**Famous People’s Fears**

**The three most common fears among American adults: spiders, social situations, and flying. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 249)***

**Claim is that baboons are afraid of the dark. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Winston Churchill, prime minister of England during World War II, lived with an odd superstitious fear for most of his life. Churchill went through life fearing each year that he would die on January 24 because his father had died on that date in 1895. On January 24, 1965, Winston Churchill did indeed pass away--seventy years to the day his father died. *(Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 136)***

**Salvador Dali, the iconic surrealist artist, was known for his eccentric behavior and his fear of grasshoppers. He considered them dreadful creatures and often used them as a symbol of waste and decay in his artwork. (2024 Mind-Bending Facts for Curious People, p. 9)**

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Walt Disney was afraid of mice. (David Hoffman, in Little-Known Facts about Well-Known Stuff, p. 147)**

**Despite creating one of the most famous mice in the world, Walt Disney was said to be musophobic – afraid of mice. His fear was well-known among those close to him. It’s often said that his fear of mice led to the creation of the character Mickey Mouse, as a way of dealing with his phobia. *(2024 Mind-Bending Facts for Curious People, p. 8)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Thomas Edison, the inventor of the light bulb, was afraid of the dark. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 187)***

**Why ancient Egyptians so disliked red hair I don’t know. But historical footnotes suggest they feared red-haired people. And their prejudice spread to the Greeks and Romans. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Sigmund Freud had a morbid fear of ferns. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 16)***

**The late Howard Hughes and numerous others have been depicted as highly fearful of dust. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Japanese and Chinese people die on the fourth of the month more often than any other dates. The reason may be that they are “scared to death” by the number four. The words four and death sound alike in both Japanese and Chinese. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 198)***

**Stephen King, the renowned horror author, has a fear of the number 13. He goes to lengths to avoid the number, including not stopping on the 13th step of a staircase or reading on the 13th page of a book. It’s an example of triskaidekaphobia, a common superstition. *(2024 Mind-Bending Facts for Curious People, p. 8)***

It is the female lion who does more than 90 percent of the hunting while the male is afraid to risk his life, or simply prefers to rest. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 41)

Napoleon was morbidly afraid of cats. (E.C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts)

**Heavyweight boxer Ken Norton fears no man in the ring. But he is afraid...of black cats! (Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 82)**

**A British woman who suffered from agoraphobia for 22 years has finally left her house. Sue Curtis, 40, first began experiencing fear of the outdoors when her two sons were toddlers. Her panic attacks became so acute that they would surface if she tried to leave her home in northern England. But after taking free self-help classes on the Internet, and becoming fascinated by the sights she was seeing on Google Maps, Curtis can now make it down her street and back without fear. “It may not seem very far to walk, but for me this is amazing. And now I don’t see a reason why I can’t be cured in the future and lead a normal life again. (The Week magazine, April 24, 2009)**

**French chemist Louis Pasteur had an obsessive fear of dirt and infection. He would never shake hands, would carefully wipe his plate and glass before dining, and would sneak a microscope under his coat into friends’ houses and then examine the food they served to make sure it was safe from germs. *(Noel Botham, in The World’s Greatest Book of Useless Information, p. 141)***

**It has been determined – and you, too, may find this report satisfying – that the great white shark is scared of the dark. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Sheep naturally flock together out of fear. They have many natural predators, and no way of protecting themselves. Many shepherds keep larger animals, such as mules or llamas, with their flock in order to frighten off coyotes and wolves. *(Tidbits)***

**George Washington was deathly afraid of being buried alive. After he died, he wanted to be laid out for three days just to be sure he was dead. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 2)***

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