

# weird events in history

Weird Events in History: Unraveling Some of the Strangest Moments Ever Recorded

**weird events in history** have always fascinated people, offering a glimpse into the bizarre, unexpected, and sometimes downright inexplicable moments that have shaped human experience. History isn't just about wars, revolutions, or famous leaders—it's also peppered with oddities that can make us scratch our heads or laugh in disbelief. From mysterious phenomena to unusual human behaviors, these strange occurrences remind us that the past is far from dull.

In this article, we'll explore some of the most peculiar and intriguing weird events in history, delving into the stories behind them and uncovering why they continue to captivate us. Whether it's a bizarre natural event, an eccentric historical figure, or a curious cultural phenomenon, these tales offer insight into the unpredictable nature of history itself.

## Unexplained Phenomena: When Nature Gets Mysterious

History is full of strange natural events that baffled people at the time and continue to puzzle scientists today. These weird events in history often come with folklore and myths, blurring the lines between fact and fiction.

### The Dancing Plague of 1518

One of the most extraordinary weird events in history is the Dancing Plague of 1518, which took place in Strasbourg (then part of the Holy Roman Empire). In July of that year, a woman named Frau Troffea started dancing uncontrollably in the streets. Within days, dozens joined her, dancing for days without rest. Reports say some danced themselves to exhaustion or even death. Modern historians speculate it could have been a case of mass hysteria or ergot poisoning (a hallucinogenic mold found in rye), but the exact cause remains a mystery. This strange event underlines how psychological or environmental factors can trigger unusual collective behavior.

### The Great Molasses Flood of 1919

In Boston, 1919, a massive tank containing 2.3 million gallons of molasses burst, unleashing a sticky tsunami through the streets at an estimated 35 miles per hour. This weird historical event caused significant destruction,

killing 21 people and injuring 150. While it might sound humorous today, the disaster was a serious tragedy at the time. The event also offers a lesson in industrial safety regulations and the unexpected dangers of seemingly harmless substances.

## **Historical Oddities: Strange People and Peculiar Customs**

Weird events in history often revolve around eccentric individuals or unusual societal practices that reveal how culture and circumstance shape behavior.

### **The Cadaver Synod: A Trial of a Dead Pope**

In 897 AD, one of the strangest judicial events in history occurred: the Cadaver Synod. Pope Stephen VI put the corpse of his predecessor, Pope Formosus, on trial. The dead pope's body was exhumed, dressed in papal garments, and propped up on a throne as charges were read against him. Unsurprisingly, the corpse was found guilty, and the body was desecrated. This bizarre event reflected intense political and religious conflicts within the Church and is a prime example of how power struggles can lead to truly weird historical moments.

### **Emperor Norton I: The Self-Proclaimed Emperor of the United States**

In mid-19th century San Francisco, a man named Joshua Abraham Norton declared himself "Emperor of the United States" and later "Protector of Mexico." Although he had no official power, Norton became a beloved local figure, issuing proclamations and even having his own currency accepted by some businesses. His story is a heartwarming example of how eccentricity and charisma can create lasting cultural legends. Emperor Norton's weird yet endearing legacy continues to inspire books, plays, and festivals.

## **War and Conflict: When Bizarre Meets Brutal**

Even the gravest moments in history sometimes contain strange episodes that defy expectations or reveal unexpected human behavior.

## **The Battle of Karansebes: A Friendly Fire Fiasco**

During the Austro-Turkish War in 1788, the Austrian army accidentally fought itself in what is now Romania. The confusion started when drunken soldiers began firing on their own troops after a dispute broke out during a night camp. Panic and chaos ensued, leading to hundreds of casualties without a single enemy firing a shot. This incident is often cited as one of the most bizarre friendly-fire disasters in military history, highlighting the unpredictable dangers of miscommunication and disorder in warfare.

## **The Christmas Truce of 1914**

Amid the horrors of World War I, one of the most touching and unusual weird events in history occurred during Christmas 1914. On the Western Front, German and British soldiers spontaneously ceased fire and emerged from their trenches to exchange gifts, sing carols, and even play soccer. While unofficial and temporary, this truce showed the shared humanity of soldiers on opposing sides and remains a powerful symbol of peace amid conflict.

## **Curious Cultural Phenomena: From Odd Traditions to Peculiar Celebrations**

Weird events in history also include strange customs and rituals that can seem bizarre from an outside perspective but have rich cultural significance.

### **La Tomatina: The World's Biggest Food Fight**

Every year in Buñol, Spain, thousands gather for La Tomatina, a massive tomato-throwing festival. What started as a small food fight in the mid-20th century has evolved into a world-famous event attracting tourists eager to hurl tons of overripe tomatoes at each other. This quirky tradition exemplifies how communities can turn playful chaos into a beloved cultural celebration.

### **The Defenestrations of Prague**

"Defenestration" literally means "the act of throwing someone out of a window," and Prague's history is famous for multiple such incidents. The most notable was in 1618 when Protestant nobles threw Catholic officials from a castle window, sparking the Thirty Years' War. While violent and politically significant, the act itself is undeniably bizarre and has become a symbol of rebellion and conflict in European history.

# Strange Discoveries and Mysteries

Some weird events in history involve archaeological finds and historical incidents that continue to puzzle experts and spark debate.

## The Voynich Manuscript

This mysterious medieval manuscript is filled with unknown symbols, strange illustrations of plants, and enigmatic diagrams. Despite numerous attempts, historians and cryptographers have been unable to decipher its meaning or origin. The Voynich Manuscript remains one of the most enigmatic documents in history, intriguing both scholars and enthusiasts fascinated by unsolved historical mysteries.

## The Tunguska Event

In 1908, a massive explosion flattened over 2,000 square kilometers of Siberian forest. Eyewitnesses described a bright flash and a shockwave that knocked people off their feet hundreds of miles away. The cause is believed to be the airburst of a meteoroid or comet, but no impact crater was found, adding to the enigma. The Tunguska Event remains a fascinating example of how weird and powerful natural phenomena can alter landscapes and spark scientific investigation.

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Weird events in history remind us that the past is as unpredictable and varied as the present. From dancing plagues to self-declared emperors, these stories enrich our understanding of human nature and the world around us. Exploring these strange moments not only entertains but also encourages us to think critically about the forces that shape history and the sometimes curious ways people respond to them. Whether you're a history buff or just love a good odd tale, these weird events offer endless fascination and insight.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What was the Dancing Plague of 1518?

The Dancing Plague of 1518 was a strange phenomenon in Strasbourg where hundreds of people danced uncontrollably for days, with some dancing to their deaths. The exact cause remains unknown, but theories include mass hysteria or ergot poisoning.

## **Why did the Great Emu War happen in Australia?**

The Great Emu War occurred in 1932 when Australian soldiers were deployed to curb the emu population that was damaging crops. Despite military efforts, the emus largely outmaneuvered the soldiers, and the 'war' ended with the emus largely victorious.

## **What was the Cadaver Synod and why is it considered bizarre?**

The Cadaver Synod was a 9th-century event where Pope Stephen VI put the corpse of his predecessor, Pope Formosus, on trial. The dead pope was found guilty, his papacy annulled, and his body desecrated. It is considered one of the strangest events in papal history.

## **How did the Great Molasses Flood of 1919 occur?**

In 1919, a massive molasses storage tank in Boston burst, releasing a wave of molasses that flooded the streets at an estimated 35 mph, killing 21 people and causing widespread damage. The event is remembered as a bizarre and tragic industrial accident.

## **What was the purpose of the London Beer Flood of 1814?**

The London Beer Flood happened when a large vat of beer at the Meux and Company Brewery burst, releasing over 135,000 gallons of beer that flooded nearby streets and buildings. The flood caused destruction and several deaths, making it a peculiar historical disaster.

## **Additional Resources**

Weird Events in History: An Exploration of the Unusual and Unexplained

**weird events in history** have fascinated scholars, historians, and curious minds alike for centuries. These incidents, often overshadowed by grand historical narratives, provide unique insights into the complexities and peculiarities of human experience across time. From bizarre occurrences that defy logical explanation to strange customs that shaped societies, exploring these odd moments offers a different lens through which to view the past.

The study of weird events in history not only enriches our understanding of cultural diversity and human behavior but also challenges conventional interpretations of historical progress. Such events often reveal the unpredictable nature of history, where chance, superstition, and human eccentricities intertwine with political, social, and technological developments.

# Defining Weird Events in History

Weird events in history encompass a broad spectrum of incidents that stand out due to their peculiarity, inexplicability, or sheer oddity. These can range from strange natural phenomena and inexplicable disasters to unusual social movements and bizarre political decisions. The term "weird" in this context does not imply triviality but highlights the events' deviation from the norm and their capacity to provoke curiosity or skepticism.

Researchers and historians often categorize these events based on their origins—natural, social, political, or cultural—and their impact. While some weird events have had lasting consequences, others remain obscure anecdotes, preserved mainly through folklore or fragmented records.

## Unusual Natural Phenomena and Disasters

Throughout history, numerous strange natural events have confounded observers and influenced societies. One infamous example is the Dancing Plague of 1518 in Strasbourg, where hundreds of people reportedly danced uncontrollably for days, some until death. Modern theories suggest mass hysteria or ergot poisoning, but no definitive explanation exists.

Similarly, the Tunguska event of 1908, an enormous explosion over Siberia, flattened an estimated 80 million trees across 2,000 square kilometers. While scientists attribute it to a meteoroid airburst, the lack of an impact crater and eyewitness accounts contribute to its mysterious reputation.

These odd natural occurrences often intersect with cultural interpretations, where communities attribute supernatural or divine significance, influencing historical narratives and local customs.

## Bizarre Social Movements and Customs

Weird events in history also manifest through social behaviors and traditions that challenge contemporary sensibilities. The Cadaver Synod of 897 AD is a striking example, where Pope Stephen VI put the corpse of his predecessor, Pope Formosus, on trial. This macabre event reflects the intense political and religious conflicts of the era, illustrating how power struggles can lead to extraordinary actions.

Another curious tradition was the practice of "foot binding" in China, persisting for centuries as a symbol of beauty and status. While not an event per se, its widespread acceptance and eventual abolition highlight how societal norms can appear strange or even cruel from a modern perspective.

These customs and movements demonstrate the variability of human culture and

the importance of contextualizing weird events within their historical frameworks.

## **Unexplained Phenomena and Mysteries**

Some weird events in history remain shrouded in mystery despite extensive investigation. The disappearance of the Roanoke Colony in the late 16th century is a prime example. Known as the "Lost Colony," the settlers vanished without a trace, leaving behind only the cryptic word "Croatoan" carved into a tree. Theories abound, from assimilation with indigenous tribes to natural disasters, but no consensus exists.

Similarly, the Voynich Manuscript, an illustrated codex filled with unknown script and bizarre drawings, has baffled linguists and cryptographers for over a century. Its origin and purpose remain speculative, adding to the intrigue surrounding historical enigmas.

These unexplained events fuel ongoing research and debate, reflecting humanity's enduring quest to understand its past.

## **The Impact and Interpretation of Weird Events**

The significance of weird events in history extends beyond their immediate oddity. They often serve as catalysts for change, reflections of societal anxieties, or windows into the human psyche. Understanding their impact requires a multidisciplinary approach, incorporating anthropology, psychology, and cultural studies.

For instance, the Salem Witch Trials of 1692, marked by mass hysteria and unjust executions, illuminate the consequences of fear and scapegoating within communities. Though rooted in superstition, these events had profound legal and social ramifications, influencing the development of justice systems.

In examining these events, historians must balance skepticism with open-mindedness, recognizing that what appears strange today may have been rational or meaningful in another context. This approach helps avoid anachronistic judgments and enriches historical comprehension.

## **Challenges in Documenting Weird Events**

One of the difficulties in studying weird events in history lies in the reliability of sources. Many such incidents are recorded through oral traditions, biased chronicles, or sensationalized accounts, complicating efforts to discern fact from fiction. The passage of time often erodes

evidence, leaving gaps that invite speculation.

Moreover, cultural biases can influence the interpretation and preservation of these events. What one society views as peculiar, another may consider normal or sacred, underscoring the need for cultural sensitivity in historical analysis.

## Modern Relevance and Cultural Legacy

The fascination with weird events in history continues into contemporary times, reflected in popular media, literature, and academic inquiry. Documentaries, podcasts, and books dedicated to historical oddities attract wide audiences, demonstrating a collective interest in the unusual facets of the past.

These events also inspire creative works, from films depicting historical mysteries to art installations referencing strange rituals. By engaging with weird events, modern society connects with the multifaceted nature of human history, fostering curiosity and critical thinking.

Furthermore, some historical weird events inform current practices or warnings. For example, studying past epidemics marked by unusual symptoms or social reactions can provide valuable lessons for managing modern public health crises.

## Selected List of Notable Weird Events in History

- **The Dancing Plague of 1518:** A mass dancing mania in Strasbourg with no clear cause.
- **The Cadaver Synod (897 AD):** A posthumous papal trial of a deceased pope.
- **The Tunguska Event (1908):** A massive explosion over Siberia likely caused by a meteoroid.
- **The Lost Colony of Roanoke:** The mysterious disappearance of early American settlers.
- **The Salem Witch Trials (1692):** A series of prosecutions fueled by mass hysteria.
- **The Voynich Manuscript:** A cryptic medieval text with unknown origins.
- **The Great Emu War (1932):** An unusual wildlife management conflict in

Australia.

These examples illustrate the wide range of weird events, from natural disasters to legal oddities and unexplained mysteries.

The study of weird events in history invites us to embrace the complexity and unpredictability of the past. By examining these anomalies, historians not only uncover forgotten stories but also challenge conventional wisdom, enriching our collective understanding of human experience. The allure of the strange and unexplained continues to inspire inquiry, reminding us that history is as much about the unexpected as it is about the well-documented.

## [Weird Events In History](#)

**weird events in history: Curious Events in History** Michael Powell, 2011-09-13 Here are forty of the most curious events in world history. Though they span the centuries and circle the globe, they share one common trait: all were too peculiar to make it into the standard history books. Read these fascinating accounts and learn about: The craze for consuming powdered mummy to cure all ailments The medieval courtroom advocate who pled the case of plaintiff rats The U.S. President who was shot by an assassin but killed by his doctors earnest efforts to treat him If you thought you knew all you needed to know about history, this book will show you some truly curious gaps in your knowledge.

**weird events in history: *Weird States: Offbeat Journeys Through the Peculiar Parts of America*** Pasquale De Marco, 2025-05-08 Embark on a captivating journey into the peculiar and extraordinary corners of the United States with *Weird States: Offbeat Journeys Through the Peculiar Parts of America*. This captivating book takes you on a cross-country adventure, uncovering the hidden gems and quirky attractions that make America a land of endless fascination. From the haunted battlegrounds of Gettysburg to the otherworldly landscapes of Roswell, New Mexico, *Weird States: Offbeat Journeys Through the Peculiar Parts of America* uncovers the unexplained phenomena and supernatural encounters that have shaped American folklore. Discover the mysterious creatures lurking in the shadows of Sleepy Hollow, New York, and the eerie legends surrounding the Winchester Mystery House in San Jose, California. *Weird States: Offbeat Journeys Through the Peculiar Parts of America* goes beyond the ordinary, delving into the lives of eccentric characters and local personalities who embody the spirit of American weirdness. Meet the self-proclaimed King of the Hillbillies in West Virginia, the Lobster Lady of Maine, and the World's Smallest Town in Nebraska. These unforgettable characters add a touch of humor and heart to the exploration of America's offbeat side. Prepare to be amazed by the strange and unusual roadside attractions that dot the American landscape. From the World's Largest Ball of Twine in Cawker City, Kansas, to the Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, Texas, these quirky landmarks showcase the creativity and eccentricity of the American people. *Weird States: Offbeat Journeys Through the Peculiar Parts of America* not only uncovers the weird and wonderful but also explores the historical and cultural significance of these peculiar places and events. Discover the origins of urban legends, the truth behind UFO sightings, and the scientific explanations for unexplained phenomena. Whether you're a seasoned traveler or an armchair adventurer, *Weird States: Offbeat Journeys Through the Peculiar Parts of America* offers an unforgettable journey into the heart of American weirdness. Join Pasquale De Marco as they uncover the hidden treasures, bizarre characters, and unexplained mysteries that

make the United States a land of endless intrigue and fascination. If you like this book, write a review on google books!

**weird events in history: The Watcher and other weird stories** Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, It is now more than fifty years since the occurrences which I am about to relate caused a strange sensation in the gay society of Dublin. The fashionable world, however, is no recorder of traditions; the memory of selfishness seldom reaches far; and the events which occasionally disturb the polite monotony of its pleasant and heartless progress, however stamped with the characters of misery and horror, scarcely outlive the gossip of a season, and (except, perhaps, in the remembrance of a few more directly interested in the consequences of the catastrophe) are in a little time lost to the recollection of all. The appetite for scandal, or for horror, has been sated; the incident can yield no more of interest or novelty; curiosity, frustrated by impenetrable mystery, gives over the pursuit in despair; the tale has ceased to be new, grows stale and flat; and so, in a few years, inquiry subsides into indifference.

**weird events in history: Sideways in Time** Glyn Morgan, Charul Palmer-Patel, 2019-09-26 This important collection of essays acknowledges the long and distinctive history of the alternate history genre whilst also revelling in its vitality, adaptability, and contemporary relevance, with many of the chapters discussing late twentieth- and early twenty-first-century texts which have previously received little or no sustained critical analysis.

**weird events in history: Weird U.S.** Mark Moran, Mark Sceurman, 2009-05 Covering all 50 states, Weird U.S. takes an unconventional look at the oddities, outcasts, and just plain strange things to see or do in America.

**weird events in history: Secrets of the Mysterious Valley** Christopher O'Brien, 2007 No other region in North America features the variety and intensity of unusual phenomena found in the world's largest alpine valley, the San Luis Valley of Colorado and New Mexico. Since 1989, Christopher O'Brien has documented thousands of high-strange accounts that report UFOs, ghosts, crypto-creatures, cattle mutilations, skinwalkers and sorcerers, along with portal areas, secret underground bases and covert military activity. This mysterious region at the top of North America has a higher incidence of UFO reports than any other area of the continent and is the publicized birthplace of the cattle mutilation mystery. Hundreds of animals have been found strangely slain during waves of anomalous aerial craft sightings. Is the government directly involved? Are there underground bases here? Does the military fly exotic aerial craft in this valley that are radar-invisible below 18,000 feet? These and many other questions are addressed in this all-new work by one of America's top paranormal investigators. Take a fantastic journey through one of the world's most enigmatic locales!

**weird events in history: Weird Tales of Modernity** Jason Ray Carney, 2019-08-09 Serious literary artists such as T.S. Eliot, James Joyce and Virginia Woolf loom large in most accounts of the literary art of the first half of the 20th century. And yet, working in the shadows cast by these modernists were science fiction, horror and fantasy writers like the Weird Tales Three: H.P. Lovecraft, Clark Ashton Smith and Robert E. Howard. They did not publish in artistically ambitious magazines like Dial, The Smart Set and The Little Review but instead in commercial pulp magazines like Weird Tales. Contrary to the stereotypes about pulp fiction and those who wrote it, these three were serious literary artists who used their fiction to speculate about such philosophical questions as the function of art and the brevity of life.

**weird events in history: Calendar of the Weird, Special & Obscure and Publications Catalog** Wisconsin. Department of Public Instruction, 1999

**weird events in history: Weird Competitions** Mira Donnelly, AI, 2025-03-06 Weird Competitions explores the fascinating world of unconventional contests, delving into the cultural and social dynamics that drive individuals to participate in seemingly bizarre activities. From cheese-rolling races rooted in ancient traditions to international mustache sculpting championships, the book examines how these competitions reflect cultural values and foster community bonds. It reveals how these alternative avenues for self-expression and achievement offer insights into human

motivation and the search for recognition. The book argues that these activities, far from being trivial, provide profound insights into human nature and the construction of culture. Many weird competitions have historical roots, connecting participants to the past and creating a sense of shared identity. These contests challenge conventional notions of success, highlighting the diverse ways people find purpose and fulfillment outside mainstream sports. The book unfolds in three sections: introducing the concept of weird competitions, exploring their historical and sociological underpinnings with case studies and ethnographic data, and analyzing their broader implications for cultural preservation and individual psychology. By examining the rules, rituals, and participant motivations, the book reveals how societies define value and foster social cohesion.

**weird events in history: Walking Through History** Andi Stix, Frank Hrbek, 2023-05-30 With this book, Dr. Andi Stix and Frank Hrbek thoughtfully guide us through three distinct periods from the Constitution to the Civil War. It features expansive, multidimensional learning tools such as a Constitutional Scavenger Hunt, an immersive Oregon Trail Simulation, a comprehensive TV Documentary project, a reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg, and much more. Our hybrid print-and-online platforms offer distinctive resources and opportunities for every type of learner. An easy-to-navigate companion website to the book series hosts a wide range of content to enhance student immersion in the subject matter, including: plays peer assessment forms text at multiple reading levels project instructions skit cards score sheets journal and reflection prompts rubrics activity supplements, and unit and final exams The book brings materials from across this period of American history to life by stimulating and cultivating students' imaginations. The series Walking Through History presents student-centered, hands-on activities, active simulations, debates, and discussions, which provide an unparalleled engaging learning experience. Our objective is for students to walk in another's shoes through lessons based on a particular historical period. Field-tested and proven teaching strategies for virtual and in-person classrooms are highlighted across the series. These books are specifically designed to be used with whiteboard and other interactive tools. Notably, this series features content that has been recognized with distinguished awards from the: Middle States Council for the Social Studies New York State Council for the Social Studies National Association for Gifted Children

**weird events in history: Weird Food Facts** Nakoa Rainfall, AI, 2025-03-31 Weird Food Facts explores the captivating history of our diets, revealing the surprising stories behind everyday foods and the unusual culinary practices that have shaped global cuisine. It's more than mere food trivia; it's a journey into how history, culture, and even superstition have influenced what we eat. For example, Europeans once considered tomatoes poisonous, illustrating how perceptions of food can drastically change over time. The book sheds light on how trade and exploration introduced new ingredients, and it examines periods where food scarcity dictated choices. The book unfolds across chapters dedicated to key themes: unusual ingredients, unexpected origins, and bizarre eating customs. It delves into the often-accidental discoveries and historical events that led to the foods we consume today. By examining these strange and often overlooked aspects of food history, Weird Food Facts encourages readers to question their own biases and assumptions about what is normal or acceptable, ultimately fostering a more informed and open-minded approach to food.

**weird events in history: Weird City** Joshua Long, 2023-01-06 An examination of Austin's rapid economic and creative growth and local attitudes toward the Texas capitol's transformation as an urban center. Austin, Texas, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, is experiencing one of the most dynamic periods in its history. Wedged between homogenizing growth and a long tradition of rebellious nonconformity, many Austinites feel that they are amid a battle for the city's soul. From this struggle, a movement has emerged as a form of resistance to the rapid urban transformation brought about in recent years: Keep Austin Weird originated in 2000 as a grassroots expression of place attachment and anti-commercialization. Its popularity has led to its use as a rallying cry for local business, as a rhetorical tool by city governance, and now as the unofficial civic motto for a city experiencing rapid growth and transformation. By using Keep Austin Weird as a central focus, Joshua Long explores the links between sense of place, consumption patterns, sustainable

development, and urban politics in Austin. Research on this phenomenon considers the strong influence of the Creative Class thesis on Smart Growth strategies, gentrification, income inequality, and social polarization made popular by the works of Richard Florida. This study is highly applicable to several emerging Creative Cities, but holds special significance for the city considered the greatest creative success story, Austin.

**weird events in history:** *All Things Weird and Wonderful* D. Stuart Briscoe, 1977

**weird events in history:** *Secret America: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure* David Baugher, 2017-08-15 Did you know ...that a hidden room exists behind Abraham Lincoln's head on Mt. Rushmore? ...that North Carolina was almost accidentally destroyed in a nuclear holocaust? ...that the Mason-Dixon Line had nothing to do with dividing north from south? ...that Major League Baseball once hosted a single game between three different teams? ...that there is a designated state highway in Michigan where cars are not allowed? ...that 21 people were once killed by a 15-foot wave of molasses that devastated a Boston neighborhood? ...that the National Security Agency has a gift shop with logoed merchandise? Whether you want to visit the New York grave where Uncle Sam is buried, stop by the future hometown of Star Trek's Captain Kirk in Iowa or see the room in California where the Internet was created, *Secret America: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful and Obscure* is your ticket to some of the nation's least-known but most interesting spots. It is here where you can explore a historical marker dedicated to Barack and Michelle Obama's first kiss, find out how to acquire logoed merchandise at the National Security Agency's gift shop or examine why Case Western Reserve University has such an unusual name. *Secret America* is a look at the United States as you've never seen it before a tourist guide that gives you answers to the questions no tourist ever knew they were supposed to ask. If you are tired of trying to enliven dull family roadtrips searching backroads for the World's Largest Ball of Twine, this is a handbook for truly interesting sites that can transform any cross-country adventure into a tour of the unique spots that make America the odd but fascinating nation that it is.

**weird events in history:** *The Cambridge Companion to Fiction in the Romantic Period* Richard Maxwell, Katie Trumpener, 2008-02-21 While poetry has been the genre most closely associated with the Romantic period, the novel of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries has attracted many more readers and students in recent years. Its canon has been widened to include less well known authors alongside Jane Austen, Walter Scott, Maria Edgeworth and Thomas Love Peacock. Over the last generation, especially, a remarkable range of popular works from the period have been re-discovered and reread intensively. This Companion offers an overview of British fiction written between roughly the mid-1760s and the early 1830s and is an ideal guide to the major authors, historical and cultural contexts, and later critical reception. The contributors to this volume represent the most up-to-date directions in scholarship, charting the ways in which the period's social, political and intellectual redefinitions created new fictional subjects, forms and audiences.

**weird events in history:** *Oddities in History* Bill Wall, 2020-07-09 This is the third of Bill Wall's *Oddities* series. . This is a collection of oddities that include strange people, bizarre events, weird news, and coincidences throughout history. History is the memory of the past experience around the world. The odder the event, the more likely it will be preserved. Odd events have occurred in the Stone Age, the Bronze Age, the Iron Age, all the way up to the modern age. From ancient Egypt, to ancient Greece, to all the other ancient civilizations, written history has survived full of remarkably unusual persons, things, or events. Early world history, from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance, to the Reformation, and into the 21st century are full of curiosities of its historical people and major events. Bill Wall, the consummate researcher of the strange and bizarre, has compiled this anthology of stories and oddities throughout history. From pre-history to the modern era, he has gathered a myriad of historical facts and oddities from around the globe. Truth is indeed stranger than fiction! Enjoy the oddities of history.

**weird events in history:** *Between the Lines* Michael Y. Bennett, 2024 In thinking about the conceptual empty spaces of theatre, *Between the Lines: A Philosophy of Theatre* investigates theatre as an art form, the properties of theatrical characters and theatrical worlds, and the difference

between truth and truthfulness in the theatre. Ultimately, this book aims to offer a systematic account of theatre--thinking about theatre metaphysically, epistemologically, and ethically.

**weird events in history: UFOs Over Nevada** Preston Dennett, 2015-03-28 UFO sightings and information from the late 1800s to present day in Nevada Complete history, eyewitness testimony, new cases, startling photographs included Includes the inside information and newest developments about Area 51

**weird events in history: Historian of the Strange** Judith T. Zeitlin, 1993 This is the first book in English on the seventeenth-century Chinese masterpiece Liaozhai's Records of the Strange (Liaozhai zhiyi) by Pu Songling, a collection of nearly five hundred fantastic tales and anecdotes written in Classical Chinese.

**weird events in history: *Horror Literature through History*** Matt Cardin, 2017-09-21 This two-volume set offers comprehensive coverage of horror literature that spans its deep history, dominant themes, significant works, and major authors, such as Stephen King, Edgar Allan Poe, and Anne Rice, as well as lesser-known horror writers. Many of today's horror story fans—who appreciate horror through movies, television, video games, graphic novels, and other forms—probably don't realize that horror literature is not only one of the most popular types of literature but one of the oldest. People have always been mesmerized by stories that speak to their deepest fears. *Horror Literature through History* shows 21st-century horror fans the literary sources of their favorite entertainment and the rich intrinsic value of horror literature in its own right. Through profiles of major authors, critical analyses of important works, and overview essays focused on horror during particular periods as well as on related issues such as religion, apocalypticism, social criticism, and gender, readers will discover the fascinating early roots and evolution of horror writings as well as the reciprocal influence of horror literature and horror cinema. This unique two-volume reference set provides wide coverage that is current and compelling to modern readers—who are of course also eager consumers of entertainment. In the first section, overview essays on horror during different historical periods situate works of horror literature within the social, cultural, historical, and intellectual currents of their respective eras, creating a seamless narrative of the genre's evolution from ancient times to the present. The second section demonstrates how otherwise unrelated works of horror have influenced each other, how horror subgenres have evolved, and how a broad range of topics within horror—such as ghosts, vampires, religion, and gender roles—have been handled across time. The set also provides alphabetically arranged reference entries on authors, works, and specialized topics that enable readers to zero in on information and concepts presented in the other sections.

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**weird - Dictionary of English** Weird refers to that which is suggestive of the fateful intervention of supernatural influences in human affairs: the weird adventures of a group lost in the jungle

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