**Colors**

**The “bald” in “bald eagle” is short for “piebald,” meaning black and white. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**One John Nash Ott reputedly knew much about light and color. In mid-1970s he advised the Cincinnati Reds to consider lining their baseball cap visors with gray. They did. Batting averages went up. They won the pennant. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**If the beef fat is tinged with yellow, the steer was fed on grass. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Where’d our term “blue blood” for aristocrats come from? If they didn’t work in the fields, they didn’t get tan, and if they didn’t get tan, their veins showed blue through their white skin. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Purple, red, and white, never orange, until 16th century Dutch growers created orange carrots in honor of the House of Orange. (Village Inn Pie Bites)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The new trend in car colors is gray scale. Black, silver, and white cars make up 60 percent of new-car sales, up from 38 percent in the late 1990s. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 22, 2011)***

**Cars painted silver are 50 percent less likely to be involved in a serious accident than white, brown, black, or green-colored cars, according to a study performed in New Zealand. The study accounted for other criteria including gender and age of drivers, age of the vehicle, and whether the drivers were wearing seat belts. *(The Christian Science Monitor)***

**Henry Ford had been successful making cars available in only one color (Any color you want as long as it's black'). He believed that he had a formula that worked, and he didn't want to change it. This prevented him from seeing the rise of a post World War I consumer class that wanted a variety of styles and colors from which to choose. As a result, Ford lost market share to General Motors. (Roger von Oech)**

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**After noticing the sign “St. Patrick’s Church,” Billy says to his Mom: “That church should have GREEN windows!” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**We found that yellow and black ink combined to produce green, and orange and black produced brown and our magazines became even more colorful *(Cornelia Addington)***

**A clothing designer contends the woman least likely to get compliments on her apparel is the one in the green dress. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Dennis puts all of his crayons into the blender and says to his Mom: “I was only tryin’ to see what color all of those crayons would make.” *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)***

**Those with a curious faith in curative powers of colors claim turquoise is the best healer. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Color is its own divine language, creating meaning through combinations and arrangements. It makes existence feel. *(Colleen Louise Barry, poet)***

**A color expert seriously contends a woman who habitually dresses in red proclaims thereby that she’s feeling either sexy or angry or both. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Driftwood burns with different-colored flames because sodium carbonate burns yellow, calcium burns red, copper burns green and potassium burns violet. These are chemicals sometimes impregnated in driftwood. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**People with hazel eyes tend to be stable. Blue eyes denote stamina. Light brown eyes signify shyness. Such were the quoted notions in a behavioral science study of three decades ago. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A computer tabulation of accident rates shows yellow fire trucks to be twice as safe as red fire trucks. Red fire trucks on the whole are older. Yellow is said to be a more visible color. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Galapagos tortoise will eat any food that’s red. So zookeepers put a tortoise’s medicine in a tomato. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Goldfish lose their color if they are kept in dim light or if they are placed in a body of running water, such as a stream. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**Cecil B. De Mille once told me that his picture The King of Kings made during the silent movie era, was seen by an estimated 800,000,000 people. I asked him why he did not reproduce The King of Kings with sound and color. He replied, “I will never be able to do it, because if I gave Jesus a southern accent, the northerners would not think of him as their Christ. If I gave him a foreign accent, the Americans and the British would not think of him as their Christ.” He said, “As it is, people of all nations, from every race, creed, clan, can accept him as their Christ." (Rev. Billy Graham)**

**Straight blond hair evolved in northern climates to let in the sun’s heat, the scholars say. And in the tropics, they say, black kinky hair evolved to keep out the heat of the sun. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The color black absorbs heat. White reflects it. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 131)***

**The color red is not generally used in the packaging of ice cream because it reminds people of heat. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 61)***

**America is not like a blanket -- one piece of unbroken cloth. America is more like a quilt -- many patches, many pieces, many colors, many sizes, all woven together by a common thread. *(Rev. Jesse L. Jackson)***

**I didn't know if my small grandson had managed to learn all of his colors yet. So I decided to test him. I would point to something, ask him what color it was, and he'd tell me. This had gone on for several colors when he looked up at me and said in a very serious tone of voice, “Grandma, I think you should try to figure some of these out for yourself!" (Mrs. Harold Manor, in Country magazine)**

**I took my little granddaughter to the Philadelphia zoo on Sunday afternoon, and the first thing that attracted her attention was a large peacock spreading his beautiful tail. “Look grandma,” she yelled excitedly, “living color!” *(Mrs. Deane Binder)***

**What is the most widely used manufactured color? White is No. 1 and red is No. 2. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Mold is mold, but those who analyze stale foods adorned with same say greenish molds are more toxic than bluish grayish molds. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Maurice Ravel (1875-1937), one of the greatest of modern French composers, referred to his most famous work, Bolero, as “seventeen minutes of orchestra without any music." He limited himself to an eight-measure theme that he repeated, with different orchestral colors for the entire piece. *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 385)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The ocean is bluest where there’s the least sea life. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Green is stormy: It seems hurricanes are not colorblind. The primary color in many parts of the ocean is green, thanks to a profusion of microscopic, photosynthetic organisms called phytoplankton. By absorbing sunlight, the phytoplankton keep the surface waters warm – creating breeding conditions for hurricanes. By contrast, sunlight penetrates clear blue water to greater depths, allowing underwater currents to dissipate the heat. Using climate models, researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration studied how hurricanes would develop depending on ocean color – a proxy for phytoplankton. “I was really quite surprised,” oceanographer and study author Anand Gnanadesikan tells National Geographic News. Draining key parts of the North Pacific of phytoplankton, for instance, cut by two-thirds the number of hurricanes moving north from the tropics. Records from the 1960s seem to bolster that model, showing that cyclone activity then was about 20 percent lower than today in an area of the Pacific where phytoplankton was also lower by half. In the future, Gnanadesikan and his team intend to use satellite data to chart changes in ocean color, then track the correspondence to tropical storms. (The Week magazine, Sept\ember 3-10, 2010)**

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**Brown pelicans dive for fish, white pelicans don’t. Wonder why. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When a designer asks your color preference, give it serious thought and be honest. Don’t select color that happens to be in vogue if it is not personally appealing. The selection of color in the home affects your life more than you might think, as there is more to color than meets the eye. Color has often been connected with the art of healing. In the past, cures included the use of color through gems, body decoration, wraps of colored cloths on injured areas and medicines made of dyes from animals and plants. The Greek philosopher and mathematician Pythagoras reported cured disease through music, poetry and colored stones. The Roman physician Celsus prescribed medicines using white or purple violets, lily, iris, rose and other plants. *(Rosemary Sadez Friedmann, Scripps Howard News Service)***

**In a building infested with rats, the brown rats live in the cellar, the black rats in the attic. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**RCA’s original color-coded 45-rpm records, 1949:**

**- Popular music – black records**

**- Classics -- ruby red records**

**- Country and western – all-green records**

**- Operettas and semi-classics – midnight blue records**

**- International music – sky-blue records**

**- Children’s music – golden yellow records**

**- Rhythm and blues – cerise (cherry red) records. *(Jerry Osborn’s “Mr. Music” column)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Pink and white roses came from Europe, red and yellow roses from Asia. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Colors of roses purchased on Valentine's Day:**

**\* Red -- 69 percent (estimated)**

**\* Mixed colors -- 7 percent**

**\* Pink -- 6 percent**

**\* Peach/salmon -- 6 percent**

**\* Yellow -- 5 percent**

**\* White -- 4 percent**

**Other colors -- 4 percent. *(***[***www.aboutflowers.com***](http://www.aboutflowers.com/)***)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*To Muslims, the color green is sacred. In the Middle East, it’s said, you won’t sell any prayer rugs that don’t have a green background. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**7.7: Average hours of sleep per night in yellow bedrooms. 5.9: Average hours of sleep per night in purple bedrooms. *(Smithsonian magazine)***

**A person's social rank and profession in the Medieval Ages was represented by the color of their clothing. Nobility wore red; peasants wore brown and gray; and merchants, bankers, and gentry wore green. People violating sumptuary laws were fined. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**There are nine species with various different colorings and only the lovebirds of New Guinea have different coloring for each sex. (Larry Masidlover)**

**The stalled car sat dead still at the intersection as the lights went to red, to green, to yellow, to red, to green, to yellow, and back to red. Finally a police officer came up and said, “Pardon me, sir, but don’t we have any color you like?” (The American Legion magazine)**

**If you live in the northern hemisphere, you’ve probably noticed that the days are starting to get shorter. The sun goes down a little earlier each day. The summer months are on the wane. For some people, this is depressing. Summer, with its light and warmth and growth, begins to fade away. But some people look forward to the cooler weather and the fall colors. One season must fade away for the glories of another season to become greater*. (Eunice Graham, in Portals of Prayer)***

**You can’t trademark the color of a taxicab. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Why the team in red often wins: Glimpsing the color red makes us stronger and faster, at least momentarily, a new study says. Researchers at the University of Rochester had undergraduates clench a handgrip the instant they saw the word “squeeze” appear on a computer screen. When the word popped up in red, the students squeezed both harder and more quickly than they did if the word appeared in blue or gray. A test on elementary and high school students yielded similar results. The simple experiment offers further proof that humans are hardwired to pick up on red “as a danger cue,” study author Andrew Elliot tells ScienceDaily.com. Since “humans flush when they are angry or preparing for attack,” he explains, they “are acutely aware of such reddening in others and its implications.” But while seeing red may improve our muscular performance in the short term, it also takes a mental toll. Previous studies have shown that athletes facing a red-clad team tend to lose, and students who see red before a test perform worse than those who don’t – in part because they find the color stressful and distracting. Yet we rarely notice the impact red has on us, Elliot says: “Those color effects fly under our awareness radar.” *(The Week magazine, June 24, 2011)***

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**If that vegetable is yellow, it has Vitamin A. If green, Vitamin C. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Green vegetables such as broccoli and spinach are great, but a real cancer-fighting diet is far more colorful, says a new study. The best cancer-killing foods contain antioxidant compounds called anthocyanins, and are found in “superfoods,” with striking, red, blue, and purple colors, including eggplant, red cabbage, elderberries, bilberries, purple corn, and chokeberries. In lab tests on human cancer cells, anthocyanin compounds completely halted the growths of tumors, and killed 20 percent of their cells. Rats fed anthocyanin had reduced rates of colon cancer – 60 percent to 70 percent fewer tumors than those who ate usual rat chow. Researcher Monica Giusti tells the London Guardian it’s now clear that “all fruits and vegetables that are rich in anthocyanins have compounds that can slow down the growth of colon cancer cells. *(The Week magazine, September 7, 2007)***

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**Virtuous white produce: Eating white-fleshed fruits and vegetables can dramatically reduce your risk of stroke, a new study shows. Dutch researchers tracked the diets of more than 20,000 people over 10 years and found that those who ate at least 6 ounces – or one large apple’s worth – of light-colored produce per day were more than 50 percent less likely to have strokes than people who ate half that amount. The “results were surprising,” nutritionist Linda Oude Griep of Wageningen University tells The New York Times, in part because recent studies have found that foods with rich coloring – like orange sweet potatoes and deep-green kale – are best for protecting heart health and preventing cancer. Yet only foods with white flesh, such as cauliflower, bananas, and cucumbers, appear to have any effect on stroke risk. Experts aren’t sure why, but apples and pears – the most commonly consumed white foods – contain anti-inflammatories as well as lots of dietary fiber, which can lower blood pressure. *(The Week magazine, October 7, 2011)***

**26: Percent increase in tip that men will give waitresses who wear red instead of green or black. 0: Percent increase in tip that women will give waitresses who wear red instead of green or black. *(Smithsonian magazine)***

**In nature, I know it’s the white flower that’s generally the most fragrant. But why? Both scent and color seem designed to attract pollinators. If either is especially strong or bright, the flower doesn’t need the other, evidently. Or so say the botanists. *(L. M. Boyd)***

THE RED EFFECT: If winning is everything, British anthropologists have some advice: Wear red. That’s what a survey of four sports at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens shows. Anthropologists at the University of Durham, England, analyzed the results of four combat sports: boxing, tae kwon do, Greco-Roman wrestling and freestyle wrestling. In those events, the athletes were randomly assigned red sportswear. Athletes wearing red gear won more often in 16 of 21 rounds of competition in all four events. Red coloration is associated with aggression in many animals. Often it is sexually selected so that scarlet markings signal male dominance. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in Rocky Mountain News, May 19, 2005)*

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