

# The Real Questions

Collecting the amusing, atypical, and otherwise interesting questions of [/r/AskHistorians](#).

While this series honors questions rather than answers, I do my best to recognize responses to these questions as well. Questions with a ‡ have a link to an older answer instead of or along with a direct response, though I only started adding those in October, so there are certainly some older threads that are missing that indication. This list also doesn't take into consideration posts that received answers after I compiled that week's list, so again, there might be questions that actually have answers despite me not recognizing that here. I'm hoping to work on rectifying those two problems, but nothing will be 100% perfect there.

**New, as of January 2023:** Items in bold are those highlighted for Realest of the Year.

# 2020

## June 14, 2020

(includes some from the previous couple months):

1. [/u/platypuskeeper](#) investigated [What's history's best pencil sharpener?](#) on the Friday Free-for-all.
2. [/u/Strong-File](#) asked [How significant was ass in the beauty or sexual standard of ancient Rome? What was the average size?](#), with answers by [/u/toldinstone](#) and [/u/my-foot-is-a-bear](#).
3. [/u/Herpderpberp](#) asked [When did people begin to realize that Italy looked like a boot?](#)
4. [/u/Niallofthee9](#) asked [I am Louis XIV and am about to have sex with my wife or mistress, do I leave my wig on or take it off?](#), with answers by [/u/mimicofmodes](#) and [/u/OwlOfDerision](#). (This is the question that inspired this project.)

## June 21, 2020

5. [/u/ADustedEwok](#) asks [Did Sir Mix-A-Lot have an effect on male dating habits?](#)
6. [/u/gazbar](#) asks [Did people in the middle age stretch? ‡](#)
7. [/u/MKorostoff](#) asks [When/why did bathroom mirrors become ubiquitous?](#)
8. [/u/zeuvembie](#) asks [How Did We Get To Hamburgers?](#)
9. [/u/realestated9](#) asks [How did nickname 'Dick' to Richard develop? Did the word dick not always mean penis?](#), featuring an answer by [/u/mikedash](#)
10. And [/u/KingJimXI](#) asked [Who came up with the idea to make chinstraps too short to actually go under the chin?](#), featuring an answer by [/u/xacriimony](#).

## June 28, 2020

11. [/u/Khwarezm](#) asked [How important were actual Bananas to the economies of the 'Banana Republics'?](#), featuring an answer from [/u/wotan\\_weevil](#).
12. [/u/bluerobot27](#) asked [Why is the Apollo Program, whose purpose is to send a crewed landing to the Moon, named after a god of the Sun?](#)

13. [/u/EnclavedMicrostate](#) asked [How did the Emu War become the memetic event in Australian history that it has?](#)
14. [/u/sunbearimon](#) asked [When did we start putting bells on cats?](#)
15. [/u/Unpolarized\\_Light](#) asked [In "Treasure Island", the pirate Long John Silver gets aboard the Hispaniola working as the chef; was that considered a 'skilled' position, or was chef work on a ship something most sailors could do?, featuring a reply from /u/jschooltiger.](#)
16. [/u/Ryanide1](#) asked [Prior to more modern methods, how were pastas like spaghetti made?](#)
17. [/u/ANIMERULES12345](#) asked [How tall was Thorkell The Tall?](#)
18. [/u/nueoritic-parents](#) asked [Was James Bond seen as a progressive playboy for having flings with women of all colors?? \[Serious\]](#)
19. [/u/ironhorn](#) asked [Star Trek & Doctor Who were both Science Fiction shows which premiered in the 1960s, yet they have very different production styles. What accounts for this?](#)
20. [/u/jjvmt](#) asked [How, when, and why did the vest \(BrE: waistcoat\) cease to be an essential part of men's suits?](#)
21. [/u/nuerotic-parents](#) also asked [What was so appealing about the bra that it completely replace the corset? From my understanding the corset had been around a long time, why was it done away with relatively quickly?, featuring a reply from /u/mimicofmodes.](#)
22. [/u/aonoreishou](#) asked [History of Tongue Twisters - How far back does the earliest recorded tongue twister go? Did older languages/cultures have phrases specifically designed to make people stutter?](#)
23. [/u/rastadreadlion](#) asked [Was Augustus Caesar fun at parties?](#), featuring replies by [/u/UndercoverClassicist](#) and [/u/PippinIRL](#).
24. [/u/Pattingham](#) asked [Have the Spanish always been nightowls?](#), featuring a reply by [/u/TywinDeVillena](#).
25. [/u/im-cute-but](#) asked [Was there medieval "street cred"?](#)

## July 5, 2020

26. [/u/ohthirtynine](#) asked [What's the history of the spreadsheet?](#)
27. [/u/dutch\\_penguin](#) asked [Huxley's Brave New World has Fordism as the religion of the modern age. How big of a cultural impact did Henry Ford have in Europe?](#)

28. [/u/Burningballs2015](#) asked [Why do so many medieval manuscripts depict butt trumpets?](#), featuring an answer by [/u/sunagainstgold](#).
29. [/u/GuiMenGre](#) asked [How did the Western Music System ended up being "uneven", i.e. the interval between E and F is not the same as the one between F and G?](#), featuring an answer by [/u/rosemary86](#).
30. [/u/fan\\_of\\_the\\_pikachu](#) asked [Homer Simpson said "I feel like St. Augustine of Hippo after his conversion by Ambrose of Milan". However, Augustine says his conversion was a miracle which happened when he was alone. Is Homer wrong, or does the credit really go to Ambrose \(and the "miracle" was just a rhetorical creation\)?](#), featuring possibly the realest *answer* of the week by, again, [/u/sunagainstgold](#)!

## July 12, 2020

31. [/u/MancombQSeepgood](#) asked [Where did the joke/cartoon notion of the moon being made of cheese come from?](#)
32. [/u/molotov\\_bomb](#) asked [Why do we presume that Humpty Dumpty was an egg when it doesn't mention that he is at all in the nursery rhyme?](#), and [/u/itsallfolklore](#) cracked that case.
33. [/u/ExternalBoysenberry](#) asked [What is the history behind "What is your favorite color?"](#), and got an enlightening response from [/u/edhistory101](#).
34. [/u/wombfresh](#) asked [It's generally taken for granted in sci-fi that a space military would basically be naval, with cruisers and frigates in fleets led by captains and admirals. Given that there has never been a space military, how did this assumption develop?](#), featuring a response by [/u/AncientHistory](#).
35. [/u/rawkout1337](#) asked [In adventure movies there is a common trope of cutting a rope to drop a chandelier/crates hanging from a crane/etc. How expensive was rope? Would the rope have been a significant cost to replace in different eras?](#), with an answer by [/u/LudicrousIdea](#).
36. [/u/beerbrewer1995](#) asked [What's the history behind the "slipping on a banana peel" thing?](#)

(an inexplicable one-month absence happened here)

## August 9, 2020

37. [/u/spikebrennan](#) asked [Which was invented first: music or dancing?](#), with excellent insight by [/u/nmitchell076](#) and [/u/wotan\\_weevil](#).
38. [/u/\\_SweetCinnamon](#) asks [I just read Pride and Prejudice and I have a question: how common was to visit somebody house and treat it like a museum?](#), with an answer by [/u/mimicofmodes](#).
39. [/u/CanadianShadow](#) asked [How did autograph-signing become mainstream?](#).

## August 16, 2020

40. [/u/Toptomcat](#) asked [How musically realistic is the rock 'n roll sequence in 'Back to the Future'?](#), with an answer by [/u/hillsonghoods](#).
41. [/u/ali8za](#) wanted to know why their new 1840s house is painted in [Old Blue \(Da Ba Dee\)](#).
42. [/u/ehudsdagger](#) asked [Why are vampires associated with New Orleans?](#), with answers by [/u/AncientHistory](#) and [/u/higherbrow](#).
43. [/u/unklethan](#) asked [What circumstances led to the Console Wars?](#), with an answer by [/u/Chengweiyinji](#).
44. [/u/NSFWSoftwareEngineer](#) asked last Sunday [What is the History of Kissing Booths?](#)
45. [/u/jeanfreddysartre](#) asked [Is there any evidence of "theme park" type attractions in ancient civilisations?](#), with answers by [/u/iphikrates](#) and [/u/toldinstone](#).

## August 23, 2020

46. [/u/TVotte](#) asked [Dolly Parton had a famous song "9 to 5", yet every full time job I have had is 8 to 5. Did people work one hour less in the 80s? How did we lose that hour?](#) with responses by [/u/jbdyer](#) and [/u/EdHistory101](#), and a whole lot of discussion within the thread.
47. [/u/MilesPizzaz-](#) asked [America went through a period of time \(1865-1933 approximately\) where we had some BEEFCAKES as presidents. Is there any reason we have strayed from this since then?](#)
48. [/u/Infogamethrow](#) asked [Did the ancient world practice the concept of merchandising? Could you buy an Achilles doll in ancient Greece or a plush Sun Wukong in China?](#)

49. [/u/ietsietsiets](#) asked [Hi, some older people are really against the internet and modern technology. Was the older generation also against books when common people started to learn how to read?](#)
50. [/u/Herpderpberp](#) asked [Did people attending universities in the medieval or renaissance eras ever complain about school-related nightmares? Missing homework, failing tests, 'flunking' out, etc.?](#)
51. [/u/Notmiefault](#) asked [The harmonica is one of the few wind instruments used in American music that involves generating notes by inhaling as well as exhaling. Why do so few instruments incorporate inhalation?](#)
52. [/u/nuerotic-parents](#) asked [What caused music videos to go from just a video of the band or singer jamming to telling a story or just being plain surreal?](#), with an answer by [/u/hillsonghoods](#).
53. [/u/flappyducks34](#) asked [It is common for people to put their hands to their head when trying to think hard. Before we knew that thinking was done in the brain was this still a common pose?](#)
54. [/u/Keyboard\\_worrier](#) asked about [Kramer and alternative media in NYC during the early '90s](#), with an answer [/u/AncientHistory](#).
55. [/u/Rapidity](#) asked [Why does the alphabet have a bunch of letters that rhyme \(b, c, d, e, g, p, t, v, z\) but not the others that could rhyme \(fee, hee, jee, kee, lee, mee, nee, quee, ree, see, tee, wee, yee\)?](#)
56. [/u/WalterDelamere](#) asked [How common was the name Jesus before Jesus Christ?](#), with answers by [/u/theactionisgoing](#) and [/u/Georgy\\_K\\_Zhukov](#). and also [/u/cnzmur](#)!
57. [/u/-krizu](#) asked [When did writing diaries become "unmanly" or "gay" or "feminine"](#), with an answer by [/u/irishpatobie](#).
58. [/u/Euler-Macaroni](#) asked [Did the United States ever consider faking the moon landing? What about the soviet union?](#)

## August 30, 2020

59. [/u/TheNerdChaplain](#) asked [Tolkien writes in The Silmarillion of a battle between Sauron and Finrod Felagund that took the form of competing songs; almost like a "rap battle".](#)

[Was there a historical basis in Tolkien's time and place of linguistic focus for such a conflict?](#), with answers by [/u/mayaxs](#), [/u/jbdyer](#), and [/u/sagathain](#).

60. [/u/LittleBean1014](#) saw a painting and wanted to know [Who Was the Guy Peeping on George Washington?](#), and [/u/TywinDeVillena](#) solved that mystery.
61. [/u/wifi-knight](#) asked [How accurate is Monty Python's 'Anarcho-Syndicalist Peasant' scene? Were small medieval villages de-facto self governing and autonomous from their noble lord and wider nation?](#), and got answers from [/u/mikedash](#), [/u/J-Force](#), and [/u/Airborne\\_Walrus](#).
62. [/u/bitsyvonboomboom](#) asked [I'm a medieval toddler having dinner with my family. Do I refuse to eat peas and throw my spoon like my modern contemporaries, or are the terrible twos and tantrums a modern phenomenon as some would suggest?](#), with an answer by [/u/EdHistory101](#). [/u/swarthmoreburke](#) also contributed!
63. [/u/lapisimpernel](#) asked (in response to the previous one) [How well-tolerated has pickiness or dislike of certain foods by either children or adults been over time?](#)
64. [/u/Representative\\_Slip](#) asked [Where exactly did Slope-Intercept Form come from?](#), with an answer by [/u/wotan\\_weevil](#).
65. [/u/kaijube](#) asked [In the intro to Jurassic Park, Michael Crichton writes "For four hundred years since Galileo, science has always proceeded as a free and open inquiry into the workings of nature." Were there any scientists during the Enlightenment who explicitly sought commercial applications for their discoveries?](#)
66. [/u/acebob58](#) asked [Do we know if JFK or Kissinger actually played Diplomacy?](#), with an answer by [/u/jbdyer](#).
67. [/u/optiplex9000](#) asked [In the first Bill & Ted movie, Billy the Kid befriends Socrates. Would Billy have known who Socrates was?](#)
68. [/u/forevergreenclover](#) asked [How credible is the theory that Adam Smith and David Hume were lovers?](#), with an answer by [/u/charon\\_and\\_minerva](#).
69. [/u/data\\_philes](#) asked [Is there historical evidence for pre-gaming at public shamings, witch burnings, or hangings?](#)

## September 6, 2020

70. [/u/MaxThrustage](#) escaped the clutches of [/r/lewronggeneration](#) to ask [It's common nowadays for teenagers to listen to music from the 1960s, some even complaining that "music was so much better then". Did similar sentiments exist in the 1960s regarding the music of the 1900s? How would a teenager in 1960 view the music of previous generations?](#), which got answers by [/u/hillsonghoods](#) and some [/u/randommusician](#).
71. [/u/arky\\_who](#) asked [What's the earliest water slide we have evidence for? Did the Romans use aquaducts as water slides?](#), which got quite an amusing answer from [/u/toldinstone](#).
72. [/u/PoorOldJack](#) asked [How did "boo" become a word that people use when they scare people?](#)
73. [/u/OldBoatsBoysClub](#) asked [Why did society settle on two slices of toast as a standard?](#)
74. [/u/AltruisticSea](#) asked [What are the origins of the modern cheerleader in the United States?](#)
75. [/u/getrichortrydieing](#) pondered about the olden days and wondered, [As I take this shot and pull out my phone....How did they party?](#)
76. [/u/BargePol](#) had to know, [Was King Stephen cross-eyed?](#), and [/u/mikedash](#) helped paint a clearer picture.
77. [/u/yours\\_is\\_no\\_disgrace](#) asked [Around the turn of the 20th c. \(i.e., 1900\), it seems men were commonly identified by their first two initials \(e.g., A.B. Weeks, B.H. Hudson, N.B. Smith\) rather than their first name. Why was this?](#)

## September 13, 2020

78. *On the Ninth of September, our dear [/u/dedrityl](#) asked [Did historical document writers hire designers to make the beautiful scripts we see at the headers of important historical documents--like the U.S. Constitution--or was everyone have really, really good handwriting?](#). Sadly, they received no responses to their inquiry.*
79. (in the same comment as the previous question) However, three days earlier, [/u/cltfarmer](#) asked [Why did people write much more eloquently 150 years ago?](#), which received a bevy of great answers. And while they deserve to be recognized, surely we must acknowledge our dear moderator [/u/EdHistory101](#) for their most amusing rendition of the standard moderation message.



- Post script: As promised, I must commend [/u/PSUProfOnGrindr](#), [/u/Impersonating-Cactus](#), and [/u/TheSoundOfTastyYum](#) for their insight into this affair.
    - Post-post script: As well, [/u/Whoosier](#) also had an excellent contribution.
80. [/u/cannotchoosegoodname](#) asked [Where does the "Yee-haw", commonly uttered by cowboys in varying types of media, come from? Was it a phrase that many used?](#), and got an answer by [/u/Alkibiades415](#).
  81. [/u/modianota](#) asked [The Kung-Fu movies of the 1970s frequently portrayed huge Kung-Fu battles between rival gangs or martial arts schools. Is there any evidence of a large hand-to-hand battle ever happening in real life?](#)
  82. [/u/adavichel](#) asked [How does the recent phenomenon of "Bardcore" \(modern songs remixed to sound like Medieval tavern music\) compare to real music from that era?](#)
  83. [/u/eternalkerri](#) asked [Naughty Nuns. Are there a lot of Medieval examples of them in texts? How often did libertine nuns get in trouble with the Church?](#)
  84. [/u/fuzzus628](#) asked [I've been playing a lot of Crusader Kings 3 lately, and someone recently posted to its subreddit that the in-game events were "too much of a soap opera." How soap opera-ish could courts in medieval Western Europe \(England, France, HRE, etc\) get?](#)
  85. [/u/memento\\_cheetoh](#) asked [What's the deal with people, including U.S. President Zachary Taylor, dying from eating a 'surfeit of cherries, and what is the current theory of his cause of death?](#) and got an answer by [/u/WhopperitoJr](#)
  86. [/u/Raffajel](#) asked [Place names after discovery or conquest. What's up with the "New" in the name?](#)
  87. [/u/CynicalEffect](#) asked [How long have people been making Uranus jokes?](#), and [/u/jbdyer](#) and [/u/mikedash](#) blew us away with their answers!
  88. [/u/DuvalHeart](#) looked at some classic TV episodes and asked [Was cable TV theft really a big thing in the 1980s?](#)
  89. [/u/eternalkerri](#) asked [Happy Star Trek Day! Did Trek invent exotic fan fiction or did it just make it more mainstream?](#)
  90. [/u/rasputinette](#) asked [The 1949 film "Mr Belvedere Goes to College" depicts a sorority house with its own cook and waiter. When did this practice stop?](#)

91. [/u/42alj](#) asked [How did Sigmund Freud's mother react to his theories?](#), and got responses by [/u/hillsonghoods](#) and [/u/Asdiwal](#).
92. [/u/Tertium457](#) asked [Despite not being considered to be one of the Great Works of Chinese Literature, the story of Mulan is arguably the best known Chinese story in the world today. How did this come to be? Is it entirely because of the animated Disney movie, or was it gaining in global recognition before then as well?](#), which got an answer by [/u/CaspianXI](#)
93. [/u/Periodic\\_Chicken](#) asked [In the modern world, amateur scientists and historians are relatively common. Is this phenomenon present other places in history, or did the general public lack the accessibility to knowledge that makes amateur academics possible?](#)
94. [/u/gdawg99](#) asked [How did American baseball teams in the 1800s schedule games?](#), which got an answer by [/u/packmanwisecy](#).
95. [/u/PYPEACH](#) wondered about the truth behind the ol' showerthought ["The first guy who heard a parrot talk was probably not ok for several days"](#)
96. [/u/GoodOutlook](#) was hungry to find out [How did ketchup become so popular in American culture?](#)
97. [/u/Berkamin](#) asked [Every culture has food, cooking, and restaurants, so why has the French terminology and system of organization dominated world wide?](#)
98. [/u/UWCG](#) asked [Why were pinball machines considered gambling devices in Seattle in the 50s-60s, and was this a common opinion in the US?](#)
99. [/u/Libleftshapiro](#) asked [The modern music industry is dominated by songs about relationships and love. Was it always like this? If not, how and when did these songs first become so popular?](#)
100. [/u/SirCharmington](#) asked [When did screaming first appear in music?](#)
101. [/u/puppyroosters](#) asked [When did "band merch" become a thing? Was there any way for a person in the time of Beethoven to publicly declare their appreciation for an artist's music?](#) and got responses from [/u/Bodark43](#) and [/u/drozweego](#)

## September 20, 2020

102. [/u/PM\\_ME\\_YR\\_GOTH\\_PHASE](#) asked [Did debating fascists ever stop a fascist movement?](#), and got an answer by [/u/crrpit](#).

103. [/u/Barnaderg](#) asked [How are history books from the past different from contemporary history books in terms of accuracy and why?](#)
104. [/u/boring\\_sciencer](#) asked [Why is Wednesday not spelled like it sounds?](#)
105. [/u/iuyts](#) asked [My friend's name is Phillip. It's \\*not\\* Philip or Felipe, and it's certainly not Filippo. But primary sources tend to play fast and loose with spelling and even the name itself \(e.g., May vs. Mary\). When did the spelling and pronunciation of one's name begin to be seen as integral to the name itself?](#)
106. [/u/thecatfoot](#) asked [To what extent was Henry Irving and his cohort at the Lyceum Theater involved in the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn?](#)
107. [/u/Tatem1961](#) asked [Why is Brazil's Carnival so... sensual?](#)
108. [/u/peepee2peepee](#) asked [Were puppet shows actually a norm for entertaining children in Medieval times?](#)
109. [/u/unklethan](#) asked [How did 4/4 and 3/4 become the standard rhythms in music in the Western world?](#), and [/u/harpsichorddude](#) gave us some fine-tuned insight.
110. [/u/TheChickenIsFkinRaw](#) asked [What's the oldest human record of whistling and in what ways was it used?](#)
111. [/u/Chasmatesh](#) asked [Why did it take so long for the bicycle to be invented?](#), and got an answer by [/u/rocketsocks](#)
112. [/u/sonofdurinwastaken](#) asked [I've heard that gladiators sometimes endorsed products before their fights; what kind of products would they endorse? Is there a way to determine these endorsements were actually efficacious?](#)
113. [/u/EuropeanHegemony](#) asked [How would the ancient Romans have reacted to someone illegally wearing purple?](#), and [/u/TMorrisCode](#) gave an answer that is to dye for!
114. [/u/Hangzhounike](#) asked [European monarchs were popular for grooming remarkable facial hair. What about body hair and pubes though? It's hard to imagine a barber cutting the pubic hair of an Emperor.](#)
115. [/u/Jackdaw11](#) asked [What caused the word "the" to be ignored in cataloging?](#)
116. [/u/aescolanus](#) asked [When and how did the standard "park grill" become so ubiquitous in American parks?](#)

- 117. [/u/Nir91](#) asked [When did it become practically impossible to build a house anywhere you like?](#)
- 118. [/u/DisneyWorld1971](#) asked [How did playing music to “set the mood” start?](#)
- 119. [/u/sstarlz](#) asked [What is the origin and background of the song "Do Your Ears/Balls Hang Low"](#)
- 120. [/u/arsadraoi](#) asked [Was ancient singing more like rap or like opera?](#)

## September 27, 2020

- 121. [/u/amelidele](#) asked [Quick, Snappy Dialogue in 1940s Films: What caused the trend, and why did it fall out of favour?](#), and got an answer by [/u/orincoro](#).
- 122. [/u/BourgeoisStalker](#) asked [The Great Gatsby was made into a film in 1926 within a year of publishing, but the novel barely sold and was considered a failure. How common was it at the time to adapt obscure contemporary literature to film?](#)
- 123. [/u/Postmastergeneral201](#) asked [What led the US and Europe to develop a Graphic, Point-and-Click Adventure Game tradition and Japan to develop a Visual Novel tradition?](#)
- 124. [/u/MissBrainProblems](#) asked [What was video gaming like in the Soviet Union? I'm aware of Tetris, as well as the Turnir and various "limited" consoles, but what about foreign consoles and foreign games? Were any particular genres or series popular in the Union? Did the Soviet Union have any gaming magazines or conventions?](#)
- 125. [/u/DeepStateKsenia](#) asked [Did teenage Japanese girls develop a new style of writing in the 1970s?](#)
- 126. [/u/KingEuronIIIGreyjoy](#) asked [When did people start saying "it's not rocket science" when referring to something easy to understand? What did they say before, when aerospace engineering wasn't as widespread? Were there similar sayings with the same idea?](#)
- 127. [/u/ridiquillous](#) asked [Why are the keys on a typewriter/keyboard in the order that they are in?](#)
- 128. [/u/maxlot13](#) asked [Where did the custom of getting on one knee to ask someone to marry you originate?](#)

129. [/u/glorfindel117935](#) used to wonder [Was "taking an arrow to the knee" actually a Viking expression that meant one was getting married like how many Skyrim fans will say it was? Or was that fact just made up after Skyrim came out?](#), but then they took a [/u/sagathain](#) answer to the reddit.
130. [/u/LincolnMagnus](#) asked [Was Attila the Hun "conservative"?](#)
131. [/u/taqn22](#) asked [Considering that the Apple of Eden is intrinsically linked to Original Sin in most Christian Faiths, are there any sects of Christianity across history that forbade the consumption of Apples? Do these potential faiths still exist, or have they been swept away by the sands of time?](#), and got an answer by [/u/SharksWithFlareGuns](#).
132. [/u/throwawayJames516](#) asked [In January 1920, Prohibition, enforced under the 18th Amendment and the Volstead Act, became law across the United States. It remained illegal until its repeal in 1933. Why then, did the Prohibition Party run candidates in the 1920, 1924, 1928, and 1932 elections when its aim had already become law?](#)
133. [/u/yampp](#) asked [Is there any concept in music theory that was introduced by modern pop music \(1950s onwards\) instead of classical music?](#), and got answers by [/u/nmitchell076](#) and [/u/hillsonghoods](#).
134. [/u/Ninja-Snail](#) asked, [Did ancient people really talk in a boring way?](#), and hath received an answer from the scribe [/u/DysfunctionalPrinter](#).
135. [/u/nozoth](#) asked [Why did Greeks use horse \(Philip, Hippias, Hippocrates, Xanthippus, Leucippus, Hippolytus etc\)\) so much in their names when compared to other Indo-European groups?](#)
136. [/u/BreaksFull](#) asked [I'm a well-do Roman aristocrat in Rome during the 2nd century. My wife has been showing an interest in this Syrian cult called Christianity. What am I likely to feel about this?](#), and saw a variety of responses, from [/u/kittenborn](#), [/u/AngelOfDivinity](#), and [/u/CreedDidNothingWrong](#). And [/u/talentless\\_hack1!](#)
137. [/u/NeverRainingRoses](#) asked [I've heard the expression "publish or perish" used to describe the continual pressure to conduct and publish new research as an academic. How intertwined were research and teaching in the early years of European universities? What about during the Renaissance or the Enlightenment? What changed?](#)
138. [/u/Berkamin](#) asked [Why are mimes associated with France, Paris in particular?](#)
139. [/u/ever\\_the\\_unpopular](#) asked [When did office parties become a thing?](#)

## October 4, 2020

140. [/u/Zeuvembie](#) asked [What Is The History of Friendship Bracelets?](#)
141. [/u/tea\\_and\\_biology](#) asked ["John" is a boy's name. "Mary" is a girl's. Have sex-specific first names always been the standard for most peoples? If so, why?](#)
142. [/u/Krandle47](#) asked [Is it known how long people have been making high pitched/cute voices when talking to babies & pets?](#)
143. [/u/AMajesticPotato](#) asked [I am a generic peasant during the High Middle Ages of Europe. How often do I hear music? Under what context?](#)
144. [/u/StephenIrelandsGran](#) asked [What was life like in the Papal States for ordinary people? Any time period is interesting to me - I'm curious mainly whether it functioned like any other italian state or if it was significantly different to them on account of the Pope's rule](#)
145. [/u/Yoko\\_T\\_Spacewhale](#) asked [How Politically Successful Has Bugs Bunny Been Over His 80 Year Life?](#)
146. [/u/divilly](#) asked [Why do old maps have mythical creatures blowing in the corners?](#), with answers by [/u/throfofnir](#) and [/u/WelfOnTheShelf](#).
147. [/u/Nihil-Novi](#) asked [Was Hitler "funny"?](#), with an answer by [/u/MaterialCarrot](#).
148. [/u/Takeoffdpantsnjaket](#) asked [When and where did "mooning" someone originate?](#)
149. [/u/Glittering-Worth-245](#) asked [What caused the rise of modern feminist neo-pagan movements?](#), featuring insight by [/u/USReligionScholar](#) and [/u/AncientHistory](#).
150. [/u/dgoldstein38](#) asked [Many languages to read left-to-right while many others read right-to-left. What cased the difference and when did that difference likely originate?](#) with an answer by [/u/Allas\\_Mittens](#).
151. [/u/ParallelPain](#) asked [What was the AskHistorians equivalent in Classical Greece or Rome?](#)
152. [/u/Rholles](#) asked [When I hear about "Popular Novels" in, say, the 1870s, are they chiefly an upper-class consumption, or did lack of radio and television mean the most-consumed novels were "working-class" in audience? Who consumed the most 19th century novels, and how did class consumption impact those numbers?](#)
153. [/u/Piezke](#) asked [How became California home to so many "cults"?](#)

154. [/u/Tatem1961](#) asked [In the Princess and the Pea, why is being able to feel a pea through 20 mattresses a sign of royalty? Was this a common image of princesses in the author's time and place?](#)
155. [/u/thesoapies](#) asked [How old were the longest running perpetual stews? Were any of them run for generations is it more measured in weeks, maybe years?](#)
156. [/u/iZenga](#) asked [How were knots created, accepted, and spread in the era before global communication was common? What lead to the apparent standardization of knot-tying methods and their uses?](#)
157. [/u/lcnielsen](#) asked (The modern English keyboard seems to have the right-hand side of its main setup optimized for programming - but why do the parentheses seem harder to reach than the square brackets?)[[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians/comments/j41lmo/the\\_modern\\_english\\_keyboard\\_seems\\_to\\_have\\_the/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians/comments/j41lmo/the_modern_english_keyboard_seems_to_have_the/)], with an answer by [/u/wotan\\_weevil](#).
158. [/u/PerryLegoCity60134](#) asked [George Orwell's book 1984 has a year number that is in hindsight not very far from recent history. Although in real life, 1984 was actually a pretty great year, how concerned were the people who had just realized our calendar was getting closer & closer to the year the book has warned us about?](#)

## October 11 2020

159. [/u/meecan](#) asked [Why are many older Horror novels framed as 'Stories within stories'. And how far back does this trend go?](#), and got an answer from [/u/AncientHistory](#).
160. [/u/nightopenedmyeyes](#) asked [I am asking a question in r/ask----- . Why did so many novels used to censor names and places, even if it would be relatively easy to guess from context? When did this trend begin, and why has it largely faded from literature?†](#)
161. [/u/EnclavedMicrostate](#) asked [A vomitorium was not, as commonly believed, a room where rich Romans went to induce vomiting in order to eat more, but rather a high-capacity entry/exit into/from a theatre. But how did the notion that vomitoria were for vomiting in come about? Was it purely a matter of mistaken English etymologies?](#), and [/u/KiwiHellenist](#) and [/u/drozweego](#) regurgitated some information for us.
162. [/u/unklethan](#) demanded [What did "I know the owner" mean 40-50 years ago?](#)
163. [/u/eventfulnothings](#) asked about the [History of Professional Resumes](#).

164. [/u/Gamerguywon](#) asked [What was done before "waiting in line" became a thing? I found that first description of queueing was in a book in 1837 saying it originated in France, but the section in this book doesn't say what was done before.](#)
165. [/u/Ellikichi](#) asked ["You wouldn't hit a guy who wears glasses, would you?" Well... would they?](#)
166. [/u/callmesalticidae](#) asked [How were essay lengths determined \(for school\) before typewriters made it possible to enforce uniformity of font size?](#)
167. [/u/psychosis\\_inducing](#) asked [What is the origin of school pictures and why did they become ubiquitous?](#)
168. [/u/nueoritic-parents](#) asked [Did giving mixtape as a show of romance evolve out of an earlier music-related practice?](#)
169. [/u/nueoritic-parents](#) asked [Halloween is coming up, and with it a slew of classic sexualized costumes such as the fireman, nurse, and cop. When and why did Halloween become sexy?](#)
170. [/u/FlavivsAetivs](#) asked [Allegedly the Pretzel was invented in Italy in 610, is this true?](#)
171. [/u/VanicFanboy](#) asked [Did we see a rise in dental appointments/dental issues around the time we replaced fat with sugar in a lot of our foods?](#)
172. [/u/NeatRevolution9636](#) asked [What was the last straw that changed rowing from a massively popular professional sport to a strictly amateur one?](#)
173. [/u/randomthrowaway889](#) asked [We know about the banjo and berimbau, and marímbula - What other lesser known instruments did enslaved Africans bring to the new world with them? Is there any written, illustrated, or archeological evidence of these instruments?](#)
174. [/u/Kapitalist\\_Pigdog](#) asked [Is there any particular reason that characters in old cartoons \(e.g. "Betty Boop"\) were constantly bouncing to a beat?](#)
175. [/u/thizzacre](#) sparked some conversation with [Why do so many Russian surnames seem insulting or negative?](#), and we saw responses by [/u/AyeBraine](#) and [/u/Lithium2011](#). [/u/theshadowdawn!](#)
176. [/u/Takeoffdpantsnjaket](#) asked a [Theme Question: AOL mass-mailed floppy discs and later CD-Roms to people all over America. What was the environmental impact of this campaign?](#)



- 177. [/u/an\\_actual\\_T\\_rex](#) asked [How exactly did street gangs in Ancient Rome work?](#)
- 178. [/u/pas1138](#) asked [How does a Historian like H.W Brands seemingly write a lengthy book on a different subject year after year?](#)

## October 18, 2020

- 179. [/u/hidefromthethunder](#) asked [Did women in 1910-1950 give broccoli to women they were wooing?](#)
- 180. [/u/PeculiarPangolinMan](#) asked [Has there always been belly button lint since humans started wearing clothes? What's the earliest recorded mention of belly button lint? Has it changed in properties over the years?](#)
- 181. [/u/datwolf\\_soldat](#) asked [Did people in 1920 cringe at people from 1912/1914?](#)
- 182. [/u/Krilesh](#) asked [How realistic is the concept of sleeper agents as a whole to gain secrets, and separately the idea that a codeword can "awaken" sleeper agents. Grounded in reality or total fiction?](#) and got an answer from [/u/AncientHistory](#).
- 183. [/u/IndWrist](#) asked [Why was Chicago the backdrop to so many 80's \(and early 90's\) movies?](#)
- 184. [/u/theusz\\_hamtaahk](#) asked [Did medieval authors write in broken Latin with poor grammar?](#), and got answers from [/u/BRISoneman](#) and [/u/WelfOnTheShelf](#).
- 185. [/u/EqualSky](#) asked [When the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim were first founded, how seriously were they taken and how serious did Disney intend for the venture to be? How did they develop into serious team, both on the ice and in the eyes of spectators, other players, commentators?](#) and got a really cool answer from [/u/kaiser\\_matias](#).
- 186. [/u/rovingstorm](#) asked [How was the Mayan/Aztec game of Ulama \("ancient basketball"\) actually played?](#)
- 187. [/u/albertkoholic](#) asked [about the guitar solo](#) and got an answer from [/u/hillsonghoods](#).
- 188. [/u/gogoatgadget](#) asked [What kind of music did rebels make in olden times or — what's the closest thing to punk pre-1900?](#)
- 189. [/u/kill4588](#) asked [When, how and who decided that a check mark is the symbol or "right", "ok" and cross is the symbol of "wrong", "no"?](#)
- 190. [/u/getintheVans](#) asked [There is a curious trope in fantasy of essentially portraying Dwarves as Scottish people. Is there any historical reason for this? ‡](#)

191. [/u/Reader24244](#) asked [Who were the big names in Arab Alchemy?](#) and got an answer from [/u/sleighpe427](#).
192. [/u/sorozan](#) asked about [Tarot, Closed Practice and Romani People](#).
193. [/u/pas1138](#) asked [What were the effects of the invention of photography on people's self perception and memory?](#) and got an answer from [/u/paperanimals\\_reddit](#). ‡
194. [/u/JJVMT](#) asked [Nowadays, unique names of popular fictional characters often end up as children's names \(e.g. how Twilight made Bella a popular baby name in the Anglophone world\). Did this happen before mass media? E.g. did Shakespeare's plays cause a spate of kids named Romeo, Hamlet, Juliet, Viola, Cordelia, etc?](#)
195. [/u/hefalump1](#) asked [Why is the typewriter font the way it is? Who designed it and why were there not more options widely available??](#) and got an answer from [/u/QuickSpore](#).
196. [/u/jschooltiger](#) asked [Meant to ask this during Banned Books Week, but: what is the actual history of books being banned from schools/school districts in the US?](#)
197. [/u/FelicianoCalamity](#) asked [When and why did cul-de-sacs become such a ubiquitous feature of American suburbs?](#) and got an answer from [/u/MrDowntown](#).
198. [/u/barredspiral](#) asked about the utility of [Undercut Haircut Common for WWII Tank Operators?](#)
199. [/u/ArmandoAlvarezWF](#) asked [CS Lewis had a character say Arthurian legend had a division between "very British" characters like Morgan & "not very" British ones like Lancelot. He says this reflects a division in 5th c. Britain between Romanized nobles & nonRomanized Britons. Is this based on 20th cent Arthurian scholarship?](#) and got an answer from [/u/epicyclorama](#).
200. [/u/phlummo](#) asked [Why do pre-20th C fictional characters so happily go into debt?](#)

## October 25, 2020

201. [/u/Anon9139](#) asked [Did Gavrilo Princip cause anime?](#), and got an answer from [/u/AncientHistory](#).
202. [/u/KvinnoralskarAnkor](#) wonder what people did about [Debts before zero was a number](#).

203. [/u/Postmastergeneral201](#) asked [Super Mario Bros 2 was released only in Japan due to the belief that it was too hard for western players. Where did that belief come from?](#), and got an answer from [/u/jbdyer](#).
204. [/u/unklethan](#) asked [Would a Roman have ever pronounced 3,000 as "mmm"?](#)
205. [/u/zurbzurbzurb](#) asked [Am I wrong to think that shows like Ancient Aliens are extremely detrimental?](#), which got great discussion from a whole bunch of people, including [/u/thestoryteller69](#), [/u/VetMichael](#), and several more!
206. [/u/statistical\\_models](#) asked [What did people do before chairs became common?](#)
207. [/u/SnooHabits7109](#) asked [Why does the Devil like rock and roll? ‡](#)
208. [/u/noxpost](#) asked [Where did military marching cadence counts \(1,2,3,4 2,2,3,4 3,2,3,4 etc\) come from and when did it come into use?](#)
209. [/u/GoosePoopie](#) asked [At what point in history did pooping and farting become "unlady like" for women?](#)
210. [/u/Nathan1123](#) asked [Most modern media depicts witches as grizzly, old hags. However, some contemporary media \(Stardust and The Witcher\) instead depict them as young, seductive women. Which of these two images are more historically accurate?](#)
211. [/u/egg420](#) asked [How did the mispronunciation of Caesar begin? Everything I've read has indicated it's pronounced Kaiser, but See-zer is still the common pronunciation](#), and got an answer from [/u/xarsha\\_93](#).
212. [/u/Thefishlord](#) asked [I'm a roman citizen during the golden age of the Empire and I feel like today's a good day for a bath. What would be the normal procedure for a top roman bathing experience?](#)

## November 1

213. [/u/saraww](#) asked [Are there any records of 'Safety Coffins' actually saving anyone's life?](#), which got an answer from [/u/jbdyer](#).
214. [/u/TheHondoGod](#) asked [Did Medieval China have Ghost Stories?](#)
215. [/u/UsernameClassified](#) asked [Where did the material in the Lesser Key of Solomon, and similar grimoires, come from?](#), which got an answer from [/u/AncientHistory](#). ‡
216. [/u/rock\\_the\\_cat-spa](#) asked [What is the origin of the "evil laugh"?](#), which also got an answer from [/u/AncientHistory](#).

217. [/u/cuthman99](#) asked [American historians who are also parents: how do you address errors and gross oversimplifications presented to your kids as historical fact in school? Do you ever bring it up with teachers? Do you address it with your kids, and if so, how--without 'undermining' the authority of the teacher?](#), which just got a whole bunch of great responses.
218. [/u/JustPiccii](#) asked [How easy was it for a cowboy in the 1800s to get a guitar? Were there guitar schools and stores in the wild west? Did cowboys even actually play guitar?](#)
219. [/u/marcosanches](#) asked [Could a fetus inherit a fief?](#). ‡
220. [/u/Tsucculent17](#) asked [Is there any strong evidence for or against the idea of a vegetarian Jesus?](#)
221. [/u/mimicofmodes](#) asked [When and how did labs and golden retrievers become the classic "family dogs" in the United States?](#), and got an answer by [/u/turkeybot69](#).
222. [/u/Mrquizmo](#) asked [So, what's the deal with K and W re:Radio and TV stations? Why those letters? Why not L and D?](#)
223. [/u/where\\_is\\_jef](#) asked [Does anyone know what happened to Carla de Vries, the woman who kissed Adolf Hitler at the 1936 Olympics? What she thought of her action in the aftermath of WW2 and how it changed her life, if it did?](#)
224. [/u/ienjoycurrency](#) asked [When did we start assigning things review scores?](#)
225. [/u/zurbzurbzurb](#) asked [Is there actually an interdisciplinary rivalry between historians and anthropologists?](#)
226. [/u/SebasGomezPhantaSoft](#) asked [In the anime Inuyasha the protagonist travels back in time to the Sengoku period \(1467-1615\). She often uses a bicycle as her mean of transportation. Would the roads from that era really enable her to use one as an effective mean of transport?](#) ‡
227. [/u/ilikepugs](#) asked [Why are most 1,000 year old companies Japanese?](#)
228. [/u/Comandante380](#) asked [Did the Soviet Union have any TV shows that developed strong niche fan followings, the way Star Trek did in America?](#)
229. [/u/RusticBohemian](#) asked [Rock and Roll music was considered corrupting and unchristian when it first appeared. Did classical music face similar criticism?](#)
230. [/u/ComradePruski](#) asked [How much interaction was there between western and Asian musicians in the 70s and 80s?](#)

- 231. [/u/Zeuvembie](#) asked ["Wolfman's Got Nards": Would Kids in the 1980s Have Been Familiar With 1930s Universal Monster Movies?](#), which got an answer by [/u/jbdyer](#)
- 232. [/u/Zeuvembie](#) asked [What Is The Origin of Newspaper Horoscopes?](#), which got an answer by [/u/DuvalHeart](#)
- 233. [/u/Zeuvembie](#) asked [What Did The Taiping Think Of Ghosts?](#) an answer from [/u/EnclavedMicrostate!](#)
- 234. [/u/Zeuvembie](#) asked [What was the Jewish response to The Golem: How He Came into the World \(1920\)?](#)

## November 8, 2020

- 235. [/u/Fincastle86](#) asked [Have past historians followed rules about who to call “the Great” \(Alexander, Catherine, Alfred, etc.\) and do current historians have guidelines or opinions about using those conventions - or even when to dub a newer historical person as “the Great”?](#)
- 236. [/u/Refrelic](#) asked [where did the trend of essays, papers, and books being called “we don’t talk about \[name\]”, originate? is it a quote from a previous work? and if so, what was the writing about?](#)
- 237. [/u/Nathan1123](#) asked [When did clowns become terrifying?](#)
- 238. [/u/iwanttobepart](#) asked [“The Count of Monte Cristo”, “Les Miserables”, and “Papillon” are three world-famous French novels that all feature a convict as the main character. How did this subject come to play such an outsized role in French culture?](#), and [/u/dharmatree](#) locked that question away.
- 239. [/u/xSessionSx](#) asked [What kind of names did people have for their pets in Victorian era?](#)
- 240. [/u/Akinter](#) asked [In the Netflix series "The Queen's Gambit", some characters in New York City make a direct phone call to Moscow in 1968. Would something like that actually be possible in real life? An american civilian making a phone call to the USSR during the cold war?](#), and we were able to ring up [/u/jbdyer](#) to find out.
- 241. [/u/wondernyan92](#) asked [I keep seeing forks with two tines on period dramas; when and why did we add more to get the forks we use today?](#)

242. [/u/Frigorifico](#) asked [Do historians who study dead languages like Sumerian or Akkadian ever get to the point of being fluent and be able to have conversations in those languages with other historians?](#), and [/u/DiabolicalPinkBunny1](#) gave us some insight.
243. [/u/intently](#) asked [What games did people play in first century Palestine?](#)
244. [/u/King\\_of\\_Men](#) asked [What is the history of shampoo?](#), and [/u/survivinghistory](#) cleaned up that confusion.
245. [/u/Ke vex\\_The Dictator](#) asked [What is the history behind shopping malls having palm trees inside of them?](#)
246. [/u/fakespeare999](#) asked [Historically and linguistically, what makes people categorize British/French/etc. accents as "sexy" and Asian/Indian accents as "unattractive?" When in American history did this attitude develop?](#), and [/u/Afraid\\_Concert549](#) gave an answer to swoon over.
- (This question also got cross-posted to [/r/linguistics](#), if you're interested in the discussion over there as well.)
247. [/u/nueoritic-parents](#) asked [When did “pssst” and “sh!” come to mean “I stealthy want your attention” and “quiet”?](#)
248. [/u/jnsya](#) asked [What did anarchist counterculture look like in the 19th century?](#), and [/u/tuttifruttidurutti](#) and [/u/ItLiesInTheProles](#) freed us of that ignorance. As did [/u/Drugs\\_and\\_Anarchy!](#)

## November 15, 2020

249. [/u/smurfcake77](#) asked [i once read about a company that saved millions by reducing their sauce by a small amount. anyone got specifics?](#)
250. [/u/Exxxxtremophile](#) asked about ["Ruling the martial world" in Kung Fu movies.](#)
251. [/u/TrumpWasABadPOTUS](#) asked [What options were available to someone visibly autistic in the 19th century American "Wild West"](#)
252. [/u/witchydolly](#) asked [Was there any public outrage to Britney Spears' teenage hypersexualization? And if so, was it fueled more by slut-shaming than genuine concern for her?](#) and got an answer by [/u/hillsonghoods](#).
253. [/u/EnclavedMicrostate](#) asked [The 1970s seem to have seen a lot of songs and albums making meta-commentary about music and the rock lifestyle, such as Don McLean's](#)

['American Pie', The Eagles' 'Hotel California', or Pink Floyd's 'Wish You Were Here'. Was there something about the '70s that made this so?](#) and also got an answer by hillsonghoods.

254. /u/Zeuvembie asked [Were There Health Scares Related To The Adoption of New Forms of Underwear In the 19th/20th century?](#)
255. Zeuvembie also asked [What Is The History of Stand-Up Comedy?](#)
256. /u/nueoritic-parents asked [How did Star Trek fans react to Gene Roddenberry's death? I assume they talked about it in zines, fan magazines, newsletters, etc. What did they think would happen TL Stat Trek? Are any of these first-hand accounts digitized?](#)
257. /u/danteelite asked [Why is western poison/toxin portrayed as green, and Japanese poison/toxin is portrayed as purple?‡](#)
258. /u/JimeDorje asked [What kind of guests patronized ryokan in pre-modern Japan?](#)
259. /u/Mcfinley asked [Today, many followers of the Abrahamic religions pray in languages that differ from their native tongues. Was this common in the ancient world?](#)
260. /u/Jinglemisk asked [Tolstoy the author and Spinoza the philosopher both reach the same conclusion about the Bible. Do we know whether Tolstoy ever read Spinoza?](#)
261. /u/James\_099 asked [Where did the cartoonish bomb originate? The black sphere with a short wick?](#) and got an answer by /u/PartyMoses.
262. /u/oldwinequestion asked [Where did the comedy sped-up voice for the other side of a phone call come from?](#)
263. /u/LadyManderly asked [In 1828, Bolivar left a masquerade ball early as his mistress dressed as a man was disallowed entry. Why was this rule in place?](#) and got an answer by /u/Red\_Galiray.
264. /u/TheGreenAlchemist asked [Wearing flags used to be considered disrespectful, now it's used as a display of patriotism. What happened?](#)
265. /u/stabby\_joe asked [Do diaries from 1918 bemoan the worst year ever due to war/pandemic in the same way we have this year?](#) and got answers from /u/panzercaptain and /u/beagleboy167.
266. /u/ouishi asked [How old is the myth of the "monster under the bed"? When and where did it originate?](#) and got an answer from /u/AncientHistory.

267. /u/fiftythreestudio asked [In fantasy fiction and tabletop gaming, it's a cliché that the main characters meet in a tavern. Where did that come from?](#) and also got an answer from AncientHistory.
268. /u/Madd-Nigrulo asked [It is 1943, I am a high school teacher in Paris, France. We have been under German occupation for 2 years now. How has my teaching curriculum changed under Nazi rule?](#) and got answers from /u/JustePecuchet and /u/EdHistory101.
269. /u/irishtrashpanda asked [I read once in a kids fiction book that Egyptian mummies were so plentiful when first discovered that the British took many home as conversation pieces, but had so many that they were used as firewood - is there any historical grain of truth in this?](#) and got an answer from /u/NumisAl.
270. /u/EnergeticExpert asked [Did kids use to ride and play with toy carriages instead of toy cars?](#)
271. /u/Jett728 asked [This question is odd, but what is the back story behind chef hats?](#) and got an answer from /u/mimicofmodes.
272. /u/Toorelad asked [What was kissing like before the advent of modern dental hygiene? Was it a less prevalent form of affection?](#)
273. /u/Czone asked [In pop culture, the Kraken is sometimes associated with Greek Mythology. Does this originate with Clash of Titans or predate it?](#) and got an answer from /u/itsallfolklore.
274. /u/MySkinsRedditAcct asked [With the Greeks and Romans always wishing to claim descent from the gods, did women ever link themselves to Pandora, made by the god Hephaestus \(Vulcan\)?](#)
275. /u/JagmeetSingh2 asked [In the movie True Grit \(a western set in Texas\) the main character a girl of 14 goes to an inn and is told that that due to having too many visitors she will need to share her bed with an complete stranger who happens to be an older woman. Would this actually happen?](#) and got an answer from /u/TMorrisCode.
276. /u/NumberMuncher asked [In the 1976 movie, the Town that Dreaded Sundown, "Auld Lang Syne" was played at the 1946 senior prom. Would this have been a common prom song? When did it become so closely associated with New Year's?](#)



November 22, 2020

277. /u/MidiSymphony asked Where did the infamous cherry stem tongue tie trick come from, and how did it become synonymous with "good" kissing and "other" abilities?
278. /u/RusticBohemian asked Everyone who could write between the advent of cheap paper and 1940 seemed to keep a journal or commonplace book. Was journaling promoted in popular culture? How did it become so popular, and why did people decide journaling was a positive thing?
279. /u/Morriscane asked about the Origin of the contemporary six-sided dice?
280. /u/ReaperReader asked Did Nefertiti even lift?
281. /u/jelvinjs7 asked Were there major athletic competitions and events in pre-modern/pre-colonial Africa and Asia, similar to sporting events like the Olympics and gladiator fights in ancient Greece/Rome?
282. /u/Janbiya asked Where did homework come from and how did it become a practically universal feature of K-12 and university education?
283. /u/dean84921 asked Characters in historical fiction often fall into the trope of speaking multiple languages "cleanly," without an accent. Passing as a native speaker is rarely emphasized in modern language learning. How accurate is this trope, and how has modern language learning changed?
284. /u/karatsubas asked How was academic plagiarism usually punished during the 19th and early 20th century?
285. /u/nnonnewtonian asked The historical musical Tuck Everlasting features a song in which one of the characters poetically explains the concept of evaporation to another. Is this accurate? Would an 11 year old girl in 1893 New Hampshire really know what evaporation is?
286. /u/dexterpine asked When and how did dinosaurs become marketed to children as fun animals?
287. /u/doperat asked When did requesting a signature from a famous person become a thing?
288. /u/TheRadHatter9 asked Graphic t-shirts gained popularity in the 60s/70s. Prior to this, t-shirts were almost exclusively plain and worn mostly as undergarments until the

[50s. A photo of a woman with a Mickey Mouse shirt in 1939 makes me wonder - did she make it? Or did Disney actually make them? Other graphic tees too?](#) and got an answer by /u/Chengweiyangji!

289. /u/mistercatworks asked about the [Origin of tradition that sleeping bag lining is plaid](#).

## November 29, 2020

290. /u/nowlan101 asked [How did countries like Qin Dynasty China or the Ottoman Empire react to Charles Darwin's Origin Of The Species?](#) and got an answer from /u/Xuande88.‡

291. /u/DuvalHeart asked [Was the idea that humans would evolve into two species common at the time H.G. Wells wrote The Time Machine?](#)

292. /u/PalpitationOk4704 asked [What were electric eels called before electricity?](#) and got an answer from /u/restricteddata.

293. /u/edwardtaughtme posited [In the tv series "The Good Place," the only notable ancient philosopher in their analog of Heaven is Hypatia of Alexandria. \(The others mentioned by name all defended slavery.\) How well did her philosophy and conduct conform to 21C Anglosphere social mores?](#) and got an answer from /u/mythoplokos.

294. /u/Zeuvembie asked [What Was Baseball Like During The American Civil War?](#)

295. [Home Alone's film-within-a-film, Angels with Filthy Souls, comes off as a convincing imitation of 1930s gangster films. Would its mild profanity \("get the hell outta here"\) and non-gory but gleeful ultraviolence have passed the censors in the actual 1930s \(both pre- and post-Hays Code\)?](#)

296. [It seems to me that 1980's Hollywood reflects a strong nostalgia for the 1930s \(especially 30's gangsters; see examples inside\)? Was 30's nostalgia a real trend at the time, or am I falling prey to confirmation bias? If it was, what prompted it? The half century mark, or something else?](#)

297. /u/TheWyser asked [Did anyone ever sing Alice's restaurant to a military shirk?](#)

298. /u/dzdaniel84 asked [Between 1989-1992, as the Iron Curtain fell, did globe sales plummet as people realized country borders were quickly changing or rise as more people wanted to replace their outdated globes?](#)

## December 6, 2020

299. /u/joshually asked Where and when did the angelic choir harmonizing “ahhhhhh” to signify the opening of heaven’s gates or to reveal some sort of revelation originate as a trope?
300. /u/LibraryLass asked Were some traditional Christmas carols viewed as being specifically Catholic or Protestant?
301. /u/helldeskmonkey asked When did humanity realize that the moon had a "dark side"?
302. /u/PM\_for\_bad\_advice asked What were the state-of-the-art scientific theories on the origin of species before Darwin's seminal work? and got an answer by /u/NoSoundNoFury.
303. /u/jewishgxd asked Odd Question: Historically, we see that in many nations during internal strife or are otherwise under "dictator" rule, flags of opposing nations are burned. I've always wondered, where do people within "closed off" countries get the flags of such countries? (Example Below)
304. /u/EqualSky asked Whats the history of sports teams using American-style “mascot” names (eg Denver Broncos) instead of Euro-soccer-style “club” names (eg Manchester United)? and got an answer by /u/PopeInnocentXIV.
305. Harkening to Seinfeld, /u/nickoskal024 asked Did pirates wear puffy shirts?
306. /u/RusticBohemian asked Nearly every park with a decent mountain has a "castle" on it in the Northeastern US. I assumed this was normal until I started moving around the country and found the castle-building bug apparently never caught on. Why were so many recreational castles built in the Northeast? and got an answer from /u/jaxdraw.
307. /u/King\_Vercingetorix asked Before the Passage of the Smoot Hawley Tariff Act, what was the local US goldfish industry like? Did they really need tariffs to protect themselves from foreign competition?
308. /u/Power\_Glum1 asked Why is Noir jazz music associated with detectives and spies? and got an answer by /u/AncientHistory with some additional insight from /u/hillsonghoods.
309. /u/WriterOfLetters asked How did the modern academic paper structure emerge as the main vehicle of scientific communication.

310. /u/KingAlfredOfEngland asked [Multiple works of popular fantasy media frequently depict Dwarves as living in great cities and halls built into mountains. Were there ever any real-life civilizations that did this? If not, where does this trope come from?](#) and got an answer from /u/sunagainstgold.
311. /u/got\_erps asked [Was there ancient world G.O.A.T. debates a la Jordan v Lebron? Like did people debate if Augustus was a better leader than Alexander and so on?](#)

## December 20, 2020

(I accidentally missed a Digest, so this covers two weeks' of posts.)

312. /u/best\_of\_badgers asked [Lawrence Sheriff, who supplied groceries to Queen Elizabeth I, was apprenticed to a London grocer for seven years. What did grocers do in those days that required such long training?](#) and got an answer by /u/sunagainstgold.
313. /u/Libertat asked [What was the name of for telephone game before telephones were invented?](#)
314. /u/HopelessCineromantic asked [How did "Cups" become associated with sports, both linguistically and physically?](#)
315. /u/Schpaghettizemo asked [Did cannonballs shatter?‡](#)
316. /u/RusticBohemian asked [Business schools warn about "Persian Messenger Syndrome," an aversion to delivering bad news due to fear of punishment. Did the Persians really kill messengers bearing bad news?‡](#)
317. /u/InSearchofaStory asked [How exactly were color TVs advertised on black and white sets?](#) and got an answer by /u/jbdyer.
318. /u/Jerswar asked [How does the cheesy propaganda stage show in Captain America: The First Avenger compare to real ones from WW2?](#)
319. /u/Chicano\_Ducky asked [The Aztec pantheon had a "toilet god" that tempted you to sin so it could cleanse you of sin, and had a philosophy of moderation on the "slippery earth". What did they consider a sin?](#) and got an answer from /u//u/400-rabbits.
320. /u/ltinkers asked [What would happen to you if you were allergic to cats in ancient Egypt? ‡](#)
321. /u/iZenga asked [When/why did grasping each other's forearms come to signify brotherhood and unity in television? Was this a real form of greeting or agreement?](#)

322. /u/HachimansGhost asked [In shows, there is a popular joke where a dubious product is named with an "-O-" in the middle. This is a reference to RonCos products, but companies such as Nik-O-Lock and Drink-O-Pop also used it. What did that "O" mean and was it widespread in product names back then?](#)
323. /u/Zeuvembie asked [Did The Publication of The Hobbit \(1937\) Lead To An Increased Public Interest In Runes?](#)
324. /u/TheHondoGod asked [How did trains become a major component to the Christmas aesthetic?](#)
325. /u/ohdaviing asked [How and why did Literary Past Tense become the default for English literature?](#)
326. /u/Holmium-Molybdenum asked [Were there anti-intellectualist groups in the age of enlightenment?](#)

## December 27, 2020

327. /u/cynicalventriloquist asked [Most museum and art gallery pieces have extreme display conditions \(ie no photos with a flash, humidity and temp control\) to preserve them long term. And yet for a long time it used to be to normal to smoke EVERYWHERE , use flash photography etc , how are most artifacts still intact?](#)
328. /u/JJVMT asked [In Home Alone \(1990\), Gus Polinski \(the kind, quirky "Polka King of the Midwest" played by John Candy\) mentions having had regional success in the Midwest in the 1970s. Was there a real Midwest Polka fad in the 70s and 80s that Gus's "elevator speech" was referencing or parodying?](#)
329. /u/2headlights asked [How long have men's pants had a "fly"? Are there early/alternative versions of the fly? My partner today said "people have been using flies for a thousand years." Wikipedia says the 16th century but it seems like, especially in cold climates, something like a fly would have existed much earlier](#)
330. /u/Pressure-Electrical asked [How do ruins end up covered?](#) and dug up some answers by /u/ndvi and /u/warriorofinternets.
331. /u/CallSignNovember asked [Would Americans from the 1800s be considered antisocial by modern standards?](#) and got an answer by /u/fulltimehistorynerd.

332. /u/PsychoSemantics asked [Did people form parasocial relationships with newsreaders or public officials in the past, eg. World War 2 and sitting around the radio for daily updates?](#)
333. /u/edwardtaughtme asked [In 1965, Tom Lehrer wrote and performed both a song lampooning Wernher von Braun and a song about nuclear proliferation in which Alabama is a punchline. Would he and his audience have known that von Braun developed ICBMs in Alabama?](#) and got responses by /u/reindeerflot11la and /u/restricteddata.
334. /u/Sweet\_Kaleidoscope asked [What the heck was going on in New York at Christmas in the 1770s? Wikipedia's history of Santa Claus describes "aggressive home invasions," "sexual deviancy" and a weird parody of Dutch culture.](#) and got an answer from /u/lord\_mayor\_of\_reddit.
335. /u/Zeuvenbie asked [How Did Gingerbread Become Xmas Food?](#)
336. /u/Atomicpenguin101 asked [Is reading history dissertations a good way to learn more about history?](#) and got a human-readable answer by /u/restricteddata.
337. /u/Dinocrocodile asked [In Netflix's Dracula, there's a character who specializes in the occult, vampirism etc. That got me thinking, could a Medieval or early modern nun have pursued these interests without being looked at askance? Did any church figures seriously study the occult or was it all just condemned and ignored?](#)
338. /u/HisPension asked [The Wikipedia page for the Siege of Vicksburg lists "1 camel killed" in the casualties section. Does this camel have a story? What was it doing in Vicksburg?](#) and got an answer by /u/Georgy\_K\_Zhukov.
339. /u/Shikatanai asked [A common TV trope nowadays is having an ensemble cast of characters and throughout the series dedicating episodes \(often including flashbacks\) to each to explain why they are the way they are now. When did this format become popular?](#)
340. /u/Pypeline47 asked [Assuming Jesus of Nazareth was real and his family was not wealthy, and at his birth he was brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh by Magi/Wise Men, how much of a windfall would this be to the family?](#) and got answers by /u/Onequestion0110 and /u/BBlasdel.
341. /u/JustinJSrisuk asked [I found an image online of what appears to be a \(satirical?\) woodcut depicting different religious sects in Elizabethan/Jacobean England. What are](#)

[these sects and what is the background of this image?](#) and got answers by /u/cckerberos and /u/wishbeaunash.

342. /u/edwardtaughtme asked [The Navajo language is dependent on subtle vocal inflections, to my \(very weak\) understanding - were Code Talkers impeded by the fidelity of their radio equipment?](#)
343. /u/optiplex9000 asked [Was there movie piracy in early Hollywood? If so, where did someone go to watch a pirated movie?](#)

2021

## January 3, 2021

344. /u/0xE4-0x20-0xE6 asked [Why did Charles Darwin publish his theory of evolution as a book to be read by the masses? In general, what's the history of new scientific theories being revealed in pop science books instead of in scientific journals.](#) and got an answer from /u/restricteddata.
345. /u/JadeSeal asked [What was used for lighting in libraries in the 15th-17th century?](#)
346. /u/abracadabrantesques asked [I've read that the Titanic movie is incredibly accurate \\*for what we knew in 1997\\*. What elements of the movie are now out of date based on newer research?](#) and got an answer from /u/YourlocalTitanicguy.
347. /u/GalataCastle wondered about our [Association of music with working \(when, why, how, where\)](#)
348. /u/Temporariness asked [How accurate is the representation of Bree's gate from LOTR?](#) and got an answer from /u/sunagainstgold.
349. /u/envatted\_love asked [Why haven't comedy films evolved to have laugh tracks the way sitcoms have?](#)
350. /u/The\_Manchurian asked [Where did the idea that "gentlemen prefer blondes" come from?](#) and got a seductive answer from /u/walpurgisnox.
351. /u/New\_Siberian asked [If I were a girl born into a noble household in Sengoku-period Japan, what kind of desserts would I sneak out of the kitchen?](#)

352. /u/ProfessorBarium asked [What did a Roman parking lot look like?](#) and got an answer from /u/toldinstone.
353. /u/goodmorningihatewo asked [Would a Medieval European peasant know what a Hippopotamus is? How about a nobleman or king?](#)
354. /u/HorrorGuarantee1 asked [Why does James K Polk appear to sign his name as Jamez?](#) and got an answer from /u/khosikulu.
355. /u/Deggit asked [I'm a literate, well-off commoner in the High Medieval society you study. Do I consider myself a\) "free," b\) "unfree but that's the way things ought to be," c\) "unfree and it's bad but I can't change it," d\) "freedom doesn't really matter one way or the other," e\) "what's freedom?"](#)
356. /u/saurabh24 asked [How did we have common punctuations for all languages?](#) and got an answer by /u/keyilan.
357. /u/CitizenPremier asked [Television broad-casters have a distinctive way of speaking, where among other things, they often put HEAVY STRESS in the middle of sentences. Where did this BROADCASTER VOICE come from, and when did it become common?](#)
358. /u/SaintShrink asked [Why was all the personal computer equipment from the 80s and 90s beige?](#) and got a colorful answer from /u/wotan\_weevil.
359. /u/Zeuvenbie asked [Was There Acid Rain & Snow In The 19th Century?](#) and got an answer from /u/wotan\_weevil.
360. /u/AReslSlimBrady asked [Is there a particular cultural / contextual reason why many original Scooby Doo episodes /movies feature many Confederate ghosts and almost no Union ones? ‡](#)
361. /u/KnowsItToBeTrue asked [Before there were garbage trucks and modern landfills, what did people do with their garbage? Who took care of it and how?](#) and /u/MrDowntown dumped a load of information for us.
362. /u/Tick\_Durpin asked [Yan Tan Tethera or Why do we use certain words for numbers, but not others?](#)
363. /u/I\_walked\_east asked [I'm an average horse that is part of a baggage train during the Crusades. What kind of hoof care can I expect?](#) and got an award-whinnying answer by /u/WelfOnTheShelf.
364. /u/Ehrfurcht asked [What was it like to be a Grocer in the early 20th Century?](#)




January 10, 2021

365. /u/Shazam884 asked [Who decided we do math in the order of PEMDAS and why?](#) and received an orderly reply by /u/MoiMagnus.
366. /u/dumthorwaygringo asked [I'm a new dad 100 years ago, what is my selection of parenting books like?](#)
367. /u/felixthethe asked [I frequently hear that Newton put much more work into his theological research than scientific. If so, what were Newton's biggest contributions to theology? Did he have any significant ideas/discoveries akin to his work in other fields?](#) and got an answer from /u/restricteddata.
368. /u/msjune75 asked [How should I reconcile Darwin's famous 'heart of stone' quote with his obvious enthusiasm for organisms like barnacles and worms?](#), and also got an answer from restricteddata!
369. /u/Ecstatic\_Ferret230 asked [How did the Finnish folklorists come to be so important in the history of folklore as a discipline?](#) and received some knowledge passed down by /u/itsallfolklore.
370. /u/pondering-llama asked [Do we have records of ancient peoples getting certain songs/music stuck in their heads?](#)
371. /u/jelvinjs7 asked [How did the early "Legend of Zelda" games impact the video game industry?](#) and got an innovative answer by /u/rocketsocks.
372. /u/RemyDennis asked [What was the general reception towards canned soda?](#)
373. /u/gunslingrburrito asked [In many medieval histories, you can read about people dying by "rupturing themselves". It seems like there are a lot of things that could cause you to "rupture yourself", like falling off a horse, laughing too hard, or eating too many lampreys. What did "rupturing yourself" mean in modern terms?](#) and got an answer from /u/fikstor.
374. /u/BZH\_JJM dug up an old family transcript and wondered [What would a "Personal Hygiene" college course have looked in 1920 Southern California?](#)
375. /u/river\_runn asked [Was there extensive film criticism in Soviet Russia? Did it engage with Western films or film criticism?](#)
376. /u/Zeuvenbie asked [Is The Gender Disparity in Film & Cinema Directors A Reflection of Early Industry Practices?](#)

377. /u/CommodoreCoCo asked [When did films targeted specifically at children begin to appear in theaters, and what were the earliest examples like?](#)
378. /u/j\_one\_k asked ["Historians say they were Just Friends, but they were obviously gay!" What are actual historians' strategies for educating the history of sexuality and gender when the audience is wary of erasure?](#), and got answers from /u/bakeseal, /u/Boris\_the\_Red, and /u/translostation.

## January 17, 2021

379. /u/unklethan asked [How did DragonBall become so popular in Latin America?](#)
380. /u/lovecreamer wanted to know the history of [The Full English breakfast and it's use of tomato](#) , and /u/Gulbasaur cooked up a great response.
381. /u/detspek asked [How did TV shows come to be produced/released on a yearly schedule?](#)
382. /u/tthrownnawayyy asked [What did they do with all the heads during the French Revolution?](#), and got an answer from /u/MySkinsRedditAcct.
383. /u/a38176c4589d207 asked [What's the origin of American football teams breaking the huddle with a synchronized clap?](#)
384. /u/blueshirt\_8005 asked [What's the history of skiis?](#), and got an answer from /u/wotan\_weevil.
385. /u/orangeticking asked [How did mental illness come to be associated with creative genius in the Western world?](#)
386. /u/ginwithbutts asked [Why did pizza have the entire delivery market locked down for so long before everyone else jumped on?](#), and /u/Freevoulous and /u/DogfishDave prepared and delivered some delicious insight.
387. /u/KingEuronIIIGreyjoy asked [In the movie It's a Wonderful Life, there's a scene with a basketball court that retracts over a swimming pool. Was this a common thing that existed back in the 1940s? Did schools really have the budget for fancy pools like it?](#), and got an answer from /u/EdHistory101.
388. /u/Shinkaru asked [When and why did the recorder become a staple in elementary school music programs?](#)

389. /u/Kesh-Bap asked [How did the invention of photography affect the aniconism of Islam? Was taking pictures of people seen as sinful as any other depiction of people in art? How about film?](#)
390. /u/ScoopNukem asked [Was there a "Train Force One"?](#)
391. /u/pm-me-ur-window-view asked [Is there any way to figure out what classified stuff Christopher Lee did as an intelligence officer in WWII?](#), and got an answer from /u/k1990.
392. /u/karmuno asked [How did the modern media depiction of the supernatural ninja develop?](#)
393. /u/TepacheLoco asked [Did different archery traditions develop independently of each other? Are there any clear examples or evidence of crossover?](#), and got an answer from /u/ByzantineBasileus.
394. /u/Dinocrocodile asked [I am a Medieval peasant stocking my pantry. What's on my "grocery list"? What items can I produce myself and which do I have to buy? Am I doing any meal prep or planning?](#)

## January 24, 2021

395. /u/314159265358979326 asked ["TIL Reagan and Gorbachev Agreed to Pause the Cold War in Case of an Alien Invasion". We hear lots about extraterrestrials in the US, but how did people in the USSR view aliens?](#), and got an answer from /u/noproveryay.
396. /u/wallpapersdance asked [How many arrows/war darts/pila did a shield absorb before a soldier decide in battle "screw it, I am dropping this shield because it just has way too much stuff lodged in it"?](#)
397. /u/dev\_random\_ asked [The word 'comrade' is closely linked with the popular image of the Soviet Union. It seems ubiquitous both in official and everyday usage. How often did people actually use it? And did it disappear immediately after 1991?](#), and got an answer from citizen /u/Languidleo.
398. /u/aceguy123 asked [Does the lexicographical ordering of the 3rd ASCII standard column have a historical basis?](#)

399. /u/Lunes11 asked [Have cockroaches always been an object of such strong repulsion and loathing from people, or it's just a consequence of modern society and its higher standards of hygiene?](#), and got an answer from /u/wotan\_weevil.
400. /u/zambies8myneighbors asked [Did Saddam Hussein really build a supercomputer out of Playstation 2's?](#), and also got an answer from /u/wotan\_weevil.
401. /u/AnInterestingUSA asked [The years 1997-1999 saw a massive outpouring of \(still\) wildly popular animated shows, especially geared towards adults such as Family Guy, Futurama, King of the Hill, South Park, and others. What led to this seemingly sudden flood?](#), and got an answer from /u/AliveRich40.
402. /u/reigningwaffles asked [Why was rotoscoping used instead of animating by logic?](#)
403. /u/EnclavedMicrostate asked [Why did Star Trek: Deep Space Nine and Star Trek: Voyager have a shorter first season, but then 26-episode seasons for the rest of their runs? Also, what was playing in the meantime?](#), and got an answer from /u/shemanese.
404. /u/shotpun asked [I recently received a very cool 19th-century book of flags from Romania. The weirdest thing, though, was the postage: it prominently featured Christopher Columbus, of all people. Why would an Italian who sailed to the Americas for Spain be a figure of cultural significance in Romania?](#)
405. /u/crrpit asked [We often hear about how the Columbian exchange profoundly changed European cuisines \(such as tomatoes in Italy\). But how far did the introduction of Old World foodstuffs to the Americas change indigenous cuisines in the immediate aftermath of colonisation and contact?](#), and got an answer from /u/CryptoCentric.
406. /u/fredflatulent asked [Dear food historians. When/ why did the US use tomato ketchup as the standard dressing for french fries, rather than the Belgian use of mayo, or the UK use of salt & vinegar?](#)
407. /u/Gal-axy\_Draws asked [This is a bit of a different question. As a historian, how can you learn about some of the worst events in human history without becoming a nihilist?](#), and brought in answers from /u/bookish1313, /u/Cyberpunkapostle, /u/Dongzhou3kingdoms, and /u/Starwarsnerd222.
408. /u/Zeuvembie asked [How Do Historians Deal With Terminology Getting Co-Opted By Racists & Nationalists?‡](#)

January 31, 2021

409. /u/redmob5 asked [Did ancient war elephants have names?](#)
410. /u/Zeuvembie asked [How accessible would alchemy be to European women in the Early Middle Ages?](#)
411. /u/Zeuvembie asked [Were Early Audiobooks Intended For The Blind?](#)
412. /u/Silurio1 asked [The history of prehistory: How have our views of prehistoric times evolved?](#)
413. /u/The\_Manchurian asked [Every living ex-President of S.Korea was sent to jail for long periods, or even sentenced to execution. What led to S.Korea being so much more willing to imprison former leaders compared to other democracies? Were there presidents just worse?](#), and got an answer from /u/wotan\_weevil.
414. /u/JJVMT asked [Obama's name \(particularly his middle name Hussein\) was the object of xenophobic innuendo questioning his loyalty \(especially in the context of US military intervention in the Near East\). Was Eisenhower's German surname ever the object of similar distrust \(i.e., suspicion he might be a secret Nazi\)?‡](#)
415. /u/larkhallmusic asked [Why did kids all over North America want to be a marine biologist in the 1990s?](#), which brought in discussion from /u/EdHistory101 and /u/yodatsracist.‡
416. /u/EnclavedMicrostate asked [In 1974, Fleetwood Mac temporarily disbanded, to be replaced with a 'New Fleetwood Mac' with neither Fleetwood nor Mac in it. Whose bright idea was it, why did they think it would work, what was the response, and what happened to the members of 'fake Fleetwood Mac'?‡](#)
417. /u/JournalofFailure asked [The sitcom "Three's Company" featured a straight character pretending to be gay. At the time, what did gay-rights activists think about the show?](#)
418. /u/Real\_Carl\_Ramirez asked [In 1931, William Keith Hancock wrote a history textbook called "Australia". One of its chapters is called "The Invasion of Australia". How come the mention of the "Invasion of Australia" became taboo in the following decades?](#), and got answers from /u/isabelladeste, /u/Belephron, and /u/hillsonghoods.
419. /u/Acceptable-Elk-6339 asked [My family were carnies. What led to the decline of their industry?](#)

420. /u/DTFH\_ asked [Whats lead to Lewis Carroll doing writing the non-sense poem, Jabberwocky?](#)
421. /u/King\_of\_Men asked [Can we identify "Jock o' Hazeldean" and his eloping bride?](#)
422. /u/jbdyer asked [Dr. John Dee, court astronomer to Elizabeth I, and Edward Kelley, a spirit medium, used the "Enochian" language supposedly given by angels. They wrote journals & an infamous magic grimoire in Enochian, but some parts have never been translated. Has there any recent progress on deciphering Enochian?](#), and got a not-so-cryptic answer from /u/AncientHistory.
423. /u/Postmastergeneral201 asked [The 1980s PC game market in Japan was huge, with machines such as the PC-98 and MSX spawning classics such as Metal Gear. What caused its decline?](#)
424. /u/Psychological-Name15 asked [Why does The Imoerial \[Imperial?\] March sound like a song from the 1930s?](#)
425. /u/johannesalthusius asked [African-Americans invented three of the biggest genres in the world: jazz, rock, and hip hop. How did one marginalized community have such a major cultural impact?](#)

## February 7, 2021

426. /u/Hard\_Taco\_Tuesday asked [Was there any particular reason that Native American subjects and characters and actors were so popular in 1990s film and television? And why did it all seem to stop in the aughts?](#), and got an answer from /u/Reedstilt.
427. /u/megaleggin asked [Could Edgar the butler from The Aristocats have lived on the fortune left to the cats while fulfilling the wills demands.](#)
428. /u/make\_reddit\_great asked [When the genre of ragtime music is mentioned, Scott Joplin immediately comes to mind... and that's about it. Why has nobody else besides Joplin made it into the popular consciousness in this area?](#), and got an answer from /u/DGBD.
429. /u/CamStLouis asked [Are there any written descriptions or other evidence suggesting the tempo and rhythmic styling of Medieval European music?](#)

430. /u/MySummerVacation asked [What would 1950s America have found obscene about the word "pregnancy" in the context of I Love Lucy's two married characters having a baby?](#), and got an appropriate answer from /u/jbdyer.
431. /u/Lego\_Bagel wondered about [Performance licenses in the USSR?](#)
432. /u/JY1853 asked [How significant was Emperor Hirohito as a marine biologist?](#), and got answers from /u/chardelwi and /u/Yelsah.
433. /u/dreadful\_name asked [If a bodybuilder was to walk around medieval Europe how strange would they look to the average person?](#), and got a weighty answer from /u/Rittermeister.
434. /u/ethanjf99 asked [what's the history of ice cream?](#)
435. /u/ultimate\_frosbee asked ["First Nations" is an unusually poetic name for an indigenous group. How did it come to be the official term for those peoples, ahead of something more clinical like "Native" or "Indigenous" Canadians?](#), and got answers from /u/Justin\_123456 and /u/ironchancellor,
436. /u/trombonist looked at all these opera settings and wondered, [Why Seville?](#)
437. /u/RusticBohemian asked [Seneca was a powerful politician and a philosopher with a big following, and yet he managed to find time to write plays on the side. How popular were his plays? Was he Rome's Shakespeare?](#)
438. /u/victorpras asked [Why are the 12 disciples typically depicted as middle aged men, when they are most likely teenagers/young adults?](#), and got an answer from /u/Athena\_Laleak.
439. /u/Deriak27 asked [Did an intellectual movement contemporary and similar to Christian Enlightenment and Jewish Haskalah exist within Islam?](#)

## February 14, 2021

440. /u/MGMB89 asked [How accessible was Arts Education in the rural US during the 19th century? How could someone living outside of a city learn to draw, paint, perform in live theatre, or read/play classical music?](#)
441. /u/kensworkacct asked [What did folks in the times before internal combustion compare purring to?](#)

442. /u/flying\_shadow asked [When were stickers invented and what were they used for back then?](#)
443. /u/InsanelyInShape asked [In the 1985 film "The Princess Bride", the character of Vizzini \(Wallace Shawn\) warns against the prospect of becoming involved in a land war in Asia, dubbing it "one of the classic blunders". How valid is his assessment and would this view have been shared by Europeans in the medieval period?](#), and got an inconceivable answer from /u/sunagainstgold.
444. /u/pauoliver asked [When did people at home start to look things up online like we do with Google today?](#)
445. /u/PM\_ME\_PENIS\_PICTURES asked [Just how different is Olive oil of the Ancient Roman world from the Olive Oil we can find in supermarkets today?](#), and got answers from /u/ramfan1701 and /u/Boscolt.
446. /u/edipiper asked [Is there anything left of pre-Norman/English Welsh music and songs?](#), and got an answer from /u/breadwinger.
447. /u/Zeuvembie asked [Did Vikings Have Snowball Fights?](#)
448. /u/ooksox asked [How was the square screen the standard for tv for so long?](#), and got an answer from /u/wotan\_weevil.
449. /u/lgf92 asked [Was "drunk dialing" a thing before the rise of mobile phones in the early 2000s? Is there any evidence of people going to a payphone \(or their landline\), heavily refreshed, to call their ex? Or did the convenience of mobile phones create a new phenomenon?](#)
450. /u/nueoritic-parents asked [In "The Breakfast Club"\(1984, Shermer, Illinois\), Claire \(Molly Ringwald\) brings out sushi and soy sauce for lunch. None of the other students have heard of sushi, a clear example to the audience of how prissy she is. Why did sushi for lunch= prissy? Was Japanese food not a staple takeout food yet?](#), and got delicious answers from /u/huianxin and /u/LydiaTaftofUxbridge.
451. /u/DonOntario asked [Was Jerry Seinfeld's suggestion that Babu Bhatt open a Pakistani restaurant actually as innovative in early 90s NYC as suggested by that show? Were famously-cosmopolitan New Yorkers unfamiliar with Pakistani food in 1991?](#), and got an answer from /u/yodatsracist.



452. /u/curvysquares asked [I'm getting ready to time travel back to Rome during Julius Caesar's rule but I have to pack my lunch first. What kind of lunch food can I get from a modern grocery store that wouldn't seem out of the ordinary to 1st Century BC Romans?](#)
453. /u/LampboyLampboy asked [What electric lamp is Bram Stoker referring to?](#), and got illuminating answers from /u/Holokyn-kolokyn and /u/cat-or-racoon.
454. /u/TendingTheirGarden asked [The Chinese and Persian zodiacs are identical, except the latter swaps the dragon for a whale. What is the origin of this cultural link?](#), and got an answer by /u/epicyclorama.
455. /u/AllegroAppassionato asked [Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor has always been associated with creepy/dark things. Did Bach intend this to be a dark piece? If not, how did this association come about?](#)
456. /u/SaavayuAdrin asked [Is the Royal Halberd from \[Breath of the Wild\] an actually halberd or something else?](#), and got an answer from /u/some\_random\_nonsense.
457. /u/Legitimate\_Twist asked [The Tokyo Stock Exchange was in operation all the way through WWII until the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. What were the conditions of the Japanese stock market like during the war, especially as Japan began to lose and Tokyo and other major cities were firebombed?](#)

## February 21, 2021

458. /u/allfangs asked [The stereotype of a 19th century gold prospector is oddly specific: an eccentric, hunchbacked old man with a long beard, a tattered hat, and missing teeth. Does this image come from one particular person or fictional character, was it a stereotype of a real phenomenon?‡](#)
459. /u/cavetroglodyt wanted to know more about the relationship between [Communist state security and football](#).
460. /u/VisonKai asked [How common were the sort of scams depicted by Hansberry in the 1959 play "A Raisin in the Sun" \(did they actually happen?\) How did authorities try to respond to these scams, if at all?](#)
461. /u/kwkierjote asked [Ian Fleming's James Bond is often depicted wearing a Rolex, driving a Bentley \(or Aston Martin\) and drinking the finest drinks in the finest places. But](#)

- [in the 1950s and 1960s what would a secret agent's wage actually be and would there be all the perks that James Bond enjoys?](#), and got a swanky answer by /u/allthatrazmataz.
462. /u/IAmAHat\_AMAA asked [In the 1994 Simpsons' episode "Bart Gets an Elephant" a gag shows the Democrats declaring that they "hate life and ourselves" and "can't govern", while the Republicans say that they "want what's worst for everyone" and they're "just plain evil". How and when did these political stereotypes develop?](#)
463. /u/acosmichippo asked [A recent trend to indicate sarcasm in writing is to add "/s". In older written communications such as physical letters or telegrams, was it known for people to preemptively clarify that they were being sarcastic \(as with “/s”\)?](#), and got an answer from /u/rtsn, which was totally bad. /s
464. /u/DoctorEmperor asked [What was the reaction of the American theater community to the news that John Wilkes Booth had murdered President Abraham Lincoln?](#)
465. /u/ethanjf99 asked [How did the cartoon “The Smurfs” originate and how did it draw on pre-existing folklore?](#), and got an answer from /u/jbdyer.
466. /u/jelvinjs7 asked [Samus Aran \(Metroid, 1986\) was one of the first playable female videogame characters. What was the initial reaction to this, particularly from the gamer community?](#), and got an answer from /u/jbdyer.
467. /u/nowlan101 asked [Was Dungeons and Dragons popular behind the Iron Curtain in countries like Poland, East Germany, and the Soviet Union? Or was it purely a Western phenomenon?](#), and got answers from /u/jbdyer.and /u/Noble\_Devil\_Boruta.
468. /u/Bernardito asked [In 1976, the Chilean folk group Illapu had a hit with "Candombe para José" and the song later became a popular cumbia song. What is the origin of the song?](#)
469. /u/fleetw16 asked [After traveling to many countries, I realized how many museums America has. Even small towns have museums depicting its own history. In other countries most small towns don't have museums, only in the cities. Why does America have so many museums?](#)
470. /u/sushiladyboner asked [When were cops first associated with donuts? Was this a stereotype from film and TV, or do cops really have a unique relationship with donuts?](#)

## February 28, 2021

- 471. /u/isjeepluralforjeep asked [In 1895, the American Bowling Congress changed the score from 200 to 300. Why??](#)
- 472. /u/lcnielsen asked [I've talked to many people from China who have been surprised that the Sunzi Binga \(Master Sun's Military Methods, better known as "Sun Tzu's Art of War"\) is popular and well-known in the West. How did it become so ubiquitous?](#)
- 473. /u/PeculiarPangolinMan asked [Why does the stereotypical lion tamer carry a stool or chair with their whip? The whip I understand... the stool less so. Was there one famous lion tamer who did it, or was it a trend? Was there any reason that a stool was used?](#)
- 474. /u/Postmastergeneral201 asked [What exactly was the famous dial-up sound? Was it a noise that the machines did right then and there? Was it something pre-recorded?](#), and /u/rocketsocks rang in with a response.
- 475. /u/Postmastergeneral201 asked [How different was game development culture between the USA and Japan in the 80's and 90s?](#)
- 476. /u/laidbackagain asked [The opening skit for the Daft Punk song "Revolution 909", and its music video, is intended to be commentary on the "French government's stance against rave parties". What was the relationship between dance music and French politics in the 1990's?](#)
- 477. /u/Silas\_Of\_The\_Lambs asked [When and why did forks start being made with their current curved shape?](#)
- 478. /u/TheHondoGod asked [I recently saw a video that said a major step in the evolution of music was the Gregorian chant. What was so special about it?](#)

## March 7, 2021

- 479. /u/uw888 asked [In Russian golden age literature, such as Tolstoy, a prince or a princess often features in the plot, being a major or a minor character, however it is evident that they are not part of the immediate royal family and sometimes have financial difficulties. Who were these princes and princesses?](#), and got an answer from /u/Soviet\_Ghosts.

480. /u/JournalofFailure asked [Why did the Soviet Union have TV commercials and advertising?](#), and got an answer from /u/BuenaventuraBaez.
481. /u/J2quared asked [How would someone prove they graduated from university in the 18th and 19th century in Europe? Would France acknowledge a British or Russian diploma?](#), and got an answer from /u/taterine.
482. /u/JJVMT asked [What sorts of 1890's British stereotypes about the Dutch informed, or could have informed, Bram Stoker's characterization of Dr Abraham van Helsing in Dracula \(1897\)?](#)
483. /u/Akubruz asked [Are the environmental consequences of the World Wars documented? Were any concerns raised in the aftermath of the wars or later action taken to reduce environmental degradation / clean up?](#), and got an answer from /u/Georgy\_K\_Zhukov.
484. /u/river\_runn asked [Was there economic or artistic competition between medieval monastic breweries--i.e. a sense of who brewed the best beer?](#)
485. /u/tmcdaniel13 asked [Was the tulip bulb speculative bubble, that occurred in the Netherlands in the 17th century subject to the same dismay by professional investors that we see with crypto currency today?](#), and got an answer from /u/mikedash.
486. /u/ZaxRod asked [Did everyone smell like campfire all the time before alternative forms of heating?](#)
487. /u/worship\_seitan asked [How did people come to believe that history and technology progress in "one straight line"?](#), and got an answer from /u/J-Force.‡
488. /u/CrimsonCommissar asked [What role, if any, do post-war fictional works about the Holocaust play in the study of the Holocaust?](#)
489. /u/screwyoushadowban asked [Was Pete Seeger correct when he said that Americans don't sing together nearly as much as they used to? If so, why don't Americans sing together anymore.](#), and got an answer from /u/Bodark43.
490. /u/screwyoushadowban also asked [What was it like doing archaeology and history work in China from the 1970s-90s, both for foreign and local Chinese researchers? What special challenges did the Party and its preference or perceived preferences for particular narratives present?](#)

491. /u/spookytus asked [I'm having difficulty finding Native American folklore that isn't directed at kids - are there any comprehensive sources of information regarding Native American culture heroes/folklore/spirituality on a tribe-by-tribe level?](#), which brought in a lot of suggestions for resources!
492. /u/flying\_shadow asked [What was it like to be gay in the USSR in the 1960s?](#), and got an answer from /u/Dicranurus.
493. /u/foppa921 asked [Founded in 1623, Zildjian is considered one of the earliest known brands. How much further back does cymbal smithing go in the history of bronze metallurgy in Turkey and the Near East?](#)

## [March 14, 2021](#)

494. /u/The\_Wambat asked [March 14th is often called Pi Day due to its relation to the mathematical constant. March 14th, 1592 would have been the ultimate Pi Day. Did the concept or usage of Pi in mathematics, research, or engineering even exist in that time period and how has it developed since its discovery?†](#)
495. /u/Ayy\_2\_Brute asked [In 1953 a minstrel band performed for the Queen on her first visit to Jamaica, and she was apparently appalled at seeing white people in blackface perform traditional black folk songs. Is her reaction as surprising at it seems, given the era?](#)
496. /u/HotrodCow asked [One song in Moana contains the lyrics "At night we name every star - We know where we are - We know who we are." Before religious imperialism, how did Pacific Islander peoples envision the place of humanity in the cosmos?](#)
497. /u/tombomp asked [The Sumerian king list contains a single woman as ruler, a former alewife called Kubaba. Do we know how this was interpreted by Ancient Mesopotamian societies? And what significance did an alewife have?](#), and got an answer by /u/SirVentricle.
498. /u/Ravello asked [Is there any historical reasoning behind the Russian female assassin/ballerina trope?](#)
499. /u/Dinocrocodile asked [What did Tolkien think of the fact that Led Zeppelin wrote several songs about the Lord of the Rings? Did he know about \(or like\) any of them?](#), and got an answer by /u/jbdyer.

500. /u/nueoritic-parents asked [Superman is an alien who looks like a “standard” human, a white man. His two creators were Jewish men who by today’s standards look completely white. Have historians analyzed Superman in the context of his creators being aliens themselves, trying to fit in?](#)
501. /u/Kelpie-Cat asked [My German great-great-grandfather refused to evacuate Poland at the end of WWII as he believed there would be fellow Freemasons in the Red Army who would recognise him. Was this a common belief among Masons in WWII?](#), and got an answer from /u/redrighthand\_.
502. /u/The\_Drowning\_Flute questioned about the Question Question with [Geopolitical debates in the 19th century were often framed around “questions” \(the Irish Question, the German Question, the Eastern Question, etc.\). What is the origin of this terminology?](#)
503. /u/pearlysoames asked [On the Wikipedia page for 9/11 where it lists various international responses, it is mostly an outpouring of support. However the section ends with some Greek soccer fans trying to burn an American flag. Was this hooliganism, or a sign of some broader antipathy toward the US in Greece at the time?](#), and got an answer from /u/mayor\_rishon.
504. /u/kerbalportola asked [How were telegraphs priced? Was there a character limit and how did this shape the language and/or the grammatical syntax in the telegraph?](#)‡
505. /u/spookytyus asked [What philosophies/esoteric/occult systems are primarily used/referenced by fiction writers when creating fictional magic systems?](#), and got an answer by /u/BowieKingOfVampires.
506. /u/phi\_array asked [How were Soviet computers programmed? Did the Soviet Union have their own “communist programming languages” and a soviet ASCII? Did they create an alternative “Soviet FORTRAN/C/ASSEMBLY”?‡](#)

## March 21, 2021

507. /u/ggbrown74 wanted to know [if it’s a coincidence or not that Alcoholics Anonymous was founded shortly after prohibition ended.](#)
508. /u/tTyler06 asked [How were disabled people treated in Ancient China?](#)
509. /u/crrpit asked [So what was the popular reaction to the invention of sliced bread, anyway?](#)

- 510. /u/screwyoushadowban asked [When I look up the history of Mongol women in the era of Genghis Khan and his sons/grandsons I find information on Mongol queens and princesses. How did the other 99.9% of Mongol women live?](#)
- 511. /u/Kidwithoutgun asked [Historically, to my knowledge, women were responsible daily cooking and such. Yet in American culture, in the 20th and 21st century, it seems that men are the primary cooks who man the grill. What was the difference between daily dinners and hosting a bbq?](#)
- 512. /u/TendingTheirGarden asked [What is the origin of the "crossover" episode in sitcoms, and how did it evolve over time?](#)
- 513. /u/i\_asked\_alice asked [It's 1969 and I'm a young person who recently found my way into the community of phone phreakers. How did I get here?](#)
- 514. /u/tomabaza asked about the [Popularity or use of "Spanish Inquisition" in England before Monty Python sketch.](#)
- 515. /u/PotatoPancakeKing asked [What led to the 80s muscular action hero?](#), and got an answer from /u/GeekAesthete.
- 516. /u/ratkam asked about the origin of [Comic Book Universes](#) being shared across multiple titles.‡
- 517. /u/imperialpidgeon asked [Do historians think that “pop history” such as r/HistoryMemes is a net positive or benefit for educating the general populace about history?](#), which brought in discussion from /u/restricteddata, /u/RhegedHerdwick, and /u/shotpun.
- 518. /u/sevenlabors asked [What are the differences between Historical Anthropology and Cultural History as disciplines?](#)
- 519. /u/Mictlantecuhtli asked [Why did Irish river dancing explode in popularity during the 1990s?](#), and /u/CopperPegasus and /u/ny-batteri stepped up to answer.

## March 28, 2021

- 520. /u/huu5031 asked [How were the films of Oscar Micheaux treated by a contemporary audience?](#)

521. /u/make\_reddit\_great asked [Why have comic book superheroes so often been drawn with capes? What was it about the cultural milieu that drove the expectation of a cape among artists and/or audiences?](#)
522. /u/wigsternm asked [The UK Criminal Justice Act 1988 \(Offensive Weapons\): 7 of the 14 weapons banned in this act are stereotypically carried by ninjas. Was the UK plagued by fears of ninja invasions? Were gangs adopting the sickle-on-a-chain into their repertoire? Why did lawmakers care about these specific weapons?](#), and got answers from /u/custardy and /u/nmcj1996.
523. /u/CowHoneythistle asked ["The pen is mightier than the sword" was penned by Edward Bulwer-Lytton in 1839. Since then, has there been a case where an iminent battle was won as a direct result of the written word?](#)
524. /u/EnclavedMicrostate asked [What is up with this letter Elvis Presley wrote to Richard Nixon about wanting to become a federal agent? Why did he write it? Was he serious? Did anyone try to stop him? How did Nixon or his staff respond, if at all?](#)
525. /u/anon1948 wanted to know more about the [Tradition of Cheese in East Asia](#).
526. /u/A-Perfect-Name asked [Did people try to replace Esperanto in Nazi Germany with another IAL \[International Auxiliary Language\]?](#), and got answers from /u/Dhghomon and /u/jelvinjs7.
527. /u/anthropology\_nerd asked [During the height of his popularity was Will Rogers "openly" Cherokee?](#)
528. /u/Eralion\_the\_shadow asked [How did the shift from wizard to witch take place culturally in Europe?](#)
529. /u/ManInBlack829 asked [I was looking at the floor plans to old Sears Homes from the early 1900s. At one point they go from naming things Parlors and Chambers to Living Rooms and Bedrooms. What caused this change? Was this a cultural thing? Why did we go from having parlors/chambers to living rooms and bedrooms?](#)
530. /u/A-Candle-In-The-Dark asked [Has there ever been any scholar work done on the recent change of perception among the public of how the chef profession is regarded in society?](#)



## April 4, 2021

- 531. /u/Hatman2413 asked [Why were so many works of literature, that we now read as novels or collections of stories, originally published as serials in magazines?](#)
- 532. /u/LorenzoApophis asked [Characters in modern fiction will sometimes say or do racist, homophobic or otherwise bigoted things as a quick way to establish them as unsympathetic or villainous. Before popular opinion on these issues shifted, did older fiction do the same with characters expressing egalitarian beliefs?](#)
- 533. /u/IanZarbiVicki asked [In the Twilight Zone episode "Changing of the Guard," a teacher is mentioned to have served 50 years as a teacher. Would this be representative of how long a teacher would serve in the mid 20th century?](#), and got an answer from /u/EdHistory101.
- 534. /u/StevenKurry asked [How did the "Stussy S" become ubiquitous with all '90s kids before the age of the internet?](#)
- 535. /u/tombomp asked [For centuries eels were a major and iconic part of poorer Londoners' diets. What were the contemporary views of eels for eating over that time and what was the reaction to their precipitous decline?](#), and got an answer from /u/bakeseal.
- 536. /u/Brickie78 asked [What's the history of the "one guard always tells the truth, the other always lies" riddle?](#)
- 537. /u/OffsidesLikeWorf asked [How did the default "ding dong" \(descending major third\) doorbell sound develop and become so commonplace?](#), and got answers from /u/jbdyer and /u/ScottSierra.
- 538. /u/avandoorslaer asked [How did so many seemingly insignificant events get into the newspaper in the early 1900's?](#), and also got answers from /u/jbdyer and /u/DerProfessor.

## April 11, 2021

- 539. /u/Tatem1961 asked [What do we actually know about Heo Hwang-ok, the legendary Indian Queen of Korea?](#)
- 540. /u/T1Man2 asked [How many "degrees of relationship" would a 1750's peasant in the HRE be from the emperor?](#)
- 541. /u/c0224v2609 asked [What's the deal with the Snapphanes?](#)

542. /u/Ellikichi asked [I'm a wealthy American early adopter of TV in the 1940s. What's on?](#), and got an answer from /u/jbdyer.
543. /u/iZenga asked [Have speed limits in the US always been viewed as a speed minimum as opposed to an actual limit?](#)
544. /u/RusticBohemian asked [Students enrolled at Princeton at age 13 in the colonial era. Were they at a similar level of academic achievement as today's 18-year old enrollees? Were they considered adults?](#), and got an answer from /u/EdHistory101.
545. /u/EnclavedMicrostate asked [Did Soviet citizens have access to Western arcade machines and vice versa? Especially with so many games coming from Japan, which wasn't entirely averse to collaborations with Soviet firms \(e.g. Kurosawa's 'Dersu Uzala' in 1975\).](#)
546. /u/-Harboringonalamant- asked [A number of musicians tell me that musical scales are a relic of colonization, and there's different scales elsewhere. However, I am trained in a science and know the ear has a set logarithmic scale. I have always doubted the claim as I'd assume cultures would orient to this log. What's the history?](#), and got an answer from /u/hillsonghoods.
547. /u/AlviseFalier asked [Is there any reason why Grunge music emerged specifically in and around Seattle?](#), and got an answer from /u/hillsonghoods.
548. /u/johannesalthusius asked [During the Yugoslav Wars, there emerged a curious genre of war music combining American pop, synthesizers, traditional Balkan music, and ultra-nationalist lyrics. Where did this music come from?](#)

## April 18, 2021

549. /u/HotrodCow asked [When Japan colonized Indonesia, it forced local artists to join guilds that censored art. What was the Indonesian art market like before the invasion? What kinds of art were subject to restrictions, and how were the laws enforced? Did they have a lasting impact on Indonesian art in content or style?](#)
550. /u/TRiG\_Ireland asked [How was a school for Deaf girls established by public subscription in the middle of a famine?](#)

551. /u/optiplex9000 asked [I learned my grandfather was racist when I found a political pin with "Archie Bunker was Right" in his old toolbox. Was Archie Bunker an icon of the resistance against civil rights?](#)
552. /u/LycaonMoon asked [In the 1960s Japanese film Funeral Parade of Roses, several characters are referred to, in English, as "gay boys," but the context of the dialogue makes me think that it means something more than just "gay man." What was the LGBT scene like in Japan during this era, and what was the lingo like?](#)
553. /u/lajhbrmlsj asked [Was Apu Nahasapeemapetilon the first major Hindu fictional character that American masses encountered?](#)
554. /u/bobtheorangecat wanted to know [why Ringo Starr doesn't seem to do much in a lot of Beatles music videos](#), and got an answer from /u/hillsonghoods.
555. /u/Kelpie-Cat asked [What did poetry readings look like in the medieval Islamic world?](#)
556. /u/screwyoushadowban asked [How many revolutions actually started in coffee houses? Were Early Modern institutional fears about "subversive" coffee house culture based on an actual link to, say, socially subversive salon culture or merely a perceived link?](#), and got an answer from /u/The\_Lost\_King.
557. /u/bayi\_bit asked [Why are Fine Art Museums often in the Beaux-Arts architectural style?](#)
558. /u/JustinFinallySignsUp wanted to know more about [the history of glue](#), and got an answer from /u/Bodark43.
559. /u/Chicano\_Ducky asked [The Aztec gambling game "Patolli" was so addictive players would bet their loved ones and freedom when they ran out of money to bet, causing rampant indentured servitude. Was there any attempt to regulate this game pre-contact?](#)

## April 25, 2021

560. /u/ineedabigwiener asked [How did the name "Tyrone" become so commonly associated with Black Americans, even though the origins of the name are Irish?](#), and got an answer from /u/jbdyer.

561. /u/LuminousDreams asked [\[META\] About how long ago did this sub start becoming heavily moderated?](#), which brought in lots of interesting discussion!
562. /u/Khwarezm asked [Why do so many Carolingian rulers seem to have curiously unflattering nicknames?](#), and got an answer from /U/Libertat the Nerdy.
563. /u/sintonesque asked [In the UK, we can largely roam the countryside without fear of being attacked by wild predators. At what stage in our history did the threat of attack by animals largely subside, and which animals posed the greatest threat?‡](#)
564. /u/gatoplanta asked [What did Lenin think of comedians and how were they treated under his rule?](#), and got an answer from /u/Dicranurus.
565. /u/theclacks asked [When did office nameplates come into existence/popularity?](#)
566. /u/TchaikenNugget asked [In modern America, Buddhism is usually thought of positively, as a peaceful religion. During the Vietnam War, what was the typical perception of Buddhism in America?](#), and got an answer from /u/Qweniden.
567. /u/grimsaydevere asked [How old is the concept or trope of the childhood imaginary friend?](#)

## May 2, 2021

568. /u/screwyshadowban asked [Did ancient Mediterraneans read history for entertainment? Did they distinguish between "pop" history and "proper" history? Were certain fields \(if they recognized history as having fields\) especially popular with the wider public, like military history is today?](#)
569. /u/queenpossum asked [How did astrology function before all of the planets were discovered?](#)
570. /u/crusaderblings2 asked [From a modern perspective, the humor in Looney Tunes/Merrie Melodies seems to be far ahead of its time and more similar to modern surreal/absurdist humor than anything released in the 40s/50s. What was the contemporary reaction to it? Did audiences at the time understand it?](#), and got a wacky-yet-understandable answer by /u/jbdyer.
571. /u/jbdyer asked [The science fiction genre in Africa supposedly started in Cameroon with the 1932 novel Nnanga Kon and Nigeria with the 1934 novel Gandoki. What was the literary scene like in the two countries at the time? Is there any reason why those two](#)

[countries in particular would be where things started?](#), and got an answer by /u/EmperorofPrussia.

572. /u/\_DeanRiding asked [Did people share the "internet is a cesspit" attitude 20 years ago that many people have today?](#), and got an answer by /u/stijn\_.

573. /u/Inevitable\_Citron asked [What's the history of fake historians like Graham Hancock and Gavin Menzies?](#)

574. /u/handbanana12 asked [The first season of Batman: The Animated Series is 65 episodes long. This seems insane by contemporary standards, particularly for an animated show in the 90s. Was it common for studios to order enough episodes of an animated show to get it to syndication in the first year?](#), and got an answer by /u/earbox.

575. /u/MTK67 asked [Why did illustrations become unpopular in books marketed to adults?](#)

## May 9, 2021

576. /u/sonaked asked [In 1847, the Choctaw Nation collected \\$170 to donate to the Irish during the potato famine. Was there any correspondence shortly after?](#)

577. /u/justbrowsing759 asked [How did people of ancient times rationalize the Ice Age? Did they think it was a punishment from God\(s\)?](#)

578. /u/premeddit asked [Apparently the Roman Emperor Augustus made a lot of bad puns and "dad jokes". Was this considered a part of his governing style, or just a personality quirk? Were any other emperors known for their sense of humor?](#)

579. /u/OffsidesLikeWorf asked [The 1992 song "Baby Got Back" implies that White people in America disdained large female posteriors. Was this, in fact, the cultural norm at the time? And if so, to what degree, if any, did the song itself lead to a change in zeitgeist vis a vis derrieres?](#), and got fantastic answers by /u/ThetaPapineau and /u/brutankhamun.

580. /u/pizza-flusher asked [Judaism, famously non-proselytizing, was nevertheless adopted by the ruling dynasty of Yemen in the 5th century and the elite of the Khazars in the 8th and 9th. How did this happen?](#), and got an answer by /u/ylmz4.

581. /u/nueoritic-parents asked [When did the public learn about all humans having evolved from Africa? Since I believe it was sometime in the 50s or 60s, how on earth did racists react? How did progressives?](#)
582. /u/OtakuJuanma asked [Is there any clear inspiration taken from king Kamehameha of Hawaii to apply to the popular manga Dragon Ball to justify one of the powers shown there being called "Kame Hame Ha"?](#)
583. /u/Gallantpride asked [Why are polka dots and cherries associated with 1950s fashion?](#)

## [May 16, 2021](#)

584. /u/Previous-Project-444 asked [What types of divination were used throughout the history of the Middle East, and how frequently \(if at all\) would they play a role in people's lives?](#)
585. /u/SuperNintendad asked [What was the reaction of the general public in 1924 when Edwin Hubble announced that the spiral nebula Andromeda was actually another galaxy, and that our own galaxy was just one of many? This seems like it would have a profound effect on the world, but did anyone care?](#)
586. /u/redooo asked [In season 1 of Mad Men, which takes place in 1960, psychiatry is referred to more than once as a flash in the pan, or a sudden, silly trend. Did something happen to the field in the late 50s to bring it into the mainstream?](#)
587. /u/Daven2ude asked [In a 1999 piece, Camp et al. \("Smash Mouth"\) described a popular gesture used at the time. What was the origin of this gesture and how did it rise to prominence?](#)
588. /u/ThePoarter asked [What made black sitcoms so common in the 1990s?](#), and got an answer from /u/GeekAesthete.
589. /u/TchaikenNugget asked [The song "Do You Hear the People Sing" from the 1980 musical "Les Miserables" is a common protest song today. Were protest songs common in Revolution-era France? If so, what would a demonstration using protest songs have looked like?](#)
590. /u/doom\_chicken\_chicken asked [What did Helen Keller think of "The Miracle Worker?"](#), and got a great answer from /u/woofiegrrl.

591. /u/RusticBohemian asked [NYC's Book Row had 48 bookstores at its height. What distinguished them and kept them in business? What sort of book culture supported such a density of booksellers?](#)
592. /u/Goat\_im\_Himmel asked [Is "Shipping" a product of modern fandom culture on the internet, or did it exist within as a phenomenon within fan circles for popular media in the pre-internet 20th century?](#), and got answers by /u/mimicofmodes and /u/rocketsocks.
593. /u/whorish\_ooze asked [Ice Cream has been around as early as Persian Empire, circa 500 BCE. Both Chocolate and Vanilla come from New World plants, so their use as ice cream flavorings most likely didn't happen for at least another 2000 years. What were the most popular flavors up until that point?](#), and got a cool answer by /u/sunagainstgold‡.
594. /u/JJVMT asked [Frankenstein \(1818\) and Dracula \(1897\) are often paired together as some of the greatest English-language horror novels of the 19th century \(if not all time\), despite 79 years between them. When did this pairing begin? Is it wholly a product of Universal Studios adapting them 9 months apart in 1931?](#)

## May 23, 2021

595. /u/Nonions asked [Green means go, red means stop. Were these associations in existence before traffic lights?](#)
596. /u/pipedreamer220 asked [I'm a student at an American all-women's college around 1900. What am I looking to get out of my college experience, and what are my prospects for the future \(outside of marriage\)?](#)
597. /u/JJVMT asked [How and why did electronic music combined with Gregorian chants become so popular in the 1990s?](#)
598. /u/xenophonf asked [Jane Wyatt \(Spock's Mom\) was kicked off the New York Social Register after taking a Broadway part. What's a social register? What qualifies \(or disqualifies\) you, and why?](#), and got an answer from /u/mimicofmodes.
599. /u/King\_Vercingetorix asked [Today, Alabama will finally allow yoga in public schools after banning it in 1993. How did the American Hindu community and India react to the 1993 ban?](#)
600. /u/theworldismyoysters asked ['Shrek' was widely considered to be a parody/satire of the Disney Corporation - did its release have any noticeable impact on the companies](#)

[brand or operations? Did Disney attempt to retaliate against Dreamworks?](#), and /u/jbdyer peeled apart the layers of history to answer that!

- 601. /u/stanfan114 asked [In classical music \(from Haydn to Tchaikovsky\) why did so many serious works like symphonies have a scherzo \(joke\) movement?](#)
- 602. /u/Catfishbandit999 asked [Before gun shows, how did men make stupid puns and show off their biceps?](#)
- 603. /u/KrMees asked wanted to know more about the trend of [Naming Sports Teams after \(Greek\) Mythology](#)

## May 30, 2021

- 604. /u/Alaric\_the\_Gauth asked [Chief Justice John Marshall was apparently a fan of Jane Austen's novels and recommended them to Justice Story \(1826 letter, quote inside\). Was it unusual for men to take her books \(somewhat\) seriously at the time? And do we know if Justice Story ran out and read them all on Marshall's advice?](#)
- 605. /u/screwyoushadowban asked [When did "mass genre-fiction" start happening? Modern fashion, literature, music, etc. is divided by critics & writers into hundreds of genres & styles each. Would this state of affairs be recognizable to a premodern European critic?](#)
- 606. /u/Reddit-tunnus asked [Around year 1900, was it common for scientists to think that physics "is solved"?](#), and got an answer from /u/restricteddata.
- 607. /u/Janvs asked [J. Robert Oppenheimer, when discussing the nuclear bomb, famously recited a line from the Bhagavad Gita, but was that a reference that would have been common or understood by his audience?](#), and got an answer from /u/restricteddata.‡
- 608. /u/Starwarsnerd222 asked [From "Nineteen Eighty-Four" to "Fahrenheit 451", fictional dystopian societies are portrayed with heavy elements of authoritarianism and oppression. Was this mainly a product of the 20th century, or did previous generations of writers view another system/aspect of government as "dystopian"?](#), and got an answers from ~~Big Brother~~ /u/Fornbogi, /u/C0wabungaaa, and /u/sunagainstgold!
- 609. /u/DGBD asked [A 1963 episode of the The Twilight Zone sees an American time traveler trying to warn the people of Hiroshima about the incoming atomic bombing. Less](#)



[than 20 years after the war, would this have been viewed as treasonous, or a genuine humanitarian concern?](#), and got an answer from /u/restricteddata.

610. /u/justthereforhides asked [Before the creation of highly processed foods like mac n cheese and chicken nuggets in the 20th century what was considered the quintessential "children's food"?](#)

## June 6, 2021

611. /u/screwyoushadowban asked [Where did France's Japanophilia's come from? Was all of Europe as interested in Japanese media at some point and then everyone else's tastes changed, or is the story of contemporary French Japonisme unique?](#)
612. /u/BrokilonDryad wanted to know how [left-handedness was perceived historically in non-white/Euro cultures?](#)
613. /u/FabianEhlhardt asked [Why was global food scarcity such a common trope in 1950s science fiction? Which real life factors influenced authors while writing these interpretations of the near future?](#)
614. /u/Leolily1221 asked [What is the current consensus on the Tuatha Dé Danann in ancient Irish history? Are they still considered mythological figures?](#), and got an answer from /u/RF1460.
615. /u/Naheed\_\_-0-0-\_\_ asked [Has there ever been a female cult leader?](#)
616. /u/saint-malo asked [Are there religions founded by women?](#), and got answers from /u/Kelpie-Cat, /u/bisensual, /u/SempaiDono, and /u/LadyTanizaki.

## June 13, 2021

617. /u/RusticBohemian asked [Between 1880 and World War II, Coney Island had a huge amusement park industry, attracting several million visitors a year. But by 1964 the last park had closed. With such a large local audience and consistent demand, what killed the amusement parks?](#)
618. /u/Hey1243 asked [Why is there not as much French classic rock?](#)
619. /u/siempreviper asked [How common would knowledge of spaghetti be in 1899 USA?](#)

- 620. /u/MartyMcfllyVest asked [When did glasses or other corrective eyewear become associated with intelligence, intellectualism, nerdiness, etc?](#)
- 621. /u/SaintShrink asked [When did a few seconds of harp music become associated with dreaming or memories?](#)
- 622. /u/ourcityofdreams asked [What lead to the decision to stop having a “13th floor” in buildings?](#)
- 623. /u/Klesk\_vs\_Xaero asked [Who was the first African-American historian to deal with slavery in the US?](#)
- 624. /u/Basilikon asked [Two-Spirit peoples in Native American tribes often have specific social roles to fulfil, but where they expected to take a life partner and raise a family like cis women?](#)
- 625. /u/tombomp asked [Wikipedia and other places claim Colonel Harland Sanders of KFC fame was on George Wallace's VP shortlist for his 1968 campaign, but without sources. Is this actually true? If so, how do we know and what was the thinking?](#)

## June 20, 2021

- 626. /u/Jimmymott asked [With the advent of the internet, trolling is known far and wide. Before the Internet, what methods of trolling existed and how far back did trolling occur?](#)
- 627. /u/Stq1616 asked [What is with the proliferation of triplets and other nontraditional rhythmic structures in modern \(c.a. 1900 or later\) music?](#)
- 628. /u/RusticBohemian asked [Bertrand Russel warned of the "plague of efficiency," stealing man's soul and leisure time. That was 86 years ago, but when did the "death of leisure" begin, and what started it? Do we blame religion? The industrial revolution?](#)
- 629. /u/SaintShrink asked [Did the television show Frasier influence the growth of Starbucks?](#), and got an answer by /u/club\_med.
- 630. /u/ellepizo wanted to know about [the history of the “Previously on...” introduction for shows](#). (Which, incidentally, I was just wondering about myself, and had considered posting about.)
- 631. /u/Mictlantecuhтли asked [What's the origin of "Jinx! You owe me a Coke!"? Was this some kind of promotional campaign for Coca-Cola? Or were people indebted to others when saying the exact same thing as the other person for something other than Coke](#)

[before it was invented?](#), and got some great answers by [/u/itsallfolklore](#) and [/u/Kelpie-Cat](#)—as far as I can tell, though, they did not answer simultaneously and do not owe each other any soda.

632. [/u/eraserh](#) asked [How did baseball caps become such a common piece of everyday clothing?](#)

633. [/u/ZnSaucier](#) asked [Today, many colleges offer popular “study abroad” programs that send students to foreign countries for a semester. How did this practice begin?](#)

## June 27, 2021

634. [/u/AlviseFalier](#) asked [Why did it take so long for California to get a Major League Baseball team?](#)

635. [/u/edwardtaughtme](#) asked [In "The Right Stuff," Wolfe \(if I remember where I read this correctly\) claims that the stereotypical pilot/ATC voice originated from other pilots mimicking West Virginian Chuck Yeager's distinctive voice. Is this correct?](#)

636. [/u/One\\_Employ\\_3604](#) asked [Was writing on Origami considered Taboo at one point?](#)

637. [/u/Jerswar](#) asked [When and why did impersonations of Elvis Presley become such a thing?](#)

638. [/u/LorenzoApophis](#) asked [Why have books never had a content rating system like the ESRB for videogames or the MPA for films?](#)

639. [/u/Official\\_Soviet\\_Bot](#) asked [What sort of influence has African-American culture had on Africa itself?](#), and got an answer from [/u/q203](#).

640. [/u/Gothic\\_Sunshine](#) asked [What might the singer of Barrett's Privateers future be?](#)

641. [/u/tway2241](#) asked [When did people start trying to preserve endangered species from extinction and how did the practice start?](#)

642. [/u/Iwritetobreath](#) asked [In the movie 'Cabaret', the Kit Kat club stage has spotlights and other seemingly advanced lighting equipment. Would a seedy club in the 1930s have had such equipment?](#)

## July 4, 2021

- 643. /u/md20016 asked [My Great-Grandfather's sister went missing in Chicago in 1898 at the age of 14 while walking to her piano lesson. What likely happened to young children like her who were abducted during the turn of the century in large American cities like Chicago? \(Her missing person's ad included!\)](#), and got an answer from /u/mikedash
- 644. /u/IntellectualFerret asked [When and why did the general political tone of American country music shift from left-wing to right-wing?](#), and got an answer from /u/hillsonghoods.
- 645. /u/PapikaBun asked [Rubber Duck Debugging is when you talk to an inanimate object to realise a flaw in your theory or work. What objects did people use in ancient universities and places of education?](#)
- 646. /u/Noodleboom asked [How did the police procedural/drama become such a large part of TV programming?](#), and /u/MaroonTrojan solved that case.
- 647. /u/snoee asked [I am an Athenian-born slave in classical Greece. Am I worshipping the same gods as my master? Are there any gods better for slaves to worship?](#)

## July 11, 2021

- 648. /u/TrueBirch asked [How did office workers goof off before computers?](#)
- 649. /u/ForgotToLogIn asked [The slogan "They Can't Lick Our Dick" was used in Richard Nixon's election campaigns. What would typical Americans think of it? Was there a target demographic/social group? Members of which party would have better attitude for "licking the Dick"?](#)
- 650. /u/Implausibilibuddy asked [What programmes were airing on the other channels during the first moon landing?](#), and got an answer from /u/Bigglesworth\_.
- 651. /u/TheDigitalCowboy asked [In "Back to the Future" when Marty first goes back in time there is a Mayor running for office he shouts he's running as a "progressive" what would a small town progressive politician look like 1955?](#)
- 652. /u/screwyoushadowban asked [Is the modern graduate thesis a descendant of the medieval and early modern guild "masterpiece" and a callback to the European](#)

[university's roots as a trade guild for academics, or a completely independent development?](#)

653. /u/Chicano\_Ducky asked [In Mesoamerica the elite universities were Calmecacs that normally accepted nobility to study high level subjects but a commoner could get in if they showed promise. How could a commoner show promise to an elite mesoamerican university?](#)

654. /u/Blacksmith\_Most asked [The Constitution was written in 1787, but Eli Whitney's Cotton Gin was invented in 1793, I'm curious what did the Founding Fathers think was the future of slavery up to that point? Was the expectation that it would Increase? Decrease? Become a bigger issue, a self solving issue?...](#)

655. /u/Pashahlis asked ["National Epics" formed the basis for many of the nationalistic movements in the 19th century. These national epics would "capture and express the essence or spirit of a particular nation". How would that look like? In what way would a national epic express the essence of a particular nation?](#), and got a response from /u/itsallfolklore.

656. /u/Omar\_wine\_Khayyam asked [Why is there a cuckoo in the cuckoo clock?](#)

## July 18, 2021

657. /u/RedRacoonDog asked [Today when referring to martial arts the popular idea is East Asian unarmed combat. Were there any codified martial arts among the societies of North and South America?](#)

658. /u/Tertium457 asked [Of the four classic novels of Chinese literature, Journey to the West and Romance of the Three Kingdoms seem to be much better known outside of China than Dream of the Red Chamber and Water Margin. How did this situation come to pass?](#)

659. /u/ThePeasantKingM asked [The Simpson family was supposed to represent the typical American family. Could someone with just a GED realistically support a 5 member family, a four bedroom house and two cars just with just one blue collar job in the late 80's early 90's?](#), and got an extra-cromulent answer by /u/jbdyer.‡

660. /u/McGillis\_is\_a\_Char asked [It Is Commonly Talked About That Political and Religious Conservatives of the 1950s and 60s Hated Rock Music. What Did the Classical and Opera Music Communities Have to Say About This New Type of Music?](#)
661. /u/rcjh5280 asked [How and when did school boards become so powerful in America, and why do we let elected non-experts control so many details of our education system?](#), and got an answer from /u/EdHistory101.
662. /u/electrovalent asked [I am a musical young lady born in late eighteenth-/early nineteenth-century Europe into circumstances that allow me an extensive musical education. Should I wish to go pro, what are my prospects?](#)

## July 25, 2021

663. /u/TheSpaghettiEmperor asked [Was Super Mario Bros. hyped in the lead up to its release? At what point did people know it was going to be an influential game?](#)
664. /u/Catfishbandit999 asked [A common question on this sub asks "who was history's Big Bad before Hitler?" That's interesting and all, but I want to know the inverse: who was history's Good Guy before Dr. King, Ghandi, or Mother Theresa?](#)
665. /u/autoredefenestration asked [To what extent were transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming people accepted in pre-Christian European societies also what were the broader views on gender roles?](#)
666. /u/Shartin117 asked [In the 1987 song "Boys in the Hood", Eazy-E wrecks his '64 Impala. He comments "Oh brother, I throw it in the gutter and go buy another". How much is his new Impala gonna set him back?](#), and got an answer from /u/East\_Requirement7375.
667. /u/wellplayedirs asked [What events occurred between the last 20-100 years ago \(ha! take that mods' 20 year rule - jk, y'all are awesome\) helped cause the universally known concept of "Florida Man?" What's unique about Florida's history that created such a well-known phenomenon?](#)
668. /u/Longjumping-Word-467 asked [What is the earliest work of fiction where one teenager climbs into another teenager's bedroom window to avoid parental oversight, and does this have any basis in historical teenage behavior?](#), and got a great answer by /u/Kelpie-Cat.

669. /u/gatoplanta asked [In the anime film 'Midori' \(1992\) they mention a "terrible form of magic" that entered Japan through China and was fiercely prosecuted by authorities until the 19th Century. Is this any real? Do we know about any practitioners of Chinese or Central Asian magic being prosecuted in Japan?](#)
670. /u/Prophet-Of-Regret asked [Was General Tsao a real Chinese general who motivated his men by feeding them his special chicken, pork, or beef, and Panda Express made his recipe on their menu in his honor?](#), and got a delicious answer by /u/EnclavedMicrostate.
671. /u/baltinerdist asked [How / when did the tradition of applauding when the dancers form a kickline in a Broadway show get started?](#)

## [August 1, 2021](#)

672. /u/Faelif asked [In pop science books, moths during industrialisation are often used as an example of evolution in action. Was this written about or discussed at the time? If not, how do we know they changed in colour? If so, what was the response from the creationist clergy?](#)
673. /u/Enlightened\_Sieyes asked [I've noticed that many countries have their own version of 'Rock Paper Scissors' . Is there a historical explanation to this?](#)
674. /u/Sweet\_Celebration\_90 asked [how did comics and mangas effect art style of today's popular animation styles?](#)
675. /u/King\_Vercingetorix asked [A popular perception of Baby Boomers is that they suddenly went from being socially liberal 'hippies' to Reagan supporters. How true or accurate is this perception?](#), and got an answer from /u/jbdyer.
676. /u/Postmastergeneral201 asked [The NES game Fester's Quest was released in 1989 while the movie The Addams Family was released in 1991. What market forces were involved where making a video-game based on a 25-year old TV show made good business sense?](#)
677. /u/vert0x\_ asked [Many younger people today are pessimistic about their futures because of existential threats such as climate change. Was there a similar sentiment among younger people in cold war era America because of the threat of nuclear war?](#), and got an answer from /u/vinylemulator.

678. /u/unrelatedtohaloween wanted to know about ["Gaming is a thing I detest" and other early expressions of anger at losing a game.](#)
679. /u/Ganesha811 asked [I've read about Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Hindu mysticism before, but I've never heard about Chinese or Buddhist mystical traditions. Do they exist, and how did they develop historically?](#)
680. /u/racing\_orca asked [Why did the organ become the predominant instrument in Western/Protestant churches?](#)

(now shifting to monthly installments instead of weekly)

## [August, 2021](#)

681. /u/BlackmanfromIndia asked [How did the story of the extinction of the Dodo become so famous, compared to other animals that might have gone extinct due to human hunting or similar reasons?](#), and got a saved-from-extinction answer by /u/hillsonghoods.
682. /u/RebbeofBK asked [Is historical pornography considered a reliably primary source for what people found attractive at different times?‡](#)
683. /u/Frigorifico asked [How is it that salamanders, an amphibious animal, ended up being associated with fire?](#), and got a hot answer from /u/Flanwaw.
684. /u/nueoritic-parents asked [The sentiment exists that landing in an airport but not leaving it doesn't count as visiting a place. Was there a similar sentiment surrounding trains? If so, what's the earliest recorded instance of this sentiment? Did people argue about this very important question back then too?](#)
685. /u/DGBD asked [Many of the actors playing Germans in classic WWII movies were themselves involved in the war on the Axis side, or at least old enough to have been. Was this an issue or consideration when casting them?](#), and got an answer by /u/HMSIndy.
686. /u/mimicofmodes asked [Was there a difference in masque cultures in different Early Modern European courts?](#)
687. /u/derstherower asked [Terminator 2 takes place in 1995 and a character is baffled by the idea of Skynet launching a nuclear strike at Russia because "They're our friends now". T2 was released in summer 1991 prior to the end of the Cold War. Would the average American think that we'd be friends with Russia in a few years?](#), and got answers from /u/Kochevnik81 and /u/rocketsocks.



## September, 2021

688. /u/TheHondoGod asked "We bless the rains down in Africa!" Did the cultures on the Horn of Africa have rainmaking rituals? What kind of ways did they have to judge weather?
689. /u/TheArsenal asked Did any of the large empires of the B.C.E. period practice any kind of ethnography or anthropology during or after their conquests? Or is it a modern invention?
690. /u/FrauMew asked Given that many Deaf people do not consider themselves disabled, how involved were they in the disability rights movement?
691. /u/jibzy asked What would the odds be of Dua Lipa actually surviving the sinking of the Titanic?, and /u/YourlocalTitanicguy answered like they should and said We're Good.
692. /u/Frigorifico asked When did people realize that whales and dolphins were mammals?
693. /u/Terezzian asked Was George McGovern's presidential campaign riddled with puns about his name?
694. /u/LittleWompRat asked Why is the most common GPA scale on 4.0 scale? Why don't we use 5.0 or 10.0 scale more?
695. /u/DarkMaesterVisenya asked It seems like in the 19th century academic journals and journalistic/popular "journals" overlapped. What happened to define peer-reviewed journals vs popular ones?
696. /u/Kane\_richards asked How different was the game of golf and the courses in the 15th century compared to that played and those used nowadays?
697. /u/boringvei asked On September 1991, The Monsters Of Rock's highest-attendance concert took place at the Tushino Airfield on Moscow. What impact did five western bands playing on Communist soil have on the Soviet Union's citizens and politicians?
698. /u/hannahstohelit asked In Peanuts, an unseen adult character is shown to GREATLY overreact to the institution of zip codes. Was this reflective of a real thought process that people had at the time or just something that Charles Schulz thought was funny?, and whaa-wha-whaa-wha /u/jbdyer.
699. /u/SmallMicroEgg asked Is there anything good written about 20th Century fascist movements' relationship with cycling?

## October, 2021

700. /u/LorenzoApophis asked [Kendrick Lamar's DAMN is the first non-classical and non-jazz album to ever win the Pulitzer Prize for Music. Why did the Pulitzers completely ignore non-jazz popular music throughout the 20th century?](#)
701. /u/derstherower asked [In Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator \(1972\), the President of the United States is depicted as a weak, airheaded man who relies on his childhood nanny \(who is also the VP\) for everything. Is this an accurate depiction of how the British public viewed Richard Nixon? If so why?](#)
702. /u/J2quared asked [I am a German who graduated from university during the Nazi regime. The war is over, if I wanted to emigrate is my degree recognized by other Western countries ?](#)
703. /u/Jtwil2191 asked [Are anti-LGBTQ+ laws in African countries a colonial import? In other words, what do we know about \(what we would today refer to as\) LGBTQ+ individuals and communities in pre-colonial Africa communities.](#), and got answers from /u/Cowtheduck and /u/tropical\_chancer.
704. /u/EtTuD2 asked [Trickster deities appear prominently in the traditions of cultures around the world. From Hermes to Kokopelli to Loki and beyond, they are both familiar in their original context and now influential in pop culture. To what degree have those entities influenced Bugs Bunny's character in Looney Tunes?](#), and got an answer from /u/itsallfolklore.
705. /u/Nerzana asked [Did the children's game red light green light have a variant before the creation of stop lights? Where did it originate?](#)
706. /u/AProfessionalCookie asked [I'm a soapmaker by trade and I was wondering how were soapmakers viewed in the past? Was it a lowly profession or a respectable one?](#), and /u/Cedric\_Hampton cleaned up some of that curiosity.
707. /u/balsacis asked [Despite very different origins, Greeks and Turks both seem to have very rich yogurt cultures. What is the history of yogurt for both peoples, and how did they influence one another?](#)
708. /u/Ersatz\_Okapi asked [What is the cultural/historical background of sentient pink blobs in Japanese media \(think Chansey, Clefairy, Jigglypuff, Kirby, Majin Buu\)?](#), and got answers from /u/jbdyer and /u/forrestpen.

709. /u/trinerr asked [When and why did ‘blue’ become the dominant colour for pens?](#), and /u/jbdyer penned that response.
710. /u/DuvalHeart asked [How common were special Halloween episodes in the 1980s?](#)
711. /u/Charlie5654 asked [In the modern marvel franchise, Loki is portrayed as generally evil. Was he seen this way in Norse mythology, or was there a more nuanced view of him?](#), and got a Ragna-rocking answer from /u/sagathain.
712. /u/hobokind asked [In the show “What We Do In The Shadows”, the character Nandor, who would have been born in southern Iran in 1262, claims to believe in the World Turtle. How likely is it that someone born at that time and place would believe the world existed on the back of a giant turtle?](#)
713. /u/Lexicorint asked [Nowadays, we have the likes of Petsmart and Petco. Did the same sort of idea of a store dedicated to the sale of items/food for pets exist before the modern period?](#)
714. /u/BastiatFan asked [In Star Trek and other science-fiction of the sixties, computer panels consist of row after row of unlabeled blinking lights. Did this reflect the reality of contemporary computer displays? If not, where did this manner of depicting computers come from?‡](#)
715. /u/freework asked [When did the concept of a job interview come into existence?](#), and got an answer from /u/galileosmiddlefinger .

## [November, 2021](#)

716. /u/beno11 asked [What did a very early game of American football \(from around the 1880s-1910s\) look like? What were the rules?](#), and got an answer from /u/warneagle.
717. /u/ryguy\_ftw asked [How did the major sports leagues in America end up with around 30 teams?](#)
718. /u/Satanic\_Doge asked [What are some of the important differences between the methods of historians and those of journalists?](#), and got answers from /u/Bodark43 and /u/CrazyCylinder.
719. /u/SculpinIPAcoholic asked [Is there any genuine historical reason Abe Simpson has for refusing to recognize Missouri as a state, or is it just a random absurd joke?](#), and got a perfectly cromulent answer from /u/BringlesBeans.

720. /u/Accomplished-Put6905 asked [When and why did predominately partner dancing end in night clubs?](#)
721. /u/Cataphractoi asked [Science fiction authors have often taken locations that were poorly understood at the time and used these for their stories \(H.G Wells with Mars for example\). Before explorers had charted the Arctic and Antarctic, was there ever a time of such fantasies set in the \(then\) unknown polar regions?](#), and got some cool answers from /u/an\_altar\_of\_plagues and /u/mydearestangelica.
722. /u/shackleton\_\_ asked [Did telegraph operators talk to each other to pass the time? Are there in-jokes that developed among operators on certain interconnects?](#)
723. /u/JJVMT asked [As a child in the early 90s, I clearly recall a common refrain by my parents' generation: "Videogames will rot your brain!" Often, a nearly literal meaning was implied. Given the pervasiveness of this very specific wording, was there a well-known, influential spreader of this idea in the 1980s/90s?](#)
724. /u/BZH\_JJM asked [Where did the practice of bar tabs come from?](#)
725. BZH\_JJM also asked [How did jazz become academic?](#)
726. /u/Frigorifico asked [Were the Sumerians a "sex positive culture"?](#), and got answers from /u/CaptainHotbun and /u/asdjk482.
727. /u/JuniusBobbledoony asked [What is the origin of the novelty car horn and how did "La Cucaracha" become the seemingly default?](#), and got an answer from /u/jbdyer.
728. /u/Kantesbackpocket asked [Whats the origin of the snow angel?](#)
729. /u/greypiper1 asked [How far back does reading while using the toilet go?](#), and got answers from /u/y\_sengaku and /u/TywinDeVillena.
730. /u/Basilikon asked [Mesoamerican and Incan civilizations were undergoing mass conversion at the hands of the Spanish at the same time European Christianity was being torn apart by the Protestant Reformation. Do we have any idea how these peoples conceived of the religious conflicts afflicting Europe?†](#)
731. /u/magiccboii asked [Why do several religions share the palms pressed together with both sets of fingers facing upward \(🙏\) gesture and incorporate it in their way of praying and their rituals?](#)

## December 2021

732. /u/TchaikenNugget asked [How did the phenomenon of youth orchestras come about?](#)
733. /u/lancewilbur asked [Did non-Europeans have different ways of dividing the world into continents?](#)
734. /u/When\_Ducks\_Attack, the mad lad, asked [I am a wall dividing a European city towards the end of the 20th Century. One night people on either side of me begin to happily tear me down. What did I do to cause such a reaction? Why did they think I had to be destroyed? Did I not do a good job, or is there some conflict I am not privy to?](#)
735. /u/Kurma-the-Turtle asked [What was the public reaction when, in 1924, Hubble discovered that our galaxy was not the entire universe, but rather one minute component of a vastly larger cosmos?](#), and got an answer from /u/jbdyer.
736. /u/EnclavedMicrostate asked [In 1991, a court ruled that McVitie's Jaffa Cakes were cakes rather than biscuits, thus classed as food rather than luxury items, and thus subject to lower tax. What prompted this case? Were Jaffa Cakes in legal limbo beforehand? And why were chocolatey cakes food, but chocolatey biscuits luxuries?](#), and got an answer from /u/jbdyer.
737. /u/Porkadi110 asked [Was Nancy Reagan really renown for performing oral sex in her days as a film actress?](#), and /u/Georgy\_K\_Zhukov proved to be the GOAT of this thread.
738. /u/snuggleouphagus asked ["White Christmas"\(1954\) has a scene where two men wear female accessories and lip sync/dance to a female song/dance routine. Was this controversial? How did people feel about this scene?](#)
739. /u/OnShoulderOfGiants asked [What is the history of online content moderation?](#), and /u/Michael\_Karanicolas and /u/SarahAGilbert [removed] any confusion about that.
740. /u/Kelpie-Cat asked [How did Italian-Americans respond to the popularity of the Mario character?](#)
741. /u/moose\_man asked [What exactly did dating involve in the 1960's, and how did it transition into exclusivity?](#)
742. /u/IJustWantToLurkHere asked [Was joining an MLM ever a good idea?](#)
743. /u/Ze\_Bonitinho asked [Did renaissance people struggle to read their handwritten texts the way do today?](#), and got a much more legible answer from /u/larkvi.
744. /u/farzi\_madrasi asked [When did digging your nose in public become a no-no?](#)

2022

## January 2022

745. /u/yukicola asked When Stephen Hawking appeared as himself in The Simpsons and Futurama in 1999/2000 both episodes have jokes about him taking credit for other people's works or ideas. Is this just random humor or was it based on some real events or accusations?
746. /u/wloff asked W.L.George in 1922: "A sight of the world today would surprise President Jefferson much more, I suspect, than the world of 2022 would surprise the little girl who sells candies at Grand Central Station." Was he correct? Was the change from 1822 to 1922 greater than the change from 1922 to 2022?
747. /u/Ersatz\_Okapi asked A common trope in media set in schools is bullies shoving people into lockers. The lockers I had in school could maybe fit a toddler. Was there ever really such a trend underlying the media depictions?
748. /u/Notmiefault looked into the Mirror of Erised and wondered The first Harry Potter movie, with a budget of \$125 Million, began production just two years after the first book by a completely unknown British author was first published. How did the Harry Potter series explode in popularity so incredibly quickly compared to other similar book series?, and in the reflection saw answers from /u/motteandbailey and /u/cheapwowgold4u.
749. /u/MKorostoff asked I recently saw a viral video that claimed "only 1 US president [Obama] went to an non-segregated school." Is this true?, and got an answer from /u/EdHistory101.
750. /u/screwyoushadowban asked Pop culture imagines Australian aboriginal religion, ritual, & lifestyle as "frozen in time" for the 40,000 years of their existence. But do indigenous Australian narratives also? Do Indigenous histories & stories relate ancestral peoples, their development, extinction, & succession?
751. /u/dumbeinsteinASU0101 asked Was it possible to prank call high ranking Nazis during WWII and get away with it?, and got an answer from /u/ralasdair.
752. /u/LordZarasophos asked What's the history of Time Person of the Year?

753. /u/thedoogster asked [Did the Crusaders say anything about hamsters?](#), and got an answer from /u/J-Force.
754. /u/Ouroborian asked [How controversial was Tom Lehrer during the 1960s & 70s?](#)
755. /u/tombricks asked [As the .su top-level domain was introduced just over a year before the dissolution of the USSR, did the Communist Party of the Soviet Union have an internet webpage? If so, who made it?](#) and got an answer from /u/0xKaishakunin.
756. /u/JJVMT asked [When and how did "rocket science" become the discipline we invoke to dismiss, by comparison, the complexity or difficulty of a discipline or task at hand in the English-speaking world? Perhaps more interestingly, what discipline served that purpose before rockets, as we know them, were a thing?](#)
757. /u/Professional\_Cat\_437 asked [During the 80s and 90s, what was the general consensus among feminists regarding the video game industry?](#), and /u/HistoryofHowWePlay cleared that level.
758. /u/DuvalHeart asked [What led to the decline of the TV miniseries in the United States?](#)
759. /u/nueoritic-parents asked [How long have Hebrew teachers been yelling “Shekkt b’vakasha!” with students yelling back “Hey!” Does this only in American Hebrew schools? Where did the practice start? What about being swapped into “Shekkt bvakahey,” “sha!”](#)
760. /u/Zach\_Attach01 asked [How hyped was Abbott and Castello meets Frankenstein when it came out ?](#)
761. /u/JaBiDaRadim asked [We have a lot of ancient poems and stories that are considered complex, beautiful, etc. That is probably why they survived, they were copied more or kept in a safer place. What about bad ones? Are there preserved equivalents of 14 year olds MySpace poems around? Nonsense stories written by kids?](#)
762. /u/katy\_nc asked [Was there a historical equivalent to "Herbie" the wooden leg from The Princess Diaries?](#)
763. /u/CreativeGPX asked [How was the idea of "social networking" utilized/understood within business/organization/government strategy prior to the popularization of the internet?](#)



## February 2022

764. /u/beonewiththepyramid asked [Did women in the 1920s-1940s in wartime comment on their leaders' attractiveness?](#)
765. /u/Fhennerius analyzed some horror hip-hop lyrics and got to wondering: [Are there any significant battles that happened during 12 B.C.?](#)
766. /u/eigengrau1 asked [The majority of papers/essays that I have written for school were required to be typed in 12pt Times New Roman font. Why was this specific size and font set as an academic standard?](#)
767. /u/brokensilence32 asked [I'm a movie fan in the 1950s-1970s. In the age before VHS, if I happened to miss out on a film while it was in cinemas, am I fairly certain that I will never be able to see it? Or is it likely for a theater to play it again fairly soon?](#), and got an answer from /u/jbdyer.
768. /u/diet\_shasta\_orange asked [At what point in US history would someone's exposure to music have been primarily via recorded means as opposed to live?](#)
769. /u/suburbanpride asked [I read that February 12, 1899 was the coldest day recorded in Texas history \(-23 degrees\) and resulted in the freezing death of 40,000 cattle. As a rancher in 1899, how much warning or information about the coming weather would I have had, or would the whole thing be a big, terrible surprise?](#), and got a cool answer from /u/QuickSpore.
770. /u/ArsenicAndJoy asked [Was "mouth breathing" more common in the past?](#)
771. /u/FeatheryOmega asked [Was it always common to assume people in previous eras were basically... stupid?](#)
772. /u/AneriphtoKubos asked [I Am Attending a Party in Nazi-Occupied Krakow as an Industrialist. What Would the Music Be?](#)
773. /u/RileyFonza asked [Why did France and Britain go opposite in wrestling style philosophy? Considering Savate VS Boxing was often an argument of kicks vs fists \(and later one strike vs complete system\) and as an extension of nationalism? Why France chose arms grappling only while British used legs in wrestling?](#)
774. /u/Tatem1961 asked [When did giant pandas become an iconic creature of Chinese culture? They don't seem to be featured very much in pre-modern Chinese art.](#)



775. /u/ginoawesomeness asked [My daughter wants to know why she wears pants to softball but not soccer even though both sports involve sliding? I figured it had something to do with sliding on dirt vs grass, but was wondering if someone could give us the run down on the history of dress in popular sports through time?](#)
776. /u/persnickitous asked [How were deaf women treated in society during the Regency era?](#), and got an answer from /u/woofiegrrl.
777. /u/ScipioSmith216 asked [What kind of pranks might a young noblewoman play?](#)

## March 2022

778. /u/SnPotager asked [Before entering politics, Harry Truman worked as a haberdasher \(that is, a dealer in men's formal wear\). As a senator and later president, was he known as a particularly sharp dresser? How, if at all, did his experience in the fashion industry effect his leadership?](#), and got an answer from /u/indyobserver.
779. /u/crrpit asked [Would someone burying a time capsule in, say, the 1960s be happy that they were being opened now? What were the aspirations of people who buried time capsules in the twentieth century?](#)
780. /u/iwanttobepart asked [The original USB plug, first specified in 1996, is considered one of the worst mistakes in the history of industrial design, being externally symmetric but internally asymmetric. How did all the institutions involved fail to stop that absurd design from making it into a "universal" standard?](#), and /u/wotan\_weevil uploaded some new information.
781. /u/shane\_4\_us asked [Are there examples of historical societies using "meme numbers"?](#)
782. /u/PMagnemite asked [Dr Bettany Hughes states "women have always been 50% of the population, but only occupy around 0.5% of recorded history." - how accurate is the 0.5% statistic?](#), and /u/Spencer\_A\_McDaniel and /u/AGVann spoke to that problem.
783. I caused some problems by asking ["Sk8er Boi" \(A. Lavigne 2002\) argues that in high school dynamics, the so-called 'skaters' were low on the social pecking order. How accurately does this work represent turn-of-the-century teenage social order \(at least in North American city/suburban schools\)?](#), but /u/NoBrakes58 and /u/noelparisian made it any more obvious.

784. /u/Tularemia asked [I once heard a theory that many Americans are afraid of nuclear power because of “The Simpsons”, where town idiot Homer Simpson is the safety inspector in a nuclear plant seemingly always on the verge of meltdown. Is there any historical/sociological evidence to support this?](#)
785. /u/Hegel\_Understander asked [This bar joke from ancient Sumer has been making rounds on twitter as non-sequitur humor. What does it actually mean?](#), and /u/koine\_lingua brought the house down in their answer.
786. /u/AmericanMare asked [What's the difference between roman oration and ancient Chinese rhetoric?](#)
787. It looks like /u/optiplex9000 wanted to know [Why did Microsoft Windows use to have animated mascots in their operating system? Did User Experience research show that users responded better when Clippy was there to guide someone through Microsoft Word? Why were they removed in later versions?](#) Would you like an answer by /u/sarcasmsiempre?
788. /u/Kufat asked [Did sponsoring soap operas have a good ROI for soap manufacturers?](#)
789. /u/Kelpie-Cat asked [How did Yo-Yo Ma become a household name?](#), and got an answer from /u/Chengweiyangji.
790. /u/SnPotager asked [In 1985, the popular American sitcom Night Court ran an episode about a transgender woman, treating her identity \(more or less\) with respect and dignity. How big of a deal was this at the time?](#)
791. /u/should-stop-posting asked [How does a 400- or 500-year-old document simply "turn up" in a library somewhere?](#), and /u/Dirty\_Mike\_N\_Da\_Boiz unarchived that information.
792. /u/JohnBrown1ng asked [How did contact with Meso-American cultures affect Spanish fashion?](#)

## April 2022

793. /u/screwyoushadowban asked [At what point in Europe and the Americas did seeing a mouse or a rat in the home go from "oh hi, Jeff" to "we need to deal with this RIGHT NOW" and how closely does that track with awareness of modern germ theory?](#), and got an answer from /u/theytookthemall.

794. /u/zuriel45 asked [How did the Yakuza become so popular in western culture and why did other organized crime cultures not become so popular?](#)
795. /u/buckybadder asked [What are modern trends in historianship? Are there differences in style or methodology that would tend to distinguish a history book from 2022, from a book from 1972?](#), and got an answer from /u/EccentricMsCoco.
796. /u/derstherower asked [It's been estimated that around 30% of slaves brought to America were Muslim. Was there any noticable amount of Islamic culture that impacted the post-slavery African diaspora in the United States?](#)
797. /u/TastyBirdmeat asked [Was stealing a base in baseball a deliberate inclusion in the rules, or something that evolved from a lack of rules preventing it?](#), and /u/abbot\_x stole the show and slid home with an answer.
798. /u/girlslikecurls asked [How did belts become the trophy for fighting sports?](#)
799. /u/markTO83 asked [I was recently struck by the ubiquity of multiple choice questions on undergraduate exams. How and why did this form of evaluation come to predominate in higher education? What forms of evaluation did multiple choice testing replace, and was there tension around its widespread adoption?](#), and /u/EdHistory101 gave an answer that was A) Informed, B) In-Depth, C) Compelling, or D) All of the Above.
800. /u/jschooltiger asked [When and why did public speaking become a focus of the American education system?](#), and also got an answer from EdHistory101.
801. /u/ShoppingCart96 asked [What is the current, most heated debate on a topic in your specific field of study that people are not aware of?](#)
802. /u/reformed\_colonial asked [Historians of very niche topics: How did you get in to your field? Was it a life-long passion or...? What is your experience like working in something so esoteric? How many people share your field?](#)
803. /u/whitesummerside asked [Did the pizza industry, particularly small mom and pop chains, experience any unusual or notable growth \(if any\) between the years 1988 to 1996 due to the popularity and televised syndication of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles? What was the industry like as a whole before the show aired?](#), and got served a delicious answer by /u/Chengweiyinji.
804. /u/FoolishBosch asked [How did the exposure of midriff became popular and its popularity still maintained from 1900s to 2000s?](#)

805. /u/George4Mayor86 asked [Is it a coincidence that both classic cartoon studios had a popular short-tempered duck character \(Donald from Disney, Daffy from Warner Brothers\)? Was one of them a knockoff of the other?](#), and [incomprehensible speaking-duck sounds] by /u/jbdyer and /u/kirbyderwood.

## [May 2022](#)

806. /u/RusticBohemian asked [Why did professional wrestling shift from a legitimate sport with serious contenders to the scripted, farcical "sports drama," we have today? What happened to the serious wrestling bouts of the early 20th century, and how were they replaced by the status quo?](#), and got an answer by /u/DBHT14.
807. /u/DGBD asked [How did cherry and lemon become the most ubiquitous flavors for soda and candy in the US?](#)
808. /u/seeingyouanew asked [\[NSFW\] Mozart wrote "Leck mich im Arsch" \("Lick me in the arse"\) in 1782. Are there any historical references to eating ass that appear earlier than Mozart's?](#), and got some answers by /u/Spencer\_A\_McDaniel and /u/PartyMoses.
809. /u/Diligent-Platform-40 asked [What was the relationship of women with the literary and musical arts during the Tang and Song dynasties?](#), and got an answer from /u/Kelpie-Cat.
810. /u/DemocraticPoisonPill asked [Did Rome ever grant humorous citizenships? For example, we often see mayoral dogs or library cats, or the humorous acceptance of Emperor Norton. Did Rome ever do the same to people who otherwise would not have been admitted?](#)
811. /u/lanternkeeper asked [John Wilkes Booth was a famous actor in his day. What plays did he perform in? Are any of them still well known today? Did he originate any roles and were any theater troupes reluctant to perform plays associated with him after the Lincoln assassination?](#), and got an (award-winning!) answer by /u/HM2112.
812. /u/KevTravels asked [What were the major campaign differences between politicians running for office in a metro area vs rural area in the late 19th or early 20th century?](#)
813. /u/ZzzSleepyheadzzZ asked [I'm a Roman Naval Officer. Why?](#), and got an answer from /u/Silas\_Of\_The\_Lambs.

814. /u/Tatem1961 asked [Did it cause a lot of chaos when the UK reduced the value of "one billion" from  \$10^{12}\$  to  \$10^9\$ , and "one trillion" from  \$10^{18}\$  to  \$10^{12}\$ ?](#)
815. /u/PM\_ME\_UR\_LUMPIA asked [Why does Jewish folklore paint the town of Chelm as being full of fools?](#), and got an answer from /u/hannahstohelit.
816. /u/nueoritic-parents asked [How did the famous spiritual "Go Down Moses", sung by black slaves in the South, make its way to modern Jewish pre-K and middle schools? Is this due to the intermingling of Black and Jewish cultures/religions during the Civil Rights Movement?](#)
817. /u/BenicioMurilo asked [what was the process that led to the discovery that Pseudo-Apollodorus \(author of Bibliotheca\) wasn't Apollodorus of Athens?](#), and got an answer by /u/KiwiHellenist (but we're waiting to find out if it was actually pseudo-KiwiHellenist).
818. /u/George4Mayor86 asked [Was there "phone sex" in the age of telegrams?](#)
819. /u/charwood12 asked [Why did someone put a shoe in the wall of a 200 year old house?](#), and found an answer by /u/tinyblondeduckling.
820. /u/Zichymaboy asked [What caused the 1973 federal regulation to change the side matchbook strikers were on?](#)
821. /u/JohroFF asked [There's been a lot of talk here about how medieval Europe was more racially diverse than we think. Would it be out of the question to see a white person in 1000s-1300s Sub-Saharan Africa?](#), and got some discussion from /u/Commustar and /u/labarge3.

## June 2022

822. /u/IronFires asked [Did 17th century French aristocrats send their dirty laundry to the Caribbean for cleaning?](#), and got an answer from /u/gerardmenfin.
823. /u/maniaxuk asked [America regularly gets criticised for using MM/DD/YY for dates when much of the rest of the world uses DD/MM/YY and/or YYYY-MM-DD. What's the origin of the "mangled" American format considering none of old world countries use that format?](#)
824. /u/TheGrayMannnn asked [If I was a citizen of the US and wanted to meet President Adams, was it even possible to get a meeting? How would I go about doing that? Just](#)

[show up or how far in advance would I need to be planning?](#), and got an answer from /u/indyobserver.

825. /u/LorenzoApothis asked [In 1973 a federally funded American family planning clinic forcibly sterilized two black children, the Relf sisters, by lying to their parents about giving them birth control. Were these just rogue workers acting on their own, or were they following an official policy of eugenics?](#)
826. /u/zqwu8391 asked [Would my great-great grandfather have ever eaten a banana?](#), and got some appealing answers from /u/Dicranurus and /u/totesmadoge.
827. /u/wizzo89 asked [What impact, if any, has Fenway Park's Green Monster had on the career statistics or tactics of the Red Sox?](#), and /u/When\_Ducks\_Attack knocked it out of the park.
828. /u/EmeraldAlchemist asked [Piggy banks: How did pigs become the standard/most widely recognized shape for personal coin banks?](#)
829. /u/SaintShrink asked [I own a decent pair of \\$300 beginner binoculars, 8x magnification, 42mm lens. How would my ability to stargaze have compared with Galileo?](#), and got a new perspective from /u/Bodark43.
830. /u/Catfishbandit999 asked [How much, if any, actual impact did Indiana Jones, Top Gun, Jurassic Park, and the X-Files have on employment or research in the respective fields that these huge hits glorified?](#)
831. /u/Caldos4 asked [Where did early adopters of the automobile get gas? Was there much of a transition phase where cars were sold before infrastructure or standards were in place?](#), and got some answers from /u/JustABREng and /u/indyobserver.‡
832. /u/ackzilla asked [What did ancient Egyptians do for entertainment?](#), and got an answer from /u/Dhwtj\_Scribe.
833. /u/ArkGuardian asked [Why did "Platinum" become the precious metal to represent surpassing Gold as opposed to other rare metals?](#)
834. /u/PastaWithMarinaSauce asked [If Back to the Future was about someone from the 1880s going back to the 1850s, what kind of culture shocks and silly situations would arise?](#)

835. /u/lonely\_solipsist asked [In a recent LinkedIn post, Bill Gates shared his 1974 job resume. In it, he lists his height, weight, and number of dependents. Was that common in the USA during the 1970s? And if so why, and when did it stop being the norm?](#)

## July 2022

836. /u/Logan\_Maddox asked [Why are so many evil cults in 20th century fiction snake-themed?](#), and /u/AncientHistory slithered in to answer that.
837. /u/TheGreenAlchemist asked [How did American comic books get so firmly associated with the superhero genre? In the 60s, many types of comics were popular, such as romance comics, cowboy comics, war comics, detective and horror comics, etc. Most of these have faded almost into nonexistence.](#)
838. /u/CommodoreCoCo asked [What is the history of the barbecue grill? When did it become ubiquitous in US backyards, and how did it become so strongly associated with Americana and masculinity?](#), and /u/pompion-pie cooked up an answer to that.
839. /u/xevioso asked [Who decided Bouncy Castles were a good idea and when did they start becoming popular?](#)
840. /u/nip\_dip asked [Why did Disney choose to make Splash Mountain?](#), and got an answer from /u/HammockComplex.
841. /u/Extreme\_Dance\_2114 asked [How did the Japanese artist Hokusai obtain French and Dutch engravings?](#)
842. /u/Chengweiyinji asked [In the Beach Boys song "409", the song states that the singer "saved my pennies and saved my dimes" to buy a brand new Chevy Impala 409. While I expect this line not to be taken literally, would it have been difficult for a teen \(the band's audience\) to buy a brand new car at the time?](#), and got an answer from /u/Killfile.
843. /u/asdeadasacrabseyes asked [Why was IATSE successful and why has it endured?](#)
844. /u/Iphikrates asked [Nowadays it is common for kids to have a phase where they are fascinated with dinosaurs. How long has this been a typical "children's interest" subject, and where does the trend come from?](#), and got a roaring answer from /u/jbdyer.
845. /u/MKorostoff asked [Before the invention of lightbulbs, how \(if at all\) did visual artists depict "person having an idea"?](#)



846. A worthy successor to one of my all-time favorites: /u/OriVerda asked [What is the earliest time period human civilization could make chicken nuggets?](#), and got an answer from /u/Trevor\_Culley.
847. /u/NotSafeForWarthog asked [I'm a soothsayer in the first century CE. Pliny the Elder wrote about my use of crystal balls. How would my crystal ball have been manufactured? How spherical would it have been? How much would it have cost me?](#)
848. /u/AccessTheMainframe asked [People joke about how realistically Captain America ought to have repellent views, but how would an average working class Irish-American man from Brooklyn have viewed racial segregation?](#), and got an answer from /u/EdHistory101.
849. /u/OliveOliveJuice asked [When and why did chicken noodle soup become the go-to dish when someone is sick?](#)
850. /u/Confucius3000 asked [Was there ever a time where breakfast cereals came directly from the cardboard boxes, without being contained in a plastic bag?](#), and at the bottom of the box found a prize answer by /u/November19.
851. /u/RusticBohemian asked [Swan Lake is considered a quintessential ballet, but its original performance and several revival attempts were critically panned and only modestly profitable. Tchaikovsky died without realizing he'd crafted an enduring classic. How did subsequent revivals catapult it to fame?](#)
852. /u/EnclavedMicrostate asked ['Urban legends', 'urban myths' – What is it that makes a piece of folklore 'urban'? Is it purely a quirk of etymology, or do urban communities genuinely produce folklore in a distinct way, or a distinct kind, from rural ones?](#), and got an answer by /u/itsallfolklore.
853. /u/TheEndOfTheWWW asked [Apparently some people go into abandoned US mines to find and sell old jeans. I get that jeans are hardy workwear but WHY? Why did miners take off their pants INSIDE the mine? Did they leave the mines in their underwear?](#)
854. /u/Jubez187 asked [How and/or when did the term "boss" become the official word for an enemy in a video game that is stronger than the rest?](#), and got an answer by /u/justhere4inspiration.
855. /u/\_DeanRiding asked [Why does Lancashire follow the American English definition of the word 'pants', when the rest of the UK has a separate meaning?](#)



## August 2022

856. /u/j3ffro asked What were the first instances of the villainous "mwahahaha" in entertainment?, and got a wicked answer from /u/Kelpie-Cat.
857. /u/nueoritic-parents asked Can we use contemp. medias of tech to see shifts in public thought overtime? How did R.U.R lead to Skynet? How have robots had to prove they're alive over time? Is there a marked media shift before/after the internet connected solitary machines with "algorithms" and "http protocols?"
858. /u/ObsidianSquid asked How did pizza come to be associated with "rad", kid, cool surfer culture in the 80s and 90s?, and got a [what's the contemporary slang word for "cool"?] answer from /u/jbdyer.
859. /u/Paulie\_Gatto asked Reading Golden Age comics I find a lot of stories involving vigilantes taking on the mobsters. During this era, was it perceived that the justice system was inadequate? Or is this more just fantasy solutions to rising crimes? (Or just an older literary trope I am not aware of)
860. /u/poly\_panopticon asked How did a "Deus ex Machina" work mechanically in the Athenian theatre?, and /u/KiwiHellenist came out of nowhere to explain it.
861. /u/The\_Letter\_W asked The Booth family was one of the most prestigious theater families in the U.S. What effect did John Wilkes Booth's assassination of Lincoln have on the American Theater?
862. /u/paperchampionpicture asked I'm writing a 15th century grimoire, how am I determining the process for a magical ritual? How do I have such detailed instructions if magic doesn't actually work? It can't be trial and error like cooking.
863. /u/Lexicorint asked Professional major league sports have leagues beneath them to train and furthermore develop potential prospects to rise to that level; the minors. Did Ancient Rome's chariot race organizations have the same thing?
864. /u/nac0gdoches asked Have there ever been attempts to use moose in warfare?

## September 2022

865. /u/bandswithgoats asked [What was happening in the English language that led to a brief period that coined "exocentric verb-noun compound agent nouns?"](#) (explanation in [thread](#)), and got answers from /u/E\_Briannica and /u/TremulousHand.
866. /u/Takeoffdpantsnjaket asked [How did the computer game \\*Oregon Trail\\* become ubiquitous in US schools during the 80s?](#), and managed to get some answers from /u/jbdyer and /u/SnowblindAlbino before dying of dysentery.
867. /u/theparallelpelican asked [Is the murder mystery dinner trope, such as seen in the film Clue \(1995\), based on any real events? Are there any historical instances of dinner-time murders among the aristocracy or super rich?](#), and got an answer from /u/The\_Truthkeeper.
868. /u/Metaphoricals simile asked [How did Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor become so inextricably linked with horror media?](#)
869. /u/WadiyahnSoldier asked [I'm from Aruba, small island in the Caribbean. My grandparents always told me they had to switch off their lights at night during WW2 to not be spotted by German aircraft. How is this possible if Germany never sent its aircraft carriers to the Caribbean?](#), and got an answer from /u/TheSorge.
870. /u/Akriosken asked [Programming at its inception was seen a busywork and relegated to women who did amazing things. The field eventually transitioned to a male-dominated one. How abrupt or gradual was this transition?](#)
871. /u/RusticBohemian asked [The Rubicon River is one of the most famous in history because Julius Caesar started a civil war when he crossed it. "Crossing the Rubicon" now means to do something you can't take back. So how did we manage to lose the Rubicon River? Why don't we know where it is?](#), and /u/LegalAction helped clarify some things.
872. /u/OnShoulderOfGiants asked [How did "underwater basket weaving" come to be used as a fairly common placeholder or idiom for a liberal arts degree?](#), and got an answer from /u/EdHistory101.
873. /u/taeyoungwoo asked [In the United States in the 1920s, there was a "trend" of dancing on flagpoles. How did it start, and why did it die out?](#)

874. /u/ubccompsscistudent asked [Were famous artists \(authors, musicians, composers, painters, actors\) knighted in previous centuries as often as they have over the last century?](#)
875. /u/meganrbrett asked [Why is the definition of milkshake different in New England area than the rest of the US?](#)
876. /u/pazhalsta1 asked [Was there a 'pop chart' before music recording ?](#)

## October 2022

877. /u/Matt4089 asked [Why did the minuet become a standard movement in the 18th century symphony?](#)
878. /u/EXEvis asked [It's the 15th century and I'm a typical citizen of a large city in the Americas such as Tenochtitlan or Cusco. What does my average day off look like?](#)
879. /u/crrpit asked [What was the context of the famous "This was once revealed to me in a dream" footnote? Was it intended seriously? Was it picked up on by readers/reviewers at the time?](#), and got an answer from /u/gerardmenfin, as well as an endnote addition by /u/jbdyer.
880. /u/jsd\_bookreview\_acc asked [Are literary or philosophical references to bubbles universal? What's the earliest reference to Bubbles as Children's toys? As Bubbles typically require soap or detergent, and they may not have been commonplace in history, when did "large bubbles" start becoming something universally understood?](#), and got an answer from /u/gerardmenfin.
881. /u/OnShoulderOfGiants asked [Spamalot declares "We won't succeed on Broadway if we don't have any Jews". Why are Jews so connected to Broadway, and what was the reaction to parody songs like this?](#), and got answers from /u/findingthescore as well as yours truly.
882. /u/DancingChromosome met us at Midnight to ask [Was "lavender haze" really a popular term in the 50's to describe being in love?](#)
883. /u/SaintShrink asked [Why are dalmatians associated with firefighting?](#), and got an answer from /u/gunnie56.

884. /u/Spaceisveryhard asked [It's 1956, the first trans-Atlantic telephone cable has been laid! I can afford it and i want to call my relatives in Italy. How does the money get distributed as my call bounces around?](#)
885. u/NotACoolMeme asked [It has been said that it was the mystery around Mew's inclusion in Pokemon Red and Blue that saved the games from obscurity outside Japan. How true is this?](#)
886. /u/UndergroundRemix asked [Did trading sons like Darkseid and Highfather did in the DC Comics as a peace pact really happen in history?](#)
887. /u/optiplex9000 asked [What's the origin of the self-destruct sequence trope? How did it get popularized?](#)
888. /u/SannySen asked [Have there been any further evidentiary or analytical developments in our understanding of the pre-revolutionary southern state economy since the famous bar scene in Good Will Hunting?](#), and got an apple of an answer from /u/Bodark43.
889. /u/stmorgante asked [Why did soccer explode in popularity as a youth sport in the 1990s United States?](#)
890. /u/TrueBirch asked [When did hockey decide to punish players by putting them in a box?](#), and got an answer from /u/kaiser\_matias.
891. /u/bandswithgoats asked [How did that one particular working class New Jersey accent become the default "hired goon" voice in popular culture?](#)

## November 2022

892. /u/Realtrain asked [What's the history of "I Voted" stickers in the Us? When and how did giving out stickers after voting in government elections become standard?](#), and got an answer from /u/jbdyer.
893. /u/AppleFlavouredGum asked [What was buying groceries like in America 100 years ago?](#), and got an answer from /u/jbdyer.
894. /u/mmmmmmmmmhthhhhhhhhh asked [Could people do backflips/front flips in ancient times?](#), and /u/rkoloeg leapt to answer that.
895. /u/GSV\_No\_Fixed\_Abode asked [What's the origin of a muted trombone going "wah wah waahhhhh" as a sound effect for somebody failing?](#)

896. /u/Gradov asked [How common was misattribution of craftsmanship of textile crafts like quilts during slavery in the American South?](#), and got an answer from /u/walpurgnisnox.
897. /u/JJVMT asked [Some Mexicans have Nahuatl surnames \(e.g., Pochtzin, Xico\(h\)téncatl, etc.\). Are these survivals from pre-colonial times, later national-romantic/indigenist adoptions, or something else entirely?](#)
898. /u/JeffSheldrake asked [Are queues a modern invention?](#), and /u/DanKensington lined up to answer.
899. /u/cleopatra\_philopater asked [Many countries are phasing out plastic bags through bans or fees. How did single-use plastic shopping bags become so ubiquitous in the first place?](#)
900. /u/GSV\_No\_Fixed\_Abode asked [What's the origin of a muted trombone going "wah wah waahhhhh" as a sound effect for somebody failing?](#)
901. /u/SaintShrink asked [Does Frosty the Snowman have any historical inspiration or antecedents?](#)
902. /u/EnclavedMicrostate asked [A recent xkcd comic joked that a time traveller in the early 18th century could probably bribe someone with a roll of aluminium foil. How valuable was aluminium in East Prussia ca. 1736? Was aluminium seen as having any practical function, or simply a rare curiosity?](#)

## December 2022

903. /u/Tatem1961 asked [Jingle Bells was originally written to celebrate Thanksgiving. How did it become a Christmas song?](#)
904. /u/mimicofmodes asked [What were the connotations of the song "Ochi Tchornya" in Hungary in the early twentieth century?](#)
905. /u/DoctorEmperor asked [Were Americans generally “aware” that the Compromise of 1877 had taken place?](#)
906. /u/11112222FRN asked **[How would a professional historian look for the One Ring?](#), which brought about a lot of discussion.**
907. /u/johann\_tor asked [What are some conceptual blindspots of the Civilization series of video games?](#), which brought about a lot of discussion.

908. /u/SaintShrink asked [How did "kamehameha", the main attack from the Japanese anime franchise Dragon Ball, come to be named after a Hawaiian royal dynasty?](#), and got an answer from /u/postal-history.
909. /u/turkoosi\_aurinko asked [Was "Hasta La Vista" actually a popular slang term before Terminator 2 was released?](#)
910. /u/Zskillit asked [How did the classical musicians 'drop' their music? How did anyone know, for example, when Beethoven was about to drop a banger? Was their an announcement?](#), and got answers by /u/flotiste and /u/rukivverh5995.
911. /u/paceodditea asked [Where does the idea of the double jump come from?](#), and /u/HistoryofHowWePlay leapt to answer that.
912. /u/TastyBirdmeat asked [What was the industry reaction by other game developers when Super Mario 64 came out? Did developers openly express it was setting a new standard in the industry?](#)
913. /u/JamieOvechkin asked [How did Lacrosse, originally a Native American sport, become so strongly associated with private schools and colleges in the US?](#), and caught answers from /u/foreverandafew and /u/EdHistory101.‡

## 2023

### [January 2023](#)

914. /u/Lentra888 asked [In Galavant S1E6, the character Chef declines to poison a royal banquet, but instead feeds everyone things they're allergic to instead. What was known about allergies in this time period \(13th Century\), and how carefully would a cook in the royal court have to tread in regards to guests' allergies?](#)
915. /u/MarshmallowPepys asked [Would a middle-class 15-year-old British girl in the early 20th century still be playing with dolls?](#)
916. /u/Cautious\_Ad3764 asked [Did the Axis have their own "Kilroy Was Here" meme or doodles during the war, or was it purely an Allies phenomenon?](#)
917. /u/GearsOfLogic asked [My American friend's great-grandfather was Finnish and he was documented as 'Asian' in his papers. Was this something that happened commonly](#)

[with Finnish immigrants in the late 1800's?](#), and got an answer from /u/Kiviimar as well as /u/Kochevnik81,

918. /u/dhowlett1692 asked **[What did MySpace do that was new?](#)**, and got an answer from /u/SarahAGilbert.

919. /u/atloomis asked [What is the origin of academic papers?](#)

920. /u/screwyoushadowban asked [What's the history of the entertainment industry's infatuation with Joseph Campbell's "hero's journey"/monomyth? When did it become \\*a thing\\* for film & TV screenwriters to read it \(... or the Wikipedia page on it at least\)?](#), and /u/jbdyer emerged from the cave to deliver us some apotheosis (or something, I'm blanking on how the journey's steps actually work).

921. /u/TWG-official asked [Why is candle pin bowling a thing in the Boston/MA area?](#)

922. /u/Hdhs1 asked [Is The Sword In The Stone and Excalibur the same?](#) and got answers from /u/MiscAnonym and /u/swarthmoreburke.

923. /u/carozza1 asked [Why is it that some countries use the "," and "." as a decimal point and thousandth separator while other countries use the same two symbols to represent the opposite?](#) and got answers from /u/hpmetsfan and /u/cin-con,

924. /u/RustedCorpse asked **[I am the lowest ranking international master at Chess in 2020. I wake up and find myself in the 1920's chess scene. What am I able to revolutionize in theory?](#)**, and got answers from /u/Spreek and /u/Maethoras, as well as /u/JediLibrarian and /u/CrocodileSword.

## February 2023

925. /u/SpaceCapo asked [When was Grilled Cheese as we know it now first invented / recorded as a recipe?](#)

926. /u/Mysterious-Chip-1396 asked [How were physically disabled women viewed on the marriage market of the mid 1800s?](#)

927. /u/nueoritic-parents asked [The Hebrew song “David Melech Yisrael” is a pre-school song that has hand motions to go along with it. “Born to Hand Jive” \(or “Sha Na Na”\) from Grease has almost identical hand motions. What’s the connection between the two? Did Grease or “David” come? How did one influence the other?](#)

928. /u/spacemanaut asked [In 19th century English literature, a child \(even 4-5\) is often referred to as "it." At what age did children normally take "human" pronouns? When did this convention die out?](#), and got an answer from /u/SomeAnonymous.
929. /u/fopeo asked [I just had a baby and we have to wake them every two to three hours to feed. How have people in pre-alarm clock times tackled feeding and newborn care to make sure they survive?](#)
930. /u/MarioTheMojoMan asked [What is the history of republics and republicanism outside of Europe?](#), and got an answer from /u/yonkon.
931. /u/George\_S\_Patton\_III asked [When the Supreme Court ruled that the line item veto was unconstitutional, what happened to all the laws Bill Clinton utilized it on?](#)
932. /u/SucksToYourAssmar3 asked [Can you draw a straight line between the movie King Kong \(1933\) - with its depiction of a predatory, swamp-dwelling, long-necked dinosaur - and the explosion of interest in the Loch Ness monster as a result of the hoaxed Surgeon's Photo \(1934\)?](#), and got an answer from /u/Steelcan909.
933. /u/Pyr1t3\_Radio asked [Was public reaction to "Barney and Friends" considered unusually polarised compared to its predecessors or contemporaries in children's television? If so, what factors contributed to it?](#)

## March 2023

934. /u/\_METALEX asked [What was the public opinion on Wikipedia in it's early years?](#)
935. /u/RegulatoryCapturedMe asked [There seems to be some controversy about the possibility that Albert Einstein's first wife, Mileva Marić, who was also a physicist/mathematician, contributed or even co-wrote the work Albert is famous for. What is genuinely known, or deducible, about Mileva's contribution?](#)
936. /u/IOwnStocksInMossad asked [What methods were used to tackle football hooliganism and ultras in Europe from the 1970s onwards?](#)
937. /u/Breezydososavage asked [Why is there a tiny door in my 1920s shower?](#), and got a hot answer from /u/jbdyer.
938. /u/Frank\_Humperdinck asked [How and when did "Tomorrow Belongs to Me", a fake Nazi anthem showtune written by two Jewish men, get adopted as a genuine neo-Nazi anthem?](#), and got an answer from /u/jbdyer.



939. /u/Kelpie-Cat asked [What are current scholarly opinions on the book "The Invention of Women: Making an African Sense of Western Gender Discourses" by Oyèrónké Oyěwùmí?](#)
940. /u/nowlan101 asked [Among the conquistadors who accompanied Cortes in his war against the Aztec Empire, there was one \\*conquistadora\\* named Maria De Estrada. Do we have any idea how native women reacted to seeing another woman in such a role?](#)
941. /u/Geert\_Kompjee asked [Gbessi, a 'Mende-man who acted like a woman' told the anthropologist Sjoerd Hofstra \(Sierra Leone, 1934-1936\) that his distinctive gender expression was caused by a dream with spirits. Is there more information on the way people like Gbessi \(third gender?\) 'communicated' their expression as such?](#)
942. /u/z112 asked [What Cultural Factors Caused Writers in the 1920s-1940s to Start Writing about Action Heroines?](#)
943. /u/Funtimessubs asked [Why did pop \(teen music\) overtake adult contemporary \(self-explanatory, formerly called "sentimental"\) as the culturally and economically dominant supergenre of music in the mid-century period, seemingly permanently?](#)
944. /u/slantedtortoise asked [How do we know the tuning/key of ancient music and musical instruments?](#)

## April 2023

945. /u/Meat\_your\_maker asked [Where does the parenting tradition of marking kids' progressive heights in door frames originate?](#)
946. /u/screwyoushadowban asked [How did the depiction of religion on film, stage, & television change after the rapid growth of Christianity in South Korea from the mid 20th century onward?](#)
947. /u/zerodarkshirty asked [The US has a habit of giving its laws convoluted names because they make nice acronyms \(eg the Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act, which spells out PATRIOT\). When did this first start and why?](#), and got an answer from /u/jbdyer.
948. /u/crrpit memes out the question [What is the history of astroturf?](#), and also got an answer from jbdyer.

949. /u/SaintShrink asked [What's the origin of the children's game where you see a Volkswagen Beetle and punch another child?](#), and got an answer from—you guessed it—jbdyer, as well as /u/isaiahjc.
950. /u/General\_Urist asked [Do clay tablets written by people who were probably angry or frustrated have deeper indents?](#), and got an impressionable answer from /u/random2187.
951. /u/Obversa asked [The 1996 Sokal hoax was "a demonstrative scholarly hoax to investigate whether a leading North American journal of cultural studies would publish an article liberally salted with nonsense if it sounded good, and flattered the editors' ideological preconceptions". How did this hoax impact academia?](#)

## May 2023

952. /u/Garrettshade asked [Are there any earlier examples or origins of "lovecraftian" style of horrors in fiction or myths, earlier than Lovecraft himself?](#), and got answers from /u/epicyclorama and /u/ByzantineBasileus.‡
953. /u/Cato\_the\_Cognizant asked [Historians, what do you think is currently the single most controversial or debated topic in your specific area of study, and what is it about?](#), which brought in some interesting discussion.
954. /u/RusticBohemian asked [Why did Vermont have a massive Merino Sheep boom and bust in the 19th century \(A peak of 70% of the land was devoted to sheep\). What market forces were at play?](#), and /u/MinkDingus flocked over to answer that.
955. /u/Exciting-Fall4070 wanted to know if there were any major [Consequences of the introduction of MS Excel in the business world?](#)
956. /u/I\_COLORED\_IT\_FOR\_YOU asked [Why did the Rubik's Cube become so popular despite it being almost impossible to solve without studying and memorising algorithms?](#)
957. /u/vanderZwan asked [Did Tolkien's hobby of writing conlangs result in any novel insights that he used in his work as a philologist?](#)
958. /u/Switch\_Empty asked [Why did Baseball never have cheerleaders like other sports?](#), and /u/Georgy\_K\_Zhukov gave us an R-E-S 🐱 🐱 🐱 ♀ P-O-N 🦄 S 🍷 E 🍷!
959. /u/DreamcastJunkie asked [How did In The Hall of the Mountain King come to be associated with playful mischief?](#)

960. /u/BlindProphet\_413 asked [What is the history of Airport Insurance Machines?](#), and got an answer from /u/abbot\_x.
961. /u/smiles\_\_ asked [The Yaqui indigenous people of Sonora have a fascinating history of remaining "unconquered" throughout their history with governing authorities -- that is until the Mexican military performed air raids on their populations in the early 20th century. How common or uncommon is their history?](#)

## June/July 2023

Due to Reddit protests, there weren't many questions in June. Instead, there were plenty of themed Floating Features, where people could free-write with lower standards than usual.

962. /u/silverapplayard asked [In honor of Barbie's hot pink wardrobe: how did fluorescents become so predominant in the 80s? Who were the early adopters?](#), and got an answer from /u/cin-con
963. /u/Funtimesubs asked ([Barbie was created as a blank slate for imagined/aspirational adulthood. How did the doll line come to be associated with 1980's LA culture specifically?](#)
964. /u/ghostoftheuniverse asked [How long have parents been walking to school barefoot uphill both ways? : r/AskHistorians](#), and got an answer from /u/EdHistory101
965. /u/mensajeenunabottle asked [What is the history of being a professional historian? : r/AskHistorians](#)
966. /u/SimbaOnSteroids investigated [the history of the word John as an abstract noun within the Smash Brothers community](#)
967. /u/Mattdoss discussed [the history of the Twin Towers in Marvel comics](#)
968. /u/restricteddata highlighted how [overlooking the existence of women led to the Manhattan Project](#) (I might not be giving the *most* accurate summary here)
969. /u/point\_six\_typography asked [What is the history of Check, Uno, and related card games?](#)
970. /u/Ser\_Claudor asked [When studying today we write down notes, use highlighter pens, post it notes, draw up charts, tables, diagrams and etc. Do we know what kinds of techniques people in the past used to facilitate their study sessions?](#)

971. /u/crrpit asked [What did Hitler think about baseball?](#), and got an answer from /u/jbdyer
972. /u/Becovamek asked [Did Captain America \(Steve Rogers\) being an Irish American and ardently anti-Nazi influence the Irish American community's politics in the 1940s whatsoever?](#)
973. /u/SalMinellaOnYouTube asked [Was it actually possible/a-done-thing to caulk a Conestoga Wagon and float down a river Oregon Trail style?‡](#)
974. /u/Riot\_Tor asked [How was Hitler able to hold up his arm for so long?](#)

## August 2023

975. jelvinjs7 asked [The 1990s seemed to spawn a trend of teen movie adaptations of classic literature \(eg. Clueless/Emma, She's All That/Pygmalion, 10 Things I Hate About You/Taming of the Shrew\). How did this trend emerge?](#), and got an answer from /u/mrs\_rabbit\_0
976. /u/Logan\_Maddox asked [What, if any, was the relationship between the 80's HIV/AIDS pandemic and the rebirth of vampire fiction?](#)
977. /u/MoltoSupreme asked [Why was there so much opposition to the professionalisation of sports?](#)
978. /u/Lucky-Orchid94536 asked [Why are turkey legs at Renaissance fairs?](#), and got some delicious answers from /u/gerardmenfin and /u/jbdyer.
979. /u/4x4is16Legs asked [\[meta\] What motivates top contributors?](#), and—along with a lot of lovely anecdotes and personal testimonies—got an economic analysis to the question from /u/RenaissanceSnowblizz.
980. /u/[deleted] asked [How similar would university level history and philosophy courses have been in Europe and the United States in the period between 1900 and WWII?](#)
981. /u/Responsible-Way5056 asked [How did transgender people survive throughout human history without modern transition surgeries or modern hormone therapy?](#), and got a wonderful answer from /u/Kelpie-Cat.
982. /u/lazygiraffe- asked [Has any other artist had an economic impact similar to Taylor Swift?](#)

983. /u/AlviseFalier asked [The Central Park Conservancy was founded in 1980 to combat Central Park's decline in the 1960s and 1970s. Why did the park decline in the first place?](#)
984. /u/JLeeSaxon asked [How Did Florida Select Those Infamous "Butterfly Ballots"?](#)
985. /u/Flaube asked [How bad is orientalism in Asian literature translations?](#), and got an answer from /u/epicyclorama.
986. /u/Go\_To\_Bethel\_And\_Sin asked [How did Duke and Wake Forest University — two colleges in the deeply conservative Bible Belt — arrive at their demon-related mascots, the Blue Devils and Demon Deacons? Were these mascots controversial at the time they were introduced?](#)

## [September 2023](#)

987. /u/Thoughtbuilds asked [What is the history/evolution of the pinata?](#)
988. /u/Sherm asked [I aced Anatomy and Physiology in college. How would my knowledge of the subject compare to that of a typical doctor in the US in the 1840s?](#)
989. /u/Infogamethrow asked [Did Medieval people have the equivalent of road trip games like "I spy" or "Twenty Questions" for long trips across the countryside?](#)
990. /u/RusticBohemian asked [The word "housewife," was already in use in the 1750s, such as in Martha Bradley's cookbook, "The British Housewife." Where did the term come from? Was it an attempt to make a class differentiation? How old is the term?](#), and got an answer from /u/SoulofZendikar.
991. /u/WonderTrain asked [Are there historical patterns behind which elements sourced their common use names from Latin or Greek?](#)
992. /u/HammondCheeseIII asked [Do we know if Oppenheimer ever watched Godzilla?](#)
993. /u/chaxattax asked [Did kids in the 60s make pearl harbor jokes?](#)
994. /u/SlothsAreCommunists asked [When did 9/11 first start to be referred to as 9/11?](#)
995. /u/RusticBohemian asked [Gulliver's Travels features people who want to war with each other over conflicting views on how to open eggs. What was Swift satirizing in 18th century society in this depiction?](#), and /u/Mollking cracked that case.
996. /u/TheRunningMD is starved for answers wondering [What made England such a Pie empire?](#)

997. /u/HugoWullAMA asked [When did it become the norm for banks in America to hand out lollipops?](#)
998. /u/anthropology\_nerd asked [What happened to Ham \(the first great ape in space\) and other chimpanzees used for Space Race after Project Mercury?](#)

## October 2023

999. /u/dr-doc-phd asked [A common fiction trope is the idea of a war that has gone on so long that neither side can remember what started it. Are there any real world examples of this happening?](#), with an answer by /u/Iphikrates and further insight from /u/EnclavedMicrostate.
1000. /u/Unfathomably-Shallow asked [Tom & Jerry: How ubiquitous were dynamites in mid-century USA?](#), and got answers from /u/bbctol and (you guessed it) /u/jbdyer.
1001. /u/Alaska-Now-PNW asked [When comic books began to emerge, did parents dislike them and blame them for children's behavior and societal woes in the same way that parents did about video games and TV later on?](#), and got an answer from /u/Individually-Wrapt.
1002. /u/r21md asked [What historical events led to Chicago style citations being so dominate in Historical literature over other styles?](#)
1003. /u/StarlightDown asked [Between 3000 BCE and 500 CE, the Bantu migrations occurred, with the agriculturalist and Iron Age Bantu culture spreading across most of sub-Saharan Africa. Were any civilizations to the north \(e.g. Ethiopia, Nubia, Egypt, Rome, etc\) aware of these huge migrations? What did they think of it?](#)
1004. /u/voyeur324 asked [How were Indian Jews affected by Partition?](#)
1005. /u/SaintShrink asked [How well known was the concept of exorcism prior to the release of 1973's The Exorcist? Did the movie actually popularize exorcism?](#)
1006. /u/ Apiperofhades asked [Is there any reason in folklore as to why "the seventh son of the seventh son" was supposed to be a vampire? Were they hated for some reason?](#), and got answers from /u/itsallfolklore and /u/ARoyaleWithCheese.
1007. /u/Mikomies asked [Who were the prominent storytelling scholars and academics before Joseph Campbell?](#) and also got an answer from ARoyaleWithCheese.

1008. /u/vonnekur asked [I'm a peasant in 10th century Brittany. I just spilled all of my soup on the floor. What happens next?](#), and got an answer from /u/bug-hunter.
1009. /u/kingoftheplastics asked [When did skyscrapers become tourist attractions in their own right, beyond their role as just office buildings?](#)
1010. /u/micesellingcars asked [How did a single party held on August 11, 1973 become universally accepted as the birth of Hip-Hop?](#), and got an answer from /u/hillsonghods.
1011. /u/UnderwaterDialect asked [When and how did Stairway to Heaven become "the greatest rock song"?](#)
- 1012. /u/Blumju asked [In most recorded history women have mostly had the role of the homemaker. Why was there suddenly an epidemic of unhappy housewives in the 40's and 50's and why did that become the defining factor for the role in the decades after?](#), and got an answer from /u/mimicofmodes.**
1013. /u/theytookthemall asked [At what point in history did the process of staying at a hotel become "standardized"? How about the hotels themselves?](#)

## [November 2023](#)

1014. /u/TheBeefofLove asked [How and Why did Vampires Become so Sexy in Media?](#), and got seduced by the answers from /u/Vladith and /u/Algernon\_Etrigan.
1015. /u/screwyoushadowban asked [How/why did the Italian far-right/neo-fascists fall in love with J.R.R. Tolkien in the 1970s? What's the history of Tolkien's reception amongst the continental European far-right more broadly?](#), and got an answer from /u/FolkPhilosopher.
1016. /u/TheHondoGod asked [What is the history of "just asking questions"? Has it been recognized as a denialist strategy since the start?](#)
1017. /u/a\_cringy\_name asked [Platypus enthusiasts of Reddit, how did European explorers in Australia describe their first sighting of a platypus?](#), and got an impeccable answer by /u/Halofreak1171.
1018. /u/Zoidinho asked [Is there a historical reason for why anime shows focus on exams and championships?](#)
1019. /u/FunDeckHermit asked [Why is Martin Van Buren spelled with uppercase V?](#), and got an answer from /u/MysteriousBalance265.

1020. /u/10HungryGhosts asked [Before the invention of leggings, how were saris worn?](#)
1021. /u/AlexLuis asked [How hard was it for your average game developer in the 90's to pivot from making 2D to 3D games?](#)
1022. /u/messem10 asked [What is the origin of restaurants/stores offering free item\(s\) for one's birthday?](#)
1023. /u/BedrockFarmer asked [Late-80s/Early-90s pop culture included restaurants and bars trying to come up with and popularize new cocktails. Usually with erotic names \(Sex on the Beach, Screaming Orgasm\). How prevalent was this and what drove the new cocktail craze?](#)
1024. /u/coolaswhitebread asked [Is distaste with a partner's parents \(in-laws\) or making fun of them a relatively modern and western phenomenon?](#)
1025. /u/ussbaney asked [Robert McNamara died in 2009. Do we know what he thought of Microsoft Excel?](#)

## [December 2023](#)

1026. /u/ausAnstand asked [The lyrics to "Happy Birthday" were first printed in 1912, set to the tune of the 1893 song "Good Morning to All". Were there any songs typically sung at birthdays that preceded it?](#)
1027. /u/SuspiciousTurtle asked [How did the Mayan people interpret the impact crater that took out the Dinosaurs?](#)
1028. /u/kill4588 asked [I just watched a Chinese drama depicting the 70's, one of the characters sang the "happy birthday to you" song, that made me wonder, when was the happy birthday song introduced to China?](#)
1029. /u/TheWhiteChicano asked [How were Computer viruses spread before the invention of the internet?](#), and got their brain hacked by /u/jschooltiger.
1030. /u/mensajeenunabottle asked [How did the foley \(sound in movies\) practice develop in Hollywood and evolve in the 20th century?](#)
1031. /u/CuddlerJoesPal asked [What is known of the origin of quizzes as a form of entertainment?](#)
1032. /u/ColCrockett asked [When did Hotels in the US go from being social centers of cities to being simply places to sleep?](#)



1033. /u/stradivarius117 asked [How did evidence boards become a Hollywood trope? Is there any historical basis behind the walls of evidence connected with strings you see in films?](#)
1034. /u/gucewa asked [What is the origin of the monkey banging on cymbals toy?](#)
1035. /u/tresbros asked [What's the story on doctors/dentists having fish tanks in their lobby?](#)
1036. /u/CRoss1999 asked [Where there steam car fanatics as they phased out? Like there are classic car fans today?](#)