

NOT-FOR-PARENTS

U.S.A.

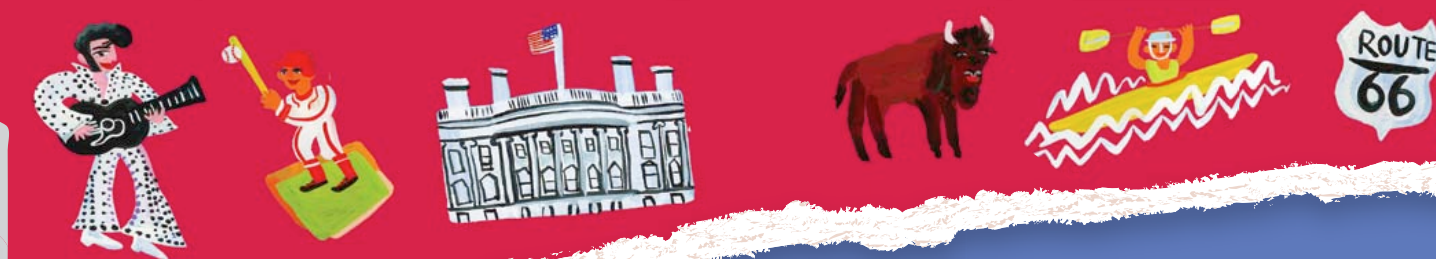
**Everything
you ever
wanted
to know**

Lynette Evans

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NOT-FOR-PARENTS

THIS IS NOT A GUIDEBOOK. And it is definitely Not-for-parents.

IT IS THE REAL, INSIDE STORY about one of the world's most exciting countries – the United States of America.

In this book you'll hear fascinating tales about the Wild West, **cockroach races**, a massive canyon and weddings in Vegas.

Check out cool stories about **candy bars** and movie stars, beauty queens and **blue jeans**. You'll find astronauts, **gangsters**, pilgrims and some amazingly **heroic dogs**.

This book shows you a **UNITED STATES** your parents probably don't even know about.



GREAT STATES

In Utah, birds have right of way on highways. In Kansas, restaurants were once not allowed to serve cherry pie with ice cream on Sundays. And in Texas there is a town called Ding Dong! There are 50 states in the United States and each has its own weird and wonderful ways.

State symbols

States often have official birds, flowers and songs. Arizona even has an official state fossil – no, it's not your granny, it's petrified wood!

Pacific Ocean



Hawaii

Something fishy

Hawaii is the only island state. It has a tiny state fish with a monstrous name: humuhumunukunukuapua'a – it's a real mouthful!



Alaska

Staggering stats

Alaska is the biggest state. It's more than three times the size of France!

I THINK I CAN SEE HAWAII.



ARE WE THERE YET?



Four corners

Thomas Jefferson wasn't a square, but he did suggest the western states be divided into a geometric pattern. At Four Corners, you can be in Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico at the same time.

The first 13

The United States grew out of 13 original colonies. Can you figure out their abbreviations? MA, NH, NY, RI, CT, NJ, DE, PA, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA.

Name game

Massachusetts has been nicknamed the 'Baked Bean State', Montana the 'Stub Toe State' and Missouri the 'Puke State', although no one knows why that name was brought up!

MY ARM'S GETTING SORE.



Atlantic Ocean

State of indecision

The District of Columbia (Washington, DC) is the capital city. Some people argue that DC should be the 51st state.



Gulf of Mexico

WANT MORE?

Maine is the only one-syllable state ☆ www.50states.com/facts

MADE IN THE USA

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston, Massachusetts on 17 January 1706. He was bafflingly brilliant in everything he turned his hand to, and an expert in matters ranging from how to grow cabbages to how to avoid flatulence, and how to shape the Declaration of Independence. He was an author, a diplomat, a scientist and an inventor of many useful objects.

FRANKLIN'S FIRSTS

One of America's most frantic inventors, Benjamin Franklin had so many bright ideas he must have dazzled himself!

- ★ bifocals – to avoid having to switch between glasses for distance and glasses for reading
- ★ lightning rod – to protect buildings from lightning strikes and resulting fires
- ★ grabber, or longarm – an extendable device for taking things off high shelves
- ★ Franklin stove – emitted more heat and used less fuel to heat homes
- ★ writing chair – a desk and chair in one
- ★ swim fins – wooden flippers for hands and feet for faster swimming
- ★ odometer – a device to measure the distance a vehicle travels

Ben Franklin didn't want to patent or profit from any of his inventions.



Busy Ben

The days weren't long enough for all of Ben's busy schemes. He set up a postal system, a fire department, America's first city hospital and its first circulating library. He also proposed Daylight Saving Time. Wasn't that brilliant!

PEOPLE ARE REALLY BRIGHT AROUND HERE!



NOW I UNDERSTAND ELECTRICITY. IT'S HIT ME LIKE A BOLT OF LIGHTNING!

WORLD-CHANGERS



Wired for sound

Alexander Graham Bell – okay, he was born in Scotland – got a US patent for his telephone in 1876. The new-fangled device was so startling that many people picked up the receiver and just listened.

Electrifying experiments

Some of Ben's early experiments with electricity were real knockouts. He tried to zap a turkey with an electric shock once, but stunned himself instead!

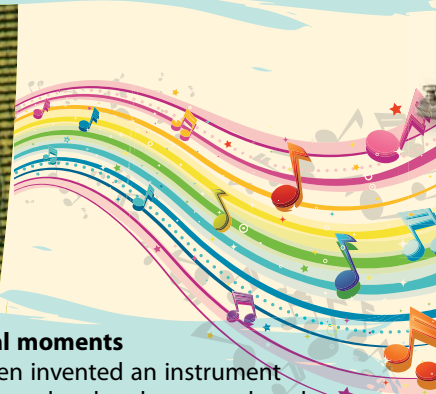


Lighting the way

Thomas Alva Edison had a hoard of inventions, but electric lighting was the most brilliant of them all. City officials in Florida were a bit dim when they turned down his offer to light the streets at night, though. They thought cows would be kept awake by Edison's bright lights!

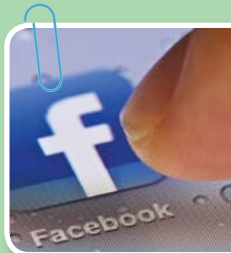
Musical moments

Ben even invented an instrument that spun glass bowls on a rod, and made music when touched with wet fingers! Mozart and Beethoven were so impressed by his 'glass armonica' they composed music for it!



WANT MORE?

Ben the inventor ★ www.fi.edu/franklin/inventor



BATTLE OF THE GREASY GRASS

His name was Sitting Bull, but he didn't take the injustices of life sitting down! The famous medicine man inspired the Sioux and other tribes of the Great Plains to unite and fight to save their lands and defend their way of life. In 1876 Native American forces wiped out US Army leader George Custer and 267 of his men in less than an hour. Many know the famous fight as the Battle of the Little Bighorn, but to the Sioux it is the Battle of the Greasy Grass.

Sparks fly

The Great Sioux War began in 1874 when Custer led an expedition into the sacred Sioux land of the Black Hills near Montana seeking gold.

WHAT IS IT WITH ALL THIS 'SITTING' AND 'STANDING' ANYWAY?

Jumping Badger to Sitting Bull

Jumping Badger was born in about 1831 in South Dakota. As a boy, he did everything slowly and carefully. His father gave him the name Sitting Bull after he showed bravery in a battle.

Super-power shirt

When preparing to fight an enemy armed with guns, a shirt that repelled bullets would be the gear to wear! Sioux warriors performed a ritual called the Ghost Dance. They believed the shirt they wore in the dance would deflect bullets.



At least 2000 Sioux and Cheyenne warriors joined forces in the battle.

HORSE POWER

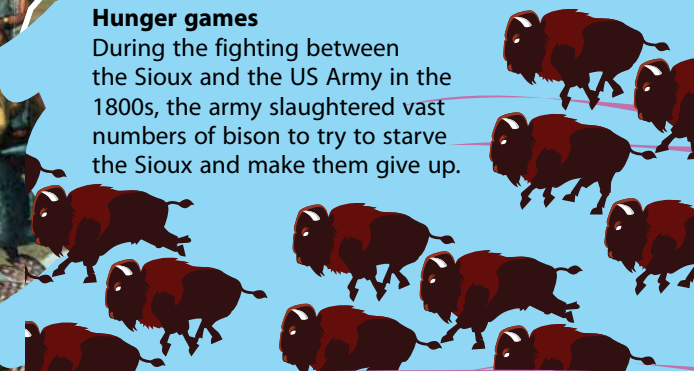
Christopher Columbus made a big impact when he stumbled upon the Americas in the 1490s. He called the native people *Indios*, which became 'Indians', and on his second voyage he brought a new kind of animal to America – the horse! Before long, Cheyenne, Comanche and Apache were hunting across the Great Plains on horseback. Sioux first traded for horses around 1730 and quickly became super-skilled horseback warriors.

OUCH, I WISH COLUMBUS HAD BROUGHT SADDLES, TOO!



Hunger games

During the fighting between the Sioux and the US Army in the 1800s, the army slaughtered vast numbers of bison to try to starve the Sioux and make them give up.



Custer died in the battle, which is also known as 'Custer's Last Stand'.

WANT MORE?

Did Lt Colonel George A. Custer get in a fluster? ☆ www.nps.gov/libi/index.htm

