

Adam
Frost

THE
AWESOME
BOOK OF
AWESOMENESS

Illustrated by Dan
Bramall

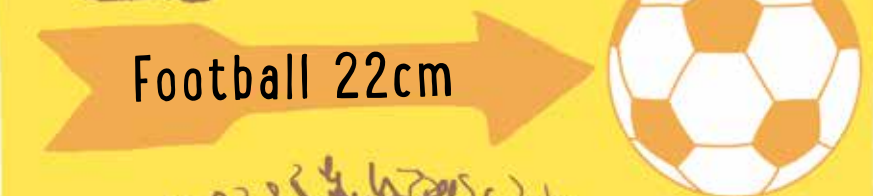
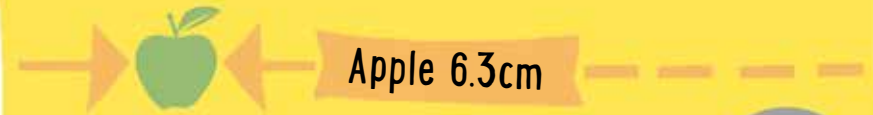


BLOOMSBURY

LONDON OXFORD NEW YORK NEW DELHI SYDNEY

HARD TO STOMACH

We all swallow bits of hair and fluff every day without even noticing. But some people also chew their own hair, especially when they're bored. With gruesome consequences...



In November 2007, doctors at Rush University Medical Center in the United States removed a 10lb hairball from a woman's stomach. It measured 38.1cm x 17.8cm x 17.8cm.

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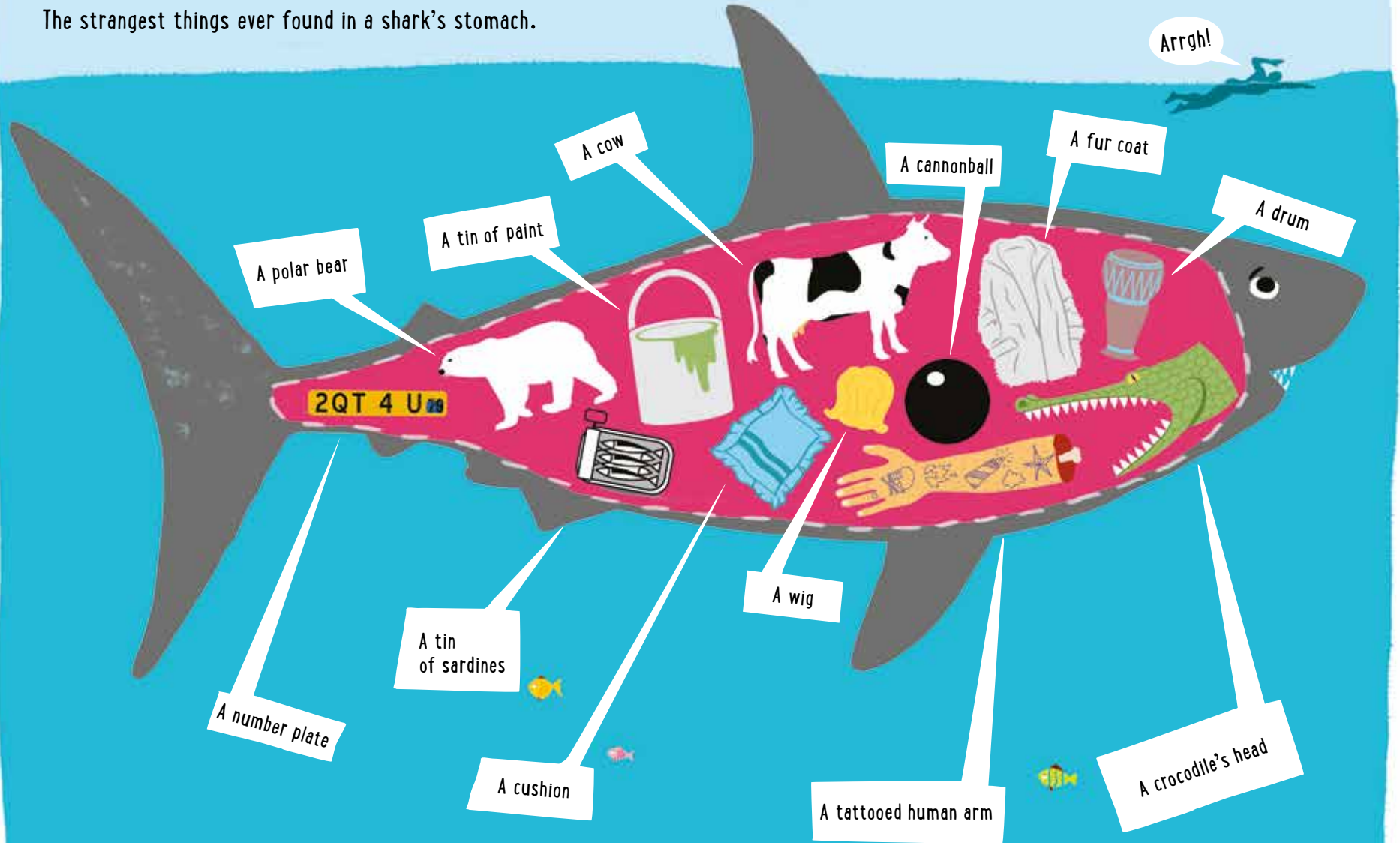
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All figures used in this book are believed to be the latest and most accurate figures at the point of publication unless the copy states otherwise. Where figures are estimates or approximations, we have tried to make this clear. A selection of books and websites we used for our facts can be found on the Sources page at the back of the book.

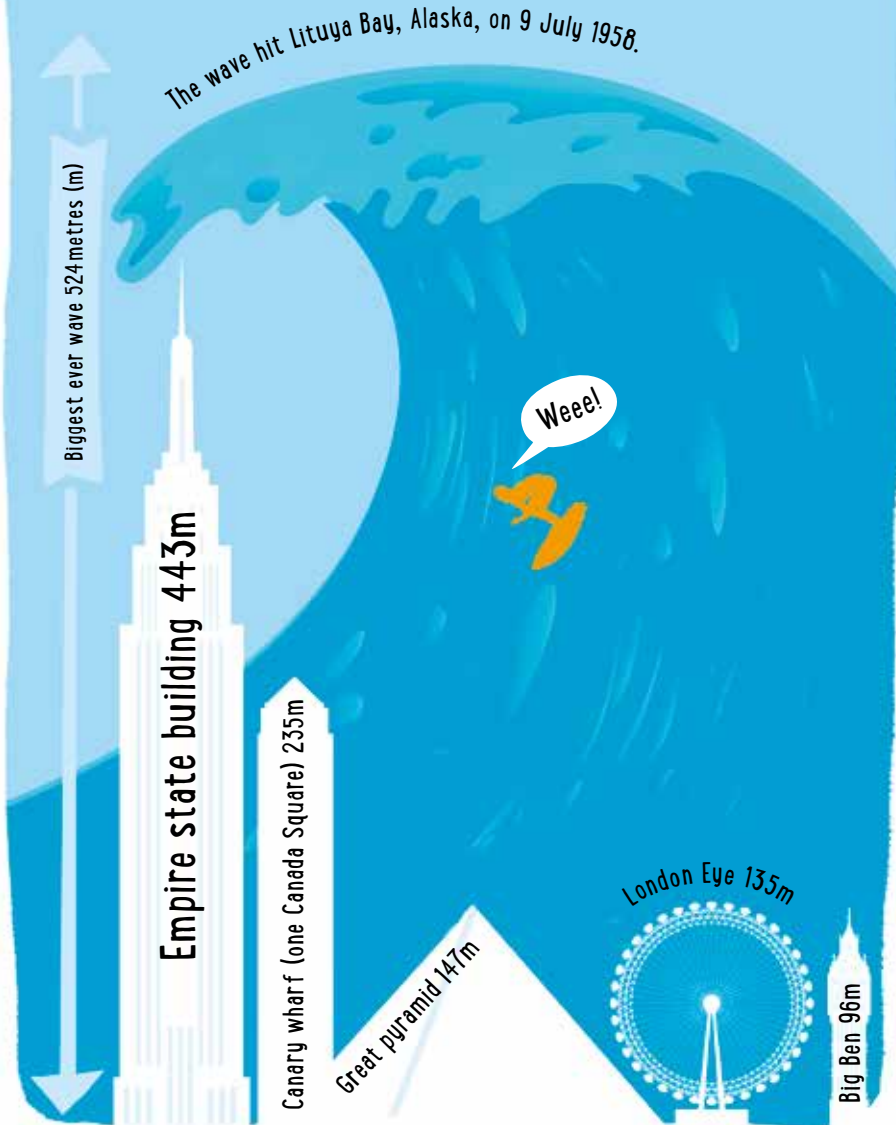
I'LL EAT ANYTHING, ME

The strangest things ever found in a shark's stomach.



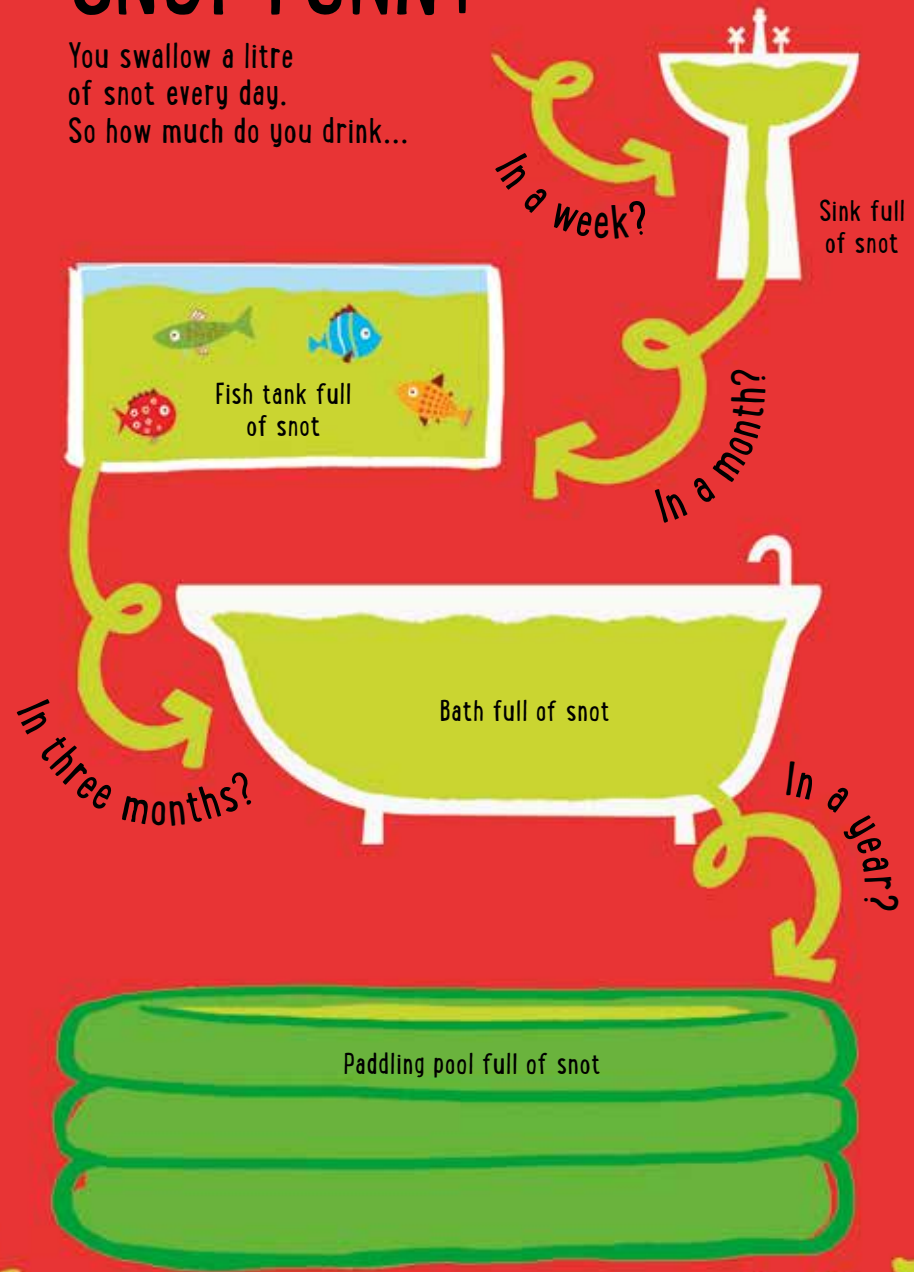
SURF'S UP

How big was the biggest wave ever recorded?



SNOT FUNNY

You swallow a litre of snot every day.
So how much do you drink...



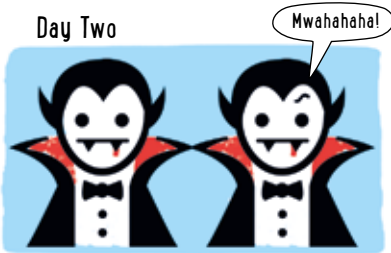
FANGS A LOT

If a vampire fed on one person every day, and that person also became a vampire, here's what would happen...

Day One



Day Two



Day Three



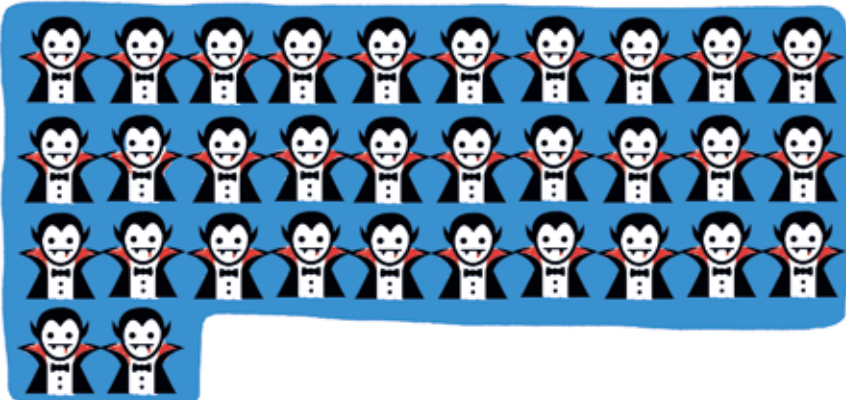
Day Four



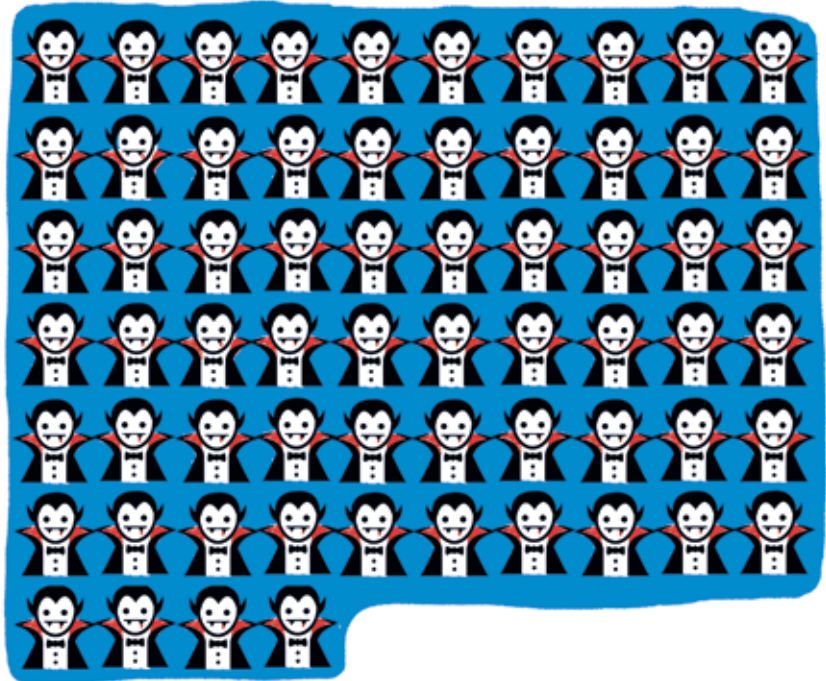
Day Five



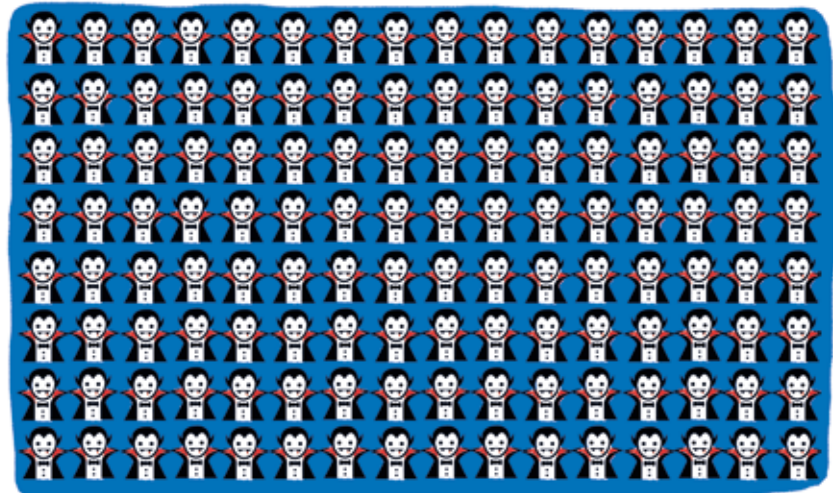
Day Six



Day Seven



Day Eight



Day 27

Everyone in the United Kingdom and Ireland is a vampire.



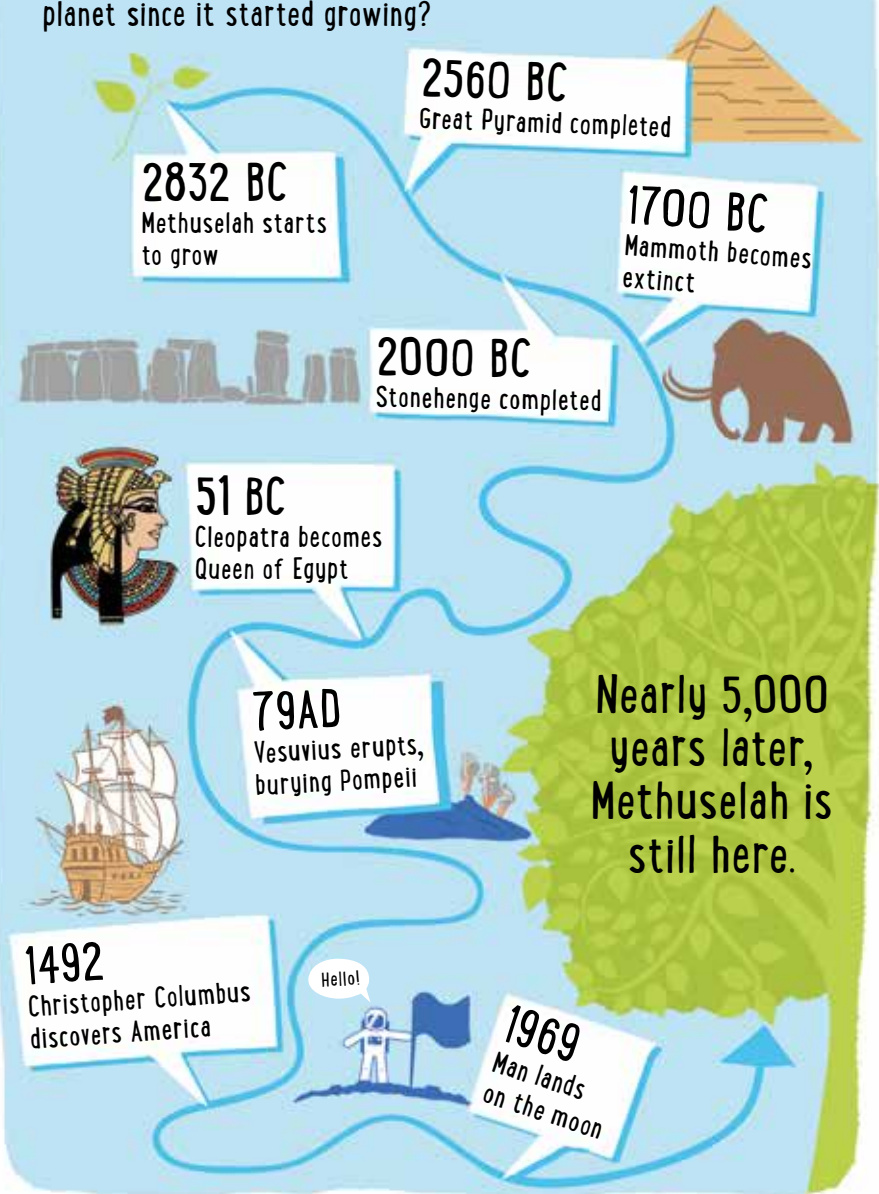
Day 34



Everyone in the world is a vampire.

A NEW LEAF

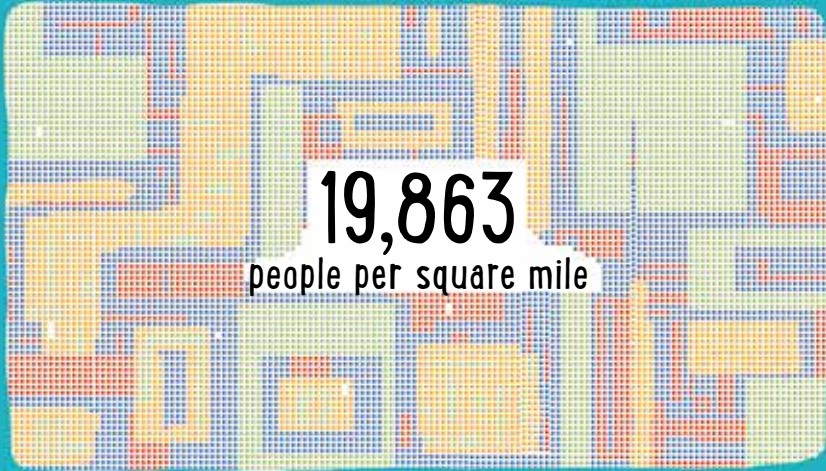
One of the oldest living things on Earth is a 4,767-year-old tree known as Methuselah. So what's happened on the planet since it started growing?



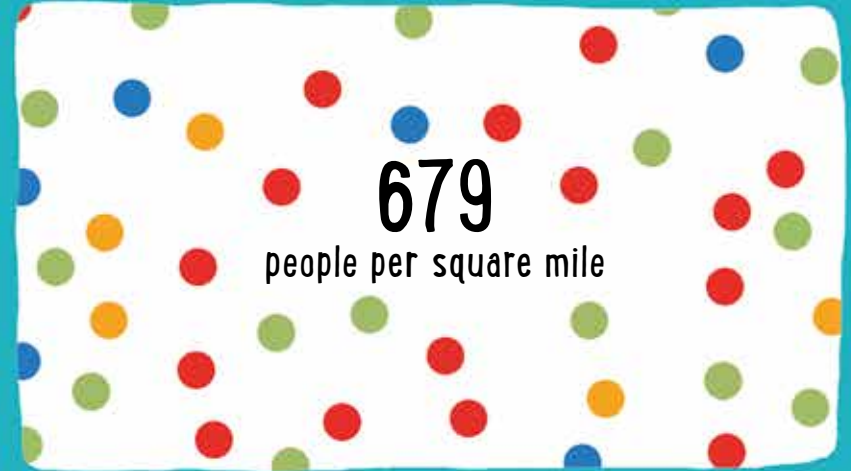
A BIT DENSE

In some countries it can get a bit crowded...

Singapore



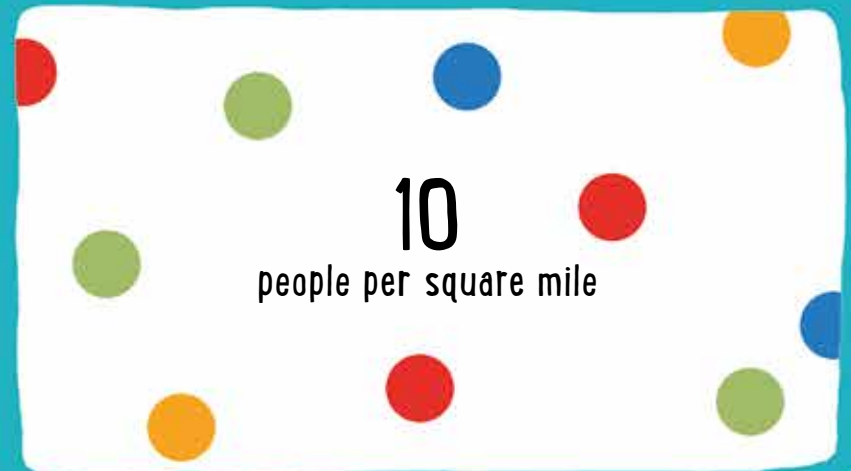
UK



Bangladesh



Canada



NEED A LIFT?

The average man can lift around 58kg - which is roughly his own bodyweight. Sounds impressive until you look at how animals measure up.



A dung beetle can pull **1,141** times its own bodyweight.



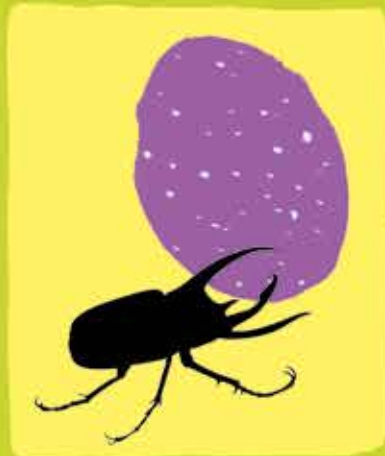
That's like **YOU** pulling two fire engines along.



A leafcutter ant can lift **50** times its own bodyweight with its jaws.



That's like **YOU** picking up a car with your teeth.



A rhinoceros beetle can lift **850** times its own weight.



That's like **YOU** lifting up three elephants.



A gorilla can lift **20** times its own bodyweight.



That's like **YOU** carrying two fridges.

NEED FOR SPEED

What's the fastest you can go in some places in different countries (in miles per hour)?

50

Vietnam



50

Iceland



70

UK



80

USA (on one highway in Texas)



80

Poland

ZOOM!
ZOOM!



NONE

Germany



WIND POWER

The loudest burp ever was expelled by Paul Hunn of the UK in August 2009. Burps and other noises are measured in decibels.

HAIRDRYER

70
DECIBELS



ALARM CLOCK

80
DECIBELS



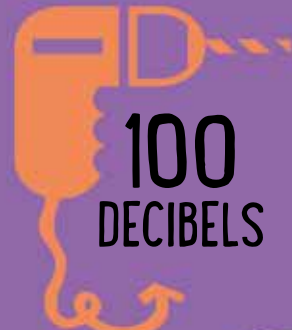
MOTORBIKE

95
DECIBELS



ELECTRIC DRILL

100
DECIBELS



LAWN MOWER

105
DECIBELS



LOUDEST BURP EVER

109.9
DECIBELS

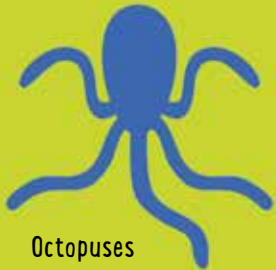


RAINBOW BLOOD

Living things have different coloured blood. But what colour?



Humans and most animals



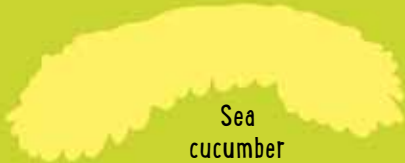
Octopuses



Crabs/Lobsters



Samkos bush frog



Sea cucumber



Yellow



Spiders and some insects

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE?

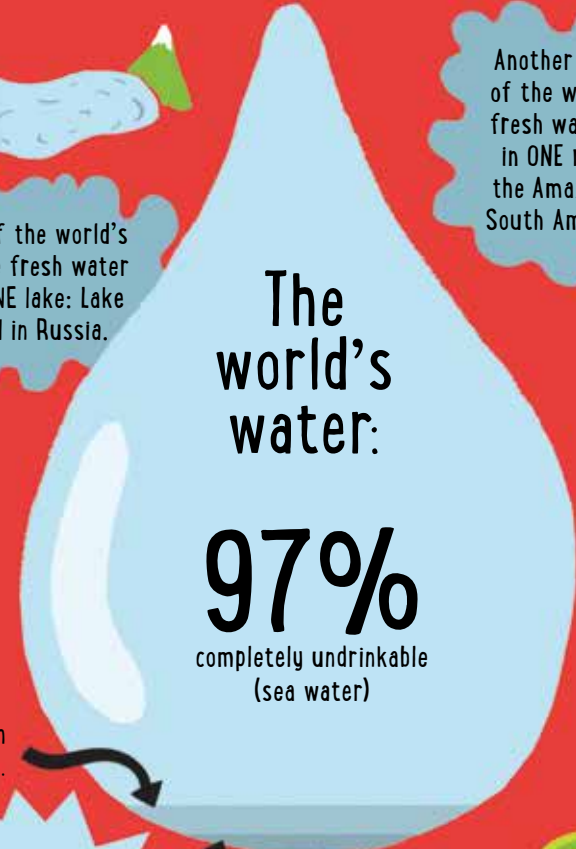
Almost three quarters of our planet is water. But how much can we use?



20% of the world's surface fresh water is in ONE lake: Lake Baikal in Russia.



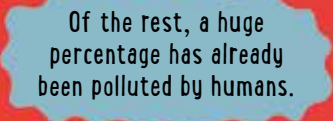
Another 20% of the world's fresh water is in ONE river: the Amazon in South America.



2% frozen in icebergs.



Less than 1% usable by people.

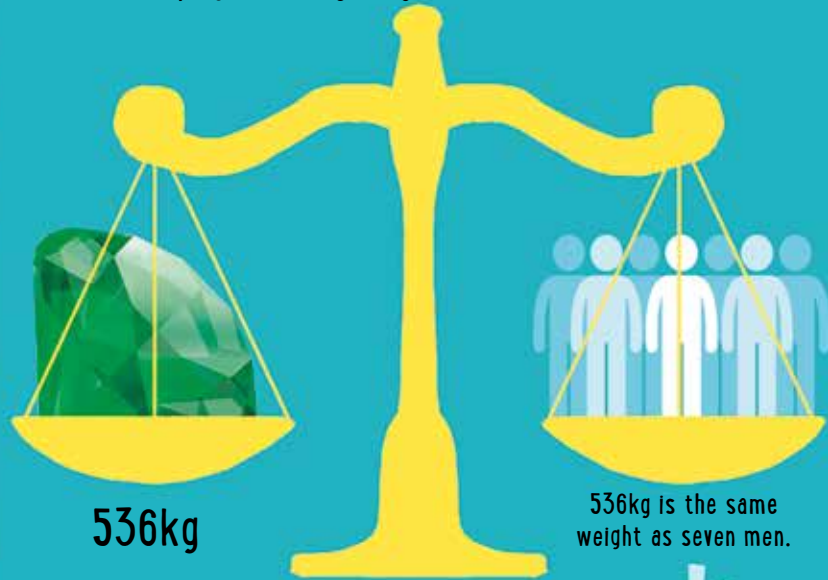


Of the rest, a huge percentage has already been polluted by humans.



KING OF BLING

The largest ever gemstone yet found is a 536 kilograms (kg) emerald displayed in Hong Kong in 2009.



Diamonds are the most valuable gemstones. In 2010, a tiny pink diamond (just over 1cm wide) was bought for £29 million (\$46 million).



With £29 million you could buy:

Ten luxury yachts

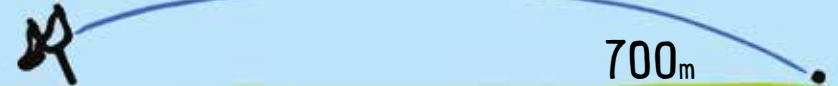
A private jet

120 houses



NO BUSINESS LIKE THROW BUSINESS

Since the dawn of time, human beings have thrown things at other human beings. But how far? And what weapons have they used?



SLING (200BC)



ROMAN SPEAR (0AD)



CATAPULT (1300s)



MEDIEVAL CANNON (1400s)



CROSSBOW (1400s)



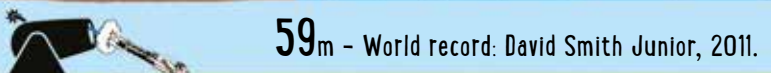
LONGBOW (1400s)



CANNON (Late 1500s)



CANNON ON A SHIP (1700s)



MAN SHOT FROM CANNON (2000s)

SAY WHAT?

Some animals' names don't exactly make sense.



Woof!

A **prairie dog** is not a dog. It is a rodent.

A **flying fox** is not a fox. It is a bat.



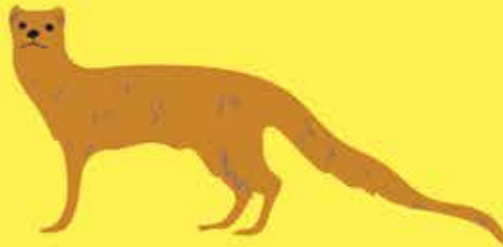
A **polecat** is not a cat. It's more like a weasel.



A **horned toad** is not a toad. It's not even an amphibian. It's a lizard.



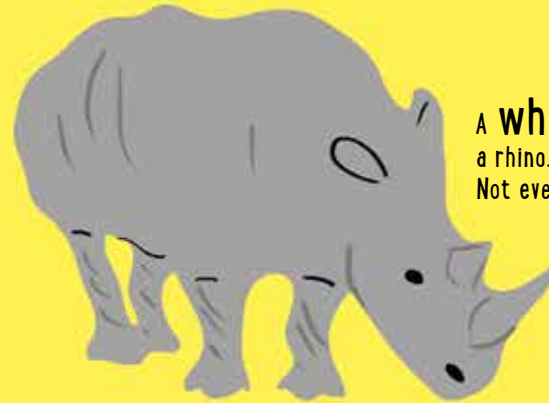
A **mongoose** is not a goose. It's more like a ferret.



A **flying lemur** can't fly and it isn't a lemur.



An **oystercatcher** doesn't catch oysters. It prefers mussels and other shellfish.



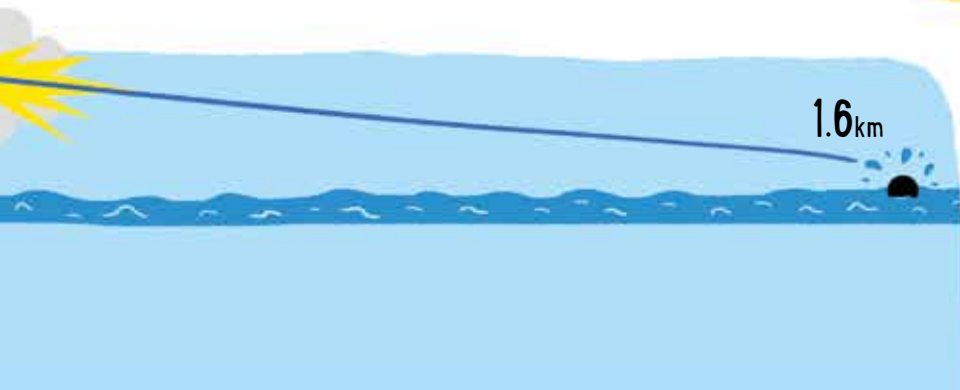
A **white rhino** is a rhino. But it isn't white. Not even a bit. It's grey.



A **sea monkey** is not a monkey. It's a type of shrimp.



Anteaters do occasionally eat ants. But they much prefer termites.



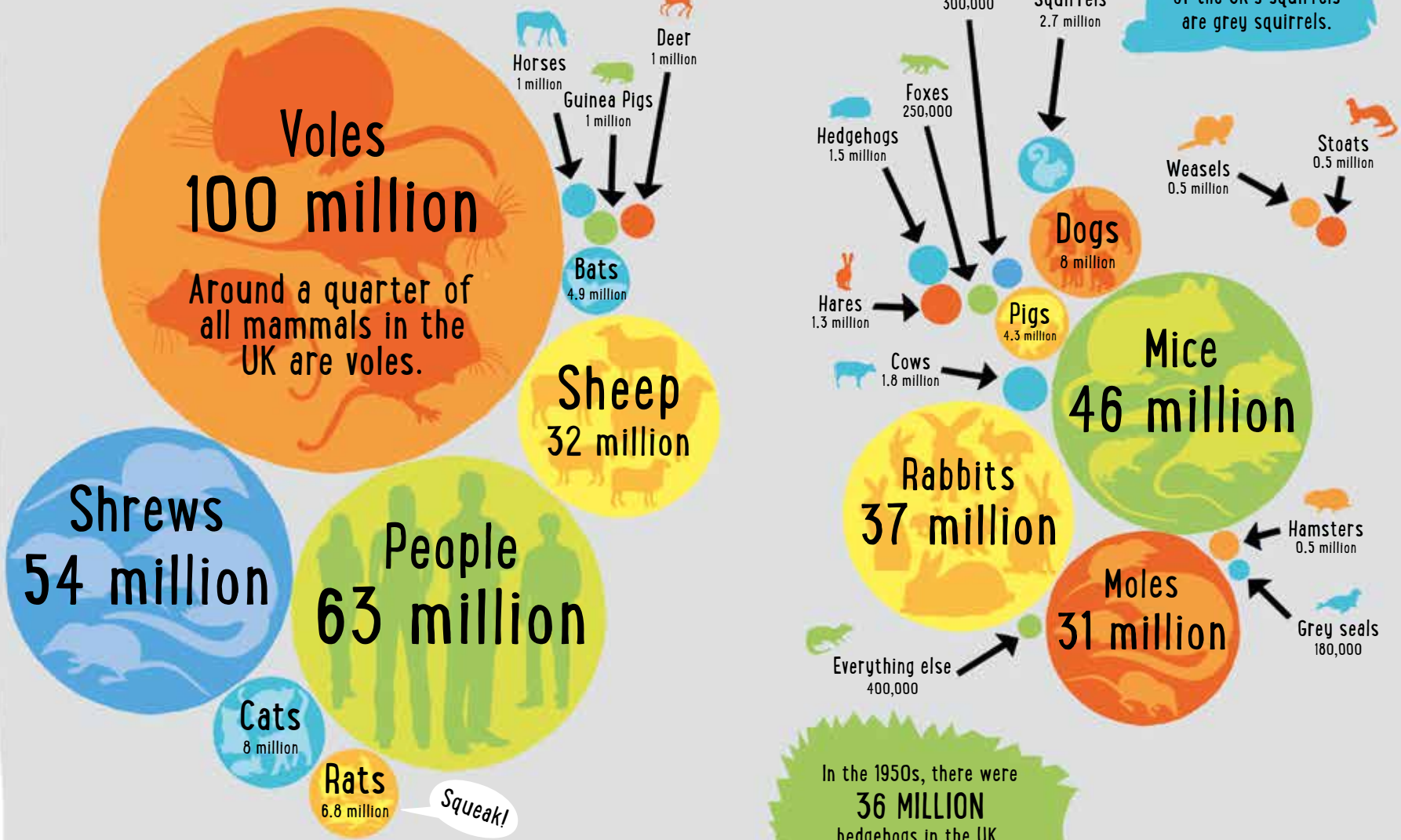
AND FINALLY... *Oink*

A **guinea pig** is not from Guinea and it's definitely NOT a pig.



HOW MANY MAMMALS?

In the last Census, there were 63 million people living in the UK. But what if we'd included every mammal, not just humans*?



Over **2.5 million** of the UK's squirrels are grey squirrels.

In the 1950s, there were **36 MILLION** hedgehogs in the UK.

*This is based on the latest government information. Usually they count animals in the winter.

IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE

Two billion years ago, one of the largest meteors ever to hit Earth landed in Vredfort, South Africa. It created the world's biggest crater.

The meteor was travelling at 36,000 kmh* (22,370 mph**).

THE METEOR

Diameter: 10km

VREDFORT CRATER
Diameter: 300km

It was twice as big as the meteor that supposedly killed off the dinosaurs.

It would have caused a 1,000 megaton blast of energy.

RUN!



Wait for me!



*kilometres per hour **miles per hour

HOT STUFF

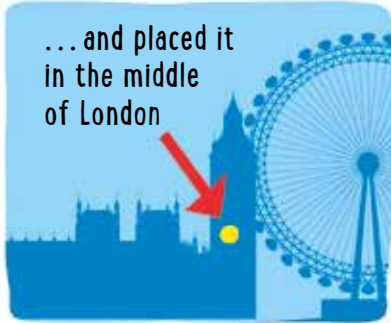
The Sun's energy is terrifying.

If you took exactly
THIS MUCH...



of the Sun's energy ...

... and placed it
in the middle
of London



... everyone in
THAT CIRCLE
would be
DEAD!

London

France

LEAVE ME BEE!

The most times a person has been stung by bees without dying:

2,443

Buzz off!

