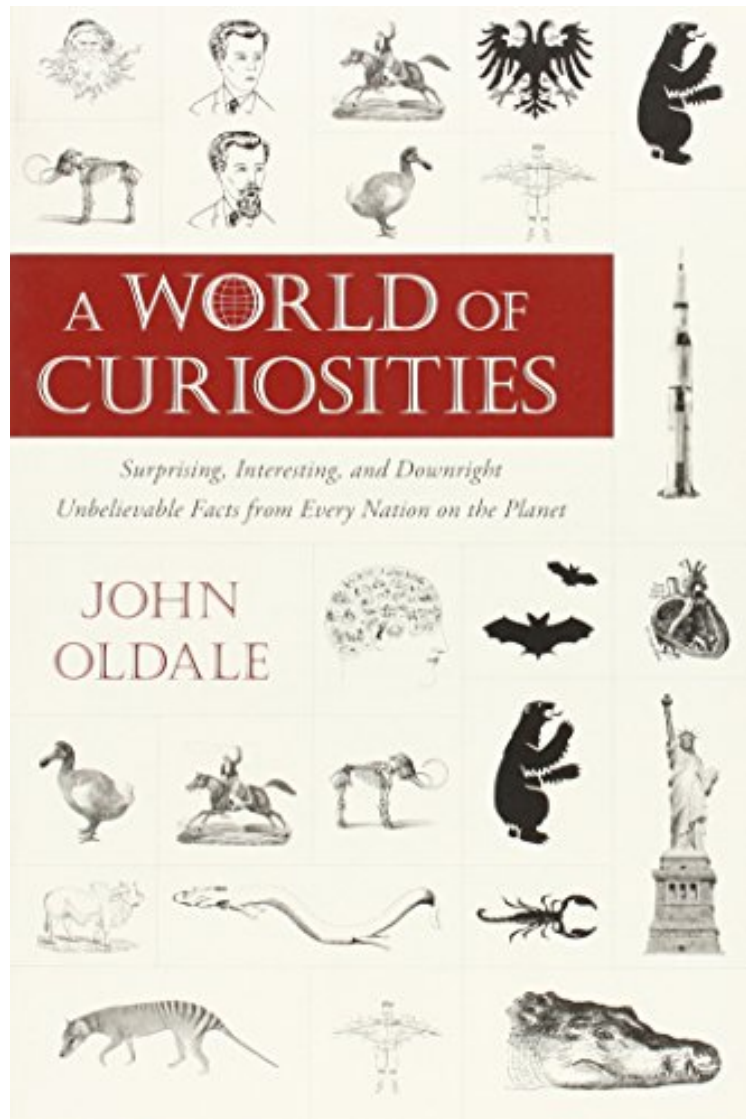


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A World of Curiosities: Surprising, Interesting, and Downright Unbelievable Facts from Every Nation on the Planet (Who or Why or Which or What?)

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Bona fide, abundant, true facts
By Robert Johnston
Mr. Oldale, an Englishman, lawyer scientist and perhaps born 100 years too late tells us in the preface ... "The root of my trouble is that I'm fascinated by every aspect of our planet, and, due to this, am completely unable to think of anything that I could happily leave out."
"*Curiosities*" is exactly what the title says. The book is completely and wonderfully overstuffed to deliver a 360 reading experience in grey scale block printing on Farmer's Almanac-like paper. It is an information-compendium of curiosities, organized by every country on the planet and utterly fascinating. Here you can find such data as the genetic mutation of 'blondes' from out of Scandinavia or the organizational structure of the Chinese Triads or Global Domination-Best efforts to date by conqueror, populations and land mass ... and 300 more pages of similar data. Oldale organizes his indefatigable flow of facts in an eccentric, beguiling way that reveals as much about his own affections as his selected subjects.
5-Star amazing! This a priority gift to just the right person.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and Fun
By Jewels
This book is a well organized informative book that highlights a bit about several countries. It's a book you can pick up, turn to any page and find something of interest. Lots of somewhat obscure info as well. Fun read.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Quick fun
Facts
By Neal
This book is a lot of fun and gives short interesting facts on every country in the world. It's almost like a Ripley's Believe it or not, but most of the facts are more interesting and not necessarily weird like Ripley's but still fun. You can stop anywhere in the book and pick it up again whenever.

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe: everything you never knew you never knew about every country on Earth.
A scientist by training and an explorer by passion, Dr. John Oldale has logged half a million miles visiting more than ninety nations. Now, he celebrates our weird and wonderful world in a cornucopia of fascinating facts brought vividly to life through the unexpected stories behind them. Touching on history, travel, politics, natural history and more, he paints a unique portrait of each country from the mightiest to the most miniscule. You won't find the following in your average travel guide: Why is kissing on trains banned in France? In what country are litigants expected to present their case at court in the form of a poem? Which war did women win in 1929 just by sitting down? If Panama hats aren't from Panama, where are they from? Who eat fresh camel dung as a cure for dysentery (and why does it work)? Why were US disk jockeys once told they could play birthday requests on any day except the one requested? Which modern dictator banned old age, libraries and gold teeth, and was later replaced by his dentist? And 2,000 more funny, trivial, poignant, and telling facts
A must for active and armchair globe-trotters alike, *A World of Curiosities* will engross anyone who is at all curious about the world beyond their door. Explore and enjoy.

Turn to any page in this compendium of countries and you'll be surprised and amazed by its vast array of far-flung facts from around the world. Sure to satisfy the appetite of any lover of trivia.
Don Voorhees, author of *The Book of Totally Useless Information*
An absolute winner! A fascinating and entertaining spin around the world, its oddities and its secrets.
Noel Botham, author of *The Book of Useless Information*
Jam-packed with facts of every description from the horrific to the hilarious. My life has been richer since I read that, in order to cram more showings into the day, one cinema in South Korea made *The Sound of Music* shorter by cutting out the songs.
Caroline Taggart, author of *I Used to Know That*
About the Author
John Oldale speaks five languages, has outrun knife-wielding brigands (twice), and has been rescued from a sub-Antarctic beach. He lives with his family in a former village pub in Hampshire, England.