1,227 QI FACTS

John Lloyd CBE is the creator of QI and the man who devised *The News Quiz* and *To the Manor Born* for radio and *Not the Nine O’Clock News, Spitting Image* and *Blackadder* for television.

His favourite page is 2.

John Mitchinson, QI’s Director of Research, has been both bookseller and publisher and looked after authors as diverse as Haruki Murakami, The Beatles and a woman who knitted with dog hair.

His favourite page is 306.

James Harkin, QI’s Senior Researcher, has a maths and physics degree, a dark past as an accountant for a chain of pubs and is nicknamed ‘Turbo’ for his phenomenal work rate.

His favourite page is 38.
A QUITE INTERESTING BOOK

1,227 QI FACTS
TO BLOW YOUR SOCKS OFF

Compiled by
John Lloyd, John Mitchinson
& James Harkin

with the QI Elves
Anne Miller, Andy Murray & Alex Bell

faber and faber
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Asteroid 1,227 is called Geranium.

The ozone layer smells faintly of geraniums.

The centre of the galaxy tastes like raspberries.

The universe is shaped like a vuvuzela.
Light travels 18 million times faster than rain.

The Queen is the legal owner of one-sixth of the Earth’s land surface.

The name of the first human being in Norse mythology is Ask.

_Everybody_ expected the Spanish Inquisition – they were legally obliged to give 30 days’ notice.
Octopuses have three hearts.

Kangaroos have three vaginas.

Three of Fidel Castro’s sons, Alexis, Alexander and Alejandro, are named after Alexander the Great.

The opening lines of Jerome K. Jerome’s *Three Men In A Boat* are:
‘There were four of us.’
40% of the human race did not survive beyond its 1st birthday.

One in ten European babies is conceived in an IKEA bed.

The human heart pumps enough blood in a lifetime to fill three supertankers.

The word ‘time’ is the most commonly used noun in English.
10% of all the photographs in the world were taken in the last 12 months.

Between 1838 and 1960, more than half the photos taken were of babies.

The words written on Twitter every day would fill a 10-million-page book.

In 2008, a man in Ohio was arrested for having sex with a picnic table.
The average person walks the equivalent of three times around the world in a lifetime.

The world’s population spends 500,000 hours a day typing Internet security codes.

The first book ever printed in Oxford had a misprint on the first page: they got the date wrong.

For 100 years, the flag of the tropical Turks and Caicos Islands in the West Indies mistakenly featured an igloo.
One third of Russians believe that the Sun revolves around the Earth.

46% of American adults believe that the world is less than 10,000 years old.

46% of American adults can’t read well enough to understand the label on their prescription medicine.

More than 50% of NASA employees are dyslexic, hired for their superior problem-solving and spatial-awareness skills.
Beyoncé Knowles is an 8th cousin, four times removed, of Gustav Mahler.

Shostakovich wrote his 8th Symphony in a henhouse.

Argentina is the 8th-largest country with the 8th-largest Jewish population.

8th January 1835 is the only day in history that the USA had no national debt.
Italy’s biggest business is the Mafia. It turns over $178 billion a year and accounts for 7% of GDP.

George W. Bush and Saddam Hussein had their shoes hand-made by the same Italian cobbler.

The designer of Saddam’s bunker was the grandson of the woman who built Hitler’s bunker.

Churchill’s secret bunker was in Neasden. It was so horrible he only went there once.
In his first year at Harrow, Winston Churchill was bottom of the whole school.

The Irish poet Brendan Behan became an alcoholic at the age of eight.

Leonardo da Vinci worked on the *Mona Lisa* for 15 years. By the time he died in 1519, he still didn’t consider it finished.

When the *Mona Lisa* was stolen from the Louvre in 1911, one of the suspects was Picasso.