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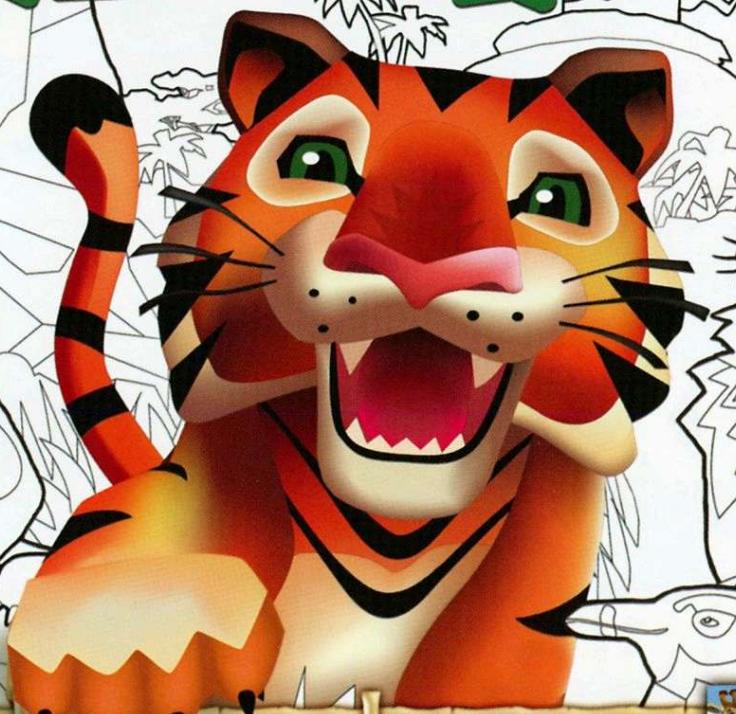
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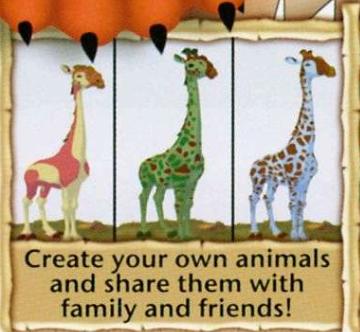
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Wii

NINTENDO DS™

THQ

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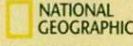
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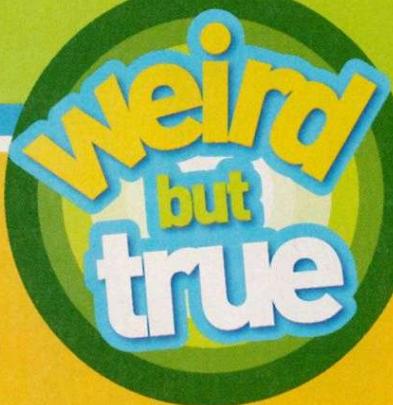


On the Cover

A lynx's big paws act as natural snowshoes in wintry terrain.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH © TOM AND PAT LEESON

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BY MARILYN TERRELL

Check out these 9 outrageous facts.



About 12,000 animal crackers are created every minute.

The largest salamanders can grow as long as bicycles.



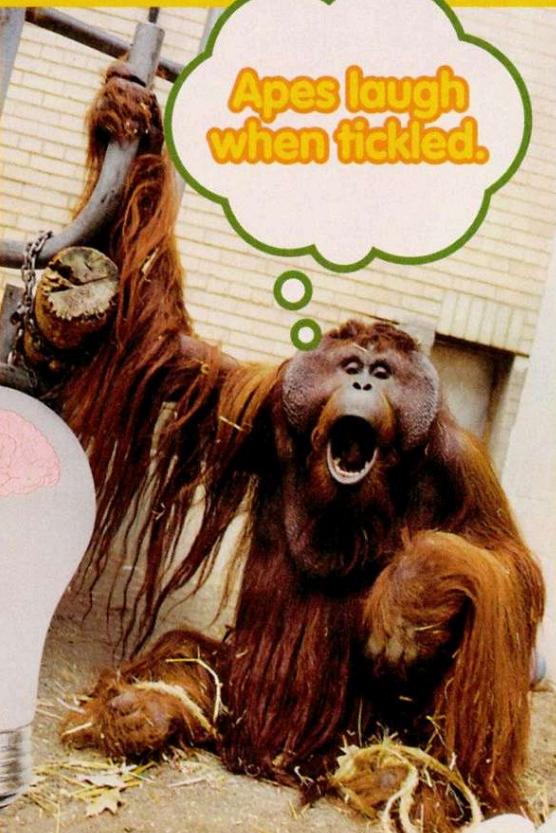
Your brain uses the same amount of power as a ten-watt lightbulb.



THE LARGEST HURRICANES CAN MEASURE

TEN MILES FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.

4



DAYS WERE ONLY 18 HOURS LONG A BILLION YEARS AGO.

The record for the highest jump by a pig is 27.5 inches—that's the height of a St. Bernard!



THERE ARE MORE TEXT MESSAGES SENT EACH DAY THAN THERE ARE PEOPLE ON EARTH.

Your ears produce more wax when you're afraid.

JONATHAN HALLING / NGS STAFF / ANIMAL CRACKERS: SALAMANDER: LIGHTBULB: COTTON SWAB: KARINE AIGNER / NOS STAFF (ORANGUTAN); NOAA (HURRICANE)

Wish List

'Tis the season that wishes come true! When making your Wish List this year, don't miss these must-haves of the season.



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Kids brush 38% longer with ARM & HAMMER® Spinbrush® than when using an ordinary manual brush. The Amazing Spider-Man® combo pack includes one ARM & HAMMER® Spinbrush® battery-operated toothbrush and one tube of Aim® Bubble Berry kids' toothpaste.

THE BACKYARDIGANS FOR NINTENDO DS

It's Imagination Time! Join your backyard friends on a musical adventure as they search for pirate-y treasures, capture yucky villains, and blast into outer space!



POKÉMON TRADING CARD GAME: PLATINUM—ARCEUS

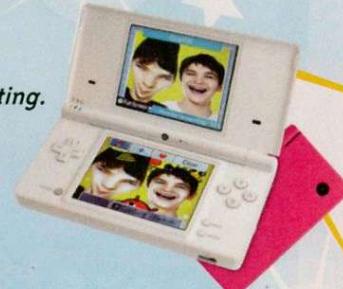
Arceus. A new Pokémon so mighty that legend says it shaped the Pokémon Universe. Introducing Pokémon Trading Card Game: Platinum – Arceus.

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Play along with Kai-lan and friends in all sorts of super exciting

games in *Super Game Day* and prepare for the big festivities in *New Year's Celebration*.



DORA

CRYSTAL KINGDOM FOR NINTENDO WII AND DORA PUPPY FOR NINTENDO DS

Double your Dora adventure with *Dora Puppy* for Nintendo DS and *Dora Saves the Crystal Kingdom* for Wii!

Ready to play? ¡Vamos a jugar!

YOU CAN WIN!

You may be one of 10 lucky winners randomly selected to win items featured on this Wish List. Just send us your name, age, date of birth, address, telephone, and a parent/guardian signature. Mail your entry to:

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WASHINGTON, DC 20036

Entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2010.
See official rules at left.

ASTONISHING
STORIES FROM
THE FILES OF

Guinness World Records

BY KRISTIN HUNT



Find out
about other
amazing records
in the new book
*Guinness World
Records 2010*.

JUMPING DOG

Dogs love to leap for balls and treats, but over a jump rope? Sweet Pea the border collie mix skipped 75 times over a jump rope—the most skips by a dog in one minute. To teach her the trick, owner Alex Rothacker stood Sweet Pea on a pedestal and slowly moved a stick under her feet so she'd step over it. Eventually the steps became jumps. Turns out Sweet Pea is multitalented. She can also jump rope with two kids.



RANALD MACKECHIE / GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS (SWEET PEA); © GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS LIMITED (BOOK, SOLUS T-SHIRTS) INFORMATION PROVIDED BY © 2009 GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS LIMITED

GIANT GNOME



Solus the garden gnome is a little big to stand in a flower bed. In fact, he's about as tall as a giraffe! At 17 feet 8 inches, Solus is the largest garden gnome on record. After two months of building the statue, people were ready to celebrate. So about 1,000 kids—all dressed as gnomes—marched over to the amusement park in Poland where Solus now stands.



LOTS OF T-SHIRTS!

Talk about a layered look. Jef van Dijck holds the record for the most T-shirts worn at once: 227. That's about 165 pounds' worth! The stunt took a lot longer than getting dressed in the morning. A friend pulled the T-shirts—from medium size to very large—over van Dijck's head for about four hours.

COOL inventions



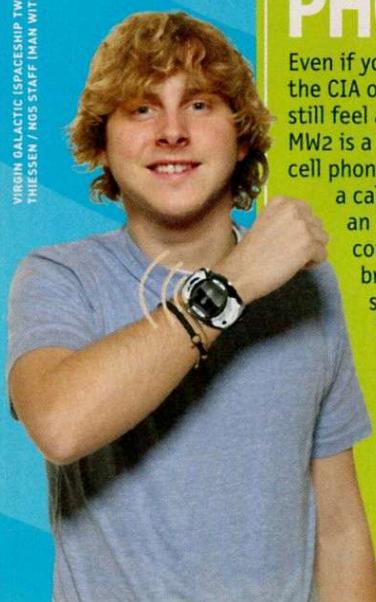
SPACESHIP FOR TOURISTS

Prepare for liftoff! In the near future, you could be rocketing out of this world on Virgin Galactic's SpaceShip Two shuttle, the first to offer tourist trips to outer space. Leaving from a spaceport in New Mexico, an aircraft called the WhiteKnight Two will carry SpaceShip Two on its belly, taking off like a plane and climbing to 50,000 feet. At this height, the spaceship will drop off, turn upward, and zoom into space at a blazing 3,000 miles an hour. Once you reach the starry blackness, you'll be able to see the curvature of the Earth below while you float weightless through the cabin. After hurtling in orbit for a while, the spaceship will turn and head back to Earth, touching down like a regular plane. It'll be a two-hour adventure of a lifetime.

SPY PHONE



Even if you're not quite ready to join the CIA or Secret Service, you can still feel as stealthy as a spy. The MW2 is a watch that doubles as a cell phone. When you need to make a call—whether to phone in an important clue, or just to complain about your little brother's latest antics—simply dial the number on the MW2's keypad (or use the onscreen buttons), slyly lift your hand toward your mouth, and start talking. Your subjects will never know you're on the phone at all. They'll just think you're checking the time.



VIRTUAL RACE

Want to feel what it's like to speed around the track at the Indy 500? Here's your chance. The HotSeat Racer hooks up to any video game console so you can play your favorite driving game. But instead of sitting on the floor of your bedroom with a boring old controller, the HotSeat parks you in a car-like chair, with steering wheel and pedals positioned in front

of you like a real race car. A big screen provides a lifelike view of the road while six speakers surround you with car sounds, from engine revs to tire squeals. The seat doesn't move, but the experience seems so real that you'll find yourself leaning into turns and jerking suddenly when you slam on the brakes to avoid a colossal crash.



NaUGHTy PETS



THE TUNA I
ADDED TO THIS
TEA MAKES IT
VERY TASTY.



NAME Bella

FAVORITE ACTIVITY
Fishing at teatime

FAVORITE TOY
Squiggly rubber
worm bait

PET PEEVE Coffee

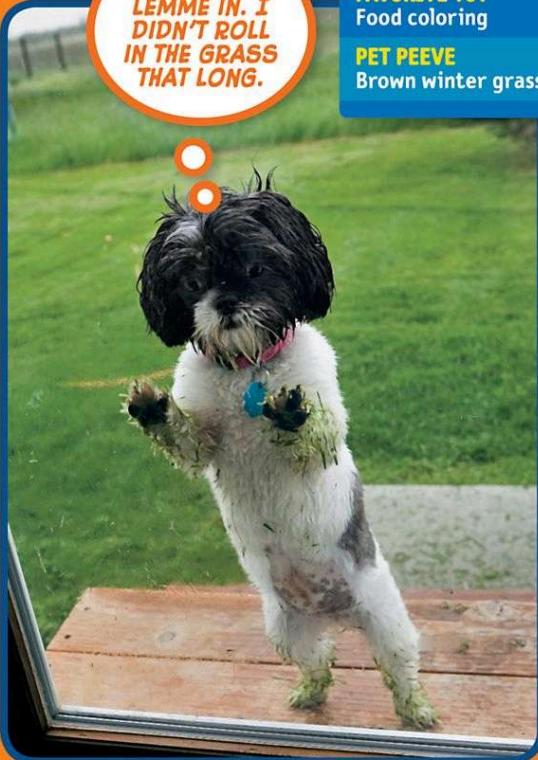
NAME Ed

FAVORITE ACTIVITY
Dyeing his fur green
with grass stains

FAVORITE TOY
Food coloring

PET PEEVE
Brown winter grass

C'MON,
LEMME IN. I
DIDN'T ROLL
IN THE GRASS
THAT LONG.



THIS
WIG LOOKS
BETTER ON ME
THAN ON MY
OWNER.



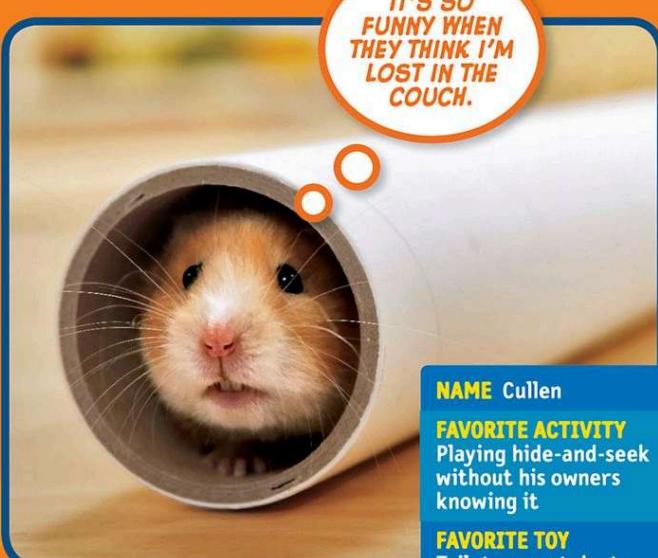
NAME Schwan

FAVORITE ACTIVITY
Stealing hairpieces

FAVORITE TOY Wig
boxes to hide his
stash—and himself

PET PEEVE
Shampoos

IT'S SO
FUNNY WHEN
THEY THINK I'M
LOST IN THE
COUCH.



NAME Cullen

FAVORITE ACTIVITY
Playing hide-and-seek
without his owners
knowing it

FAVORITE TOY
Toilet paper tube to
nibble holes in

PET PEEVE
Locked cage

Double The Dora Adventure!

Dora loves her puppy, Perrito. Help her feed him, bathe him, and dress him up. You can also teach Perrito to sit, jump, speak, fetch and try to win a trophy in the Big Puppy Competition. ¡Vamos a jugar! Let's play!

NINTENDO DS.



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Wii.

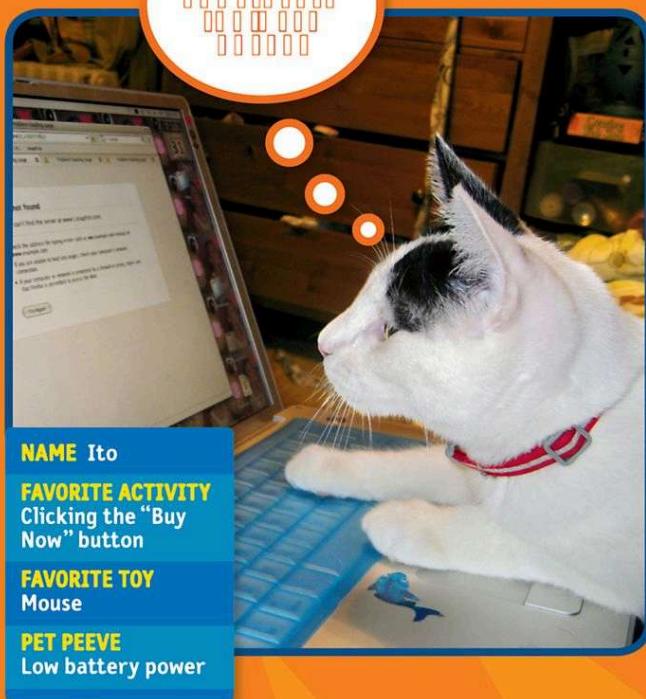
NINTENDO DS.

Help Dora and friends bring color back to the world. Fly with butterfly wings, perform tricks with a magical wand, and bounce off sparkling crystals. You can even play as Boots for the very first time! ¡Vámonos! Let's go!



Wii.

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JANELLE WETTOUR (ITO), BIG CHEESE / PHOTOLIBRARY (JAWS)



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS

stupid Criminals

BY ELISABETH DEFFNER

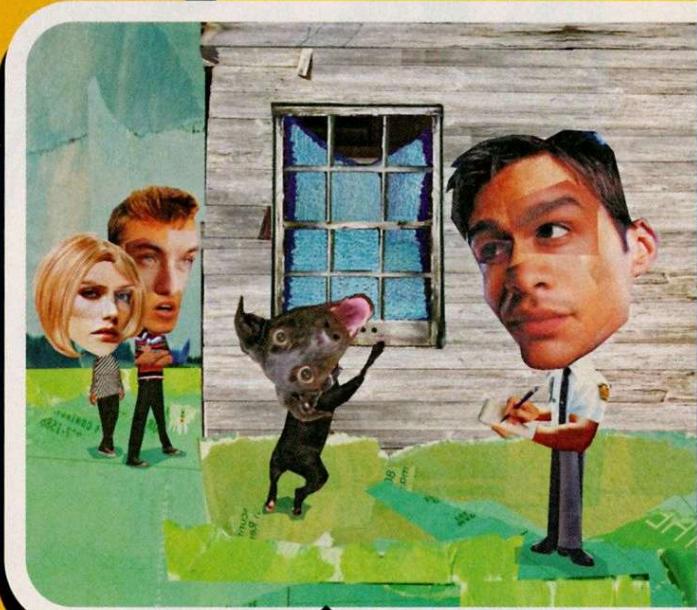
BUSTED!



In the Doghouse

SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA

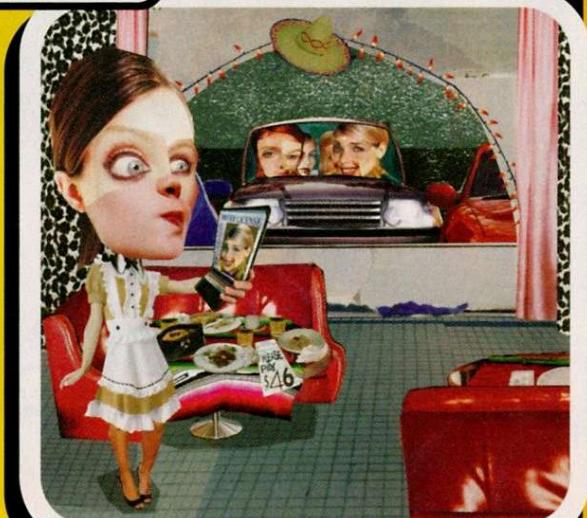
Some people never learn. A man who was out on bail for stealing a car drove to the courthouse—in another stolen car! How he got caught was even more stupid: The man left seven dogs in the SUV with the back door open, and some jumped out and started running around the parking lot. Someone called the sheriff's department, who called in the license plate on the crook's car. That's when they discovered it was stolen. Worried about his dogs, the bad guy ran out and asked the police if everything was OK. The dogs? Yes. The guy? No. He's in jail. "This is a perfect example of how truth is sometimes funnier than fiction," says Deputy District Attorney Aicha Mievis.



Dumb, Dumber, and Dumbest

BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA

Crime doesn't pay—especially when a thief leaves her purse at the scene. After eating at a Mexican restaurant, four young women took off without paying for their food—and without the purse that belonged to one of them. When officers arrived at the restaurant, they got the name and photo of one of the thieves from the driver's license in the purse. That made it easy to recognize her when she and her pals returned to fetch the forgotten handbag. Guess they were too dumb to notice the police, who were still at the restaurant.



Hiding in Plain Sight

CHALMETTE, LOUISIANA

Hint to thieves: Don't use stolen property to hide stolen property. A family returned home one day to find that their apartment had been robbed. Even their dog's distinctive blue blanket was missing. So of course, when the family spotted the blanket hanging in their neighbors' window, they had a good idea who stole their stuff. Police searched the apartment and found clothing and electronics that belonged to the victims. "The crooks were using the blanket as a curtain to hide the stolen property," says Sgt. Jeff Vega. "It was pretty ridiculous."

green scene

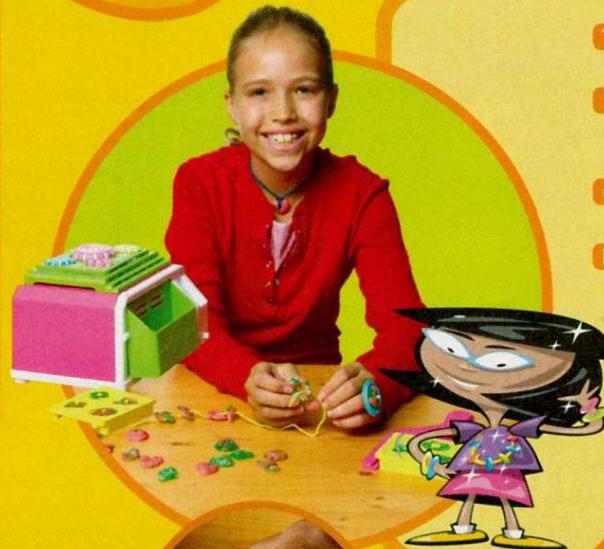
BY KRISTEN HUNT

5 Smart Toys

The Science Behind This Season's Coolest Toys

BY KRISTIN BAIRD RATTINI

It's no surprise that this year's hottest toys use the latest supercool technology. But they also tap into your own senses and smarts to create cutting-edge fun. "They provide new ways for kids to see and touch their world," says Reyne Rice of the Toy Industry Association. Check out these five toys and the science that makes them so smart.



2

THE TOY

EyeClops NightVision goggles

WHAT THEY ARE

Goggles that let you see in the dark

COOL SCIENCE

Infrared light

HOW THEY WORK

These goggles shoot out invisible infrared light beams, the same kind your remote control uses to turn on the television. The beams hit any object within 50 feet, collect information about what they hit, and bounce back to a special sensor in the goggles. The sensor converts that information into the image you see through the lenses.



1

THE TOY

Candy Jewel Factory

WHAT IT IS

A miniature oven that bakes jewelry you can wear and eat

COOL SCIENCE

Energy conversion

HOW IT WORKS

Pour candy chips into a jewelry mold and place the mold in the toy oven, which has a lightbulb inside. When the bulb is on, the oven's electrical energy converts into light and heat. Think of a toaster: The coil glows, but it's the heat that browns the bread. In the jewelry oven, the heat produced by the lightbulb is intense enough to melt the candy chips to make edible baubles.

THE TOY

Rubik's TouchCube

WHAT IT IS

A Rubik's Cube that moves by swiping your finger across the squares instead of twisting them

COOL SCIENCE

Touch sensors

HOW IT WORKS

Like an iPhone, each square on the Rubik's TouchCube has touch sensors that detect where your fingers are and where you slide each block. The sensors send that information to a microchip, which decides how to change the color based on where you've dragged the block.

3



MARK THIESSEN / NGS STAFF (GIRL, HANDS, GOOGLES, PRIME-8); COURTESY OF JAKKS PACIFIC NIGHT VISION IMAGE; TECHNO SOURCE (RUBIK'S CUBE); COURTESY MATTEL, INC. (MINDFLEX); BLAKE THORNTON (ART)



The

The Devil's Own

Frog Friends?

At first, Tiana and Naveen aren't too crazy about each other, but they soon become BFFs (Best Frogs Forever). In the wild, though, different species of frogs would not hang out together. For instance, bullfrogs tend to live by the banks of rivers, ponds, and streams, while tree frogs live, well, in trees. If they *did* hop into one another? The bigger bullfrog—which munches on mice, bugs, and fish—would likely see a tree frog as lunch.



Hey, Y'all!

Southern Louisiana is known for its distinctive style of speech. Many of the words and phrases come from the languages of the Native American, African, and French people who settled the area.

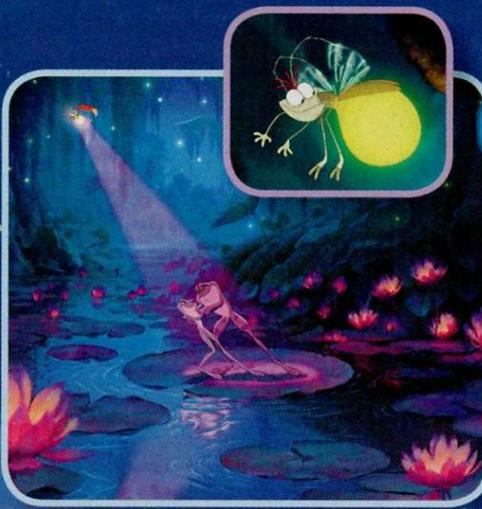
BAYOU (BY-oo): a swampy, slow-moving body of water

"LAISSEZ LES BONS TEMPS ROULER!" (LEH-say lay bohn tahn roo-LAY): "Let the good times roll!"

JAMBALAYA (juhm-buh-LIE-yuh): a rice dish with any combination of beef, pork, fowl, sausage, or seafood, as well as celery, green peppers, and tomatoes

ZYDECO (ZI-duh-koh): music that combines traditional French and Caribbean tunes with the blues. It often features instruments such as guitars, washboards, and accordions.

BEIGNET (ben-YAY): French-style fried dough covered in powdered sugar

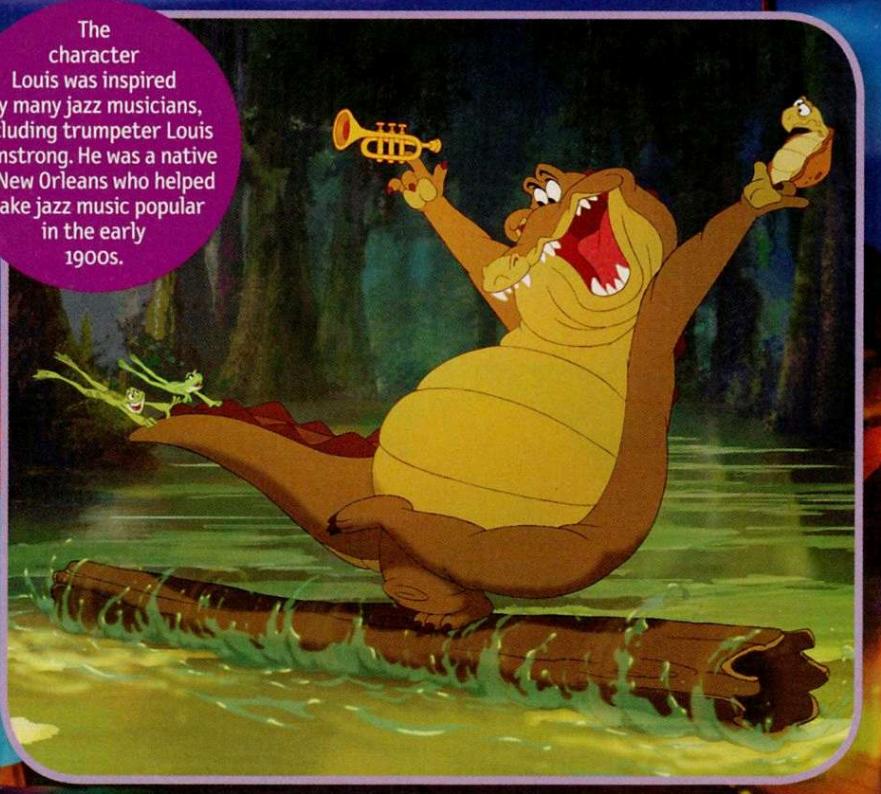


Guiding Light

Tiana and Naveen need help navigating the dark bayou. So Ray the firefly calls upon his relatives—all 30,000 of them—to create a giant flashlight. Real fireflies may appear to be in groups, but they're actually traveling alone, says insect expert Cole Gilbert of Cornell University in New York. And fireflies use their glowing parts to attract potential mates, not as night-lights.

Tail Speed

Louis the alligator lends a helping, uh, tail so Tiana and Naveen can cross the wide Mississippi River. Using his tail like a motor, Louis scoots from bank to bank. Real alligators also use their tails to propel them through the water, Dietz says. The tails are so powerful that gators can swim in short bursts nearly twice as fast as an Olympic swimmer.



WHEN
E
NS
R
LLER
N.

What in

Play interactive "What in the
World?" and other games online.
kids.nationalgeographic.com

We Gave It a Swirl

Use the clues below to figure out which animals appear in these swirled pictures. **ANSWERS BELOW**

1



HINT: Don't challenge this "neigh-sayer" to a race.

2



HINT: This swimmer doesn't bottle up its energy—it "nose" how to make a splash.

3



HINT: If you get too close to this insect's honey, it might suggest that you "buzz off."

Answers

- 2. bottlenose dolphin; 3. honeybee;
- "WE GAVE IT A SWIRL"; 1. horse;
- polka-dot pony, frost, ice-skaters, reindeer, gloves; **Bottom row:** sled, snowboarder; **Middle row:** sled, Top row: hot chocolate, igloo;
- "WHAT IN THE WORLD?" (page 3);



"Paradise Lost" (page 29)

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Awesome Animals! Awesome Animals! Awesome Animals!

TEXT BY RUTH A. MUSGRAVE

Awesome Animals! Awesome Animals! Awesome Animals!

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DESERT LOCUST

- A** **Desert locusts are destructive.** TRUE. When swarming, billions can blanket more than 200 square miles, devouring every plant in their path.
- B** **Bugs are also on a locust's menu.** FALSE. It's completely vegetarian, eating millet, rice, sugarcane, corn, and more.
- C** **Desert locusts swarm every year.** FALSE. They swarm only when food is scarce and they crowd together to eat. Bumping into each others' legs causes them to change to swarm behavior.
- D** **If a teenager and a locust were the same size, the locust would eat more than the teen.** TRUE. In swarm mode, a locust can eat its body weight every day. Teens do not!
- E** **There is a yummy side to locusts.** TRUE. People collect and eat desert locusts—stir-fried, roasted, boiled, and dried.

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AGILE WALLABY

- A** **Wallabies are kangaroos.** TRUE. Wallabies are small to medium-size kangaroos. Agile wallabies are one of the largest kinds of wallaby.
- B** **Dinner with a wallaby is a mob scene.** TRUE. Groups of wallabies, called mobs, often dine together. Agile wallabies are found throughout tropical Australia in forests and grasslands near rivers or streams.
- C** **Wallabies eat only the soft new shoots from grasses and shrubs.** FALSE. Wallabies will eat every part of a plant. During the dry season, mobs even dig up plant roots for food.
- D** **Wallaby parents must watch out for dingoes.** TRUE. The dingo, a kind of wild dog, preys on wallabies. So do pythons and eagles.
- E** **These wallabies are quite clumsy.** FALSE. They are very agile and quick.

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DUGONG

- A** **A dugong is part whale and part walrus.** FALSE. It's not related to either; it is related to the manatee.
- B** **Dugongs slap their tails on the water's surface to communicate.** FALSE. They communicate with vocal sounds including trills, chirps, and barks.
- C** **A newborn dugong and newborn baby are about the same size.** FALSE. A dugong calf is almost as big as a 10-year-old kid.
- D** **This uber-predator gobbles its way through tons of sea creatures.** FALSE. This herbivore prefers a salad of sea grasses.
- E** **Dugongs are unlikely to hang out with giant squids.** TRUE. Giant squids like deep water, but dugongs graze in shallow ocean. They live in coastal waters off parts of Australia, Africa, and Asia, and nearby islands.

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GHARIAL

- A** **A gharial grows as long as 25 feet.** TRUE. That is, it's equivalent to both feet of 12 10-year-olds, toe to heel. If you use a ruler, however, a large gharial (related to crocodiles and alligators) can measure nearly 20 feet long.
- B** **Mom cradles her babies in her mouth.** FALSE. Her sharp teeth might make it a deadly cradle. She does protect youngsters near the nesting site.
- C** **Gharials are very common.** FALSE. There may be only about 200 left in the wild in India and Nepal.
- D** **If you're going out to dinner with a gharial, plan on sushi.** TRUE. Adult gharials eat mostly fish. Juveniles eat insects and frogs.
- E** **A bump at the end of a male gharial's snout is a noise- and bubble-maker.** TRUE. They communicate by buzzing and blowing bubbles.

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SCARLET IBIS

- A** **This giant bird is almost as tall as an ostrich.** FALSE. A scarlet ibis is only about 22 inches tall. An ostrich is three to four times taller.
- B** **They might like a mud pie.** FALSE. Using their long bills, scarlet ibis probe the mud for what they really like: crabs, snails, fish, insects, frogs, and small snakes in the marshes where they live.
- C** **Their scarlet color comes from the food they eat.** TRUE. The bright coloration comes from a substance in the crabs and shrimp in their diet.
- D** **You can spot these birds in Canada.** FALSE. Scarlet ibis live in South America.
- E** **Ibis are very noisy birds.** FALSE. They are usually quiet. They mostly grunt and croak softly.

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CRAB-EATING FOX

- A** **A newborn crab-eating fox can weigh almost as much as a softball.** TRUE. A pup weighs 4 to 5.5 ounces.
- B** **Parents regurgitate (throw up) dinner for youngsters.** FALSE. Adults bring the pups solid food; they don't regurgitate like wolves do.
- C** **If it's born the first week of school, a pup wouldn't start hunting until spring break.** FALSE. Pups start hunting with their parents when they're only six weeks old.
- D** **Crab-eating foxes eat only crabs.** FALSE. Crab-eating foxes eat just about anything, including land crabs, fruits, insects, turtle eggs, lizards, and birds.
- E** **They live in a dog-eat-fox world.** TRUE. Their predators include dogs, cougars, jaguars, and caimans. These foxes live in parts of South America.

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