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opening extract from

Whitaker's World of Facts 2011

written by

Russell Ash

published by

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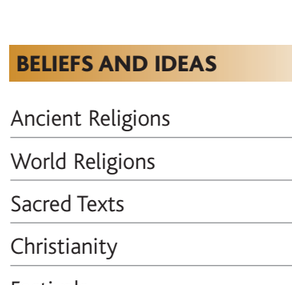
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RA to provide updated information

This new edition of *Whitaker's World of Facts* has been updated from cover to cover. Inside, you will find thousands of amazing facts and hundreds of exciting pictures. Keep up-to-date with the most recent world record-breakers, cutting-edge scientific and medical breakthroughs and gadgets and gizmos from the latest e-readers to the cleverest robots.

Facts and figures

Whitaker's World of Facts is divided into 20 sections – Planet Earth, People, World History and Space to name but a few. It includes information on a huge range of subjects, with data from authoritative sources and specialists on every subject under the Sun – and beyond. Among the countless new entries are features on the world's tallest building and the biggest ship, miraculous rescues and grisly torture methods, child soldiers and child film stars, the smallest mobile phones and the smallest snakes, animal heroes and toilets in space, as well as important anniversaries coming up in 2010.

Inside information

Detailed lists and charts show global comparisons, while **special features** and **fact disks** provide fast information, revealing everything from the countries with the most computers to the highest-earning animated films, from the greatest achievers to the most popular social networking websites. You will also discover an array of **oddities**, including a time-eating clock with no hands, a lord whose carriage was pulled by zebras, a flying friar and people who dine in mid-air!

A section on **countries** gives essential information, including population, capital city and currency for every country in the world, as well as the flag of each one.

Timelines on subjects such as communications, astronomy, wars and inventions give a see-at-a-glance overview and pinpoint important milestones up to the present day.

Useful maps, **tables and formulae** include conversions, mathematical symbols and scales, from Beaufort (weather) to Richter (earthquakes).

Other features

Web link boxes suggest useful websites to help you explore subjects further. **See also** boxes guide you to information on a particular subject elsewhere in the book. There is an extensive **index** at the back of the book, as well as a **list of sources**.

Whitaker's World Website

You can write to me with comments, suggestions and corrections at the publisher's address on page four or via the *Whitaker's World of Facts* website www.whitakersworld.com

Russell Ash

New thumbnails to go in at final stage

About this book



Coloured bars identify each section of the book

Follow these web links for more information

One and Only boxes identify unique facts



Find cross-references throughout the book in these boxes

Fact disks highlight key facts

Detailed lists and statistics show global comparisons

Timelines give you all the key milestones up to the present day

Lists give you the latest facts and figures, dates and rankings for all kinds of subjects



Princes Harry and William: Their names are now two of the favourite boys' names in England and Wales.

Popular first names

First name fashions change – especially those for girls. Some traditional names remain popular but new names come into use. Olivia was not in the Top 10 in the UK until 1999 or in the USA until 2001, but has kept its popularity. These are the most popular names now and 100 years ago in England and Wales and USA.

	UK Girls/Boys	USA Girls/Boys	England & Wales (1914) Girls/Boys	USA (1911) Girls/Boys
1	Olivia/Jack	Emma/Jacob	Mary/John	Mary/John
2	Ruby/Oliver	Isabella/Michael	Margaret/William	Helen/William
3	Emily/Thomas	Emily/Ethan	Doris/George	Margaret/James
4	Grace/Harry	Madison/Joshua	Dorothy/Thomas	Dorothy/George
5	Jessica/Joshua	Ava/Daniel	Kathleen/James	Ruth/Robert
6	Chloe/Alfie	Olivia/Alexander	Florence/Arthur	Anna/Joseph
7	Sophie/Charlie	Sophia/Anthony	Elsie/Frederick	Elizabeth/Charles
8	Lily/Daniel	Abigail/William	Edith/Albert	Mildred/Frank
9	Amelia/James	Elizabeth/Christopher	Elizabeth/Charles	Marie/Edward
10	Evie/William	Chloe/Matthew	Winifred/Robert	Frances/Thomas

Surnames around the world

Surnames were not used in Britain until after the Norman Conquest in 1066. Until then, most people were known only by their first name. People started to add extra names in order to be able to tell one William from another.

Some surnames came from where a person lived or the person's father's name – so the son of someone called John was known as Johnson. Others were based on a person's occupation (a blacksmith would be called Smith) or their appearance (a brown-haired person might be called Brown). The origins of some surnames have been forgotten.

A very long name

Anna Pepper was born in Derby, England, on 19 December 1882. She was given 26 first names, one for each letter of the alphabet, in alphabetical order: Anna Bertha Cecilia Diana Emily Fanny Gertrude Hypatia Inez Jane Kate Louisa Maud Nora Ophelia Prudence Quince Rebecca Starkey Teresa Ulysis Venus Winifred Xenophon Yetty Zeus Pepper.

Known by one name

Some people are so famous they are instantly recognizable by just one name.

Aaliyah US singer/actress Aaliyah Haughton, 1979–2001
Banksy UK, graffiti artist, true identity unknown
Beyoncé US singer Beyoncé Knowles, 1981–
Björk Icelandic singer/actress Björk Gudmundsdóttir, 1965–
Bono Irish rock band U2 singer Paul Hewson, 1960–
Canaletto Italian painter Giovanni Antonio Canale, 1697–1768
Cher US singer Cherilyn Sarkasian, 1946–
Colette French writer Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette, 1873–1954
Dido UK singer Dido Armstrong, 1971–
Eminem US rap singer Marshall Mathers, 1972–
Enya Irish singer Eithne ní Bhraonáin, 1961–
Evita Argentinean politician Eva Peron, 1919–52
Flea US Red Hot Chili Peppers bass guitarist Michael Peter Balzary, 1962–
Hergé Belgian Tintin cartoonist Georges Rémi, 1907–83
Houdini US magician Erich Weiss, 1874–1926
Lulu UK singer Marie McDonald McLaughlin, 1948–
Madonna US singer Madonna Louise Ciccone, 1958–
Meatloaf US singer Marvin/Michael Lee Aday, 1947–
Michelangelo Italian painter Michelangelo Buonarroti, 1475–1564
Moby US musician Richard Melville Hall, 1965–
Nelly Cornell Haynes Jr, US rapper, 1974–
Pelé Brazilian footballer Edson Arantes Nascimento, 1940–
Pink US singer Alecia Moore, 1979–
Ronaldo Brazilian footballer Ronaldo Luiz Nazario de Lima, 1976–
Seal UK singer Seal Samuel, 1963–
Shaggy Jamaican singer Orville Richard Burrell, 1968–
Sting UK singer Gordon Matthew Sumner, 1951–
Twiggy Lesley Hornby, British model, 1949–
Usher Usher Raymond IV, US singer-songwriter, 1978–

Another long name!

In the late 19th century, the Reverend Ralph William Lyonel Tollemache of Grantham, Lincolnshire gave his 15 children very long names. These included Lyulph Ydwallo Odin Nestor Egbert Lyonel Toedmag Hugh Erchenwyne Saxon Esa Cromwell Orma Nevill Dysart Plantagenet Tollemache-Tollemache (1876–1961). The initial letters of his first names spell 'Lyonel the Second'.

Initial impressions

These famous people are known by their initials and surnames, rather than their full first names.

W.H. (Wystan Hugh) Auden was a poet
Rev. W. (Wilbert) Awdry wrote *Thomas the Tank Engine*
P.T. (Phineas Taylor) Barnum was a circus proprietor
J.M. (James Matthew) Barrie was the author of *Peter Pan*
T.S. (Thomas Stearns) Eliot wrote the book on which the musical *Cats* was based
W.C. (William Claude) Fields was a film actor
W.G. (William Gilbert) Grace played cricket
H.J. (Henry John) Heinz manufactured food
k.d. (Kathryn Dawn) Lang is a singer
D.H. (David Herbert) Lawrence was a writer
T.E. (Thomas Edward) Lawrence was a soldier/writer (Lawrence of Arabia)
C.S. (Clive Staples) Lewis wrote *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*
A.A. (Alan Alexander) Milne wrote *Winnie the Pooh*
E. (Edith) Nesbit wrote *The Phoenix and the Carpet*
J.K. (Joanne Kathleen) Rowling is the author of *Harry Potter*
O.J. (Orenthal James) Simpson was a footballer
R.L. (Robert Lawrence) Stine wrote the *Goosebumps* series
J.R.R. (John Roland Ruel) Tolkien wrote *Lord of the Rings*
J.M.W. (Joseph Mallord William) Turner was a painter

Early Heinz wagon from about 1900



H.G. (Herbert George) Wells was a science-fiction author
E.B. (Elwyn Brooks) White wrote *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little*
F. W. (Frank Winfield) Woolworth was a retailer

Most common surnames

	China	Denmark	England	France	Germany	India	Ireland	Japan
1	Wáng	Jensen	Smith	Martin	Müller	Singh	Murphy	Sato
2	Li	Nielsen	Jones	Bernard	Schmidt	Kumar	Kelly	Suzuki
3	Zhang	Hansen	Taylor	Dubois	Schneider	Sharma/Sarma	O'Sullivan	Takahashi
4	Liú	Pedersen	Brown	Thomas	Fischer	Patel	Walsh	Tanaka
5	Chén	Andersen	Williams	Robert	Meyer	Shah	Smith	Watanabe
6	Yáng	Christensen	Wilson	Richard	Weber	Lal	O'Brien	Ito
7	Huáng	Larsen	Johnson	Petit	Schulz	Gupta	Byrne	Yamamoto
8	Zhào	Sørensen	Davies	Durand	Wagner	Bhat	Ryan	Nakamura
9	Zhou	Rasmussen	Robinson	Leroy	Becker	Rao	Fitzgerald	Kobayashi
10	Wú	Jørgensen	Wright	Moreau	Hoffmann	Reddy	O'Connor	Saito

	Russia	Scotland	Spain	Sweden	USA	Wales
1	Smirnov	Smith	García	Johansson	Smith	Jones
2	Ivanov	Brown	Fernández	Andersson	Johnson	Williams
3	Kuznetsov	Wilson	González	Karlsson	Williams	Davies
4	Popov	Robertson	Rodríguez	Nilsson	Brown	Evans
5	Sokolov	Thomson	López	Eriksson	Jones	Thomas
6	Lebedev	Campbell	Martínez	Larsson	Miller	Roberts
7	Kozlov	Stewart	Sánchez	Olsson	Davis	Lewis
8	Novikov	Anderson	Pérez	Persson	García	Hughes
9	Morozov	Scott	Martín	Svensson	Rodríguez	Morgan
10	Petrov	Murray	Gómez	Gustafsson	Wilson	Griffiths

Puritan names

Protestant extremists of the 16th and 17th-century known as Puritans often gave their children religious slogans as names. They included some we still use, such as Faith, Hope and Prudence, but also many strange ones, like Praise-god, Hate-evil, Joy-in-sorrow and Safe-on-high.

Who's who in the family?

We all know who's who in our immediate family – our mothers, fathers, grandparents, aunts and uncles, sisters and brothers. But who is a second cousin or a cousin once removed?

Nephew
Son of your sister or brother

Niece
Daughter of your sister or brother

Cousin, or first cousin
Child of your aunt and uncle

Second cousin
Child of your first cousin. Second cousins have the same great-grandparents as you, but not the same grandparents. Third cousins have the same great-great-grandparents, and so on.

Removed
A child of your first cousin is called "once removed". Removed means a different generation. Once removed is one generation, twice removed is two generations, and so on.

Step
Stepmother, stepfather, stepsister, stepbrother, stepson or stepdaughter is a person who is related to you only by the remarriage of someone in your immediate family after death or divorce. For example, if a woman marries again, her new husband will be her children's stepfather but he has no blood relationship with them.

Half
A half-sister or half-brother has either the same mother or father as you, but not both.



Weddings and divorces around the world

The number of people marrying every year varies from country to country. Some are tropical islands and countries that are popular with tourists who travel there for a romantic wedding.

Others have cultures that place a specially high value on marriage. The number of divorces varies greatly from country to country, according to the legal system and religion.

Number of marriages per 1000 per year*		Number of divorces per 1000 per year*	
High rates		**High rates**	
China	35.9	Russia	5.30
Cook Islands	32.8	Aruba	5.27
Barbados	13.1	USA	4.19
Cyprus	12.9	Ukraine	3.79
Medium rates		**Medium rates**	
USA	7.8	Australia	2.85
Australia	5.4	UK	2.58
UK	5.1	Canada	2.24
Canada	4.7		
Low rates		**Low rates**	
Venezuela	3.3	Guatemala	0.12
Argentina	3.2	Belize	0.17
Armenia	3.2	Mongolia	0.28
Saudi Arabia	3.2		

* In those countries for which data available

Underwater wedding
In some countries, such as Indonesia and Thailand, holiday resorts offer underwater weddings. They are popular with scuba divers, but the guests also have to be divers, the wedding photographer has to use an underwater camera and the wedding certificate must be waterproof.



Underwater wedding (app. 6 words)

www.soq.org.uk search

Seventh time lucky
In the UK, Sir Francis Ferdinand Maurice Cook (1907–78) was married seven times.

Till death do us part...

Longest marriages

- Sir Temulji Bhicaji Nariman and Lady Nariman of Mumbai (Bombay), India were married in 1853 at five years old. They stayed married for 86 years until Sir Temulji's death in 1940.
- Lazarus Rowe and Molly Weber were allegedly married in Greenland, New Hampshire, USA, in 1743. They remained married for 86 years until 1829 when Lazarus died.

According to the Bible, King Solomon had 700 wives as well as 300 concubines.

Most marriages

- King Mongkut of Siam (1804–68) had 39 wives and 82 children. His life inspired the musical *The King and I* and the film *Anna and the King* (1999).
- American Glynn "Scotty" de Moss Wolfe (1908–97) was married 29 times, which is a US record. His 29th and last wedding was on 20 June 1996 to Linda Essex. It was her 23rd wedding – another US record.
- US asbestos millionaire Tommy Manville (1894–1967) was married 13 times.



Family history is increasingly popular

Family history

Genealogy is the study of family connections, while family history includes additional information about family members, such as their education, work and homes. Both have long been popular pastimes among people keen to discover more about their ancestors and to locate living relatives. The Internet has enabled anyone to carry out online research and contact family members around the world and share information. Special computer software now makes it easy to organize records and create family trees.

- In the past, families often kept records of births, marriages and deaths in their family bibles. Sometimes it was the only book in the household, and was treasured and passed on through generations, along with other information such as photographs and diaries.
- The main official sources are records of births, marriages and deaths. In England and Wales these have been compulsory since Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837, and from 1855 in Scotland. In the USA and Canada they are kept by individual states. For earlier years, back to the 16th century in some places, the registers of churches that recorded baptisms, marriages and burials are valuable to researchers, alongside a wide range of other sources such as wills, professional and military archives and immigration and emigration records.
- Censuses have been held in the UK every 10 years since 1841. Those up to 1911 are available online to researchers who can gain valuable information about family members, their birthplaces, occupations and addresses. A US census has been held every 10 years since 1790 – those up to 1930 are available online.
- In recent years, genetic genealogy – the use of DNA tests –has become a useful way of establishing an individual's relationship to other family members.

Anniversary gifts

There is a very old tradition of celebrating wedding anniversaries by presenting special types of gift. For example, for a 25th anniversary people give gifts made of silver. In the UK and USA most people celebrate only the milestone anniversaries: the 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th.

The 75th anniversary was traditionally the diamond but few married couples live long enough to celebrate it. Since Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was held to mark her 60 years on the throne, the 60th wedding anniversary has become the diamond celebration.

1st Cotton (UK); paper (US)
2nd Paper (UK); cotton, calico (US)
3rd Leather
4th Fruit, flowers (UK); linen, silk (US)
5th Wood
6th Sugar, sweets, iron
7th Wool, copper
8th Bronze
9th Pottery, willow
10th Tin, aluminium
11th Steel
12th Silk, linen
13th Lace
14th Ivory
15th Crystal, glass
20th China
25th Silver
30th Pearls
35th Coral, jade
40th Rubies
45th Sapphires
50th Gold
55th Emeralds
60th Diamonds
70th Platinum
75th Diamonds (again)



Indian tourists photograph themselves at the Gandhi memorial, Delhi, where his body was cremated after his assassination in 1948.

Mahatma Gandhi

(1869–1948) Indian

Gandhi began his career as a lawyer but became a great and spiritual leader. He led the peaceful civil disobedience of Indians against British rule in India and negotiated with the British government until 1947, when India was granted independence. Gandhi became the first icon of a people's struggle against oppression. His simple lifestyle and his belief in religious tolerance have made him a symbol of decency and peace ever since.

Christopher Columbus

(1451–1506) Italian

Christopher Columbus is one of the most famous of all explorers. He believed he could reach Asia by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean and in 1492 he set sail in the *Santa Maria* to prove his theory. Instead, he landed on the islands now known as the West Indies. His discoveries led to the European exploration and settlement of the Americas.

William Shakespeare

(1564–1616) English

William Shakespeare is generally agreed to be the greatest playwright in the English language. He began as an actor and wrote at least 154 love poems and 37 plays, including *King Lear*, *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth*. Shakespeare also probably introduced more than 1,700 new words to the English language.



A US stamp commemorating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth in 1964

Charles Darwin

(1809–82) English

Naturalist Charles Darwin established the theory of evolution. He began forming his ideas when he served as official naturalist on a world voyage on *HMS Beagle* (1831–36) and spent the rest of his life back in England developing them. When his famous book *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* was published in 1859 there were violent reactions against it. Darwin challenged the Bible's account of creation, and explained that human beings are descended from an ape-like ancestor. Another English naturalist, Alfred Russel Wallace, independently developed very similar ideas at the same time as Darwin.

Emmeline Pankhurst

(1858–1928) English

Emmeline Pankhurst was the most famous of the women who campaigned for the right to vote in the UK. From 1905 she fought for the vote by any means possible and was frequently arrested and imprisoned. She died in 1928 shortly before her aims were realized and every woman over 21 years old was granted the vote.



Emmeline Pankhurst, 1914

Karl Marx

(1818–83) German

Karl Marx's ideas on economic history and sociology changed the world. Marx was a social philosopher who attacked the state and predicted a future in which everyone was equal. He explained his theories in the *Communist Manifesto* (compiled with Friedrich Engels and published in 1848) and *Das Kapital* (1867–94). His ideas eventually led to the Russian Revolution and communism. By 1950 almost half of the world's people lived under communist regimes.

Albert Einstein

(1879–1955) German/American

Einstein was one of the greatest of all physicists and his name has become a symbol of genius. When his most famous work, *The General Theory of Relativity*, was proven in 1919, Einstein became the most celebrated scientist in the world, and he won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921. Einstein was a firm believer in pacifism, but his scientific theories helped his adopted country, the USA, to develop the atomic bomb. A week before he died Einstein wrote to Bertrand Russell, a British philosopher and leading anti-nuclear campaigner, asking to put his name to a manifesto urging all countries to give up their nuclear weapons.

Adolf Hitler

(1889–1945) Austrian

Adolf Hitler was Germany's leader from 1933 to 1945, during which time he led the world into the most devastating war in history. Hitler's hatred of Jewish people and his desire for a blue-eyed, blond-haired master race led to the murder of six million people during World War II; most died in concentration camps in Eastern Europe.

Nelson Mandela

(1918–) South African

Nelson Mandela dedicated his life to the fight against apartheid – a policy which kept black and white South Africans apart and denied black citizens the vote. He was imprisoned in 1964 for his aggressive opposition to South Africa's racist government and was held for 26 years. In 1990, after his release, Mandela was elected president of the African National Congress. In 1993 he won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to end apartheid.

See also
History timeline: page 105

Bill Gates

(1955–) American

Bill Gates created his first computer program while still at high school, co-founded Microsoft in 1977, and by 1993 was the richest man on Earth. In 2000 Gates and his wife formed the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which is the largest charity in the world. One of its aims is to rid the developing world of polio and other deadly diseases.



The charity co-founded by Bill Gates (right) supports important medical research

James Watson (1928–) American and Francis Crick

(1916–2004) English

American biologist James Watson and English scientist Francis Crick discovered the molecular structure of DNA, using theories already written by Maurice Wilkins. Their theory helps to explain how DNA carries hereditary information and their discoveries have revolutionized our understanding of genetics and the study of disease.

Martin Luther King, Jr

(1929–68) American

Martin Luther King was a Baptist minister who campaigned against the segregation of blacks in the southern states of the USA. He was influenced by Gandhi and believed in peaceful protest. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. King was assassinated in 1968, but will always be remembered for his dignified, passive resistance to an unjust society.

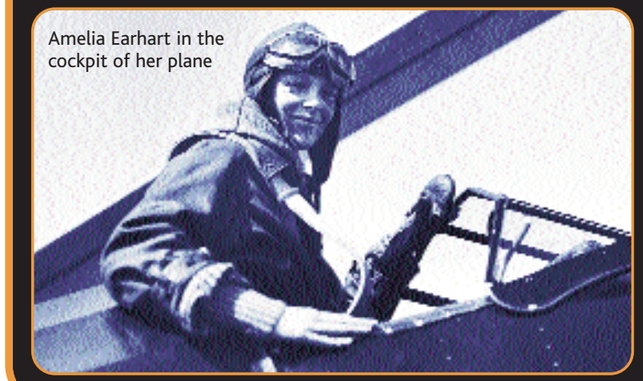
Mao Zedong/Mao Tse-tung/ Chairman Mao

(1893–1976) Chinese

Mao Zedong was one of the founders of the Chinese Communist Party and the first chairman of the People's Republic of China in 1949. He had an enormous influence on his country and was greatly admired for founding the Chinese republic and for changes in the early years of his rule. During his rule, Mao's image was displayed everywhere – in every school, home, factory and workplace.

Women adventurers

These are just some of the intrepid women who went where no other woman – in some cases, no man – had gone before.



Amelia Earhart in the cockpit of her plane

- French novelist Jules Verne's novel *Around the World in 80 Days* inspired American journalist Nellie Bly (real name Elizabeth Cochrane, 1864–1922) to beat this time. She set out in 1889, and returned to New York on 25 January 1890 – a record round-the-world trip of 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes and 14 seconds.
- Amelia Earhart (USA, 1898–1937) became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic in 1932.
- Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova (USSR, 1937–) was the first woman in space. She went into orbit on 16 June 1963.
- Sheila Scott (UK, 1927–88) was the first woman to fly round the world solo, in 1971. She was also the first woman to pilot a plane over the North Pole.
- Clare Francis (UK, 1946–) became the first woman to sail solo across the Atlantic in 1973.
- Ellen MacArthur (UK, 1978–) set a world record for the fastest single-handed, round-the-world voyage of 71 days 14 hours 18 minutes 33 seconds, on 7 February 2005.

Polar exploration firsts

The North and South Poles are two of the most difficult places on Earth to reach and so have been great challenges for explorers. These are some of the people who reached the poles by one means or another.

First to reach the North Pole
American adventurer Frederick Cook (1865–1940) claimed that he and two Inuit reached the North Pole on 21 April 1908, but he probably faked his journey. Another American, Robert Edwin Peary (1856–1920), his companion Matthew Alexander Henson (1866–1955) and four Inuit were said to have first reached the pole on 9 April 1909. The first corroborated overland journey was that of a team led by Wally Herbert (UK) that arrived at the pole on 6 April 1969 - 60 years after Peary's claimed expedition.

First to reach the South Pole
Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen (1872–1928) and four companions reached the South Pole on 14 December 1911. They just beat British explorer Robert Falcon Scott and his team, who got there on 17 January 1912 but died on their return journey.

First pole-to-pole journey
British explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes and his partner Charles Burton were the first people to walk from pole to pole. They crossed the South Pole on 15 December 1980 and reached the North Pole on 10 April 1982.

First solo overland journey to the North Pole
Japanese explorer Naomi Uemura reached the North Pole on 1 May 1978. He travelled by dog sled, but was then picked up by an aircraft. Frenchman Jean-Louis Etienne made the first solo journey without dogs, reaching the pole on 11 May 1986.

First woman to reach the South Pole solo
Norwegian Liv Arnesen trekked to the South Pole unaided in 50 days, arriving at the pole on 25 December 1994.

First swim at the North Pole
British swimmer Lewis Gordon Pugh swam 1 km in gaps between ice at the North Pole, 15 July 2007.

First manned descent to North Pole seabed
On 2 August 2007, two Russian *MIR* submarines placed a Russian flag on the seabed beneath the North Pole.

Solar circumnavigation

Bertrand Piccard of Switzerland, who with Brian Jones was the first man to fly round the world in a balloon, is planning to repeat his feat in 2012 in *Solar Impulse*, a solar-powered aircraft.

Explorers and travellers

Today there are few places that have not been explored, but this was not always the case. America was unknown to Europeans until little over 500 years ago, and Australia was scarcely known by the rest of the world until the late 18th century. These are some of the people who made Europeans aware of the rest of the world.

Marco Polo (c. 1254–1324)
Italian traveller Marco Polo was one of the first Europeans to visit China and other Far Eastern territories. His reports were not believed, but he encouraged the idea of trading with the East.

John Cabot (1450–98)
Italian-born explorer John and his son Sebastian Cabot were employed by British merchants to seek a western route to Asia. During their travels they discovered parts of the northeast coast of America.

Christopher Columbus (1451–1506)
Italian explorer Christopher Columbus discovered North, Central and South America and the islands of the West Indies.

Vasco da Gama (c. 1460–1524)
Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama travelled round the Cape of Good Hope and up the East coast of Africa. He discovered a trade route to India.

Ferdinand Magellan (1480–1521)
Magellan was a Portuguese explorer who led the first voyage round the world. He discovered the Strait of Magellan, near the tip of South America.

Abel Tasman (1603–59)
Abel Tasman, a Dutchman, explored Australia. In 1642 he discovered Van Diemans Land (later called Tasmania) and New Zealand.

Henry Hudson (c. 1550–1611)
Henry Hudson was an English navigator who searched for a Northwest Passage (a route to the East by travelling north of America). He discovered Hudson Bay.

James Cook (1728–79)
British Captain James Cook led several major expeditions. He explored the coasts of Australia, New Zealand and North America.

David Livingstone (1813–73)
Livingstone was a Scottish missionary and explorer of Africa. He discovered and named the Victoria Falls after Queen Victoria.

Sir Richard Burton (1821–90)
Burton was one of the first Europeans to travel to Arabia. With John Hanning Speke he discovered Lake Tanganyika in Africa.

John Hanning Speke (1827–64)
Speke discoverered Lake Tanganyika with Burton. He also discovered Lake Victoria, believed to be the source of the River Nile.

Sir Henry Morton Stanley (1841–1904)
Stanley was a British explorer of Africa and was involved in the search for Livingstone.

Youngest solo

In 2008–2009, Mike Perham (UK), completed a voyage round the world in a 50-ft yacht. He was 16 when he set out and 17 years 164 days old when he finished, making him the youngest person ever to complete a solo circumnavigation.

Perham text may need to be replaced by Watson.



Steve Fossett in *Virgin Atlantic Global Flyer*

First round the world

Since the first voyage round the world, almost 500 years ago, people have been looking for different ways of circumnavigating (travelling right round) the planet by land, sea or air.

First circumnavigation
Juan Sebastian de Elcano and his crew of 17 on *Vittoria* sailed from Spain in 1519 and returned 1,079 days later. The expedition was led by Ferdinand Magellan, but he was murdered in the Philippines on 27 April 1521.

First British circumnavigation
Sir Francis Drake and a crew of 50 left Plymouth, England in 1577 on the *Golden Hind* and returned on 26 September 1580.

First solo sailing
Canadian-born sailor Captain Joshua Slocum (1844–1910) sailed round the world alone in *Spray*, an oyster boat he built himself. He left the USA on 24 April 1895 and returned on 27 June 1898.

First walk
George Matthew Schilling (USA) claimed to have walked round the world between 1897 and 1904, but his journey has not been verified. David Kunst (USA) made the first confirmed journey from 20 June 1970 to 5 October 1974. He wore out 21 pairs of shoes during his 23,250 km (14,446 miles) walk.

First non-stop flight
USAF B-50A bomber *Lucky Lady II* piloted by Capt. James Gallagher flew from Fort Worth, Texas on 26 February 1949. The journey took 94 hours 1 minute and the plane was refuelled four times in mid-air.

First underwater
US Navy nuclear submarine *Triton* travelled round the world underwater between 16 February and 25 April 1960.

First non-stop solo voyage
British yachtsman Robin Knox-Johnston sailed from and returned to Falmouth, UK, in *Suhali* between 14 June 1968 and 22 April 1969.

First in a wheelchair
Rick Hansen (Canada) went round the world in a wheelchair between 21 March 1985 and 22 May 1987. He travelled through 34 countries.

First balloon flight
Brian Jones (UK) and Bertrand Piccard (Switzerland) made a round-the-world voyage in the *Breitling Orbiter 3*. They left on 1 March 1999 and their journey took three weeks.

First solo flight
On 7 March 2005 Steve Fossett (USA) achieved the first solo round-the-world flight without refuelling in *Virgin Atlantic Global Flyer*. He covered 36,818 km (22,878 miles) in a flight time of 67 hours, 2 minutes and 38 seconds. On 1 February 2006 he once again took off from the USA to fly around the world. This time he carried on to Bournemouth, UK, making this voyage the longest ever solo, non-stop, round-the-world flight. He travelled a distance of 36,912.68 km (22,936.5 miles) in 76 hours, 42 minutes and 55 seconds.



Apollo 8 astronauts James Lovell, William Anders and Frank Borman, 1968 "people of the year"

In the news

Every year the editors of *Time* magazine nominate a person of the year – the individual or group who has most influenced world events during the year. The winner may not always have had a good influence – Adolf Hitler was nominated in 1938.

Nominees may be a man, a couple (Chinese leaders General and Madame Chiang Kai-shek in 1937), a woman (Queen Elizabeth II in 1952), a group of people (three astronauts in 1968), even a machine (a computer in 1982). Here are just some of the winners.

2009 Ben Bernanke, economist
2008 Barack Obama (incoming US President)
2007 Vladimir Putin (Russian president)
2006 You
2005 Bill and Melinda Gates/Bono
2003 The American Soldier
1999 Jeff Bezos (founder of Amazon.com)
1994 Pope John Paul II
1992/98 Bill Clinton (US president)
1987/89 Mikhail Gorbachev (Soviet leader)
1966 Young people
1963 Martin Luther King, Jr (civil rights campaigner)
1961 John F. Kennedy (US president)
1949 Winston Churchill (British prime minister)
1930 Mohandas Gandhi (Indian leader)

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Late success

As people live longer, many continue to work well into what was once thought of as extreme old age. These are all people who made great achievements in their eighties and beyond.

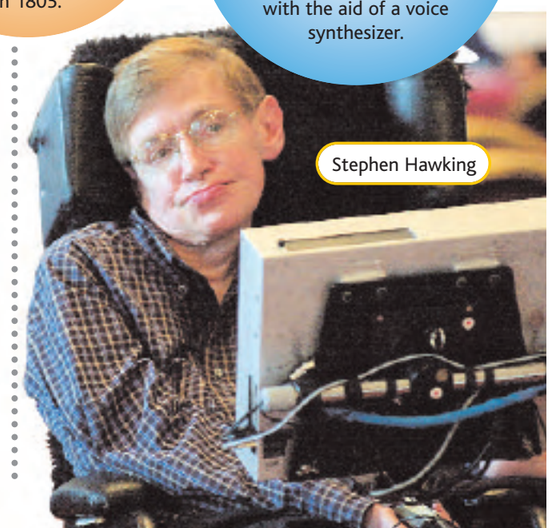
Alice Porlock, British writer, published her first book at 102 years old.
Ichijirou Araya, Japanese climber, climbed Mount Fuji aged 100 years.
George Burns, US actor, appeared in *Radioland Murders* (1994) at 98.
Dimitrion Yornanidis, Greek athlete, ran a marathon at 98.
Pablo Casals, Spanish musician, conducted the Israel Festival Youth Orchestra when he was 96.
Michelangelo, Italian artist, produced his Rondandini *Pietà* sculpture at the age of 88.
Claude Monet, French painter, completed his water-lily paintings when he was 84 years old.
William Gladstone, British politician, became prime minister for the fourth time when he was 82 years old.
Benjamin Franklin, American statesman, helped write the US Constitution when he was 81 years old.
George Cukor, US film director, directed *Rich and Famous* (1981) at 81 years old.

Lord Horatio Nelson

(1758–1805) was a British admiral. He lost an arm and an eye in battle, but won many naval victories, including the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

Stephen Hawking

(1942–) a British physicist and celebrated author of *A Brief History of Time*, suffers from motor neurone disease. He is confined to a wheelchair and speaks with the aid of a voice synthesizer.



Stephen Hawking

Against the odds

All these people triumphed over disability or illness to achieve fame.

Lance Armstrong (1971–) US cyclist, contracted cancer that affected his brain and lungs. He recovered and went on to win the gruelling Tour de France cycle race a record seven times in a row, 1999–2005.

Douglas Bader (1910–82) became a British war hero and flying ace, despite losing both his legs in a plane crash.

One and only

At the age of 82, Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw won an Oscar® for Best Screenplay for *Pygmalion* (1938). He had already won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1925, so became the only person ever to win both a Nobel and an Oscar®.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) was one of the world's greatest composers. He continued to compose music even after he became totally deaf in 1817.

Sarah Bernhardt (1844–1923) French actress, lost a leg in 1914 but continued acting.

Andrea Bocelli (1958–) an Italian opera singer who was blinded at the age of 12. He went on to achieve international singing success.

Louis Braille (1809–1852) was blind and invented the Braille system of printing with raised dots to enable blind people to read.

Terry Fox (1958–81) Canadian athlete, lost a leg to cancer. He took up long-distance running, and through this he raised money for a cancer charity.

Frank Gardner (1952–) British television reporter, was paralysed in 2004 from a gun attack while working in Saudi Arabia. He later resumed work with the BBC.

Evelyn Glennie (1965–) Scottish percussionist, overcame profound deafness to become a world-class musician.

Mark Inglis (1959–) In 2006, the New Zealander became the first double amputee to reach the top of Everest.

Helen Keller (1880–1968) was a famed author and lecturer despite being blind and deaf.

Awards

Awards are presented in almost every area of achievement. The ones that receive the most attention in newspapers and on television are those given to famous film stars, writers, artists and singers. Among the best known are the following.

Academy Awards (Oscars®)
These are the most famous of all film awards. The Oscar® presentations are now watched on television by more than a billion people worldwide. The Academy Awards – also called the Oscars® after the statuette that winners receive – were first presented in 1929. In 2010, *The Hurt Locker* won Oscars in six categories, including Best Film.

BAFTA Awards
The British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards began in 1947. In 2009 *Slumdog Millionaire* won the Best Film award.

Booker Prize
This British book prize was set up in 1968 and is awarded each year for a novel published in the previous 12 months. It is now known as the Man Booker Prize.

BRIT Awards
The BRITs are British popular music awards which started in 1977. Robbie Williams is the most successful solo artist, with 11 wins. In 2010, Lady Gaga won three BRIT awards.

Cannes Film Festival
This annual international film festival is held in Cannes in the South of France. Its most important award is the Palme d'Or (Golden Palm), which dates back to 1955.

Golden Globe Awards
These US film awards began in 1943. Julia Roberts has been nominated six times and won three awards, and Tom Hanks has won four of the six awards for which he was nominated.

Grammy Awards
The US music awards have been presented since 1959. The classical awards have been dominated by conductor Sir Georg Solti, who won 38 Grammys. Beyoncé won six awards in 2010, the most by a female artist in one ceremony, while Taylor Swift (20) was the youngest to receive the Grammy Award for Album of the Year.

MTV Video Music Awards
The music television channel MTV established its awards in 1984. Madonna is the most successful MTV artist, with 70 nominations and 21 awards.

Nobel Prize
These international awards are named after Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, and were first presented in 1901. There are now six categories – Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, Peace and Economics. Famous winners include Winston Churchill (Literature, 1953) and Mother Theresa (Peace, 1979). US President Barack Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009.

Pulitzer Prizes
These US awards are given for achievements in journalism, writing (fiction, non fiction and poetry) and music. They are named after publisher Joseph Pulitzer and began in 1917.

Turner Prize
This British art prize is named after landscape painter J.M.W. Turner and was established in 1984. The winning works are often controversial, and usually not conventional paintings. Damien Hirst is a notorious winner.



"Oscar®"

Golden Raspberry awards

The Golden Raspberries, founded in 1980, are joke awards presented to the worst films and actors! Madonna was a notable winner. She also received the Razzies award for worst actress of the 20th century. At the 30th annual ceremony in 2010, Sandra Bullock won the Worst Actress award for *All About Steve* – which she collected in person. The next day, she won the Best Actress Oscar for her role in *The Blind Side*.

Where are the children?

In countries such as India, where people have large families and relatively short lives, there are more children than older people. In the USA and UK there are more middle-aged and older people than children. Most people have smaller families so there are fewer young people. In the UK there are 10,056,003 children.

No. of children aged 0–14 yrs*

India	352,866,393
China	235,097,526
Indonesia	67,144,054
Nigeria	63,541,220
Pakistan	63,531,222
USA	62,889,723
Bangladesh	53,681,543
Brazil	53,399,691
Ethiopia	42,058,330

* Estimated for 2011

World's youngest billionaire

Albert Maria Lamoral Miguel Johannes Gabriel, 12th Prince of Thurn and Taxis (born 24 June 1983), inherited his father's fortune when he was aged seven. In 2009, the prince, who studied economics and theology at Edinburgh University and is a racing car driver with the Reiter Engineering team, was estimated to be worth $2.1 billion, including large amounts of land, works of art and the Thurn and Taxis palace, Regensburg, Germany, which is open to the public.



Schoolchildren in India taking part in a physical education class

Young populations

Countries with a lot of people under 15 usually have high birth rates and high death rates. In countries where families have many children who are too young to work and adults die relatively young, there are not enough people of working age to earn money to feed and take care of the families. As a result, these countries tend to be among the world's poorest.

Population under 15 years old*

	Country	Percentage under 15
1	**Uganda**	49.9
2	**Niger**	49.6
3	**Mali**	47.3
4	**Ethiopia**	46.3
5=	**Burundi**	46.0
=	**Chad**	46.0
7	**Burkina Faso**	45.8
	World average	26.3

The USA, UK and Canada have a lower than average proportion of children.

USA	20.1
UK	16.4
Canada	15.7

* Estimated for 2011



Young fame

Miley Cyrus, the daughter of country singer Billy Ray Cyrus, was born on 23 November 1992.

At the age of 14 she became the star of the TV series *Hannah Montana* in 2006, appearing in the dual role of the pop star title character and Miley Stewart. By the time she was 16 she had released US No.1 albums, earning a reputed $25 million in 2008, and appeared in films, including *Hannah Montana: The Movie* (released in 2009).

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The United Nations issued its Declaration on the Rights of the Child in 1959 to try to relieve the suffering of children in poor and war-torn countries. It came into force as a convention in 1990. 193 countries are parties to the Convention: Somalia and the USA are not.

All the signatories agree to make sure that children under 18 have certain basic rights, such as housing and medical care. Recent optional additions include one that children will not have to serve in military action.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that all children have the right to:

- a name and nationality
- affection, love, understanding and material security
- adequate nutrition, housing and medical services
- special care if disabled – physically, mentally or socially
- be among the first to receive protection and relief in all circumstances
- be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation
- full opportunity for play and recreation and equal opportunity to free and compulsory education, to enable the child to develop his/her individual abilities and to become a useful member of society
- develop his/her full potential in conditions of freedom and dignity
- be brought up in a spirit of understanding, tolerance, friendship among peoples, peace and universal brotherhood
- enjoy these rights regardless of race, colour, sex, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin and property, birth or other status.

YMCA and YWCA

The YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) was founded by George Williams in the UK in 1844 and in the USA in 1851. Its aim was to provide shelter and other support for young men who came into cities to find work. The YMCA now has branches in 135 countries. The YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association), was founded in the UK in 1855 and in the USA in 1858.



Hollywood star Angelina Jolie visiting a refugee camp in her role as Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

www.unicef.org/crc/crc.htm search

International youth organizations

Scouts and Cub Scouts

Sir Robert Baden-Powell (1857–1941), a former general in the British army, launched the scouting movement in 1907. Today there are scouts in 216 countries and territories with a total worldwide membership of more than 28 million. There are 3,994,638 in the USA and 446,557 in the UK, but the leading scouting country is Indonesia, with almost nine million members. Scouting is forbidden in some countries, including Cuba and North Korea. The junior division for boys under 11 is called the Cub Scouts (formerly Wolf Cubs in the UK) and was founded in 1930.

Girl Guides/Girl Scouts and Brownies

The Girl Guide Movement was started in 1910 by Sir Robert Baden-Powell and his younger sister Agnes (1858–1945). From then on, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts organizations were established around the world – the Girl Scouts of the United States of America dates from 1912 and the junior group, the Brownies, was set up in 1914. A century after the foundation, of the movement, there are Guides in 145 countries, with a total worldwide membership of more than 10 million.