**A Few Produces Many**

**The hand that plants an acorn shelters armies from the sun. *(Ella Wheeler Wilcox)***

**Any fool can count the seeds in an apple. Only God can count all the apples in one seed. *(Robert H. Schuller)***

**One cattail plant can turn out 250,000 seeds. (L. M. Boyd)**

**It’s not too much to expect a codfish to lay 9 million eggs at one time. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Some fish, like the cod, lay over five-million eggs during a single spawning. (Jeff Harris, in Shortcuts)**

**The expression “breed like flies” is quite apt. If all the descendents of a single pair of flies survived, they would number over 335 trillion at the end of one summer. *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 194)***

**A queen honeybee can lay as many as 1,500 eggs a day. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 84)***

**Insect offspring: Aphid – can produce 6 billion in one summer; Flea – lays 5,000 eggs in lifetime; Fruit fly – lays 800 eggs in lifetime; Tick – lays 7,000 eggs at a time; Ladybug – lays 1,000 eggs in lifetime; Termite – lays 30,000 eggs in one day. (*World Features Syndicate)***

**Four jackrabbits are strolling on the prairie when a gang of coyotes begins to chase them. The rabbits run under a huge cactus for refuge. The coyotes surround the cactus. One rabbit says to another, “Should we make a run for it, or wait till we outnumber them?” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Good week for: Leaving your mark on the world, after Henry “Pop” Brown Sr., of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, died at the age of 98, leaving behind 10 children, 61 grandchildren, 130 great-grandchildren, 162 great-great-grandchildren, and 26 great-great-great-grandchildren. *(The Week magazine, October 1, 2010)***

**Largest pet litters: House mouse – 34; Golden hamster – 26; New Zealand white rabbit – 24; American foxhound – 23; St. Bernard – 23; Great Dane – 23; Burmese/Siamese cat – 19; Ferret – 15; Mongolian gerbil – 14; Guinea pig (cavy) – 12. *(Guinness Book of Records, 1993)***

**A female mackerel lays about 500,000 eggs at a time. *(E. C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts, p. 35)***

**From a single mating the female moth may store enough sperm to fertilize all the eggs laid in her life span. *(Larry Masidlover)***

**A female mouse may spawn as many as ten litters of eight to ten young during her lifetime – which generally is less than a year. The gestation period is three weeks, and the young mice reach maturity in only ten weeks. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 14)***

**A single meadow mushroom with a cup three inches in diameter can release nearly two billion spores. Only a small percentage of spores survive to produce new mushrooms. *(Vincent Marteka, in Reader’s Digest)***

**One octopus may lay as many as 325,000 eggs in two weeks. *(Betty Pratt-Johnson, in Reader’s Digest)***

**How many eggs a year does a female ostrich lay? From 35 to 100. Goes on for about 45 years, please note. About 3,000 ranchers in the United States are now raising ostriches – for meat, not eggs. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Of the 50 million eggs a female oyster spawns at a single setting, only two can be expected to survive. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 89)***

**What one pair produces: Cockroaches -- 30,000 young in one year; Termites -- 30,000 in one day; Frogs -- 250,000 in lifetime; Red crabs -- 3,000 at one time; Locusts -- 1,000 at one time; Army ants -- 100,000 at one time. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**A single-celled animal, the paramecium, divides in two when it is about twenty-four hours old. If a single paramecium began to divide on January 1, and if all its offspring survived, its descendants would fill the volume of one cubic mile by March 7, and their combined volume would be as large as the Earth’s by April 12. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 249)***

**In 2004, an English mastiff named Tia gave birth to a world-record 24 puppies in one litter. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 251)***
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**Rats can have sex twenty times per day. They multiply so quickly that one pair of rats might have more than 15,000 descendants in a year. Experts estimate that there are more than 56 million rats in New York City, or roughly seven rats for every person. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 98)***

**Rats are capable of multiplying so rapidly that in a year and a half a single pair could have one million descendants. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It’s a Weird World, p. 91)***

**Rats multiply so quickly that in 18 months two rats can have over a million descendants. *(Kids’ Pages)***

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**In nature, a fingerling salmon or trout weighs about one ounce after 12 to 18 months. But let him start life with the Lummi Indians and in the same time he will grow to half a pound. An ordinary oyster spawns millions of larvae, of which only about two survive. The Lummi method produces two million survivors to nature’s two, and does so once a month instead of once a year. *(Blake Clark, in Reader’s Digest)***

**What animal has the most babies per litter? Counting fish, the shark, probably. Females have been caught with as many as 70 baby sharks in them. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The female shrimp releases up to 600,000 eggs at a time. The odds of any one shrimp making it to maturity are much less than 1 per cent. If the mortality rate was not so high, their sheer numbers would raise the tides and turn the oceans into a giant shrimp cocktail. The eggs are at the mercy of wind, current and hungry predators. *(Emily & Per Ola D’Aulaire, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Rameses II, of Egypt, is supposed to have sired 111 sons and 50 daughters. Imagine what it would cost today to put 161 kids through college! Brigham Young, the great Mormon leader, fathered 56 children. The Story family, of Bakersfield, California, had 22 children by the same mother and father. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 9)***

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**The origin of sperm: Male animals of all stripes, from sea anemones to men, produce sperm. That’s more than evolutionary coincidence; scientists have now found that one of the genes responsible for generating sperm dates back 600 million years, to the common ancestor of humans, fish, insects, and even slimy sea creatures. Researchers at Northwestern University found that the gene, called the Boule gene, can be found across the evolutionary spectrum, from worms to fish to flies to mammals. The discovery suggests that disrupting the Boule gene in insects and animals could prevent them from breeding, and thus offers a new way to combat germs, parasites, and pests. The gene, researcher Eugene Xu tells NationalGeographic.com, is also “an ideal target” for the long-sought male birth control pill. (The Week magazine, August 6, 2010)**

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**The ocean sunfish produces up to 30 million eggs at a single spawning. (Uncle John’s Unstoppable Bathroom Reader, p. 43)
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**In a single day, a pair of termites can produce as many as 30,000 offspring. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 84)***

**Some female termites may lay over 20 million eggs during their lifetime. (Jeff Harris, in Shortcuts)**

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