

## Did you know?

- Damascus, Syria, was flourishing a couple of thousand years before Rome was founded in 753 BC, making it the oldest continuously inhabited city in existence.
- The first city to reach a population of 1 million people was Rome, Italy, in 133 BC. There is a city called Rome on every continent.
- Bricks are one of the oldest known building materials dating back to 7000 BC where they were first used in southern Turkey and around Jericho. These first bricks were made of sun-dried mud.
- The word 'concrete' comes from the Latin word *concretus*, meaning compact or condensed. The Roman Empire used concrete extensively in its buildings.
- The name Oxford comes from the old term 'Oxanforda' which meant a ford (shallow crossing) in the river where the cattle (oxen) could cross safely.
- In 1863, London built the first underground system for trains. London Underground has been known as 'the tube' since 1890 due to the shape of the tunnels.
- An estimated half a million mice live in the London underground system. Eek!
- There are more than 300 languages spoken in London, more than any other city in the world.
- Big Ben, in the Houses of Parliament, is not a name for the clock, but the bell.
- Los Angeles was originally known as El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula, but it can now be abbreviated as simply L.A.
- Istanbul, Turkey, is the only city in the world located on two continents.
- Almost half of the world's population currently lives in cities, and by 2050, that number is projected to increase to 75%.
- The word 'skyscraper' originally referred to a type of tall sail on a sailing ship.
- Skyscrapers are deliberately designed to flex and sway during high wind and earthquakes; otherwise, they'd simply snap in two. Yikes!
- Graffiti has existed since ancient times. The term 'graffiti' comes from the Greek word 'graphein' which means 'to write'.
- Graffiti artists who are new or inexperienced are known as 'toys'.