**Abundance of Nature**

**The avocado trees’ growth is sometimes so prolific that trees have collapsed under the weight of their fruit. *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 178)*

Every person has nearly 400,000 radioactive atoms disintegrating into other atoms in his or her body each second. But there’s no need to worry about falling apart. Each body cell contains an average of 90 trillion atoms – 225 million times that 400,000. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 321)*
The scientist Paul Weiss has estimated that each of us has in his brain about as many cells as there have been seconds in time since our part of the cosmos began to assume its present form--about 1 quadrillion. Dr. Weiss computes that the brain loses 1,000 cells per day, irretrievably, seemingly at random, which means a loss of 100 billion cross-linkages daily. Yet, amazingly, basic patterns and memories are maintained. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 321)***

**If the eggs spawned by all the female cod in one season survived, they would fill the oceans from seabed to surface. Cod lay between four and five million eggs at a time – but usually only about five survive. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 45)***

**You can light an average-size house from the electric power exerted by an electric eel. *(Tracy Stephen Burrows, in Bizarro Facts & Radical Earthlings, p. 83)***

**A single galaxy may contain more stars than the number of seconds that have elapsed since animals first appeared on earth. And the number of galaxies in the universe has been estimated at over ten billion! *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 313)***

**Something is showering gold throughout the universe. This is especially strange because gold is an element, and the only way it can be created is through an intense nuclear fusion reaction. Scientists know that collisions between neutron stars are powerful enough to produce gold, but not in the massive amounts that astrophysicists are finding in the universe. So where is the gold coming from? No one knows. Even supernovas so intense that stars are flipped inside out are not powerful enough to explain gold's abundance. *(The Daily Chronicle)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*
A small hurricane releases energy equivalent to the explosions of six atomic bombs per second. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 207)*

There’s enough energy in ten minutes of one hurricane to match the nuclear stockpiles of the world. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 106)*

If harnessed, the energy liberated by an average hurricane could supply the electrical energy used in the U.S. during half a year. The amount of energy would be equivalent to exploding ten atomic bombs every second. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 108)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*
In a single growing season, ten small water hyacinths can increase to become more than 600,000 plants, forming a mat an acre in size and weighing 180 tons. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 180)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*
A single flash of lightning has been estimated to carry a charge of 100 million volts. *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 212)*
A single lightning bolt may give off 3,750 million kilowatts of electrical energy. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 106)*

Did I tell you a lightning bolt is five times hotter than the surface of the sun? *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 171)*

A lightning bolt, which can be 20 miles high, can carry 100 million volts of electricity and is five times hotter than the sun’s surface. *(Clark/Long, in Weird Facts, p. 7)*
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The daily average yield of an oil well at full production in Alaska’s Prudhoe Bay field is 10,000 barrels; it is only 11 barrels in the Lower-Forty-eight states. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 106)***

**Even if the stomach, the spleen, 80 percent of the intestine, one kidney, one lung, and virtually every organ from the pelvic and groin area are removed, the human body can still survive. And even if 80 percent of your liver were removed, the remaining part would continue to function. Within a few months, the liver would have reconstituted itself to its original size! *(Joe Edelman & David Samson, in Useless Knowledge, p. 77)*
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Each full or part-time female oyster will release two million eggs in the summer. *(Richard B. Manchester, in Amazing Facts, p. 204)*
An oyster produces between fifteen and sixty million eggs. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 101)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*
The plant life of the oceans makes up about 85 percent of all the greenery on the planet. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 179)***

**Twenty thousand plants are listed by the World Health Organization as being used for therapeutic purposes. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 244)*
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In 1918, at Bahia Feliz, Chile, rain fell on all but 18 days of the year. And of those 18 it drizzled. *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 62)*
The greatest single rainfall fell in the Philippines. In 1911, from July 14 to July 17, the floodgates of heaven opened wide over Baguio, and down gushed a record 88 inches of rain -- or more than seven feet of water! *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 318)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*
The giant sequoia will bear millions of seeds. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 180)*
You can figure that by the time you hit age 70, you’ll have shed about 40 pounds of dead skin. Can you envision six square miles of human skin? Neither can I. But that’s how much new skin Americans altogether grow on any given day. *(L. M. Boyd)*
There are more stars in the sky than there are grains of sand on all the beaches of the world. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 180)*
A sturgeon mother produces between two and three million eggs, equal to one-fifth to one-third of her body weight. The stuff sells for as much as a hundred bucks a pound as caviar. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 101)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*
All the Earth’s heat and light comes from the Sun. More heat and light reaches the Earth from the Sun in one minute than the whole world can produce in a year. *(The Usborne Book of Facts & Lists, p. 100)*
The earth receives only one-half of one-billionth of the sun’s radiant energy. But in just a few days it gets as much heat and light as could be produced by burning all the oil, coal, and wood on the planet. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 108)***

**The light given off by a piece of the Sun’s surface the size of a postage stamp is more than 500 60-watt light bulbs. It could light all the rooms in 48 average-sized homes. (The Usborne Book of Facts & Lists, p. 100)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*A volcano has greater power than does the greatest hurricane, tsunami (a seismic seawave), or earthquake. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 108)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*
If the oceans were divided up among all the people of Earth, every single man, woman, and child would get the equivalent of 110 billion gallons, which is the equivalent of a tenth of a cubic mile of ocean water. If each person were given only fresh water, which makes up only 1.6 percent of the water on the planet, each would still get 40 million gallons. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 132)***

**The amount of water that falls to Earth each year as rain, snow and hail is equivalent to 10 million gallons for every person in the USA. This is enough for each person to have 900 baths a day. *(The Usborne Book of Facts and Lists, p. 106)***

**Lake Superior contains enough water to submerge all of North and South America in one foot of water. The lake is fed by some 200 rivers, including the St. Louis, and contains 10 percent of the fresh water on Earth. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

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**The energy contained in a breaking ocean wave is immense. Measurements made with wave dynamometers have shown some waves striking with a force equal to a pressure of 6,000 pounds per square foot. The energy content of a four-foot-swell moving along a hundred-mile front would supply power to a city the size of Seattle for almost twenty-four hours. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 108)***

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