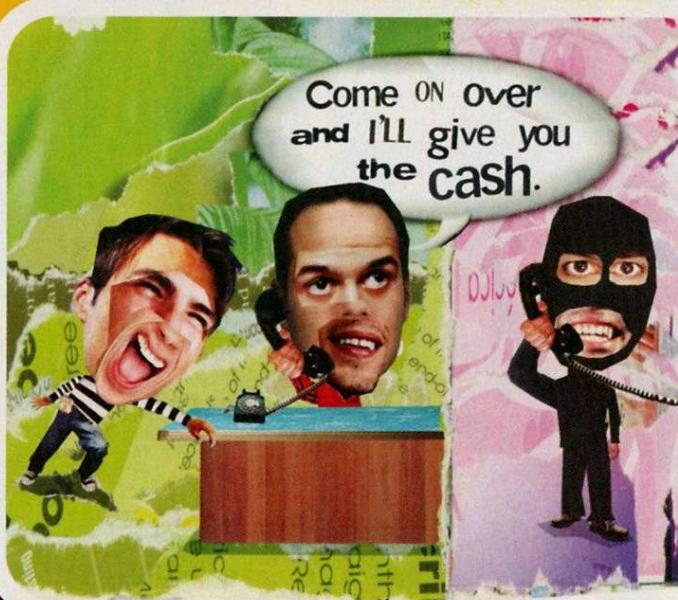
BUSTED!



## Locked Out

STANTON, TEXAS

This guy may have thought he was being smart when he locked his getaway car before robbing a drugstore. There was just one problem: The keys were inside, and the car was running. Sprinting out of the store, the robber found he couldn't open his car door and dashed away on foot. Police finally caught him, but he still had his vehicle on his mind. "Would you take care of my car?" he asked police. "It's running, and the keys are in it." Guess they were more interested in locking him up than unlocking his car.



## Dumpster Diving

DILLON, SOUTH CAROLINA

This crook got caught between a Dumpster and a hard place. He had broken into a junkyard to steal copper wiring and crawled underneath a Dumpster to get it. But once he squeezed in far enough, he couldn't wriggle out! The robber spent the whole night underneath the trash container, and police had to use air bags to lift it high enough to get him out. It's not often that criminals are grateful to the police who arrest them—but this one probably was.



## Calling All Crooks

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

You shouldn't hand out your phone number to just anybody—especially someone you're trying to rob. While holding up an auto supply shop, a crook discovered that the employees didn't have any cash. He figured the boss would have more money on him. But the boss hadn't come in yet, and the bad guy didn't want to wait. So he gave the employees his phone number. "You better call me when the boss comes," he said before he left. The employees fooled him, and called police before they called the crook. When he showed up, the boss was waiting—and so were the cops.

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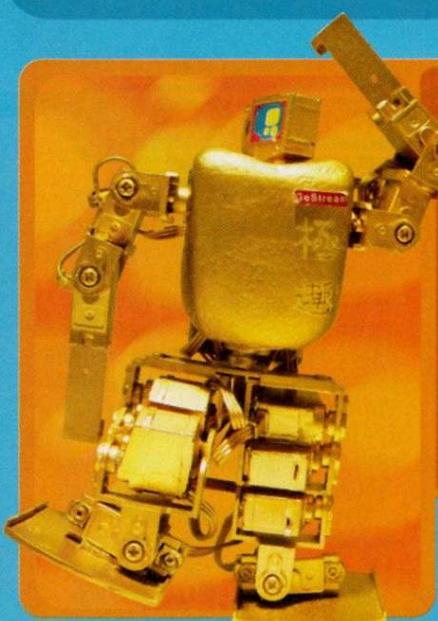
## REALLY LONG DOG

Talk about being allowed a long leash. This dog actually needs one! Mon Ami von der Oelmühle is the longest living dog on record. The Irish wolfhound measures more than seven and a half feet from nose to tail tip, longer than most professional basketball players are tall. The breed's friendly, gentle nature may explain his name: *Mon Ami* means "my friend" in French.



## SMALL ROBOT

BeRobot has an impressive slate of tricks for measuring only six inches tall. The smallest humanoid robot in production can walk, kick, play soccer, and even do push-ups. The toy reassembles as creatures such as a dog or snake and is controlled by voice or remote. Just don't step on it!

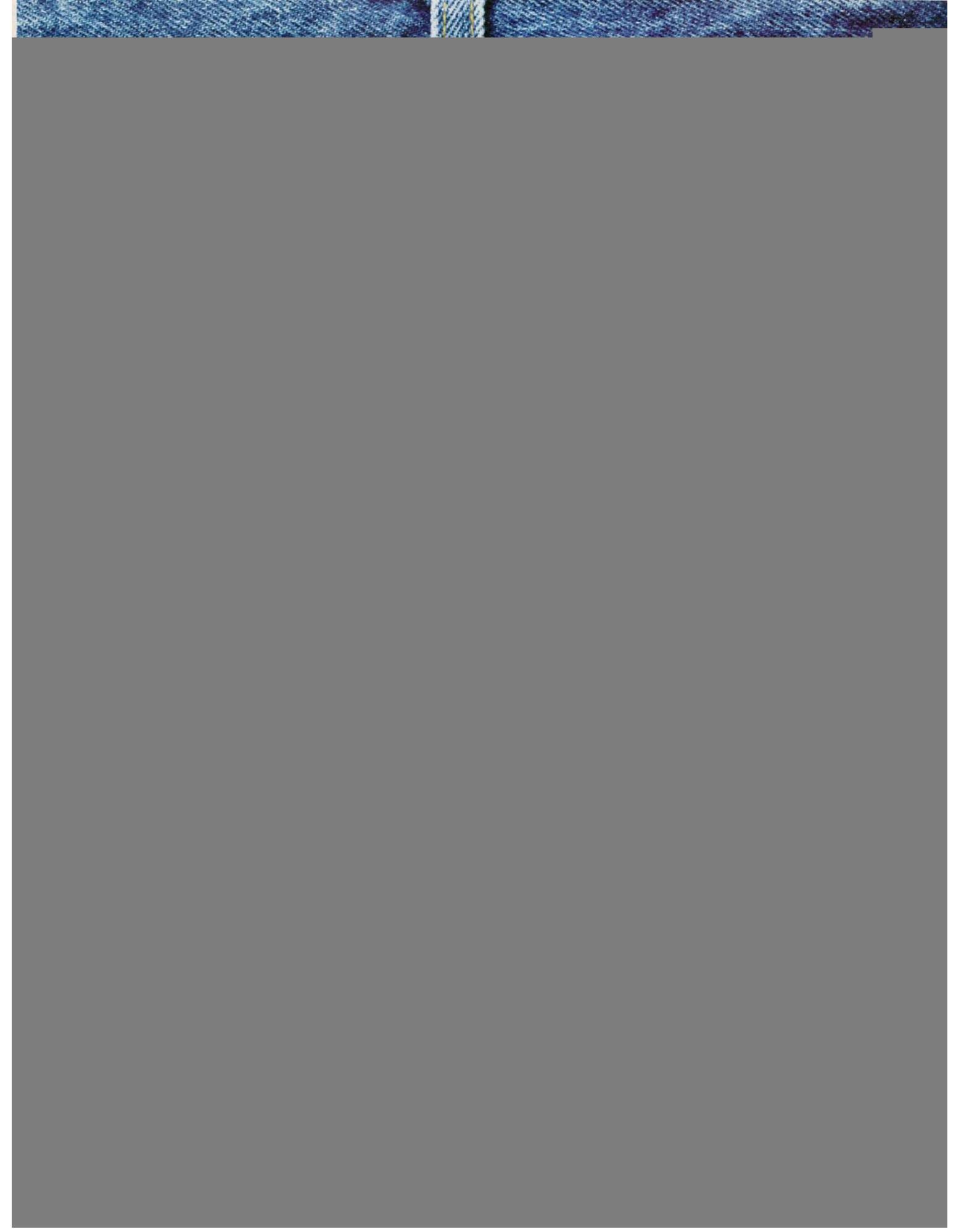


## BOARD-OM BUSTER



This guy must be really hardheaded. Kevin Shelley holds the record for the most wooden toilet seats broken with the head. The secret to his ability to crack 46 lids in one minute is to drop half the seat after the other one flies backward. But Shelley has another secret: He has a black belt in tae kwon do and has been busting boards with his head for years.

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# Get Caught Reading... WIN BIG!

May is Get Caught Reading month and the perfect time to plan your summer reading list! Get Caught Reading is a nationwide campaign to remind people of all ages how much fun it is to read! So if an adult catches you curled up with a good book, fill out the card between these pages and send it in for a chance to win some hot new titles! Fifty (50) winners will be randomly selected to win these hot prizes!



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By Elizabeth Singer Hunt Weinstein Books

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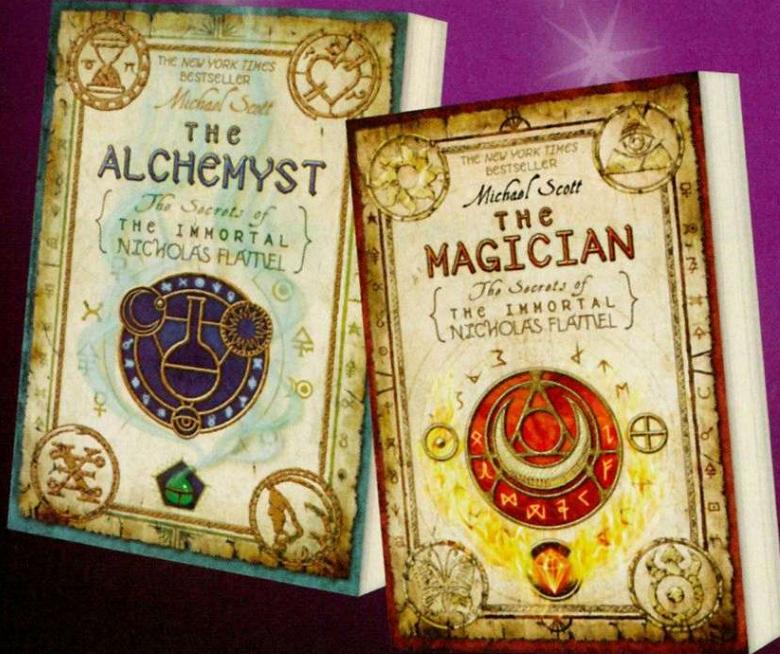
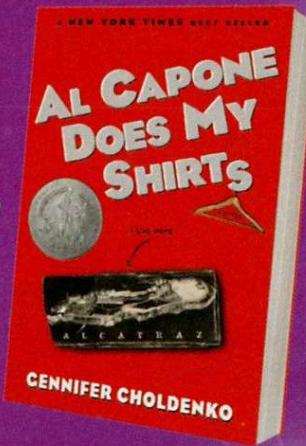
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By Gennifer Choldenko

Alcatraz—not your typical neighborhood. Not your typical neighbors. It's 1935 and twelve-year-old Moose Flannagan and his family have just moved to the island that's home to notorious criminals. All Moose wants to do is protect his autistic sister, Natalie, live up to his parents' expectations, and stay out of trouble. But on Alcatraz, trouble is never very far away.

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## *The Alchemyst & The Magician*

By Michael Scott

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***Young Bond: Hurricane Gold***

by Charlie Higson

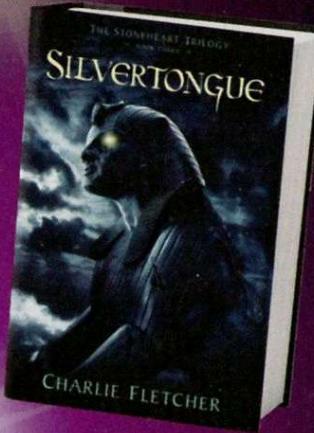
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***The Stoneheart Trilogy, Book Three: Silvertongue***

by Charlie Fletcher

The final battle begins! In the action-packed conclusion to the acclaimed Stoneheart Trilogy, young George Chapman must put an end to the epic war between the statues of London—without losing his own life in the crossfire!

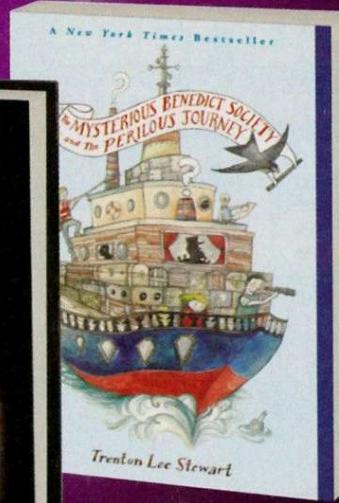
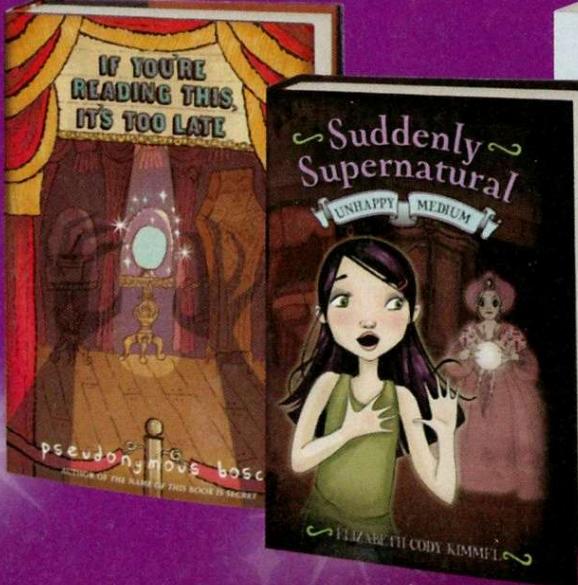
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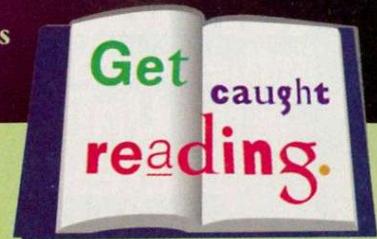
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Bet you  
**didn't**  
**know**

BY KIMBERLY FORKNER

## 7 wacky facts about the world

1 The **50 tallest mountains** in the world are all in **Asia.**

3 The **surface** of the Atlantic Ocean is **saltier** than the surface of the Pacific Ocean.

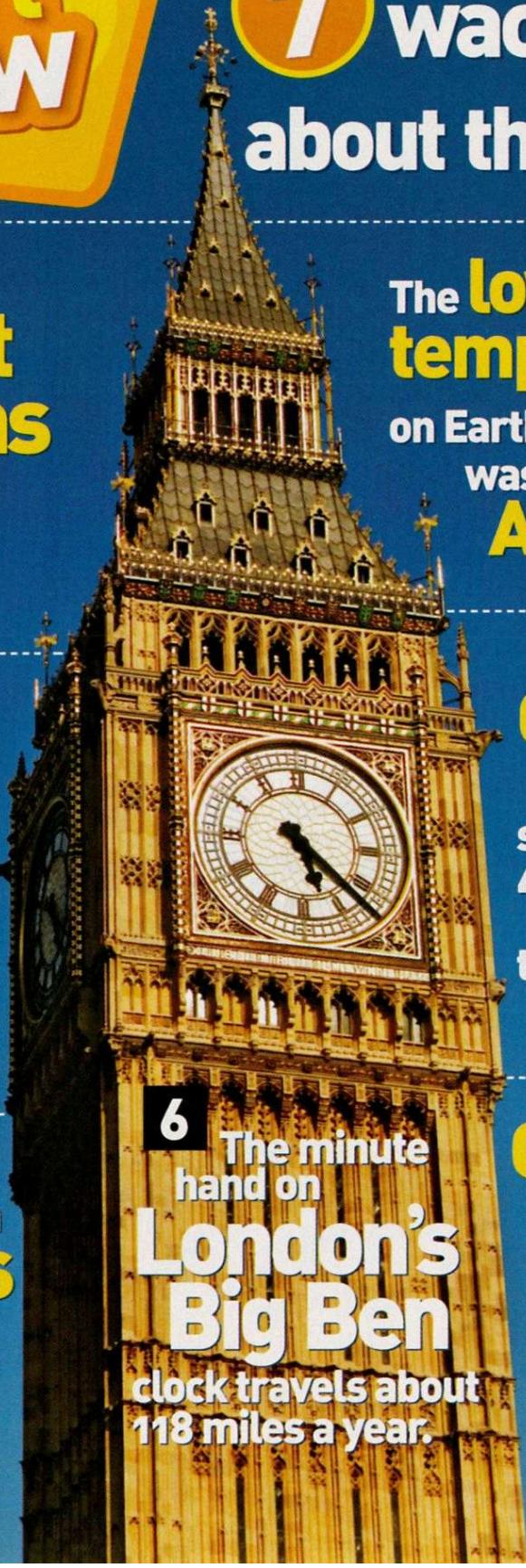
5 About two-thirds of all known **tornadoes** in the world occur in the **United States.**

2 The **lowest temperature** on Earth (**-128.6°F**) was recorded in **Antarctica.**

4 The **Great Wall of China** spans roughly 4,500 miles—that's almost as long as the continent of **Africa.**

6 The minute hand on **London's Big Ben** clock travels about 118 miles a year.

7 Oregon's **D River** is only 120 feet long—shorter than an **Olympic-size swimming pool.**

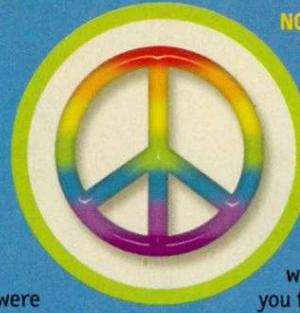


# Meet the Dalai Lama

What if you became the leader of your people when you were just 15 years old? That's what happened to Lhamo Thondup, known as the Dalai Lama. In 1950 he became the political leader of Tibet, now a part of China. But the Dalai Lama is more than just the head of his government. Promoting peace, compassion, and tolerance, he is also the spiritual leader of millions of people. Here's what he told NG KIDS about being a hero for peace.

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS:** You work with an organization called PeaceJam, in which Nobel Peace Prize winners like you inspire kids to find peaceful solutions to problems. How can kids really help solve problems such as poverty and terrorism through peace?

**THE DALAI LAMA:** You need patience and determination. Study and become an expert in something, because education can bring compassion, peace, and harmony. That will bring self-confidence and stability. When you have all that, then you can influence others as an example. That's the way to create more peaceful communities.



**NGK:** Can one kid really make a difference in the world?

**THE DALAI LAMA:** Yes. Because if everyone works hard, we can all make a difference.

**NGK:** How can kids promote peace in their everyday lives?

**THE DALAI LAMA:** Look at situations from all angles, and you will become more open. We all have to live together, so we might as well live together happily. Realizing this helps you feel as if this whole world is one home.

**NGK:** You began your training as the Dalai Lama when you were just 5 years old, but you still had time to play. What was your favorite game as a child?

**THE DALAI LAMA:** I made friends with two white mice who would always sneak into my room while I was studying, and they would try to distract me.

**NGK:** You have been recognized for your concern about the environment. Why is it so important to protect the planet?

**THE DALAI LAMA:** We need to care for every part of the Earth and the life upon it, because this affects future generations.

**NGK:** What are some of your favorite green tips that kids can use to help save the environment?

**THE DALAI LAMA:** When you leave your room, switch off the light. Recycle garbage—this one is easy! The most important thing is that these simple practices become a part of your daily life. Then together we can make a big impact.

## ONE WORLD

The Dalai Lama tells you how to practice these important human values for a more peaceful planet.

### COMPASSION

RECOGNIZE OTHERS AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO OVERCOME THEIR PROBLEMS—JUST LIKE YOU DO.

### FORGIVENESS

LEARN FROM MISTAKES—WHETHER THEY ARE YOURS OR OTHERS’—AND TRY NOT TO REPEAT THEM IN THE FUTURE. FORGIVE YOURSELF AND OTHERS SO THAT MISTAKES ARE NOT REPEATED.

### TOLERANCE

YOU WON’T ALWAYS AGREE WITH OR GET ALONG WITH EVERYONE. BUT YOUR FUTURE IS WITH THESE PEOPLE, SO DEVELOP A SENSE OF CARING, TOLERANCE, OR COMPASSION FOR EVERYONE, EVEN THOSE YOU DON’T GET ALONG WITH.

### CONTENTMENT

IT’S A MISTAKE TO PLACE ALL OUR HOPES FOR HAPPINESS ON MATERIAL GAINS. SO BE SATISFIED WITH WHATEVER YOU HAVE, AND YOU WILL HAVE MORE INNER PEACE.

FIND OUT HOW TO PROMOTE PEACE BY READING PEACEJAM: A BILLION SIMPLE ACTS OF PEACE, BY IVAN SUVANJIEFF AND DAWN GIFFORD ENGLE.

# VIDEO game CENTRAL

## LAUGH OUT LOUD!

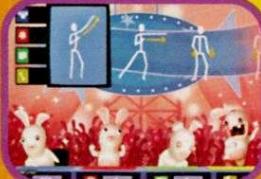
Everyone enjoys a good laugh. Movies, books, and TV shows can make you giggle, and so can some video games.



### RAYMAN RAVING RABBIDS TV PARTY

#### Wii

Here's a game you play using your rear end...how can that not be funny? Those crazy Rabbid bunnies are back, and this time they've invaded your TV. You and up to three friends can challenge each other to take them out in 50-plus mini-games—everything from *Dancing With Dweebs* to professional wrestling—that poke fun at your favorite TV shows and movies. If you have the Wii Balance Board, you can even ski your way down a mountain by sitting on it and leaning whichever way you want to turn.



**>> TIP #1** In the "Mega Balls" mini-game, instead of just collecting dots, make time to push your rivals into areas where they will get stuck—you'll earn more points in the long run.

**>> TIP #2** If you have a Wii Balance Board, try bending your knees and pushing down in the mini-game "Incredible But Stupid." Your Rabbid will do something funny (and a little rude!) for a burst of speed.



### CRASH: MIND OVER MUTANT

Xbox 360, Nintendo DS and Wii, PS2, PSP

Crash is one of the goofiest video game critters of all. Who could forget the sly look on his face before he jumps on a pig and rides it through a level, or that hilarious belly flop move when he falls flat on his face? Well, this time you and a friend can laugh along, since a second player can join in *Mind Over Mutant* and play as Crash's sister, Coco. Together you can take control of different mutants and use their powers—like Louie's floating jump—on your way to stopping that nasty Dr. Cortex once again.



**>> TIP #1** In the pause menu, hold block and quickly press the D-pad left, left, left, and down to make different parts of Crash's body huge.

**>> TIP #2** Also in the pause menu, hold block and quickly press the D-pad down, down, down, and up to make Crash freeze his enemies every time he touches them.



### NINJATOWN



Nintendo DS  
Ninjas aren't generally known for being funny, but the Wee Ninjas of *Ninjatown* will definitely put a smile on your face. They all have special abilities to help you defend their town from the evil Mr.

Demon and his followers. Help cranky Ol' Master Ninja blow away his enemies by actually blowing into the DS' microphone using the "Get Off My Lawn!" technique. Or try the "Magnifryer," which you aim with the touch screen to heat up anyone unlucky enough to wander into its path.



**>> TIP #1** Build your Forest Ninja Huts in pairs, and the Ninjas inside will team up for maximum wasabi pea-shooting firepower.

**>> TIP #2** Try tearing down the buildings you start with on any map to find extra cookies. You can always rebuild the town later any way you like.



# Just Joking

Elephant seal

KNOCK,  
KNOCK.

Who's there?  
Adair.  
Adair who?  
Adair once, but  
now I'm bald.



**Q** Why does it get hot after a baseball game?

**A** Because all the fans have left.

**Q** What did the smashed banana say when an elephant sat on it?

**A** Nothing. Bananas don't talk.

You've got to be joking...

**Q** Why did the guy put a stove in his car?

**A** To make a hot rod.

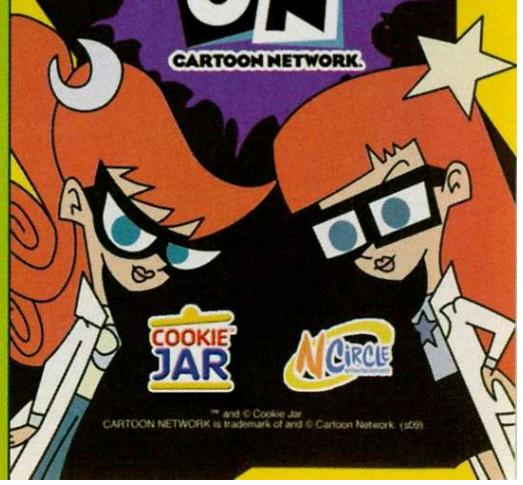
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CARTOON NETWORK.



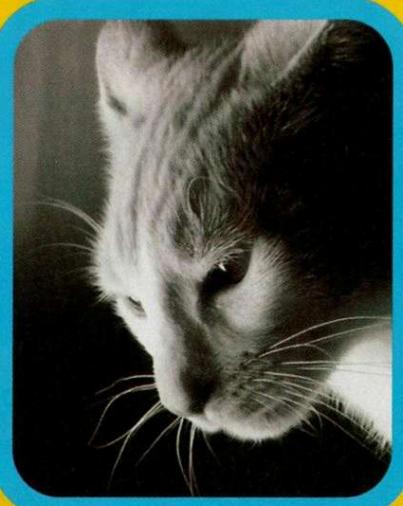
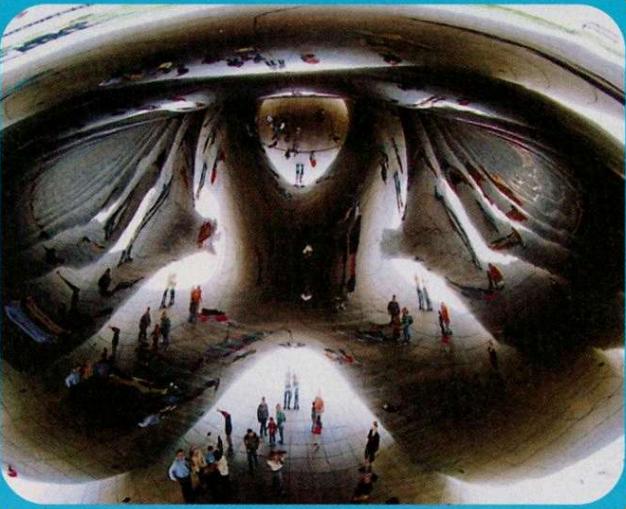


**ANIMALS****FIRST PLACE**

Muhammad Humza  
Kafeel, 9  
Mississauga,  
Ontario, Canada

**SECOND PLACE**

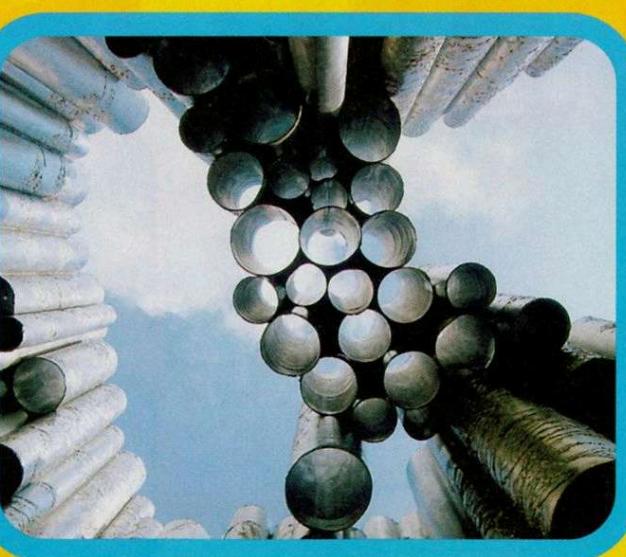
Joshua Soda, 8  
Denver,  
Colorado

**PEOPLE****FIRST PLACE**

Ben Jasek, 12  
Crown Point,  
Indiana

**SECOND PLACE**

Madeline Adams-Guowitz, 7  
Montclair, New Jersey

**SCENERY****FIRST PLACE**

Carolyn Faye  
Twersky, 12  
Easton,  
Connecticut

**SECOND PLACE**

Ben Jasek, 12  
Crown Point,  
Indiana



LOOK FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE NEXT NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST FOR KIDS  
IN YOUR AUGUST 2009 ISSUE!

# Amazing Animals

These cats like being dressed up, but yours may not. Never force your pet to do something it does not like to do.

I DON'T  
MEAN TO BE  
CATTY, BUT I AM  
ONE "PURR-TY"  
FASHION  
MODEL.

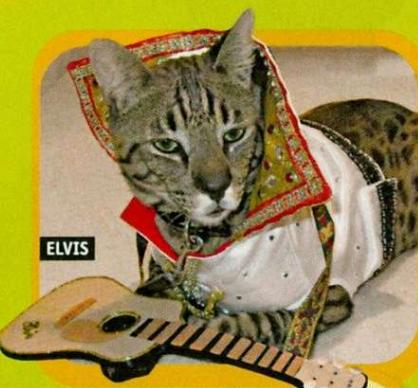
Orion the cat models his Hawaiian beachwear at the feline fashion show.



## CATS BECOME MODELS!

### New York City, New York

Dressed up like a tourist in Hawaii, Orion the cat strutted his stuff. As he struck a pose, he was joined by ten other fashionable felines strolling down the runway. The cats made perfect models during the Feline Fashion Show at New York City's famous Algonquin Hotel. The event raised \$2,000 for North Shore Animal League America and also celebrated the 13th birthday of the hotel's resident cat, Matilda, who greets hotel guests from her plush chaise lounge in the lobby. As Matilda watched the show, Max prowled by dressed in denim duds, and Kashmir twirled in a ballerina costume. Elvis the savannah cat even shook up the runway twice, first in a white spangled jumpsuit followed by a black leather biker jacket. Was that Elvis meowing the loudest when everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to Matilda at the show's end?



The most popular breed of cat is the Persian.

WHERE  
DID I PUT  
THAT  
WRAPPING  
PAPER?

BY KRISTIN BAIRD RATTINI

# LEOPARD

## NATURE'S

### SUPERCATS

**THIS POWERFUL ANIMAL  
RELIES ON ITS STRENGTH.**

BY CRISPIN BOYER

Tjololo the leopard is playing tug-of-war in a tree, and he's in no mood to lose. His opponents: two hyenas that had darted out of the night to swipe Tjololo's freshly killed impala. Not about to let the hyenas steal his meal, Tjololo (pronounced cha-LO-lo) did what leopards do best: He grasped the impala in his powerful jaws and carried it straight up the tree. But the persistent hyenas leapt after the carcass and locked onto its legs with their teeth.

Now it's a battle of strength fought in the crook of a tree. Can the leopard maintain his grip on nearly twice his weight in dead impala and dangling hyenas long enough for the scavengers to give up? "He's just up there hanging onto all of this and thinking, 'Please, guys, just eat those feet and give me the rest,'" says wildlife filmmaker Kim Wolhuter, who witnessed the standoff while filming Tjololo in a South African game preserve.

#### **Power Struggle**

Eventually, the hyenas chewed through part of the kill and fell to the ground, leaving Tjololo to clamber higher and enjoy his hard-earned dinner. Up in the tree's thinner branches, Tjololo is untouchable. No big cat is more at home in a tree than a leopard. "Lions can climb trees," says Wolhuter, "but they're so big they fall all over the place. Leopards are just amazing up there. Each foot is always on a branch. They just know their way around. They even use their tails to help keep their balance."

It's in the trees that leopards often reveal their trademark strength. Leopards have been seen hauling struggling buffalo calves twice their weight up the trunks of trees two stories high. That would be like you climbing a ladder while carrying your dad or big brother—with your teeth! The cats scramble skyward not only to hide prey from scavengers or escape from lions, but also to mount attacks from tree limbs, pouncing on unsuspecting prey below.





A hyena's chance to  
steal a leopard's kill  
ends after the cat gets  
its prey up a tree. Ever  
hopeful, the hyena  
waits nearby in case  
a piece of meat drops  
to the ground.



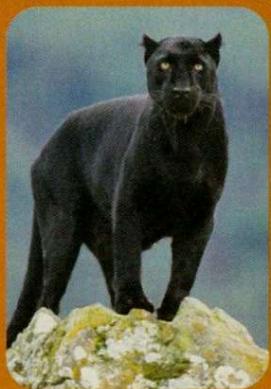
## Powerful Prowler

Leopards may be the smallest of the so-called "big cats"—a classification that includes lions, tigers, and jaguars—but they're amazingly strong for their size. They have muscular necks and stocky legs made for pouncing and climbing rather than speed. Their massive heads pack powerful jaws. One scientist saw a leopard take down an animal 12 times its weight. Imagine your dad stopping a compact car by leaping on it!

Yet despite all that power, leopards are masters of stealth. They stalk with the grace of a much smaller cat, tiptoeing on the pads of their paws and creeping ghostlike through the brush until they're close enough to pounce on prey. Their spotted fur blends with trees, grass, and shadows, making the animals nearly invisible. Able to see well in the dark, leopards can even hunt at night.

## Dark Cats

Not all leopards are born with tawny spotted coats. Some are all black. People sometimes call these dark-furred leopards "black panthers." Black leopards can be born in the same litter as normal-colored leopards. If you look closely, you'll even see that black leopards have spots—they're just very dark.







## DARK NIGHTS

Pharaoh KahMunRah tries to steal the magic tablet to unleash his creepy underworld army. Real ancient Egyptians also believed in an underworld—a scary place where souls were judged before moving on to what they hoped would be a more pleasant afterlife. According to Egyptian legend, the underworld was where the sun went at night. It traveled past fire-breathing people, multi-headed genies, and spirits that walked upside down.

### THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

is actually a collection of 19 museums, many of which line the National Mall, in Washington, D.C.

## MIRROR MIRROR

In the movie, General George Custer combs his long, blond hair while chanting "98...99...one beautiful man!" The real Custer, who fought in the Civil War during the 1860s, also had long, blond hair and wore a fancy uniform with a bright red necktie. But it wasn't because he liked to look handsome, says Custer Battlefield Museum director Chris Kortlander. Back then, armies didn't have radios or walkie-talkies. Custer needed his soldiers to be able to spot him on the battlefield. So he chose a look that would make him stand out.



## NAME GAME

KahMunRah chooses Ivan the Terrible as his general because he likes his evil-sounding name. But Ivan, who in real life ruled Russia from 1547 to 1584, is upset that people think he's a bad guy! "He claims that the real meaning of his Russian name is 'Ivan the Awesome,'" says director Shawn Levy. What's the real translation? David L. Ransel at Indiana University says Ivan's "terrible" nickname really means something more like "awe-inspiring" or "stern."

DOANE GREGORY (BIG PHOTO, MONKEY, AIRMAN, EARHART, KAHMUNRAH); 20TH CENTURY FOX (CUSTER); © COMSTOCK IMAGES / JUPITERIMAGES (BORDERS); © JAMES DAWSON / IMAGE FARM / JUPITERIMAGES (CIRCLE FRAME); © BURKE / TRIOLIO / BRAND X PICTURES / JUPITERIMAGES (SQUARE FRAME)

## FLY GIRL

When Larry and Amelia Earhart are cornered in the Air and Space Museum by the baddies, Amelia rushes Larry to an exhibit plane and flies it right out of the museum's front doors. The real Amelia Earhart would definitely be capable of some fancy flying. When she became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932, she flew at night and landed in a farmer's field!





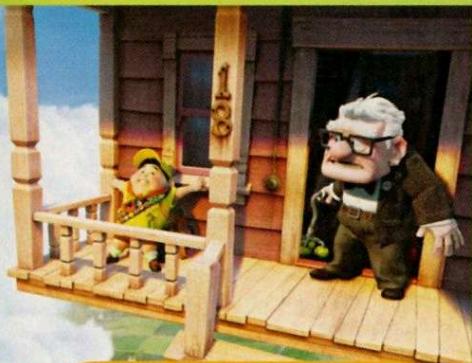


# Up

## Behind the Scenes of the New Movie

BY BEKAH WRIGHT

Let's say you sold balloons at the zoo and found out you were about to lose your home. What would you do? If you were Carl in the new movie *Up*, you'd tie your house to 10,000 helium balloons and fly to the most beautiful place on Earth, Paradise Falls. There's just one problem: A kid named Russell has accidentally hitched a ride. Now Carl must survive in a strange land and figure out how to get Russell home. Is the weird world of *Up* anything like the real one? NG KIDS finds out.



### SETTING THE TABLETOP

Carl tries to land when he realizes he's flown away with Russell aboard, but a savage storm blows them off course. They land on a bizarre, cloud-shrouded mountain with a long, flat top. Called tepuis (teh-POOH-ees), tabletop mountains like this actually exist in Venezuela's Canaima National Park, which inspired moviemakers. More than a mile and a half high, the cliff-like tabletops have lush cloud forests on their slopes. Some areas are so wet that slimy algae, which thrives in moist environments, thickly coats tree trunks and branches, says tepui expert Adrian Warren.



Until the late 19th century, no one knew what was on top of tepuis. These mysterious mountains are thought to have inspired Sir Arthur Conan Doyle—who created Sherlock Holmes—to write *The Lost World*, a 1912 novel about a forgotten land of dinosaurs and prehistoric humans.

### WATERFALL MINUS WATER

Carl is confused when he thinks the bare tepui is all there is to Paradise Falls. Then he spies the awe-inspiring waterfall in the distance. The movie's made-up waterfall is based on Venezuela's Angel Falls, the tallest waterfall on Earth. It's so high up that the water vaporizes into mist before it hits the ground 3,212 feet down. "Sometimes you can stand right under the falls and barely get wet," Warren says.

## ROCK STARS

To get his house to Paradise Falls, Carl ties it to himself and Russell so they can pull it like a gigantic parade balloon. Then they maneuver through a gallery of crazy rock formations that look like turtles, birds, and people. Real tabletop mountains also have strange rock formations on top, created by wind and other weather. "There are giant boulders balancing on three-inch rocks," says Steve May, the film's supervising technical director. The natural sculptures are so eerie that natives believed evil spirits lived among the formations.



## TALKING DOGS, CRAWLING TOAD

It's scary enough that Russell and Carl have to escape a pack of dogs by jumping down a cliff, rock by rock, using their balloons to slow their descent. What's even scarier is that someone has equipped the yelping dogs with high-tech collars that translate their thoughts into words. In reality, you wouldn't meet any wild or domesticated dogs on top of tepuis. The tabletops are so isolated that many animals that *do* live there aren't found anywhere else—and are pretty strange. Take one tiny South American toad called *Oreophrynella*. It crawls instead of hops!

## MONSTER OR MYTH?

Carl has heard of an explorer who disappeared searching for a mythical, giant bird near Paradise Falls. Could a bird that Russell names Kevin be the Monster of Paradise Falls? We're not telling, but we *can* say that no such bird exists in real life. More than 60 million years ago, though, a monstrous bird did roam South America. Known as the terror bird, this flightless predator was 10 feet tall and may have run at speeds of more than 30 miles an hour.

VENEZUELA'S ANGEL FALLS

The Monster of Paradise Falls is based on several real birds. The film's artists gave the creature the legs of an ostrich, the beak and head feathers of a toucan and peacock, and the strut of a heron.

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What in

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# Funny FILL-IN

## Stop, Thief!

BY JILL YAWORSKI

Ask a friend to give you words to fill in the blanks in this story without showing it to him or her. Then read out loud for a laugh.



Something fishy is going on. Lately things have been disappearing around my house, like my dad's

**household object**, my mom's favorite **famous singer** CD, and my little sister's **adjective**

**type of toy**. And just today my lucky **type of clothing** vanished. Whoever the **adjective**

thief was, he wasn't going to get away with this. With a magnifying **noun**, I searched for

suspicious **body part** prints. I checked under the **piece of furniture**, behind the big-screen

**electronic gadget**, and even inside the **kitchen appliance**. Then I heard a(n) **loud noise**

coming from the garage. Could the thief actually be here right now? As I **past-tense verb** into the garage,

a(n) **adjective** figure darted behind the **type of car**. I yelled, "**exclamation**!" and started

to **verb** away, when I heard a(n) **animal noise**. In a flash, my dog, **cartoon character**,

**past-tense verb** out from behind the car with my **same type of clothing** in his **animal body part**.

And there, behind the **adjective**, was a big pile of my family's missing

**yard tool**

possessions. It looks like this case is officially closed.





# Double Take

Jellyozo ▼  
Kira S., 8  
West Linn, Oregon



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