



# Mystery Fact of the Day

Read out a strange-sounding fact. The class votes true or false, then finds out. Five minutes, and nothing to prepare. It gets students curious, and used to asking whether something is actually true rather than taking it as read.

## What you need

| Page          | What it is                                                                                | How many         |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Slides</b> | Ten fact slides with a click-to-reveal answer, plus a closing slide (a separate download) | Nothing to print |
| <b>Page 2</b> | Ten more facts, each with its answer, for when you have used the first ten                | One, for you     |

## How it works

| Step     | What happens                                                                                                                                   | Slides  |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>1</b> | Put up any of the ten fact slides and read the fact aloud as a plain statement, with no hints.                                                 | 2 to 11 |
| <b>2</b> | Ask the class: true or false? A show of hands is all you need. Let a few students explain their reasoning first; the guessing is half the fun. |         |
| <b>3</b> | Click, and the answer and a one-line reason appear. Then ask what they would like to find out next.                                            |         |
| <b>4</b> | The closing slide asks students to bring in a mystery fact of their own for next time.                                                         | 12      |

## Worth knowing

- It works every day as a settling-in routine, or just every so often.
- Once the ten slides are used up, read from page 2 instead, or let students run the reveal with facts they have found and checked themselves.

***The best facts are the ones that stump the whole class.***





# Ten more facts

When the ten in the slides have been used, pick one of these, read it out as a plain statement, take the vote, then read the answer underneath.

**1. A group of flamingos is called a “flamboyance”.**

**TRUE** It really is the official collective noun, and one of the best in the animal kingdom.

**2. People only use 10% of their brains.**

**FALSE** Brain scans show we use almost all of our brain, just not all of it at exactly the same moment.

**3. A single bolt of lightning is hotter than the surface of the Sun.**

**TRUE** Lightning can reach around 30,000°C. The surface of the Sun is about 5,500°C.

**4. Sharks have been around longer than trees.**

**TRUE** Sharks appeared over 400 million years ago; the first trees came roughly 50 million years later.

**5. Goldfish only remember things for three seconds.**

**FALSE** Studies show goldfish can remember things for months.

**6. Bananas count as berries, but strawberries do not.**

**TRUE** Botanically, a berry needs seeds inside its flesh. Bananas qualify; strawberries, with their seeds on the outside, do not.

**7. There are more possible chess games than atoms in the observable universe.**

**TRUE** Mathematicians put the number at around 10 to the power of 120, far more than the atoms that exist.

**8. Swallowed chewing gum stays in your stomach for seven years.**

**FALSE** It passes through your system in about the same time as any other food, usually within a few days.

**9. Butterflies taste with their feet.**

**TRUE** Special sensors on their feet let them taste a plant the moment they land on it.

**10. The Eiffel Tower grows taller in summer.**

**TRUE** The iron expands in the heat, adding around 15cm (6 inches) to its height.

