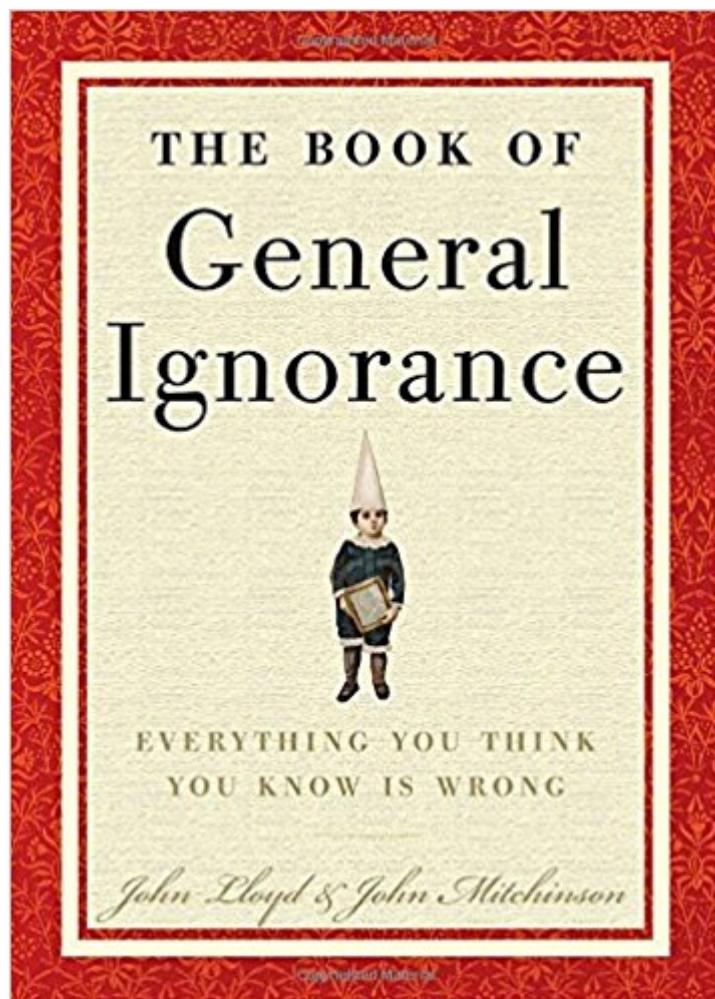


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# The Book Of General Ignorance



## Synopsis

Misconceptions, misunderstandings, and flawed facts finally get the heave-ho in this humorous, downright humiliating book of reeducation based on the phenomenal British bestseller. Challenging what most of us assume to be verifiable truths in areas like history, literature, science, nature, and more, *The Book of General Ignorance* is a witty "gotcha" compendium of how little we actually know about anything. It'll have you scratching your head wondering why we even bother to go to school. Think Magellan was the first man to circumnavigate the globe, baseball was invented in America, Henry VIII had six wives, Mount Everest is the tallest mountain? Wrong, wrong, wrong, and wrong again. You'll be surprised at how much you don't know! Check out *THE BOOK OF GENERAL IGNORANCE* for more fun entries and complete answers to the following: How long can a chicken live without its head? About two years. What do chameleons do? They don't change color to match the background. Never have; never will. Complete myth. Utter fabrication. Total Lie. They change color as a result of different emotional states. How many legs does a centipede have? Not a hundred. How many toes has a two-toed sloth? It's either six or eight. Who was the first American president? Peyton Randolph. What were George Washington's false teeth made from? Mostly hippopotamus. What was James Bond's favorite drink? Not the vodka martini.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you think you're a trivia expert, British TV men Lloyd (producer of the hit comedy shows *Spitting Image* and *Black Adder*) and Mitchinson (writer for *Quite Interesting*) may disabuse you of the notion

that you're a true scholar of random facts-and quickly. Their surprisingly lengthy tome is jam-packed with real answers to a number of less-than-burning questions-camels store fat, not water, in their humps; only five out of every 100,000 paper clips are used to clip papers; the first American president was in fact Peyton Randolph-that you nevertheless may be embarrassed to have completely wrong. Although some of the entries rely on technicality more than actual excavation of obscure fact (Honolulu is technically the world's largest city, despite the fact that 72% of its 2,127 square miles is underwater), these page-length entries prove entertaining and informative, perfect for trivia buffs and know-it-alls; it also makes a fine coffee table conversation piece and a handy resource for prepping clever cocktail party banter. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

“Trivia buffs and know-it-alls alike will exult to find so much repeatable wisdom gathered in one place.” •New York Times “The Book of General Ignorance won’t make you feel dumb. It’s really a call to be more curious.” •The Associated Press “Ignorance may be bliss, but so is learning surprising information.” •Hartford Courant “You, too, can banish social awkwardness by having its endless count of facts and factoids at the ready. Or you could just read it and keep what you learned to yourself. Betcha can’t.” •New York Daily News “To impress friends with your cleverness, beg, borrow or buy John Lloyd and John Mitchinson’s *The Book of General Ignorance*, an extraordinary collection of 230 common misperceptions compiled for the BBC panel game QI (Quite Interesting).” •Financial Times “This book would make even Edison feel small and silly, for it offers answers to questions you never thought to ask or had no need of asking as you already knew, or thought you knew, the answer.” •The Economist “Trivia books, like any kind of mental or physical addiction, are both irresistible and unsatisfying. By the standards of the genre, this one has something approaching the force of revelation. Answering silly questions suddenly seems less important than taking the trouble to ask a few.” •Melbourne Age “Eye-watering, eyebrow-raising, terrific . . . moving slightly faster than your brain does, so that you haven’t quite absorbed the full import of one blissful item of trivial information before two or three more come along. Such fine and creative research genuinely deserves to be captured in print.” •Daily Mail “This UK bestseller redefines common knowledge with factoids that will inform and entertain (or at least liven up your next cocktail party).” •OK! Magazine

The British panel game-show "QI" is, I think, the best show on television, even given the sad fact that it \*isn't\* on television in the US, and could well be runner-up to the fabled "Mystery Science Theater 3000" for the best show in the history of television. That sets a pretty high standard, therefore, for books associated with the series, and "The Book of General Ignorance" by and large stands up to the pressure. Drawing from the TV program's custom of giving large negative-point penalties to contestants who give answers that "everyone knows" are true but are in fact incorrect, Johns Lloyd and Mitchinson list a bunch of questions that have conventional-wisdom answers (Who invented the theory of relativity? Why is a marathon the distance it is?) or have popular urban legends attached to them (What did Thomas Crapper invent? What man-made objects can be seen from the moon?) and show why "everything you think you know is wrong." Some of their information is debatable (for example, in response to the question "How many states does the USA have?" they answer 46, saying that Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts are technically not "states" but commonwealths), but even the most educated reader would probably come away from these pages having learned a few things. More to the point, she'd also come away entertained. While this book doesn't have the outright comedy of the TV show (granted, it's not meant to), the pedigree is still evident, which puts this a step ahead of much of the raft of "interesting stuff you probably never knew" books out there. Combine this with a series of Cecil Adams books, and I bet the connoisseur of obscure knowledge and shooter-down of urban legends will come out very well armed indeed.

Most of which i was pretty ignorant to, all in all a great read. It to me quite awhile to read this but i imagine someone with a little more time on the hands could get through it pretty quickly

I was definitely amazed by how many "truths" were actually not true at all. However, I'm not sure I will remember to correct myself from continuing with my ignorance...

Interesting but very disjointed

these are great books!

Fun book to read

Interesting.

awesome!

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Ace General Chemistry I and II (The EASY Guide to Ace General Chemistry I and II): General Chemistry Study Guide, General Chemistry Review The Book of General Ignorance The Second Book of General Ignorance: Everything You Think You Know Is (Still) Wrong Qi: the Pocket Book of General Ignorance Clinical Anesthesia Procedures of the Massachusetts General Hospital: Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine, Massachusetts General ... of the Massachusetts General Hospital) Sweet Melissa: Ignorance is not Bliss (Book One 1) The Cost of Ignorance: What You Don't Know About Performance-Based Insurance Can Save Your Company Millions Epistemologies of Ignorance in Education Greenspan's Bubbles: The Age of Ignorance at the Federal Reserve Good Faith and Truthful Ignorance: A Case of Transatlantic Bigamy The Colonial Present: The Rule of Ignorance and the Role of Law in British Columbia Agnotology: The Making and Unmaking of Ignorance General Journal: Accounting General Journal Entries Notebook With Columns For Date, Description, Reference, Credit, And Debit. Paper Book Pad with 100 Record Pages 8.5 In By 11 In FTCE General Knowledge Test Prep Study Guide: Quick Study Book for the Florida Teacher Certification Exam General Knowledge Test Fighting for General Lee: Confederate General Rufus Barringer and the North Carolina Cavalry Brigade The ARRL General Class License Manual (Arrl General Class License Manual for the Radio Amateur) General Class License Manual (Arrl General Class License Manual for the Radio Amateur) Standard Catalog of World Paper Money, General Issues, 1368-1960 (Standard Catlog of World Paper Money Vol 2: General Issues) Standard Catalog of World Paper Money General Issues - 1368-1960 (Standard Catlog of World Paper Money 14th Edition: General Issues) Standard Catalog Of World Paper Money General Issues 1368-1960 (Standard Catlog of World Paper Money 13th edition: General Issues)

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