**Named After ?**

**The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air,**

**and to every animal of the field.**

***(Genesis 2:20)***

**ABBA got its name by taking the first letter from each of the band members’ names (Agnetha, Bjorn, Benny, and Anni-frid). *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 33)***

**The large furniture company named Ethan Allen Inc. was founded in 1932 and chose its name because of its line of early-American furniture. It has no other connection to the historical figure Ethan Allen. *(The Daily Chronicles)***

**Altoids: These peppermint lozenges in the little tins were introduced in 19th-century London not as breath fresheners but as a remedy for indigestion. One ad run by Smith & Company, the manufacturer, even made it clear that having dinner without Altoids on hand was courting gastric disaster: "One or two taken after meals will stop any poisonous fermentation." Altoids were originally sold through pharmacies. Smith & Company tacked the scientific-sounding oid suffix (from the Greek, meaning "in the form of") onto their product and the alt is said by the manufacturer to derive from the Latin word for "change." A more logical source would be the Latin altus or "high," making Altoid equivalent to "the highest or best oid." Still made in Britain, Altoids were introduced here in the 1980s. Their popularity is due in part to a quirky ad campaign in 1995: "Nice Altoids!" *(Evan Morris, in Reader's Digest)***

**Alzheimer’s disease is named for Alois Alzheimer, a German psychiatrist who first described the condition in 1906. (Don Voorhees, in *The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 27)***

**Although many others had been in America before him, Amerigo Vespucci claimed he had discovered the New World. He named it "Amerigo," after himself. *(Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 1)***

**P. T. Barnum promoted Animal Crackers when they first came out in 1902, hence the circus motif packaging. (Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 239)**

**Arby’s founders, Forrest and Leroy Raffel, wanted to name their fast-food chain Big Tex, but that name was already taken. They settled on Arby’s, after their initials R.B. (Raffel Brothers and roast beef). (Don Voorhees, in *The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 118)***

**Avon, the cosmetics giant, got its name because the founder was fond of Shakespeare, so the company was named after Stratford-on-Avon. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 64)***

**In 1920 the first “Baby Ruth” candy bar was sold. It is named after President Grover Cleveland’s daughter -- not the legendary baseball player Babe Ruth. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 87)***

**Developed by a chemist and first peddled to taverns during the 1880s, Bar Keepers Friend today puts a shine on stainless steel, porcelain, ceramic and other household surfaces. The cleanser is manufactured by SerVaas Laboratories in Indianapolis, Indiana. *(American Profile magazine)***

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**The Beatles were named by John Lennon. He was a fan of another group – Buddy Holly and the Crickets. Lennon decided he also wanted an insect name for his group, and he finally settled on beetles. But he changed the spelling of beetles to Beatles. (Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 83)**

**Beatles and the Name: In their early days, the Beatles were named “The Quarrymen,” an homage to Lennon’s school, Quarry Bank High School. The band went through several name changes, including “Johnny and the Moondogs” and “The Silver Beatles,” before settling on “The Beatles.”(2024 Mind-Bending Facts for Curious People, p. 75)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Birds Eye: In 1923 Clarence Birdseye froze rabbit and fish fillets in candy boxes, using dry ice. Soon he established the General Seafoods Company to further market his foods. A few years later, he sold the company to General Foods, which changed the brand name "Birdseye" to "Birds Eye." Clarence favored the change noting that "Birds Eye" was the original form of his family name. An ancestor had saved the life of an English queen by shooting an attacking hawk in the eye. *(Evan Morris, in Reader's Digest)***

**“Bluetooth” open wireless technology gets its name from King Harald Bluetooth of Denmark, who united the Danish tribes in the tenth century. Bluetooth, which was invented by Swedish telecommunications giant Ericcson, converts differing electronic communications methods into one universal standard, allowing cable-free connections between electronic devices.(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 18)**

**Author Ian Fleming gave the name James Bond to his spy hero after seeing it on the cover of a book of West Indian birds, by ornithologist James Bond. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 116)***

**The Bronx in New York City is named after the Bronx River. The Bronx River is named after the first European settler in the Bronx – the Scandinavian-born Jonas Bronck, who settled there in 1639. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 159)***

**The name “Brooklyn Dodgers” was not inspired by players’ skills on the field but from the expression “Trolley Dodgers,” describing one’s ability to move easily through traffic in the trolley-congested borough. *(Jeff Rovin, in The Uneelievable Truth!, p. 138)***

**Buffalo wings were first created at the Anchor Bar in Buffalo, New York, after they had received an over-shipment of chicken wings. (Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 235)**

**In 1938, Warner Brothers writer Ben Hardaway directed a short film featuring a very sneaky rabbit. The cartoon was called Porky's Hair Hunt, but the bunny that starred in it didn't have a name. So, the best creative minds in the business got together and dubbed the up-and-coming star "Happy Rabbit." But Hardaway, whose nickname was Bugs, also directed the next short starring Happy Rabbit. As the animators drew up early images for the film, one of them labeled a sketch of the rabbit "Bugs' Bunny," to make it clear that the drawing was part of Hardaway's project. The label was mistaken for the name of the character, and soon enough, all of the animators were calling Happy Rabbit "Bugs Bunny." The tiny error created an icon, and, as they say at Warner Bros., that's all folks. *(David Wanczyk, in Mental Floss)***

**One of Hollywood's favorite comedians got his name because of a fall. Buster Keaton tumbled down the stairs when he was a tot and Houdini saw him. The great magician said "that's a real buster," and the name stuck. Keaton made a career of falls in comic bits. When he died X-rays showed he had broken every bone in his body at one time or another. But Keaton never wore a cast and once reported to work with a broken back! *(Ripley's Believe It or Not! Book of Chance, p. 14)***

**Campbell’s soup cans were colored red and white after the Cornell football team in 1898. In 1900, the gold medallion was added to represent the medal the soup was awarded at the Paris Exhibition in that year. *(Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 240)***

**In the seventeenth century, Johann Wilhelm got married, but the happy day nearly was ruined when a wheel on the wedding coach started to give way. A ten-year-old boy leaped to the rescue, attached himself to the wheel, and became a human hub. To this day the symbol of Dusseldorf is a cart-wheeling youngster. Children of the city entertain tourists by flipping all over the landscape for a few pfennigs. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 23)***

**Champagne was invented by a Benedictine monk. He was Dom Perignon. He was put in charge of the vineyards at his monastery in 1668, and developed sparkling wines. Champagne got its name because the monastery was in the Chanpagne section of France. (Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 187)**

**When the Hoberg Paper Company people first made their soft toilet tissue in 1928, one of their employees said it was “charming.” The company decided to leave the g off charming, change the pronunciation, and there you have it – simply Charmin. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 46)***

**A few rudimentary private cars were made by such designers as Rickett in 1838-60, and Grenville in 1875, but these resembled three-wheeled railway locomotives, required the service of a full-time stoker (hence the word chauffeur) as well as a driver, and weighed two-and-a-half to three tons. *(Michael Sedgwick, in Early Cars, p. 10)***

**Those Native Americans known as the Creeks were so called for no other reason than that they built their villages along streams. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Cupcakes got their name because the original recipe called for one cup of each ingredient.(Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 226)**

**Deviled eggs are so-called because when they were first made, they were covered with such hot pepper that it supposedly reminded one of the fires of hell. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 47)***

**Table doilies are named after a 17th-century draper named Mr. Doiley from London. *(The Daily Chronicles)*A duffle bag is so called because the thick wood originally used to make the bags came from the Belgium town of Duffel. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 128)***

**In Eleva, Wisconsin, winter set in before settlers could finish painting the word elevator on the village’s prominent grain elevator. Newcomers assumed the unfinished word was the village’s name and so it stuck. *(American Profile magazine)***

**Elton John and the Name Change: Born as Reginald Kenneth Dwight, Elton John adopted his stage name in honor of two members of his early band, Bluesology – saxophonist Elton Dean and vocalist Long John Baldry.(2024 Mind-Bending Facts for Curious People, p. 79)**

**EPCOT is short for Environmental Prototype Community of Tomorrow. (Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 213)**

**Where was the Ferris wheel invented? Fort Genoa, Nevada. That's where George Washington Ferris got the idea while watching an irrigation wheel. (L. M. Boyd)**

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**Fig Newtons were invented near Newton, Massachusetts, and are named for that town. *(Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 235)***

**Fig Newtons: Only the cookies made by Nabisco are, legally speaking, Fig Newtons. All the rest are just "fig bars." One popular theory says that Fig Newtons were named after Isaac Newton. Alas, no such luck. The first Fig Newtons were baked in 1892 by the Kennedy Biscuit Works of Massachusetts. Back then, baked goods were often named for the local bakery that made them. So the folks at Kennedy Biscuit, which later merged into what would become Nabisco, looked to the locale for ideas. Fig Newtons thus immortalize the Boston suburb of Newton, Massachusetts. *(Evan Morris, in Reader's Digest)***

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**The 1915 federal tax Form 1040 had only twelve lines. It is called Form 1040 because it was the 1040th form issued by the Internal Revenue Service. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 137)***

**The Gap clothing store chain opened in 1969 in San Francisco and was named by its owners, Donald and Doris Fisher, after the “generation gap”. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 50)***

**On August 11, 1919, the Green Bay Packers football team was founded. A meat-packing company paid for the first uniforms in return for the team being named the "Packers." *(The Daily Chronicles)***

**On January 5, 1889, the word hamburger first appeared in print in the Walla Walla Union, a newspaper from Walla Walla, Washington. The name comes from a German food called hamburg steak -- which means "from Hamburg," not that it contains ham. *(The Daily Chronicles)***

**Henry Heinz chose the company's famous slogan "57 Varieties" in 1892 after he saw an advertisement for "21 varieties of shoes" in an elevated train car in New York. (Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 143)**

**The name Hollywood, California, is famous all over the world – but Hollywood got its name in a very ordinary way. According to the Smithsonian News Service, when Hollywood was settled in 1887, two people who moved there were Mr. and Mrs. Horace Wilcot. One day, Mr. Wilcot planted some holly bushes – and Mrs. Wilcot then named the area “Hollywood.” Little could they have known then that the name “Hollywood” would become known just about everywhere. (Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 54)**

**Hush puppies are so named because hunting dogs in the South were fed fried cornbread balls to keep them quiet. *(Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 234)***

**Football historians claim the quarterback’s exclamation of “hut” for the snap stems from Army drills where the drill sergeant would count off “Hut-2-3-4.” *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 55)***

**Iceberg lettuce got its name from the fact that in the 1920s it was shipped from California packed in ice. (Don Voorhees, in *The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 105)***

**IKEA is an acronym of the founder’s name (Ingvar Kamprad), the farm he grew up on (Elmtaryd), and his home parish in Sweden (Agunnaryd). *(*Don Voorhees, in *The Indispensable Book of Useless Information, p. 55)***

**Influenza got its name from the fact that people believed the disease was because of the evil “influence” of stars. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 72)***

**The K in K-Mart stands for Kresge, from Sebastian S. Kresge, who founded the store in Detroit in 1897. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 64)***

**Lake Mead, which was created by Hoover Dam, is the largest reservoir in the United States. It’s named for Elwood Mead, who oversaw its construction.(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 73)**

**The word kangaroo means “I don’t know” in the language of Australian Aborigines. When Captain Cook approached natives of the Endeavor River tribe to ask what the strange animal he spotted was, he got “kangaroo” for an answer. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 72)***

**Leonardo DiCaprio: The award-winning actor’s name was decided when his pregnant mother first felt him kick while looking at a Leonardo da Vinci painting in a museum in Italy. Inspired by this experience, she decided to name him after the famous Italian artist. (2024 Mind-Bending Facts for Curious People, p. 12)**

**The LEGO toy company was founded in 1934 by a Danish carpenter – Ole Kirk Christiansen – who got the name from the Danish leg godt, meaning “play well.” He later found out that lego also means “I put together” in Latin. The LEGO brick was introduced in 1949. (Don Voorhees, in *The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 218)***

**The first limousine was built in the Limousin region of France, hence the name. (Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 212)**

**Have you ever wondered how some of our favorite lodging facilities got their names? Both Motel 6 and Super 8's names were based on the chains' original room prices: $6 and $8.88, respectively. Holiday Inn was christened for the 1942 Bing Crosby film of the same name. The founders of the Ramada Inn chose that name because it translates into "shady resting place." *(Ryan Toepfer, in Tidbits)***

**The Los Angeles Lakers name comes from Minnesota, the “Land of a Thousand Lakes,” where they originally played. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 50)***

**M&M’s stand for the last names of Forrest Mars Sr., the sweet maker, and his associate, Bruce Murrie. The candy was developed so soldiers could eat sweets without getting their fingers sticky. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 97)***

**Mothers were originally named Mama or Mommy (in many languages) because they have mammary glands. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 72)***

**Marietta, Ohio, is named for Marie Antoinette. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 93)***

**Walt Disney named Mickey Mouse after Mickey Rooney, whose mother he dated for some time. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 45)***

**Milk Duds: At least they didn't call them Milk Screw-Ups. When Chicago candy maker F. Hoffman & Company set out to market chocolate-covered caramels in the early 1900s, he decided to aim high and make them perfectly spherical little balls. Hoffman's chefs soon discovered that their perfect little chocolate caramel balls always came out as little chocolate caramel lumps. Hoffman decided to market this lumpy candy anyway. The company picked the name Milk Duds, referring to the high milk content, and less-than-perfect shape. Turns out the public wasn't looking for geometric perfection. Milk Duds, now made by Hershey Foods, were an immediate hit. *(Evan Morris, in Reader's Digest)***

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**Monterey Jack cheese originated in Monterey, California, and was marketed by a guy named David Jacks. *(Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 231)***

**Monterey Jack cheese is named for dairyman David Jacks, who mass-marketed the cheese first made by the Franciscan friars of Monterey, California. (Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 110)**

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**NASDAQ stands for National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 121)***

**A map maker, unfamiliar with the name of an Alaskan community, wrote "name?" on the map. His draftsman misread the notation and entered the word "Nome" at that location, literally putting Nome on the map. *(The World Almanac of the USA, p. 26)***

**A Baltimore pharmacist named George Bunting developed a skin cream in 1914 and sold it as "Dr. Bunting's Sunburn Remedy." One day a buyer said, "Your sunburn cream sure knocked out my eczema." Bunting had been looking for a year-round name for the cream, and found it at that moment. By combining "knocks" and "eczema" to make "Noxema." *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The antibiotic nystatin, which is used chiefly to treat fungal infections such as thrush, is named after New York State, where it was developed. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 75)***

**On September 8, 1664, New York was given its name. Previously controlled by the Netherlands and known as New Amsterdam, the Dutch Governor Peter Stuyvesant surrendered the settlement to an English naval squadron. It was renamed New York in honor of the Duke of York, who had organized the mission. *(The Daily Chronicles)***

**The element nicked got its name from medieval German miners who attempted to extract copper from a red mineral they had found but were unable to do so. Thy blamed this on the mischievous sprite of German mythology – Nickel. *(*Don Voorhees, in *The Indispensable Book of Useless Information, p. 119)***

**Where did writer William Sydney Porter get his nom de plume “O Henry”? He’d once worked in a pharmacy and noted there that writings of a French chemist named Ossian-Henry were indexed under “O. Henry.” (L. M. Boyd)**

**When Oreo cookies were first made, they were mound-shaped. The name comes from the Greek word “oreo” which means “hill.” *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 63)***

**The Academy Award statue is named after a librarian’s uncle. One day Margaret Herrick, librarian for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, made the remark that the statue looked like her uncle Oscar, and the name stuck. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 49)***

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**Frank Baum, who wrote The Wizard of Oz, chose the name of the wizard this way: While writing the book, Baum was gazing around his office, trying to decide what to call the wizard. Baum saw the letters on his three file drawers across the room. One file read “A-G,” the next “H-N,” and the third “O-Z.” And “Oz” it became. (Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell)**

**The name for Oz in The Wizard of Oz was thought up when the author, L. Frank Baum, looked at his filing cabinet and saw A-N and O-Z, hence Oz. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 57)***

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**In 1921, Moe Radavitz, Emanuel Rosenfeld, Maurice Strauss and Graham Jackson pooled their money to open an auto supply store in Philadelphia. They needed a short name for their business, because the storefront was only a few feet across. Inspired by a shipment from Pep Valve Grinding Compound, the men became collectively known as the Pep Boys. Radavitz soon left the business to his three partners, who gained fame under the names Manny, Moe & Jack. (John R. Groesbeck, in Tidbits)**

**The American football is referred to as a “pigskin” because footballs were originally made of pigs’ bladders wrapped in pigskin. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 92)***

**Pink Floyd and the Name: The band Pink Floyd decided to fuse the names of two American blues musicians, Pink Anderson and Floyd Council, to come up with their distinctive moniker, marking their deep respect for blues music.(2024 Mind-Bending Facts for Curious People, p. 80)**

**Plymouth Rock was named after Plymouth, England, from which the Pilgrims set sail onboard the Mayflower in September, 1620. *(Jeff Rovin, in The Incredible Truth!, p. 149)***

**Pringles: When it came to naming their new potato snack product in the late 1960s, the marketing folks at Proctor & Gamble thought, Why not look at names that already exist? Pulling out the phone book for their hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio, they began skimming. In time, they hit the jackpot. In the suburb of Finneytown, they found a street named Pringle Drive. Pringle ... Potato. That was it! Perfectly round Pringles Potato Crisps hit America in 1968, stacked in a distinctive cylindrical can. Today they come in a range of flavors, and there are even Pringles-inspired tortilla chips. Torengos, which are perfectly triangular and come in -- what else? -- a long triangular can. *(Evan Morris, in Reader's Digest)***

**Quakers have nothing to do with Quaker Oats. In 1877, a partner in the Ohio-based Quaker Mill Company thought that a Quaker on their logo would convey a wholesome image. *(Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 230)***

**Elijah McCoy was a black man whose slave parents escaped to Canada where he was born. Later, he went to Detroit where he got a job as an oiler on the railroad. In those days, machinery had to be shut down frequently and oiled by hand. McCoy invented the lubricating cup, a simple device that made this unnecessary. He also patented more than 50 other inventions dealing with lubricating devices, many of which are still used on railroads and steamships all over the world. In McCoy’s day, no respectable piece of machinery was complete without a McCoy lubricating cup. If it had the cup, it was “the real McCoy”. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The Red Sea is so named after the algae, which, when dying, turns the Red Sea’s normally intense blue-green waters to red. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 154)***

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**Edy’s Grand Ice Cream created the flavor Rocky Road after the stock market crash of October 1929. The company hoped the flavor’s whimsical name would give people something to smile about. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 97)***

**Rocky Road ice cream was invented by William Dreyer (of Dreyer’s Ice Cream fame) in 1929. He picked the name to symbolize the rough times the country was facing during the Great Depression.(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 110)**

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**The Rolls Royce Corporation was founded in 1904 by two Englishmen, Charles Stewart Rolls and Sir Frederick Henry Royce. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 64)***

**On February 23, 1905, Paul Harris founded the Rotary Club in Chicago. The club got its name because the members rotated meeting places. A national association was formed in 1910. *(The Daily Chronicles)***

**A U.S. veterinarian named Daniel Elmer Salmon in 1885 said it wasn't he, but one Theobald Smith who actually discovered that sickening bacteria. But it was named "salmonella," anyway*. (L. M. Boyd)***

**As it happens, Sara Lee was the daughter of Charles Lubin, owner of a chain of bakeries in Chicago in the 1930s. Lubin tested his recipes on her, and eventually renamed his business The Kitchens of Sara Lee. Aside from appearing in a few television commercials, Sara Lee hasn't played a role in the company. She's now a grandmother and a philanthropist living on the East Coast. *(Evan Morris, in Reader's Digest)***

**A great Cherokee chief was Sequoia, who invented the Cherokee alphabet among other things. Child of a white man and an Indian woman, he grew up with the Indian tribe and eventually gave his name to the most noble of all great trees, the giant sequoias of California. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 44)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**The Japanese-owned 7-Eleven store chain is the largest in the world. With almost thirty-seven thousand stores, it passed McDonald’s in 2007. 7-Eleven began as Tote-m Stores in Dallas in 1927. In 1946, Tot’m adopted new extended hours – 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. – hence the name change. *(*Don Voorhees, in *The Indispensable Book of Useless Information, p. 56)***

**The citrus soda 7-Up was created in 1929; “7” was selected because the original containers were seven ounces. “Up” indicated the direction of the bubbles. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 89)***

**Pat Robertson’s 700 Club program was originally supported by seven hundred Christians in Portsmouth, Virginia, who each pledged a contribution of ten dollars a month, hence the name. (Don Voorhees, in *The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 116)***

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**The letters of the word SHAZAM, which was shouted to conjure up comic-book hero Captain Marvel, stood for Solomon’s Wisdom, Hercules’s Strength, Atlas’s Stamina, Zeus’s Power, Achilles’s Courage, and Mercury’s Speed. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 125)***

**The Slinky got its name in 1943, from the wife of its inventor, who saw the Swedish word “slink,” meaning “stealthy, sleek, and sinuous,” in a dictionary. (Don Voorhees, in *The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 218)***

**The Snickers bar, introduced in 1930 by M&M Mars, is named after the Mars family’s favorite horse, Snickers. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 86)***

**Daytime dramas are called soap operas because they were originally used to advertise soap powder. In America in the early days of television, advertisers would write stories around the use of their soap powder. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 38)***

**The term strike originated in 1768 when British sailors refused to work and showed this by striking, or lowering, the sails on their ships. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 127)***

**Theodore Roosevelt was an outdoorsman and a hunter, but he also loved animals. On one occasion, he was hunting with some of his aides and a group of reporters. For several days the newspapers reported that the president had failed to shoot any game and depicted this in a political cartoon. Finally, Roosevelt’s aides found a bear, which they cornered and presented to him as a trophy. However, Roosevelt felt compassion for the bear and refused to shoot it. A Brooklyn storeowner, Morris Michtom, saw the drawing of Roosevelt and the bear cub and was inspired to create a new toy. He created a little stuffed bear cub and put it in his shop window with a sign that read “Teddy’s bear.” The toys were an immediate success, and Michtorn founded the Ideal Novelty and Toy Company, which still exists today. (Jim Romeo, in Business’s Most Wanted, p. 131) *\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\****

**Tootsie rolls were introduced in 1896 by Leo Hirshfield; he named them after his daughter, whose nickname was “Tootsie.” *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 85)***

**The daughter of confectioner Leo Hirshfield is commemorated in the name of the sweet he invented. Although his daughter’s real name was Clara, she went by the nickname Tootsie and, in her honor, her doting father named his chewy chocolate logs Tootsie Rolls. *(*Noel Botham, in *The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 156)***

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**In 1886, young Griswold Lorillard of the tobacco family, went to a party at a New York country club. He hated swallow-tailed coats, however, and had his dinner jacket designed without tails. Though people gasped, at first, at his informality, the suit he was wearing became a more comfortable alternative for men. It was also named after the location of the party: Tuxedo Park, New York. *(Jeff Rovin, in The Unbelievable Truth!, p. 27)***

**Twinkies are made with standard ingredients -- milk, eggs, etc. -- and are baked. Aficionados point out that the little golden tube cakes were developed during the Depression by Jimmy Dewar, manager of the Hostess bakery in Schiller Park, Illinois, at a time when inexpensive treats were hard to come by. But Dewar still needed a name. That's when divine intervention (to hear Twinkies fans tell it) appeared. While on his way to show his bosses his new creation, Dewar spotted a billboard for "Twinkle Toe Shoes." And just like that, the name Twinkies was born. *(Evan Morris, in Reader's Digest)***

**Uppercase and lowercase letters are so named because in the time when print had to be set in individual letters, the capital letters were stored in the case on top of the case that stored the lowercase letters. (*The Daily Chronicles)***

**The Utah Jazz name stems from when they played in New Orleans. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 50)***

**The word “vaccine” was inspired by Edward Jenner’s 1796 use of the pus from cowpox blisters to inoculate a young boy, giving him a mild case of cowpox, but immunizing him from the deadly smallpox. Vacca is Latin for “cow,” *(*Don Voorhees, in *The Indispensable Book of Useless Information, p. 137)***

**V8 Juice contains beets, carrots, celery, lettuce, parsley, spinach, tomato, and watercress. (Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 232)**

**Wall Street’s name stems from colonial times, when a wall was built around Lower Manhattan to protect cattle from Indian raids. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 98)***

**WD-40 stands for “water displacement – 40th attempt.” Inventor Norm Larsen came up with the concoction that displaces standing water to prevent corrosion in 1953 on his fortieth try. (Don Voorhees, in *The Indispensable Book of Useless Information, p. 54)***

**Dave Thomas, the founder of Wendy’s, named the fast food restaurant after his daughter. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 56)***

**A “wiki” is a website that uses collaborative software that allows users to create and edit web pages. Ward Cunningham developed the first wiki and put it on the Internet in 1995. He chose the term “wiki” after riding on the Wiki Wiki Shuttle buses that run between the terminals at the Honolulu International Airport. In Hawaiian, wiki means “quick,” and wiki, wiki means “very quick.” *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 48)***

**A. A. Milne created his Winnie the Pooh stories from his son Christopher Robin Milne’s stuffed animal collection, which included a bear named Winnie the Pooh. Milne’s farmstead in Ashdown Forest, East Sussex, England, was the setting for his stories.(Don Voorhees, in *The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 179)***

**It wasn't the best thing since sliced bread. It was the first sliced bread sold nationally, period. Consumers had long been slicing bread themselves (the alternative being to simply gnaw on the loaf), and any store-bought bread before the late 1920s was unsliced. But even Wonder Bread wasn't sliced at first. Created in 1921 by the Taggart Baking Company of Indianapolis, Indiana, the new bread was almost ready for market when the question of a name arose. Vice President Elmer Cline happened to attend a balloon race one day. The sight of dozens of brightly colored hot-air balloons in the sky filled him with, as he later said, "wonder." Wonder Bread was born without further ado. Cline, in fact, was so impressed with the sight of those balloons that he covered his new product's wrapper with red, yellow and blue balloons (still the Wonder package design today). *(Evan Morris, in Reader's Digest)***

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