

What's Inside...

Here are just a few of the questions
you will find inside this book.

Who was the first
female self-made
millionaire in
America?

**Who Was the First
Native American
to Fly in Space?**

**Who was the first
policewoman in the U.S.?**

Who was the first (and, we hope,
the only) U.S. president to throw up
on a prime minister of another
country?

Who was the
first black
**BASEBALL
PLAYER**
in the Major
Leagues?

**Who Was the First
(and so far the
ONLY) baby born in
the White House?**

Who was the first
child born to English
parents in North
America?

Welcome to America

Who was the first immigrant to enter the U.S. through Ellis Island?

Between 1892 and 1954, millions of **immigrants** entered the United States through Ellis Island in Upper New York Bay. The very first immigrant to pass through the Ellis Island facility was teenager

ANNIE MOORE

(c. 1874/77 – c. 1923/24) from Ireland. She arrived January 1, 1892. As the first person to enter the U.S. at Ellis Island, she was presented with an American \$10 gold piece (worth about \$200 today). Annie never spent it.



Fun First Fact



Lucy Hayes (1831 – 1889), wife of President Rutherford B. Hayes, was the first First Lady to graduate from college.

In what year did the first female jockey ride in the Kentucky Derby? 1910, 1950, 1970?

The Kentucky Derby is said to be American's greatest race. It has been held every year at Churchill Downs in Kentucky since 1875. But only six female jockey's (as of 2017) have ridden in the race. **DIANE CRUMP** was the first to ride in the Derby in 1970.



Who was the first Eagle Scout In the Boy Scouts of America?

On September 12, 1912, **Arthur R. Eldred** (1895-1951) became the first boy to earn the highest rank awarded by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) — Eagle Scout. Since then, more than two million boys in the U.S. have earned the distinction of Eagle Scout, including Sam Walton (1934), founder of Walmart; Neil Armstrong (1947), astronaut and first man to step on the moon; and Steven Spielberg (1961), movie producer and director.



Who was the first American COWGIRL?



If you thought Annie Oakley was America's first cowgirl, think again. In fact, the term "cowgirl" was first used to describe **Lucille Mulhall** (1885 - 1940) when she was only ten years old. She performed amazing roping and riding tricks in rodeos and Wild West Shows in America and Europe. At first, she was called a "cowboy girl." Pretty silly, huh? Later, she was called a cowgirl.

Fun First Fact

Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882 – 1945) was the 32nd president of the United States and the first American president to appear on television.



Up, Up, and Away

Who was the first American man to fly solo (or by himself) across the Atlantic?
Charles Lindbergh

(1902 – 1974)

IN 1927 CHARLES LINDBERGH FLEW FROM LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK, TO PARIS, FRANCE

IN A SINGLE-SEAT, SINGLE ENGINE PLANE CALLED “THE SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS.” THE TRIP TOOK 33.5 HOURS.



Fun First Fact



Paul Brown, the first man to invent the "upside-down" ketchup bottle in the early 1990s, sold his invention for \$13 million.



Who was the first American woman to swim the English Channel?

HER NAME WAS **GERTRUDE EDERLE** (1905 – 2003). But she was known affectionately as “Queen of the Waves.” Why? Probably because in 1926 she became the first woman to swim across the English Channel, a body of water that separates southern England from northern France. Her swim across the English Channel took 14 hours and 34 minutes. It began in France and ended at a village on the coast of Kent, England. So what happened when she walked out of the water? Believe it or not, a British immigration officer met her and asked for her passport! Geez!

Who was the first (and, we hope, the only) U.S. president to throw up on a prime minister of a another country?



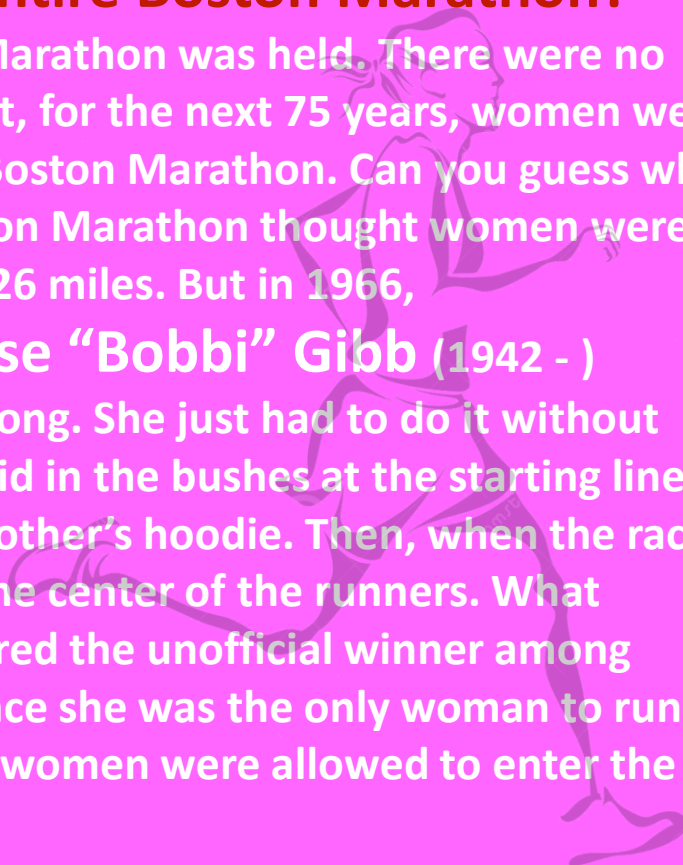
That, uh, *honor* goes to President George H. W. Bush, the 41st president of the United States. During a visit to Tokyo, Japan, in 1992, President Bush became violently ill at a dinner with Japanese **Prime Minister** Kiichi Miyazawa. He suddenly vomited on the foreign head of state and then passed out. He recovered quickly, though, and his aides said it was a symptom of the flu.

Who was the first American woman to officially enter and run the entire Boston Marathon?

In 1897, the first Boston Marathon was held. There were no women in that race. In fact, for the next 75 years, women were not allowed to enter the Boston Marathon. Can you guess why? The “officials” of the Boston Marathon thought women were not strong enough to run the 26 miles. But in 1966,

Roberta Louise “Bobbi” Gibb (1942 -)

decided to prove them wrong. She just had to do it without anyone knowing. So she hid in the bushes at the starting line for the race. She wore her brother’s hoodie. Then, when the race started, she dashed into the center of the runners. What happened? She was declared the unofficial winner among women -- a no-brainer, since she was the only woman to run that year. Finally, in 1972, women were allowed to enter the race officially.



Who was the first policewoman in the U.S.?

In 1910, at the age of 37, **Alice Stebbins Wells** (1873 -1957) became the first American-born female police officer in the United States. She joined the police force in Los Angeles. What did she do before she became a police officer? She was a minister in Kansas. Nearly 20 years earlier, in 1891, the very first female officer was hired in Chicago. But she was not a native-born American. She had been born in Canada. Her name was Marie Owens.

Who was the first American woman executed by the U.S. Government?



In 1865 **Mary Elizabeth Jenkins Surratt** (1823 – 1865) was convicted of taking part in a **conspiracy** to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln. Throughout her trial, she insisted she was innocent of all charges. But the government did not believe her. And on July 7, 1865, at about 1:31 p.m., Mary Surratt was hanged. She was 42 years old.

Who was the first person to sign the U.S. Declaration of Independence?

The 4th of July is always a big summertime celebration throughout the United States. But do you know why? On that date in 1776, the original thirteen American colonies agreed on an important statement. We call that statement The Declaration of Independence. It announced to Great Britain that the thirteen colonies considered themselves a new nation — the United States of America. Fifty-six leaders of the thirteen colonies signed the Declaration, including two future presidents. But the first person to sign was an important **statesman** named JOHN HANCOCK (1737 – 1793).

Who was the first American “Witch” hanged in America?

POOR BRIDGET BISHOP (ca 1632, England – 1692)!

She really didn't stand a chance. She liked to go to bars; she played shuffleboard; she dressed flamboyantly; and (gulp!) she was married three times. That was way too much for the very conservative, very Puritan town of Salem, Massachusetts in 1692! So, what happened to poor Bridget Bishop? She was accused of being a WITCH. She denied it, of course. But that didn't matter. On June 10, 1692, she became the first person in America hanged for witchcraft!



Who Was the First astronaut to WALK ON THE MOON?

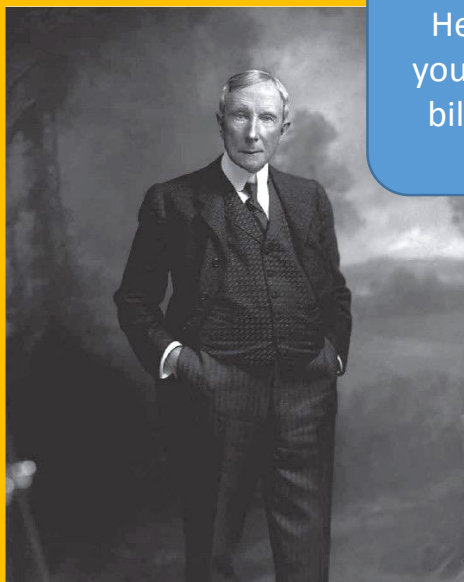


On July 20, 1969, American astronaut Neil Armstrong (1930 – 2012) stepped onto the surface of the moon. “That’s one small step for man,” he said, as he stepped from the Lunar Module *Eagle* onto the surface of the moon, “one giant leap for mankind.”

Who was the first American worth a **billion** dollars?

When you first think about Americans worth a billion dollars, you might think about Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft or Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook or even Oprah Winfrey. But long before Gates, Zuckerberg, or Winfrey, there was America's *first* billionaire. His name was

John D. Rockefeller (1839 - 1937). He was the co-founder of the Standard Oil Company in 1870. When he died in 1937, his fortune was worth \$336 billion in today's dollars!

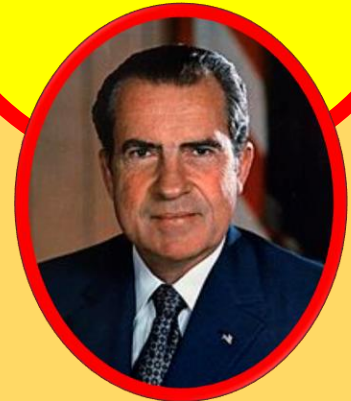


How much is a billion?

Here's one way to look at it. If you tried to count from 1 to one billion, it would take – are you ready – nearly 100 years!

WHO WAS THE FIRST AND (AS OF 2017) ONLY U.S. PRESIDENT TO RESIGN FROM OFFICE?

RICHARD NIXON (1913-1994), THE 37TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.



Fun First Fact



Why is bubble gum pink?

Walter E. Diemer (1904 - 1998) was the first person to make bubble gum. It is pink because that was the the only food coloring that he had on hand at the time.

Who was the first president-elect to ride to his inauguration in a car?

On June 21, 1921, **Warren G. Harding** (1865 – 1924), the 29th president of the United States, rode to and from his **inauguration** in an automobile, called a Packard.

Who was the first African-American woman to earn a pilot's license?

In the early 1900s, a young African-American woman named **Bessie Coleman** (1892 – 1926) was determined to become an Airplane pilot. Yet, no American flight school would accept her for training – first because she was a woman, but also because she was black. But Bessie refused to give up. She learned French and moved to Paris. There, on June 15, 1921, she became the first African-American woman to earn an aviation pilot's license. Later she became very popular in America performing in air shows as a **barnstorming** stunt flier. In 1926, she went up as a passenger in a plane she had just bought. The plane suddenly took a nose-dive and crashed. Sadly, Coleman was killed. She was only 34 years old.



Fun First Fact

The first Indian-American governor of a U.S. state was Piyush "Bobby" Jindal (1971 - present) of Louisiana.