

## the simple list

Your monthly dose of useful tidbits, timely trivia, and catchy conversation starters



# 27

The number of hours it took to make a single Peep Marshmallow Chick—by hand!—in 1953. Today the Peeps factory, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, hatches more than 4.2 million chicks a day. The confections are typically sold in stores only around Easter (April 24 this year), but if you need a *cheep* thrill some other time, visit the Peep retail emporium just outside Washington, D.C., in National Harbor, Maryland. Or go to [MarshmallowPeeps.com](http://MarshmallowPeeps.com).

Actual size of the book.

# 1/25" x 1/25"

The dimensions of *Old King Cole* (you need a needle to turn the pages), which is the smallest volume in the Library of Congress. The world's largest library, in Washington, D.C., celebrates its 211th birthday this month and is home to 145 million (bigger) books on about 745 miles of shelves.

# \$46,000

The price paid at a recent auction for the two-piece white wool suit worn by John Lennon on the Beatles' iconic *Abbey Road* album cover. A 1972 Chrysler station wagon that Lennon and Yoko Ono drove sold at the same auction for \$5,500 (and it doesn't even run). The group split up on April 10, 1970, but we still love their hits (yeah, yeah, yeah) 41 years later.

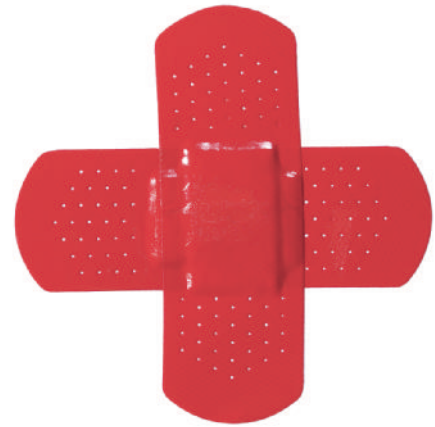
# 1901

The year New York passed the nation's first law requiring license plates on cars. At the start, drivers made their own plates out of tin, wood, and leather and engraved them with their initials (meaning, yes, the original license plates were also vanity plates). Pre-numbered plates were introduced two years later—just in time for the first speeding ticket, in 1904.



# 30

About how many years it takes Saturn to orbit the sun. This month Earth will pass between the sun and the ringed planet, leaving earthlings with a telescope-free view of Saturn on April 3 and 4. To take it all in, face east in the evening after it gets dark and search for what looks like a bright golden star. Need a little help in your space exploration? Download [Google Sky Map](#) (free, Android) or [Star Walk](#) (\$3, iTunes) to identify celestial bodies in the skies above.



# 96%

The portion of the Red Cross workforce that is made up of volunteers. The American Red Cross responds to more than 70,000 disasters each year—that's one every 7½ minutes. To help out during National Volunteer Week (April 10 to 16), visit [redcross.org/volunteertime](http://redcross.org/volunteertime). Spend an afternoon manning help lines or prepping those lovable CPR-training mannequins.