
1. Imagine buying groceries with piles of money! Germany had economic problems after World War I. Among them was a terrible money problem. The government printed much money, and almost everyone had plenty of cash. But everything was very expensive because the cash was almost worthless. A sack of bills might buy one loaf of bread. One woman left a laundry basket of cash alone for a minute. While she was gone, a thief stole the basket but left the money!

2. If you were invited to dinner during the Middle Ages, you would have to be certain to wash your hands. At that time people had only spoons and their fingers to eat with, and they shared plates. Scratching an itch at the table was very impolite because you might carry the flea that was biting you to the common food dish. But after dinner you would throw the bones on the floor for the dogs!

3. Although Albert Einstein was one of the greatest scientists of all time, he failed almost all his classes in high school. Thomas Edison, the inventor, attended school for only three months. Harriet Tubman was a slave with no formal schooling. But she used her knowledge of the forest to help more than three hundred people escape from slavery!

4. Most rainbows arch across the sky in the usual colors, but there are rare kinds that few people see. Some rainbows are all purple. They can be seen only at sunrise or just before. Rainbows that are all red appear when the sun is on the horizon at sunset. Sometimes a white rainbow can happen, too.

5. Bamboo is a giant grass. It grows very fast. One type of bamboo grows 3 feet in 24 hours! The bamboo is hollow and light but very strong. Bamboo is so strong that it can be made into fences, roofs, boats, and furniture. However, young bamboo is tender, and people eat its beautiful green shoots.