

get curious about

KNOWLEDGE SERIES

the WORLD

Vol. - 4

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Welcome to an initiative by Greycaps!

'get curious about' is a knowledge series aimed at igniting curiosity among our young minds and encouraging them to explore further in the world of knowledge. The book chronicles amazing facts which we do not come across in our day-to-day lives.

This fourth volume of the 'WORLD' edition of the book, contains topics ranging from interesting places to diversified culture that will enrich your knowledge of the world around us. It captures fun-filled facts with colourful pictures, a great way to discover the world.

Let's read. Let's 'get curious about the WORLD'.

PinkBali

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

Each page in this book has special features that will show you how to grab on to as much information as possible! Look out for these.

GET CURIOUS ABOUT THE WORLD

This section has exciting information about the world around us.



All colour images that bring the topic to life.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Gives you facts on how a name was coined.

DID YOU KNOW?

Introduces unknown or out-of-the-box facts.

KNOW MORE!

This section offers additional information about the topic.

STORY IN TIME

Gives details regarding the history of the topic.



QUICK FACTS

This section gives you detailed information about the topic.

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The Blue Wonder

Sultan Ahmet Camii, also known as the Blue Mosque, is a spectacular piece of architecture, situated in Istanbul, Turkey.

The mosque was commissioned by the Ottoman King Sultan Ahmet I and gets its name because of the blue tiles surrounding the interior of the walls.



The mosque's architecture includes both the Ottoman and Byzantine styles. The interior of the mosque's lower level is lined with tens of thousands of handmade ceramic tiles and consists of more than 50 different tulip designs. The gallery has traditional designs of flowers, fruits and trees. The mosque's upper levels are painted blue, where hundreds of stained glass windows absorb the natural light falling on them. The lamps inside the mosque are covered with gold and studded with gems, and the walls are inscribed with the names of caliphs (the chief Islamic civil and religious ruler) and verses from the Quran.

Story in Time

Sultan Ahmet I commissioned to build the Blue Mosque, inspired by the architecture of the famous monument Hagia Sophia, as he wanted to build a place of worship which was better than the Hagia Sophia. He instructed the architect to build Altin (gold) minarets, who misheard the word 'Altin' as 'Alti', meaning six. Hence, the architect built 6 minarets, of which four stand at the corners of the Mosque. The design resembled that of the Kaaba, a building in the centre of the most sacred mosque in Mecca. To avoid criticism, he added a seventh minaret to the Kaaba.



The other two minarets of the Blue Mosque stand at the end of the forecourt and have only two balconies. Each of the four minarets are pencil or flute-shaped and have three balconies called 'Sarefe'.

The Glowing Flow



This stunning phenomenon is seen on islands like Mudhdhoo, Vaadhoo and Rangali, in Maldives. In this phenomenon, certain bright blue particles or dots appear in the sea, making parts of the sea-water glow. The presence of certain microorganisms that are bioluminescent, is the reason for the glow. The microorganisms that produce and emit their own light are categorised as bioluminescent. Bioluminescence is usually seen when ships pass by, when waves hit the shore, when an oar hits the water, when someone steps on the wet sand, or due to very strong currents in the sea.

Did you know?

A similar phenomenon known as 'red tide' also occurs in other places because of red algae. When it happens, it can change the colour of an entire beach, even during the day. Unfortunately, this amazing phenomenon is accompanied by the smell of decay, as the red algae reduce the amount of oxygen and light in the water.



Glowing blue beaches are seen more often during the night or early in the morning, as there is an increase in the number of microorganisms in sea at this time. The blue glow of the sea can mostly be seen from July to February, especially during a new moon.

Quick Facts

- The reaction of the microorganisms to produce light is similar to the 'glow' that fireflies use to attract prey or mates.
- Some microorganisms glow in order to shock or distract their enemies. Some scientists have named it the 'burglar alarm effect', as the light has the same effect as an alarm scaring a thief away from a house.

Buried Battalion

The 'Terracotta Army' is an army of life-sized terracotta soldiers, archers, horses and chariots built by Qin Shi Huang, the founder of the Qin dynasty of China. It comprises of around 8,000 buried figures which were meant to guard the huge burial complex that Qin had constructed for himself, near the ancient city of Xi'an.

The Terracotta Army chamber was accidentally discovered by a group of farmers in 1974 during their attempt to dig a well. According to archaeologists, the structures were hidden for thousands of years after Qin's death.



Did you know?

Four stair-like walls were found in an underground chamber during a recent excavation. It is assumed that the chamber was built to contain the emperor's soul.



Every soldier of the Terracotta Army has unique facial features and was meant to protect the emperor in his afterlife. The tomb contains rivers and streams of the area, recreated with mercury flowing into a sea, through hills and mountains made of bronze. Qin Shi Huang's tomb, which can be considered as the largest burial complex in the world, was probably never completed. UNESCO recognised it as a World Heritage site in 1987.

Quick Facts

- Historians estimate that around 7,00,000 workers worked for nearly three decades on the burial complex!
- Pearls and other precious stones found in the tomb are supposed to represent the Sun and the Moon, among other stars.
- Due to the advanced techniques used by the ancient Chinese, the weapons found with the terracotta army are well-preserved, even to this day.
- Emperor Qin is also credited with ordering the construction of the earliest version of the Great Wall of China.

Magnificent Mansion



'Antilia' is a 27-floor-high home, belonging to Mukesh Ambani, the chairman of the famous 'Reliance Industries'. The building is located in Mumbai and is the world's largest and most expensive home. Antilia is occupied by Mukesh Ambani, his wife and their children.

Each floor in the multi-floor house has been designed differently. Even the materials used to decorate each floor are different from one another. The grand home has been constructed around 2 concepts - the Sun and the Lotus. These themes are repeated in all the floors, in the form of Sun and Lotus shapes created in crystal, marble, mother of pearl and other rare materials.

The home is named after an imaginary island in the Atlantic Ocean called 'Antilia'.

What's in a name?

The home has one floor with health and beauty services like a yoga studio, swimming pools, a health spa, a dance studio and a salon. For entertainment, the building has a private movie theatre, which can seat around 50 people. In addition, Antilia has an 'ice room' with man-made snow flakes, to experience winter throughout the year. Among the other features of the home, are three helipads on the roof, for helicopters to take off and land and open gardens spread on 4 floors of the building, to keep the place cool in the summers. The building has 9 elevators.



Quick Facts

- Antilia is also an extremely strong building, which can survive earthquakes that measure an '8' on the Richter scale!
- The first 6 floors of Antilia contain just the parking area. A car service station is also present on the 7th floor.

Terrifying Tooth-Fish

Piranhas are a type of fish found in the Amazon River in South America. They are famous for their razor-sharp teeth, which are used by the local people to make tools and weapons.

Piranhas are known to be very violent in their behaviour when they are hungry or disturbed. They seem to be attracted to noise, splashing, and the presence of blood in the water. Though they are small in size, there have been many instances where piranhas have attacked very huge animals. Some adult piranhas also eat their own babies. Moreover, they don't kill their prey first, but start eating it alive. Piranhas digest their food very quickly too.



The word 'piranha' literally means 'tooth fish' in the Brazilian language 'Tupi'.

What's in a name?

However, not all piranhas are violent. Only a few species like the black piranha and the red-bellied piranha are considered dangerous, and attack humans. These species eat human flesh only if they are already dead or dying. Piranhas move in the water in groups or 'shoals' of about 20. When hunting, piranhas usually attack the tail and eyes of animals, so that the prey cannot fight back.



The sound made by a piranha is called a 'bark'.

Did you know?

A Piranha can smell a drop of blood even in hundreds of litres of water.

Quick FACTS

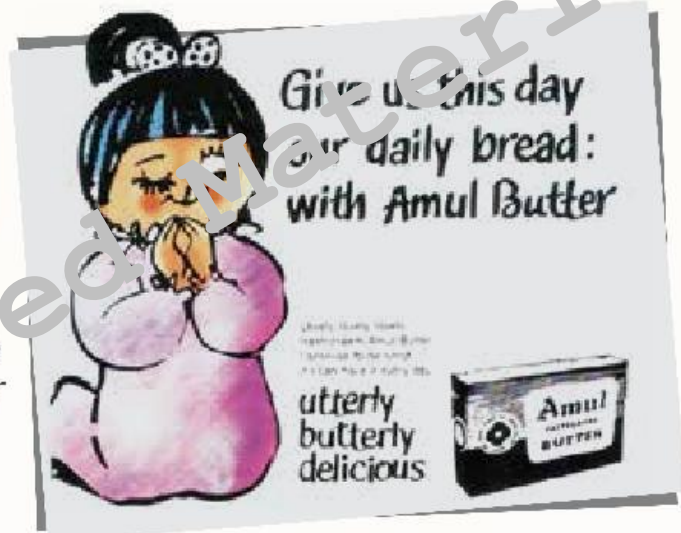
- Piranhas usually live for about 10-25 years.
- Some piranhas are vegetarians, while others are omnivorous.
- Although they are known for their attacking behaviour, piranhas are also kept as pets! However, they cannot be kept with any other kind of fish, and must be fed well to keep them calm.
- Many movies in Hollywood have been made on piranhas.

Utterly Butterly Delicious!



The cute girl wearing a polka-dotted dress and a matching hair bow is the well-known face of Amul Butter. This character was created by cartoonist Eustace Fernandes along with Sylvester DaCunha. She has since, been known lovingly as the 'Amul girl' and turned 50 years old in 2012.

The Amul Girl creates awareness about day-to-day events, through the Amul butter ads. The ads use 'Hinglish' (mixture of Hindi and English) and have clever and funny phrases. When the Amul ads were introduced, they mostly appeared on hoardings, which were all hand-painted. However, as technology advanced, the hoardings were printed and covered with a waterproof sheet for protection. The process of creating the Amul hoardings is still very time-consuming. First, the artist makes a rough sketch of the cartoon. Once it is finalised, the copy is coloured by hand, and then printed. Today, the Amul butter ad featuring the 'Amul girl' also appear in several newspapers, apart from the roadside hoardings.



- This advertisement campaign has found a place in the Guinness Book of World Records, for being the longest running ad campaign.
- There is a British company 'Dairy Crest', which has launched a butter product by the name 'Utterly Butterly'.

Know More!

Dr. Verghese Kurien, the leader of the White Revolution, is the founder of Amul. The Amul girl made the brand famous across India. Director Shyam Benegal told the story of Amul and the White Revolution in his super-hit film 'Manthan - the Churning', which released in 1976. The money for this movie was raised by the farmers who brought milk for Amul every day.