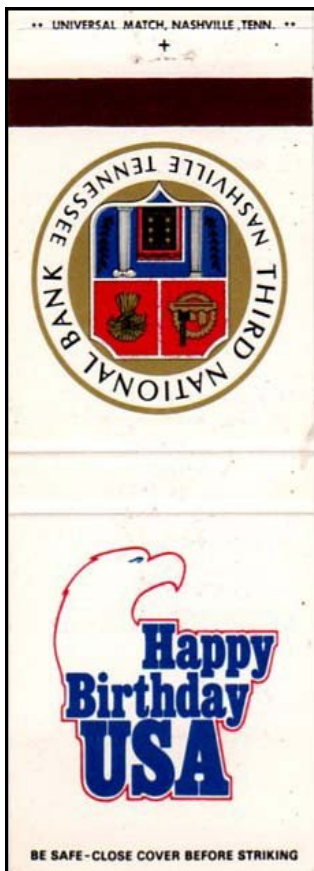


Happy Birthday, America!

by
Mike Prero

We've come a long way since 1776, and, although our founding fathers surely have turned over in their graves many times since then, we've accomplished much, much more than they ever envisioned, I'm sure. Here are some interesting facts that I found about the good ol' USA.

- The US is the 4th largest country in the world by land area and 3rd by population.
- On February 25, 2013, the estimated population of the US was 315,568,000.



- The US has the world's largest economy.
- Most of the world's tornadoes occur in the Midwest region of the US.
- The most populated US city is New York City, followed by Los Angeles and Chicago.
- The US was the leading force behind the development of the Internet.
- The highest point in the state of Florida is only 345 feet above sea level.
- Today, 66 percent of all Americans are considered to be overweight.
- Alaska is 429 times larger than Rhode Island. But Rhode Island has a significantly larger population.
- Alaska has a longer coastline than all of the other 49 U.S. states put together.
- Montana has three times as many cows as it does people.
- The average U.S. citizen drinks the equivalent of more than 600 sodas each year.
- The only place in the United States where coffee is grown commercially is in Hawaii.
- The United States has 845 motor vehicles for every 1,000 people. Japan only has 593 for every 1,000 and Germany only has 540 for every 1,000.

- The grizzly bear is the official state animal of California, but no grizzly bears have been seen there since 1922.
- In the middle of the last century, the United States was #1 in the world in GDP per capita. Today, it's #13.
- Today, approximately 25 million American adults are living with their parents.
- In 2011, our trade deficit with China was more than 49,000 times larger than it was back in 1985.
- One out of every seven Americans has at least 10 credit cards.
- The city of Juneau, Alaska, is about 3,000 square miles large. It's actually bigger than the entire state of Delaware.
- The original name of the city of Atlanta was "Terminus".
- The median price of a home in the city of Detroit is now about \$6000.
- Back in 1950, more than 80 percent of all men in the United States had jobs. Today, it's less than 65 percent.
- There are three towns in the United States that have the name "Santa Claus".
- In 1940, 68.0% of all women in the 20 to 34 year old age group in the United States were married. In 2010, it was only 39.2%.
- The most dangerous job in the United States is that of a fisherman, followed by logging and then an airline pilot.
- The only working diamond mine in the United States of America is Crater of Diamond States Park.
- Over 200 varieties of watermelon are grown in the US.
- English is spoken at home by 80% of Americans age five or older
- Automobiles operate on a network of 13 million roads in the USA
- Approximately, one out of every three families has a pet dog.
- *[For those of you who are musically inclined]* American car horns beep in the tone of F.
- Hebert Hoover, the 31st president, turned over all the federal salary checks he received to charity during the 47 years he was in government.
- The USA is one of the world's most ethnically diverse and multicultural nations.
- The first President to ride an automobile was William McKinley. After being shot, he was taken to the hospital in 1901 Columbia electric ambulance.
- It cost 3 cents to make a \$ bill in the United States.
- Gulf Oil Company opened the first drive-in service station in the US on December 1, 1913, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

[<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/countries/unitedstates.html>]

[<http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/40-weird-facts-about-the-united-states-that-are-almost-too-crazy-to-believe/>]

[<http://travel.wikinut.com/220-Interesting-Fun-Facts-About-U.S.A/36tnhosg/>]