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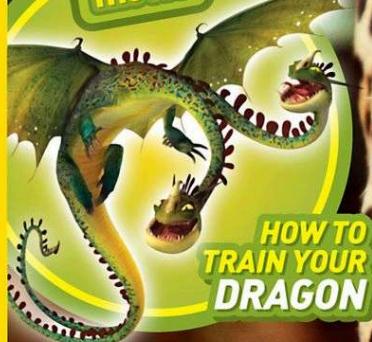
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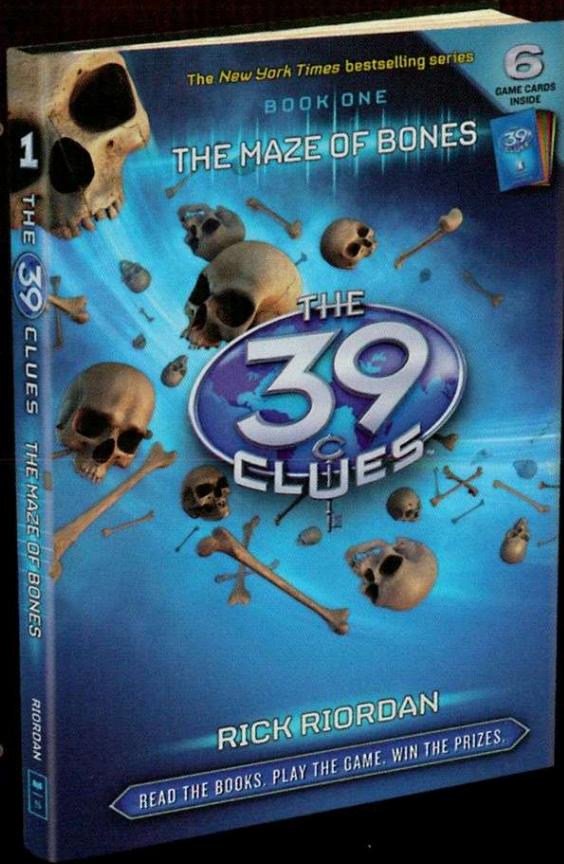
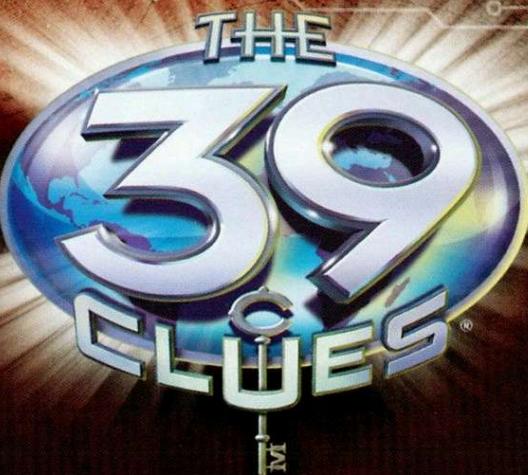


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MYSTERY



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with *The Maze of Bones* by
Rick Riordan
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A RED-EYED TREE FROG'S SUCTION-CUP TOES HELP IT CLIMB TREES.

Inside

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Of course dragons aren't real. But Vikings were. See how the warriors from the film stack up against real Vikings.



16 Pelican Rescue

Caring people saved this desperate bird from a dangerous trap.



20 On the Move

Find out how conservationists are helping jaguars make a treacherous journey.



24 Mystery in the Desert

Gigantic pictures in the sand have stumped researchers for years. Did aliens draw them? Scientists decode what's really out there.

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Just for KIDS online!

Go online to play games and try a Saint Patrick's Day smoothie recipe.

kids.nationalgeographic.com



On the Cover

The jaguar is the largest cat in the Western Hemisphere.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH © SA TEAM / FOTO NATURA / MINDEN PICTURES

COVER INSERTS: MICHAEL TURCO © 2010 (FROGS), KARINE AIGNER / NGS STAFF (PELICAN), COURTESY DREAMWORKS ANIMATION SKG (DRAGONI, STRIKE ENTERTAINMENT) (CHARACTER) PAGE 3: MICHAEL TURCO © 2010 (FROGS), COURTESY DREAMWORKS ANIMATION SKG (DRAGONI), KARINE AIGNER / NGS STAFF (PELICAN), © SA TEAM / FOTO NATURA / MINDEN PICTURES (JAGUAR), YOSHINO TOMI PHOTO STUDIO / PHOTOLIBRARY (PICTURE), NATHAN JUREVICIUS (ZIPPER)

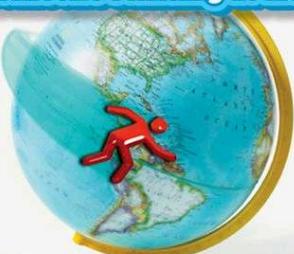
Check out these 9 outrageous facts.

**Bees can be green, blue, or red.**

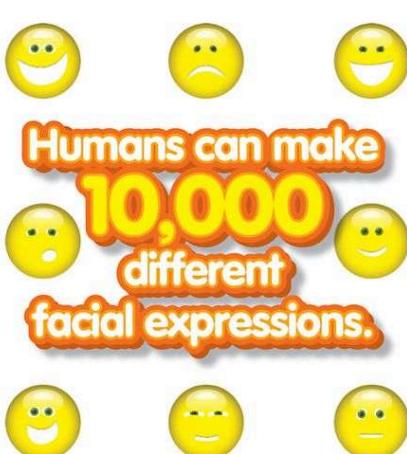
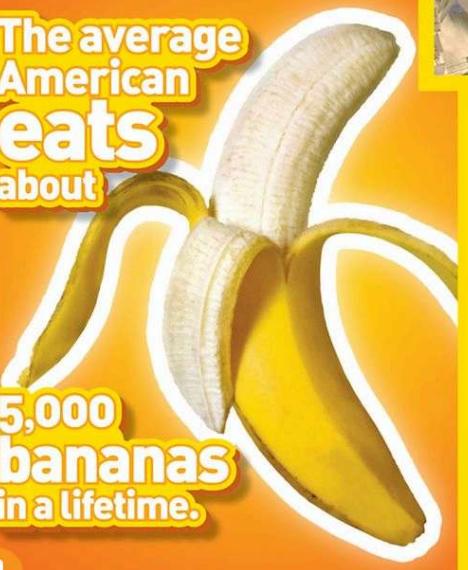
A ball of twine in Kansas weighs more than **19,000 pounds** and could stretch about halfway across the United States.



The Earth spins so fast that someone standing at the Equator would be traveling at about 1,000 miles an hour.



The average American eats about **5,000 bananas** in a lifetime.



Giraffes have very high **blood pressure** to pump blood up their long necks.

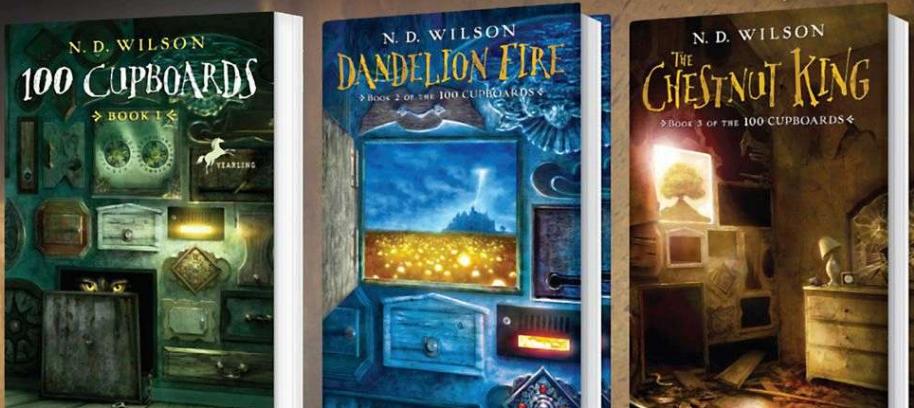


The offspring of a whale and a dolphin is a **wholphin**.



Journey Through the Cupboards!

Illustration © 2010 by Jeff Nentrop



BOOK ONE

BOOK TWO

BOOK THREE

Other worlds. Evil witches. Missing persons.
The cupboards have been opened.

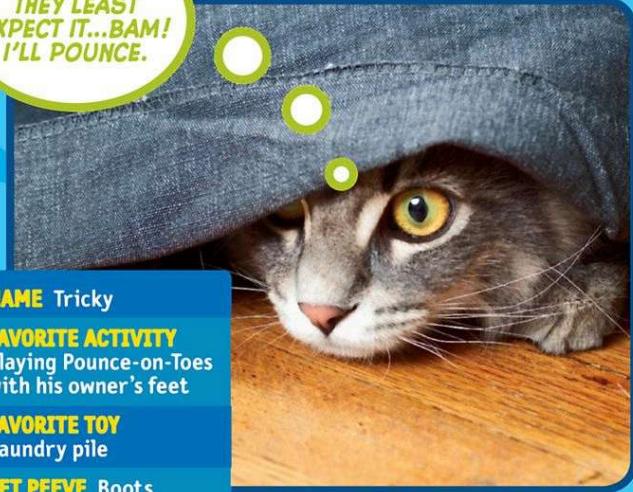


VISIT 100CUPBOARDS.COM AND UNLOCK AN OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD GAME!

NaUGHTy PETS

CAUGHT
ON CAMERA

JUST WHEN
THEY LEAST
EXPECT IT...BAM!
I'LL POUNCE.



NAME Tricky

FAVORITE ACTIVITY
Playing Pounce-on-Toes
with his owner's feet

FAVORITE TOY
Laundry pile

PET PEEVE Boots

BOY-OH-BOY,
I AM ONE
GOOD-LOOKING
POOCH.



NAME Emma

FAVORITE ACTIVITY
Selling self-portraits to
pay for acting classes

FAVORITE TOY
Camera

PET PEEVE
Paw-tograph seekers

COOL inventions



SHAPE-SHIFTING SKIS



You're skiing down the mountain when suddenly someone plows right in front of you. You turn, hoping to avoid a collision. As you do, your skis grow, turning sharply just in time. *Whew!* Atomic's high-tech D2 Vario Cut snow skis actually change shape to help you on the slopes. Each ski is slit down the middle at the tip and tail, then reconnected with an elastic material. As you turn, you put pressure on your skis. This force causes the D2s to spread out in front and back, creating more of a curve in the ski. The curvier the ski, the more easily it turns, allowing you to slalom like an Olympic athlete.

FLYING SOLO

You're running late to your cousin's birthday party, and you promised to arrive early to help set up. There's no way your bike is going to get you there on time, so instead you strap on your personal flying machine, elevate straight up into the air, and zip across town to land in your cousin's yard just in time. The Martin Jetpack is all about fun in the wild blue yonder. It flies you through the air at highway speeds (about 60 miles an hour), traveling up to 30 miles on a tank of gas. Driving it is like playing a video game—a joystick-like handle on the left moves you forward, back, left, and right while another stick on the right lets you go up and down. You fly about 500 feet off the ground, the height of a 50-story building. That's high enough to soar over trees and rooftops, but still low enough to see all your jealous friends gazing up at you in amazement.

DISAPPEARING DESK

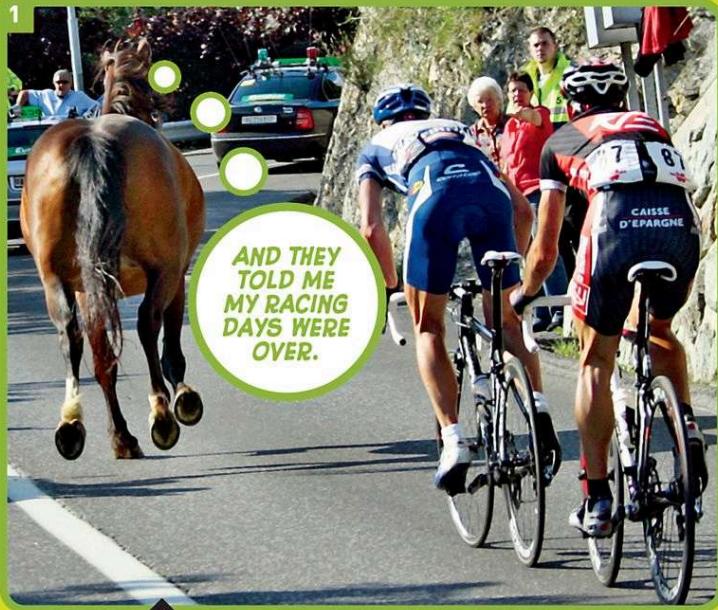
Homework's done, and your buddies are on their way over to play video games. It's time to clear some space for the fun ahead. That's easy with the Globus, a desk that packs up and rolls out of the way. Open, the Globus stands as two hemispheres. The top half is a desk, and the bottom is a seat. To put it away, push the two halves together and just wheel the Globus into your closet or another room. Now there's plenty of space for your friends to swing their virtual rackets or bats without hitting your TV or bonking you on the head.



COURTESY OF MARTIN JETPACK | ATOMIC SKIS; BOTH, GISPEN GLOBUS, BOTH

sports funnies

uh-oh!



A horse makes a surprise appearance as it dashes out in front of riders competing in the 2007 Tour de Suisse cycling race in Switzerland.

AND THEY
TOLD ME
MY RACING
DAYS WERE
OVER.



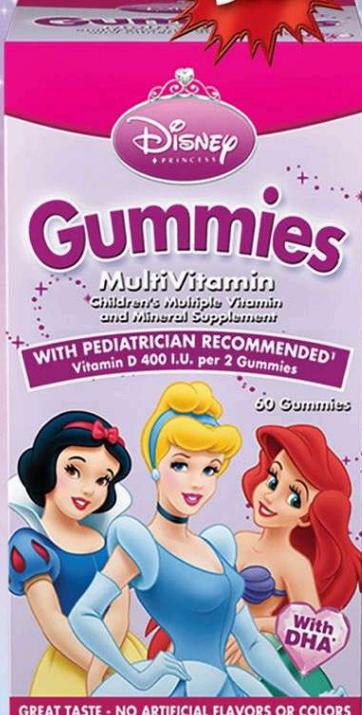
SIMON
SAYS...HOLD
UP YOUR BODY
WITH YOUR
HANDS.

New York Ranger Sean Avery (in white) and New Jersey Devil Paul Martin go flying after crashing into a goalie during a 2008 Stanley Cup hockey play-off.

**HEALTHY
HABITS
START NOW!**

PEDIATRICIAN RECOMMENDED
Vitamin D 400 IU[†]

with
DHA*



**Quality Vitamins
From a Brand
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- Immune System Support**

*DHA is naturally found in the brain and the eyes. 100 mg promotes healthy brain and eye development. ** One serving provides 100 mcg of DHA.

These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends children and adolescents receive at least 400 IU of Vitamin D per day from food or supplements. Wagner, C et al. Pediatrics. 2008;121:142-152.

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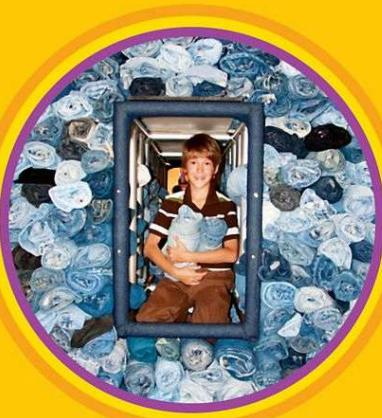
Guinness World Records

Go online for more information about Guinness
World Records! kids.nationalgeographic.com/Videos

"JEAN-UINE" AWESOME RECORD



THE DENIM CLOTHING—EVERYTHING FROM JEANS, SHIRTS, SKORTS (PART SKIRT, PART SHORTS), AND EVEN AN APRON—WERE STUFFED INTO GIANT HOLLOW NUMBERS THAT REPRESENTED THE RECORD. THE MASSIVE STRUCTURE WAS DISPLAYED AT UNION STATION, A TRAIN STATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



NG KIDS READER EREK HANSEN, 9, OF OHIO, COLLECTED 1,684 PAIRS OF JEANS. ALMOST 1,000 OF THEM WERE COLLECTED RIGHT IN HIS DRIVEWAY OVER ONE WEEKEND!

Still have jeans to donate? Go online to find out how.
CottonFromBlueToGreen.org

CONGRATULATIONS, READERS!

Your denim donations helped set the Guinness World Record for the Most Items of Clothing Collected for Recycling.

We were amazed by your response when we asked you to send us your jeans last summer. The 33,088 denim items poured in from kids, school groups, environmental clubs, and Scout troops. Some came from as far away as Kenya, China, Ireland, and Singapore. Even actors such as Ben Stiller (*Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian*) and Dylan and Cole Sprouse (*The Suite Life on Deck*) donated their denim.

But the best part is that your donations will go into about 60 homes for people in need. How? All the denim was donated to Cotton Incorporated's "COTTON. FROM BLUE TO GREEN" denim drive. The program recycles denim clothing into housing insulation used when rebuilding homes in places that have been damaged by hurricanes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters.

Thanks to you, more than 30,000 pairs of jeans will be kept out of landfills and actually benefit families in need. Great job—you really have helped turn blue into green! —Allie Benjamin

KELLEY MILLER / NG'S STAFF (BIG IMAGE) MARK THIessen / NG'S STAFF (SMALL JEANS)
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**HELP
FOR
HAITI**

Be a Star, Save a Life!

A MAN PASSES A BUILDING THAT COLLAPSED AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE IN PORT-AU-PRINCE, THE CAPITAL OF HAITI.



Go online for more information about Haiti.
kids.nationalgeographic.com/Places/

A SEARCH-AND-RESCUE DOG FROM CHINA SNIFFS FOR SURVIVORS.



On January 12, a devastating earthquake shook Haiti, a country about 700 miles southeast of Florida. Tens of thousands of people have lost their lives so far, and millions are without shelter, food, and safe drinking water.

Without safe water, survival becomes a serious matter because of the diseases that drinking unclean water can cause. In fact, **every day 6,000 kids die of water-related illnesses worldwide**.

Even before the earthquake, more than half of all Haitians did not have access to clean drinking water. But now you can help save lives. Just 50 cents will help global health organization PSI provide safe drinking water for a family of four in Haiti for a month.

DONATE TODAY (with a parent's permission)

Just think—for six dollars you could help provide clean water for a family for a year. But any amount—50 cents, one dollar, five dollars, whatever—will help save someone's life. **Make checks payable to PSI** (cash works, too!) and send to:

PSI: Be a Star, Save a Life
1120 19th Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036

OR: psi.org/BeAStar



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS

DEST AREAS



GRAND CAYMAN

CAYMAN BRAC

LITTLE CAYMAN

VISIT THE COOLEST CITY ON EARTH THIS WINTER.

Hey kids, visit the Cayman Islands this winter with your family, and we'll give you a free trip to legendary Stingray City—one of the funnest, coolest places on the planet. It's all part of our exciting "Get Warm" winter promotion. Send your parents to www.getwarm.ky to learn all about it. They'll find great offers. You'll find the best vacation ever.



CAYMAN
ISLANDS



CLOSE TO HOME. FAR FROM EXPECTED.

JUST ONE HOUR FROM MIAMI. FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT GETWARM.KY.

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