Science

Elementary School

1. Arabella and Anita were spiders, but they were also astronauts! A high school student named Judy Miles wondered if spiders could spin webs in space, so she suggested to NASA that they find out. NASA actually liked her idea! On August 5, 1973, Arabella and Anita were launched into space aboard the *Skylab 2.* They didn't do so well with webs at first; the spiders were disoriented and spun sloppy webs. But by day three, they had adjusted and spun webs like always. They were finer, but scientists had expected that. Who knew that spiders really *can* spin webs in space? (Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies, 2010).
2. Male red-eyed tree frogs shake their bums to threaten each other (Discover Magazine, 2010).
3. Parent robins feed their chicks about one hundred meals each day (DLTK, 2009).
4. An adult human has 206 bones, but children have 300 bones (High-Tech Productions, 2010).
5. We blink roughly 4.2 million times each year (High-Tech Productions, 2010).

Middle School

1. It would take one thousand Earths to fill Jupiter, but it rotates so quickly that one day only lasts about ten hours. Because of this and other factors, it isn't totally round. It bulges at the equator and is flatter at the poles (Gierasch & Nicholson, 2004).
2. Nine percent of all human beings ever born are alive at this moment (Wilford, 1981).
3. Kids have sixty thousand miles of blood vessels, and adults have about one hundred thousand miles of blood vessels (if you were to put them end to end) (The Franklin Institute, 2010).
4. Many Greek philosophers around 500 BC began to study the properties of light. It was first imagined that human beings are able to see because the eye sent out a ray of light that illuminated the world (Light, 2010).
5. Have you ever heard of a spider that can eat a snake? The goliath bird-eating tarantula can. It can grow up to a foot in length, and can also eat mice, frogs, and toads (Smithsonian National Zoological Park, n.d.).

High School

1. The Chinese may have invented gunpowder as early as 100 BC, but they meant for it to be an elixir for immortality (Xinzhen, 2008).

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2. Dead skin accounts for about a billion tons of dust in the atmosphere. A person's skin sheds about fifty thousand cells every minute (Markey, 2007).
3. Phosphorus was discovered in 1669 by Hennig Brand, a German merchant whose hobby was alchemy. Brand allowed fifty buckets of urine to stand until they putrefied and "bred worms." He then boiled the urine down to a paste and heated it with sand, thereby distilling elemental phosphorus from the mixture. (Phosphorus, 2010).
4. Behrad Khamesee is a microbiologist who created a flying robot roughly the size of a pencil eraser. It is operated wirelessly, and it has a tiny little pair of grippers. Ultimately, Khamesee hopes to advance his tiny robot to the point that it can fly around in the human body. He notes many possible purposes for this, one being that it could deliver drugs to targeted places in the body. Just imagine swallowing a little robot instead of a pill (Mayer, 2010)!
5. A moth exists in Madagascar that targets sleeping birds. It uses its barbed proboscis to pry open the bird's eyelids and drink its tears. Talk about a weird way to drink (Moseman, 2010)!

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