FREE PRINTABLE · ANSWERS ON PAGE 2

Myth or Fact? Trivia

Read each question aloud. Everyone ticks Myth or Fact, then flip to page 2.

1. Do lemmings really commit mass suicide?

☐ MYTH ☐ FACT

2. Do camels store water in their humps?

☐ MYTH ☐ FACT

3. Is a starfish a fish?

☐ MYTH ☐ FACT

4. Is a killer whale actually a dolphin?

☐ MYTH ☐ FACT

5. If you touch a baby bird, will its mother reject it?

☐ MYTH ☐ FACT

6. Does lightning strike the same place twice?

☐ MYTH ☐ FACT

7. Is lightning hotter than the Sun?

☐ MYTH ☐ FACT

8. Do microwaves cook food from the inside out?

☐ MYTH ☐ FACT

9. Can you see the Great Wall of China from the Moon?

☐ MYTH ☐ FACT

10. Is there a dark side of the Moon?

☐ MYTH ☐ FACT

11. Are bats blind?

☐ MYTH ☐ FACT

12. Do ostriches bury their heads in the sand?

☐ MYTH ☐ FACT

ANSWERS

Myth or Fact? Trivia

No peeking until everyone is done.

1. Myth Lemmings do not commit mass suicide. Their populations boom and crash with predators, food and climate. The famous cliff scene in Disney's 1958 film White Wilderness was staged: the lemmings were thrown off by the filmmakers. Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

2. Myth Camels don't store water in their humps. The humps are made of fat, an energy reserve for when food is scarce. Camels survive the desert by conserving water in their bodies and drinking a lot when they can. Source: Natural History Museum, London

3. Myth Starfish are not fish. They're sea stars, a kind of echinoderm related to sea urchins, sand dollars and sea cucumbers. They have no backbone, fins or gills, which is why scientists prefer the name sea star. Source: NOAA National Ocean Service

4. Fact The killer whale, or orca, is the largest member of the dolphin family, according to NOAA Fisheries. 'Killer whale' is just its old common name. Source: NOAA Fisheries

5. Myth Most birds have little or no sense of smell and cannot detect human scent on their chicks, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife. A chick put back in its nest won't be rejected for smelling of people, though it's still best to leave fledglings alone. Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

6. Fact Lightning often strikes the same place again and again, especially tall, pointed, isolated objects such as skyscrapers, radio towers and lone trees. Being hit once does not make a spot safe from the next storm. Source: National Weather Service (NOAA)

7. Fact A lightning channel heats the air to about 50,000°F (around 27,700°C), roughly five times hotter than the visible surface of the Sun. The heat lasts only a split second, and the air's violent expansion is the thunder you hear. Source: National Weather Service (NOAA)

8. Myth Microwaves don't cook food from the inside out. They heat water molecules mainly in the outer couple of centimetres; the middle of thick food warms only as heat spreads inward, which is why leftovers can stay cold in the centre. Source: U.S. Food and Drug Administration

9. Myth You can't see the Great Wall of China from the Moon. The wall is long but narrow and similar in colour to the land around it; NASA notes that even from low Earth orbit it is hard or impossible to spot without powerful lenses. Source: NASA

10. Myth There is no permanently dark side of the Moon. The far side, which we never see from Earth, gets as much sunlight as the near side; during a new moon, when our side looks dark, the far side is fully lit. Source: NASA Science

11. Myth Bats are not blind. Their eyes are small but tuned to very low light, so many species see well in near darkness, and some fruit bats see well in daylight too. Many bats also use echolocation, so sight is one tool among several. Source: U.S. Geological Survey

12. Myth Ostriches don't bury their heads in the sand. They lay eggs in a shallow pit and dip their heads to check and turn them, and when threatened they may press their head and neck flat to the ground to be less visible. Source: McGill University Office for Science and Society

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