

STRANGE BUT TRUE!

There is a reason for everything in nature. When the cow lies down it sinks fore-feet first, and rises on its fore-feet, but the horse goes down hind-feet first, and rises on its fore-feet. The reason for this difference is that the wild oxen ancestors of the domestic cattle were forest-dwellers. Before lying down, and when rising they had first to scan the surroundings for potential enemies, keeping their heads low to see beneath the trees. In contrast, wild horses lived on plains, where beasts of prey stalked. They had to keep their heads high to search for their enemies.

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It is estimated that 50,000 passengers pass through Darwin each year in about 2,000 commercial aircraft.

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Within five years, one female rat through her female progeny can reproduce as many as 15-million new rats. However, nature produces most of this vast number to serve as food for other animals. Thousands of them are caught by hawks, and numbers are caught by skunks, foxes, and other animals that live on meat.

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Kissing as an expression of affection is estimated to be used by half the world's people. Most Asian and coloured races frown on such a practice. For instance in Masaliland, Africa, a girl feels highly flattered if her suitor spits in her face.

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Octopus is the favourite food of Japan's Awaji islanders. They buy it sun-dried and stretched on sticks, or alive from tanks of sea water. Choice portions are tentacles, boiled and sliced.



Roy Gordon, champion athlete of Capien Sawmills via Bornello.

It takes from five to seven years for horticulturists to produce a new rose. The hybridist sets out with a definite objective based upon knowledge of heredity, which, under the usual rules of cross-fertilisation, should produce a certain result. But many disappointments can come to light in the first and succeeding generations. Some of the most difficult colours to develop have been yellow, orange, copper and bronze, and the first specimen was the Rayon d'Or which was not developed until 1910. However, although the colour was a glorious yellow, the petals were puny and the rose lacked perfume, and it took several more years to perfect this and other yellow strains.

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For centuries the standard of fine weight in India was the seed of the rati, or wild liquorice plant. These are always uniform in size, no matter where they grow, and a very accurate system, which could easily be checked, was built up with the seeds as a basis.

Women's sacrifice helped to build a huge Japanese temple.

When it was decided to build the great £2-million Higashi Hongwanji temple at Kyoto, Japan, Buddhist priests called upon the whole empire for contributions.

Those who could, gave money. Others contributed stone, timber, silk or whatever they could afford.

However, there were two hundred thousand devout women worshippers who had nothing of value except their long hair. When a Japanese woman cut off her hair in those days, it was because she was a widow. Superstition prevented a man marrying a short-haired girl.

Yet, these women did not hesitate to give their hair. From it was woven twenty-nine immense cables, each 200 ft. long and some five inches thick. These were the ropes that were used to lift the great beams and stones of the temple which took 16 years to build, into place.

These ropes are still preserved in the temple, the black tresses of the young girls interwoven with the white hair of the aged. Stronger than any ropes except, perhaps silk or nylon, they are still capable of lifting tons and are undoubtedly the largest ropes of human hair ever made.