**Popularity**

**Good week for: Rescue dogs, which have become so popular during the pandemic, because of the human need for companionship, that animal shelters are running out of them. "They're going like hotcakes," said Cindy Sharpley of Last Chance Animal Rescue in Maryland. (*The Week magazine, January 22, 2021)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*More than 63 million times each day, AOL users sign on and hear voice-over actor Elwood Edwards say the words, “You’ve got mail!” *(Harry Bright &   
Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 121)***

**Lucille Ball has been on more TV Guide covers than anyone, and the magazine reports that her face has been seen by more people than anyone else’s in history. (Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 4)**

**Could be you, too, have a few Barbie dolls around your home. Report is 19 out of 20 little girls own Barbie dolls. And the average among them owns seven. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**If you have a young daughter, the following factoid might not come as a surprise to you: American girls between the ages of 3 and 11 each own an average of eight Barbie dolls. *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits, 2007)***

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**Throughout their career, the Beatles spent more than four hundred weeks on the music charts. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 88)***

**How popular are the Beatles? By many measures more popular than ever. The band sells, on average, 280,000 albums a month worldwide, and according to trade publications, Beatles songs still receive more radio airplay than any other group. Last year, the Beatles topped the Billboard album chart with Love, an album of remixed versions of some of their most famous songs. In 2000, the Beatles released 1, a compilation of all 27 of the group’s No. 1 singles. That album sold 12 million copies in the first three weeks of its release – making it the fastest-selling album of all time – and reached No. 1 in 35 countries. Except for the 1980s, the Beatles have scored at least one No. 1 album in every decade since the 1960s. Beatlemania just won’t die. *(The Week magazine, May 25, 2007)***

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**Joe Biden's town hall on ABC last Thursday drew more viewers than Donald Trump 's competing town hall on NBC, even though the latter was broadcast on three networks. The Biden event averaged 15.1 million viewers, while the combined ratings for Trump's event across NBC and sister channels MSNBC and CNBC totaled 13.5 million. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 30, 2020)***

**McDonald’s Big Mac burger is turning 40. To celebrate, McDonald’s franchisee Jim Delligatti, who invented the 540-calorie sandwich, opened a Big Mac museum in North Huntington, Pa. McDonald’s sells about 17 Big Macs a second in the U.S. *(The Week magazine, September 7, 2007)***

**On February 15, 1932, George Burns and Gracie Allen debuted as regulars on The Guy Lombardo Show on CBS radio. The couple was so popular that they would soon have their own show, The Burns & Allen Show. George and Gracie continued on radio for 18 years before making the switch to TV. All in all, they were a big hit for three decades*. (The Daily Chronicle)***

**In the 1920s and 1930s, Charlie Chaplin was probably the most celebrated man in the world. On a visit to his native London, the motion-picture comedian received 73,000 letters in just two days. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts)***

**Christmas carols had another burst of popularity in the 1800s. Some of the best-loved carols sung today were written during that time. These include “Silent Night,” “Away in a Manger” and “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” *(Betty Debnam, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**The Bangor, Maine, Daily News said the paper saw a 3,000 percent increase in political ad revenue this cycle compared with 2014, the last time Sen. Susan Collins ran for re-election. Collins' opponent, Sara Gideon, raised more than $68 million in a losing bid to displace Collins. *(BuzzFeedNews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 20, 2020)***

**Columbus statues around the world: U.S. – 28 statues; Caribbean – 10 statues; Spain – 9 statues (Statue in Barcelona has Columbus pointing to Libya, not U.S.); South America – 5 statues; France – 3 statues; Mexico – 2 statues. *(Robert Hughes, Alfred Knopf, Inc., 1992, Barcelona)***

**The World Cup was the most discussed topic in the world on Facebook this year, followed by the Ebola virus and the Brazilian elections. In the U.S., Ebola came out on top, followed by the Ice Bucket Challenge and Robin William's death. *(WSJ.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 26, 2014)***

**The most reproduced face in history is that of Queen Elizabeth II, right? No, she’s the most photographed. The most-reproduced still is King C. Gillette. His face for decades appeared on razor blades. His signature thereon was the most reproduced, too. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**What's the most popular single food item nationwide? Cow's milk. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A free society is a society where it is safe to be unpopular. *(Adlai Stevenson)***

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**Before J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince hit the bookstores this week, Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble had already sold nearly 2 million pre-ordered copies. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 22, 2005)***

**Three out of four American children between 11 and 13 have read at least one of author J. K. Rowling’s Harry Potter books. So have one in five adults. (U.S. News & World Report, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 29, 2005)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Trying to bed popular in high school is like trying to be mayor of a city thatr won't exist in four years. *(Jenny Holzer, artist)***

**The Hope Diamond is one of the biggest attractions of any museum in the world. More than 6 million people view it each year. (Betty Debnam, in Rocky Mountain News)**

**Michael Jordan has been on the Wheaties box more than any other athlete – 18 times, including three appearances with the NBA champion Chicago Bulls. (David Hoffman, in Little-Known Facts about Well-Known Stuff, p. 47)**

**Abraham Lincoln has been the subject of over 8,600 books, a distinction ranking second only to Jesus. (Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It’s a Weird World, p. 24)**

**In 1947, after Jack Lawrence's song "Linda" hit number one, 5.5% of the girls born in the U.S. were named Linda. Since then, no baby name has become so popular so quickly. Oddly enough, the Linda who inspired the song (the daughter of Lawrence's lawyer) became even more famous in 1969 when she married a guy named Paul McCartney. (Reader's Digest)**

**In spite of the cost of living, it's still popular. (Kathleen Norris)**

**Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how popular it remains? (The American Legion magazine)**

**A mystery rider on a fiery horse cleared a man wrongfully accused of murder in the January 30, 1933, premiere of The Lone Ranger, on Detroit’s WXYZ radio. Written by Fran Striker and played live by several actors over some 3,000 episodes (Brace Beemer wore the mask from 1941 to 1954), the Ranger – with his Indian friend Tonto – aired on some 400 radio stations, and spurred movie serials, a TV show (starring Clayton Moore), books, comics and a romantic notion of the American West. *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**The M&M’s characters are America’s most likeable brand icon, according to a survey of 1,800 consumers by Marketing Evaluations. Also rating highly were the Pillsbury Doughboy, the Aflac duck, and Kellogg’s Tony the Tiger. The least liked character: Stouffer’s Max-A-Roni. (Forbes, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 20, 2006)**

**Ronald McDonald is considered the second most recognizable character in the world, after Santa Claus, and ahead of Mickey Mouse. (David Hoffman, in Little-Known Facts about Well-Known Stuff, p. 146)**

**On November 5, 1935, Monopoly went on sale. The Parker Brothers' novelty has become the most popular board game in history, selling more than 275 million sets. (The Daily Chronicle)**

**The person most often featured on the cover of Time magazine: Richard Nixon, with 55 appearances. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 257)***

**The picture of the meeting between Richard Nixon and Elvis Presley in 1970 is among the most requested photographs (from the millions) in the holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C., ranking up there with images of Pearl Harbor, D-day, and Hiroshima. (David Hoffman, in Little-Known Facts about Well-Known Stuff, p. 143)**

**One in four American males ages 6 to 19 years old consumes pizza on any given day. (WashingtonPost.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 21, 2014)**

**Sales of print political books through mid-September were up 85 percent from a year earlier, making 2020 the best year for political titles since national tracking began in 2004. Three million copies of President Obama's memoirs hit bookshelves next month. (The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 23, 2020)**

**Worldwide consumption of pork exceeds that of any other type of meat. *(Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 172)***

**Potato chips are American’s favorite snack food. They are devoured at a rate of 1.2 billion pounds a year. *(Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 169)***

**Despite his party's historic midterm losses, President Obama's approval rating actually went up after the election. Three days before the election, 43% of Americans approved of the job he's doing. Now that figure is 47%. *(Gallup Poll, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 19, 2010)***

**Most quoted authors in the Oxford English Dictionary:**

**\* Shakespeare -- 33,303 references**

**\* Sir Walter Scott -- 16,628 references**

**\* John Milton -- 22,464 references**

**\* John Wyclif -- 11,962 references**

**\* Chaucer -- 11,901 references**

**\* William Caxton -- 10,324 references**

**\* John Dryden -- 9,123 references**

**\* Dickens -- 8,536 references. *(Russell Ash, in The Top 10 of Everything 1998)***

**Since Billboard magazine first published its "Hot 100" chart in 1958, 16 different songs titled "Hold On" have made the list (most recently in 2013, courtesy of the Alabama Shakes). In that sense, "Hold On" is the most popular song in American music history. *(Billboard.com)***

**In 1993, some 517 million Elvis Presley stamps were sold; many popular single stamps bring the United States Postal Service revenues that over time rival the earnings of a Hollywood blockbuster. (John Ross, in Smithsonian magazine)**

**As America’s first federal stamps, the pair became Scott 1 and Scott 2 in the universally accepted Scott stamp identification system. Today the Scott system lists more than 3,000 American stamps, of which Franklin (with at least 113) and Washington (with at least 276) are still the most frequently used subjects. (John Ross, in Smithsonian magazine)**

**In 1996, 37 percent of the toys sold in the United States were Star Wars products. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 82)***

**Good week for: The New Orleans Saints, whose Super Bowl victory last week was witnessed by 106.5 million viewers – the most-watched television event in U.S. history. *(The Week magazine, February 19, 2010)***

**Henry David Thoreau, currently so popular with college men and women, was not universally known during his lifetime. All his life he kept a journal and, after he died, it was this work that provided the material for about thirty volumes of his writings, now in big demand. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 208)***

**Colgate Total toothpaste became the best-selling toothpaste in its first month on the market, knocking Crest from its vaunted position after thirty-five years. *(Gary S. Lynn & Richard R. Reilly, in Blockbusters, p. 2)***

**More than 80 percent of the population of Italy saw the eight-hour TV film Jesus of Nazareth by Franco Zeffirelli. It was later shown around the world to 600 million. *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 23)***

**Largely lost amid the "general astonishment" over Donald Trump's election victory is one rather pertinent fact, said Andrew Trees in USA Today -- the president-elect won fewer votes than his opponent. While Trump secured the all-important 270 Electoral College votes, he currently trails Hillary Clinton by more than 1 million votes overall, or 0.8 percent -- and with millions of ballots still to be counted on the deep blue West Coast, that gap is expected to widen to about 2 million votes. In 2000, Al Gore got only 560,000 more votes than George W. Bush. "For the second time in 16 years, and the fourth time in U.S. history," our system has "foiled the popular will." *(The Week magazine, November 25, 2016)***

**Walt Disney this year surpassed $5 billion at the global box office faster than any other studio in history, thanks to blockbusters like Captain America: Civil War, Zootopia, and Finding Dory. *(Deadline.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 22, 2016)***

**The Walt Disney Company tops the list of Fortune 500 companies Americans say they most want to work for, according to a Fortune poll. Tech giants Alphabet, Amazon, and Apple took second, third, and fourth place, respectively. *(Fortune.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 17, 2016)***

**The White House is the most visited residence in the United States. The second most visited is Graceland Mansion. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Tiger Woods has signed a new endorsement deal with Nike, the world’s largest athletic shoe-maker. Woods, 30, the winner of 12 major titles, signed a five-year, $40 million agreement with Nike when he turned professional in 1996, then a five-year, $100 million agreement in 2001. The new deal may be worth “substantially more,” said Marc Ganis, president of Sportscorp Ltd., a Chicago-based sports marketing company. *(Rocky Mountain News, December 12, 2006)***

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