

BELIEVE IT OR NOT! The Facts

Fact	Believe It or Not?	Notes
There is a man who can bounce down a flight of stairs on his head.	Believe It!	ALEXANDER PATTY Believe It or Not! Alexander Patty of Paris, France, a circus acrobat, could bounce down and up flights of stairs on his head.
In the middle ages people who committed minor offences were forced to wear iron masks, often in the form of animals.	Believe It!	BRANK SHAME MASK In the middle ages people who committed minor offences were often forced to wear iron masks, called branks. These branks came in many shapes, like a wolf head, and were intended to humiliate the wearer as well as cause discomfort. Branks shaped like animals heads were associated with specific crimes, in the case of the wolf the accused was guilty of theft, typically for food.
In ancient China, daughters of the age of 3 from wealthy families would have their feet purposely bound and broken to resemble a lotus flower.	Believe It!	CHINESE LILLY SLIPPERS At the age of 3 daughters of wealthy families had their feet purposely broken and bound. The ideal foot was a mere 3 inches long and was crushed into a shape resembling the Chinese lotus flower.
A chicken can live without a head.	Believe It!	MIKE THE HEADLESS CHICKEN Believe It Or Not! Mike, a headless chicken from Colorado, USA, lived for 181 months without a head (1945-1946).
You can shrink a human head to make it less than 10 cm.	Believe It!	JIVARO INDIAN WARRIORS The Jivaro are amongst the most famous tribes of the Amazon area, due to their habit of shrinking the heads of their enemies killed in war. Although they no longer practise the art of shrinking heads, this legendary tribe still exists and inhabits an area larger than Switzerland on the Eastern slopes of South America.
African tribes slept on wooden pillows, while the ancient Chinese slept on pillows made of porcelain.	Believe It!	PILLOWS In parts of Africa chiefs used wooded head rests as pillows. Often decorated with totemic figures who are suppose to protect the sleeper, they are actually considered more comfortable the average western- style soft pillow. For centuries the aristocracy in China preferred jade or porcelain pillows. The pillow could be heated with a lump of hot coal that was put inside.
You can make a wedding dress out of toilet paper.	Believe It!	TOILET PAPER WEDDING GOWNS Cheap Chic Weddings of Florida, USA, a wedding dress advisor company, hold an annual toilet paper wedding dress contest. Co-sponsored by Charmin toilet paper products, would-be Vera Wangs must create their own wedding gowns using only toilet paper, tape and glue.
The world's tallest man grew to over 2.7 metres tall.	Believe It!	ROBERT WADLOW Robert P. Wadlow is the tallest man ever known to exist. He grew to be over 2.7 metres tall, and continued growing for his whole life! Known as the "Alton Giant", he was one of America's most popular celebrities in the 1930's.
You can paint a human portrait on a piece of human hair.	Believe It!	PORTRAITS PAINTED ON A HUMAN HAIR Enrico Ramos of Mexico City, used a three haired brush to paint more than one portrait on a single human hair. Madonna and Adolf Hitler are those featured on the piece of hair.
A year on mars is equivalent to 687 days on Earth.	Believe It!	MARS A year on mars is equivalent to 687 days on Earth.
People of Alaska use whale ribs for fence posts, whale jaws for gates and whale vertebrates for stools and chairs.	Believe It!	WHALE VERTEBRATES People of Alaska use whale ribs for fence posts, whale jaws for gates and whale vertebrates for stools and chairs.
Japanese roosters have tails up to 40 metres long.	Believe It!	JAPANESE ROOSTERS Japanese roosters have tails up to 40 metres long.
Thom Thumb was a real man.	Believe It!	GENERAL THOM THUMB Growing to the height of 3'4", General Thom Thumb, was the most famous midget of all time. Associated all his life with the great showman P T Barnum, Thom Thumb amassed an immense fortune, which included a dazzling yacht, a stable of racehorses and a mansion in Connecticut decorated with miniature antique furniture.

The Alphabet Challenge – Example Answers

During your Ripley's visit, find specific artefacts that start with each letter of the alphabet.
E.g. S= Shrunken Head

(Please Note: This is only a sample of answers, there are many more throughout the museum)

A	ANTIQUA VACUUM CLEANER, AFRICAN COOKING POT
B	BIRD DECOY, BRANK SHAME MASK, BRASS NECK RINGS
C	CANNIBAL FORK
D	DINOSAUR EGGS, DEER HOOR WACKING STICK
E	EXECUTIONER'S AXE
F	FEDORA (MICHAEL JACKSON), FANTASY COFFIN, FERTILITY STATUE
G	GIBBET, GRASS SKIRT
H	HUMAN SKULL MASK, HAIR HORNS
I	INFLATION MONEY (GERMANY)
J	JUJU HAT, JADE ELEPHANT
K	KATIKA DAGGER
L	LILY SLIPPERS
M	MEGLADON SHARK TOOTH, MASAI EARRINGS
N	NAGA ANIMAL TOOTH NECKLACE
O	ORIENTAL SPIRIT CHASER
P	PEAR OF AGONY, PRAYER WHEEL, POSTILLION BOOT
Q	
R	RECOLLECTIONS ROOM, RAMBORAMB FIGURE
S	SHRUNKEN HEAD, SARA DISK
T	T REX FOSSIL, TROPHY SKULL
U	USHABTI FIGURINE
V	VIOLIN (MINIUTURE) VODOO BANNER
W	WEDDING DRESS, WATER BUFFALO HORNS, WAR CLUB
X	XYLAPHONE (SOUTH AFRICAN)
Y	YORUBA IBEJI TWIN DOOLS, YORUBA MASK
Z	ZULU BEADED NECKLACE



QUIZ – Answers

1. How many countries did Robert Ripley travel to? **201**
2. T OR F. Alexander Patty, a circus acrobat could bounce down a flight of stairs on his head. **TRUE**
3. T OR F. Robert Ripley received over a million letters a year. **TRUE**
4. What is Gurning? **THE ART OF PUTTING ONE'S LIPS OVER ONE'S NOSE**
5. How tall was Robert Wadlow? **8 FEET 11 INCHES.**
6. T OR F. Roman Emperor Vilellius, the greatest glutton in all history, spent more than \$375,000 for food a day. **TRUE**
7. T OR F. A tour guide of Chungking China cut a hole in his scalp and inserted a candle. **TRUE**
8. What are the most popular orders for fantasy coffins? **CARS & TRUCKS.**
9. What does Dracul mean in Romanian? **'DEVIL' OR 'DRAGON'**
10. T OR F. In Fiji 1800's human flesh was considered a delicacy, but was taboo to touch. **TRUE**
11. How many rings do the women of Padaung usually reach? **25 RINGS**
12. Why did the Jivaro Indians shrink human heads? **THE JIVARO BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE HAS AN AVENGING SOUL THAT EXISTS AFTER THEY DIE, THAT IT EXISTS IN THE MOUTH AND COMES AFTER IT'S KILLER.**
13. What 3 substances/elements are used to shrink heads: HOT 1 **SAND** 2 **ROCKS** 3 **WATER**
14. What are the iron masks called that people in the middle ages were forced to wear after they had committed minor offences, such as theft? **BRANKS**
15. What were thumb screws used for? **TO OBTAIN A CONFESSION BEFORE BEING MAIMED**
16. What is the replica of the Last Supper made from? **BURNT TOAST**
17. T OR F. The jacket in the Art room is made of leather? **FALSE**
18. How many matchsticks were used on the replica of the Christchurch Cathedral in New Zealand? **140,000 COMMON MATCHSTICKS**
19. Why would women of the DJERMA TRIBE of Southern Nigeria be made to wear padlocks in their noses? **BECAUSE THEIR HUSBANDS THOUGHT THEY WERE GOSSIPING TOO MUCH!**
20. 1 in _____ people have the ability to roll their tongue backwards? **1000**
21. Who was the most famous little person of all time? **TOM THUMB**
22. T OR F. Mars on average is approximately, 142 million miles away from Earth _____ **TRUE**
23. What are the two small moons on Mars known as: **PHOBOS & DEIMOS**
24. What is the Juju hat decorated with? **COWRIE SHELLS**
25. What are the odds of having a two-headed baby? **ONE IN A BILLION**
26. How big did the prehistoric Megalodon grow to? **45 FEET LONG**
27. T OR F. A Four leaf clover really exists? **TRUE**
28. What is a mermaid's purse also known as: **SHARKS EGGS**
29. How many bubblegum balls were used to create the Michael Jackson portrait? **12,784**
30. How long is the PEEL50? **1.4 M LONG**

Ripley's
Believe It or Not!
ODDITORIUM