FOREWORD | Stephen Fry xv FOUR WORDS | Alan Davies xvii INTRODUCTION | John Lloyd xix

What's the name of the tallest mountain in the world? I How do moths feel about flames? 2 Where is the driest place on earth? 2 Where are you most likely to get caught in a hailstorm? 3 What's the largest living thing? 5 What's the biggest thing a blue whale can swallow? 5 Which bird lays the smallest egg for its size? 7 How long can a chicken live without its head? 7 What has a three-second memory? 8 What's the most dangerous animal that has ever lived? 9 Do marmots kill people? 10 How do lemmings die? II What do chameleons do? 13 How do polar bears disguise themselves? 14

How many galaxies are visible to the naked eye? 15 What man-made artifacts can be seen from the moon? 16 Which of these are Chinese inventions: glass, rickshaws, chop suey, fortune cookies? 17 Where did Marco Polo come from? 18 What is Croatia's most lasting contribution to world business? 19 Who invented the steam engine? 20 Who invented the telephone? 21 Where do kilts, bagpipes, haggis, porridge, whisky, and tartan come from? 23 Where does chicken tikka masala come from? 24 Is French toast from France? 25 Who invented champagne? 27 Where was the guillotine invented? 28 How many prisoners were freed by the storming of the Bastille? 29 Who said "Let them eat cake"? 31 What does a St. Bernard carry around its neck? 32 What goes "hunk hunk"? 33 What noise does the largest frog in the world make? 34 Which owl says "Tu-whit, tu-who"? 35 What did Darwin do to dead owls? 36 Can barnacles fly? 37 How many senses does a human being have? 38 How many states of matter are there? 39 What is the normal state of glass? 40 Which metal is liquid at room temperature? 41

Which metal is the best conductor? 42 What's the densest element? 43 Where do diamonds come from? 45 How do we measure earthquakes? 46 What's the most common material in the world? 47 What does the moon smell like? 48 Does the earth go around the moon or the moon around the earth? 49 How many moons does the earth have? 49 How many planets are there in the solar system? 50 How would you fly through an asteroid belt? 52 What's in an atom? 53 What's the main ingredient of air? 54 Where would you go for a lungful of ozone? 55 What speed does light travel at? 56 Where is the highest mountain? 57 How many legs does a centipede have? 58 How many toes has a two-toed sloth? 58 How many eyes does a no-eyed, big-eyed wolf spider have? 60 How many penises does a European earwig have? 60 Which animals are the best-endowed of all? 61 What is a rhino's horn made from? 63 Which African mammal kills more humans than any other? 64 Where do most tigers live? 66 What would you use to overpower a crocodile? 67 What's the bravest species of animal? 68 What's three times as dangerous as war? 69

What killed most sailors in an eighteenth-century sea battle? 71 What's the word for Napoleon's most humiliating defeat? 71 Who blew the nose off the Sphinx? 72 What did Nero do while Rome burned? 73 What's more likely: being killed by lightning or by an asteroid? 74 How did Roman emperors order the death of a gladiator? 76 What's interesting about the birth of Julius Caesar? 77 What's a vomitorium for? 78 What is the Number of the Beast? 79 Where does the word assassin come from? 81 What are chastity belts for? 82 What was Tutankhamun's curse? 83 What did feminists do with their bras? 84 What color is the universe? 85 What color is Mars? 87 What color is water? 88 What color was the sky in ancient Greece? 89 How much of the earth is water? 90 Which way does the bathwater go down the drain? 91 What do camels store in their humps? 92 Where do camels come from? 93 Who is America named after? 94 How many states are there in the United States? 95 Who was the first American president? 96 What were George Washington's false teeth made from? 97 Whose official motto is e pluribus unum? 98

Why do deaf Americans feel at home in Paris? 99 How do the Cherokee pronounce "Cherokee"? 100 What did Buffalo Bill do to buffaloes? 101 Where was baseball invented? 103 What's the only sport invented entirely in the United States? 104 What do you call someone from the United States? 105 What was Billy the Kid's real name? 106 What do we have Thomas Crapper to thank for? 107 What was Mozart's middle name? 108 How did Mark Twain get his name? 109 How did Nome, Alaska, get its name? 110 What is the name of the capital city of Thailand? III What's the world's largest city? II2 What's the largest lake in Canada? 113 What's the single largest man-made structure on earth? II4 Where's the coolest place in the universe? 115 When did the most recent Ice Age end? 116 Who lives in igloos? 117 Would you call someone an Eskimo? 118 How many words do Eskimos have for snow? 120 What did human beings evolve from? 121 Who coined the phrase "the survival of the fittest"? 122 Who invented the ballpoint pen? 124 What do we use to write on a blackboard? 125 Where does the equal sign come from? 126 What did Robert Bunsen invent? 127

What's made of celluloid? 128 Who invented rubber boots? 130 What Edison invention do English speakers use every day? 131 Was the first computer bug a real insect? 132 What is the most likely survivor of a nuclear war? 133 Which is the hottest part of a chili? 134 Where do tulips come from? 135 How many crocuses does it take to make a kilo of saffron? 136 What drives human sperm wild? 137 How many nostrils have you got? 137 What was the first invention to break the sound barrier? 138 What kind of music charms snakes most? 139 What are violin strings made from? 140 What's the best floor of a building to throw a cat from? 141 Why did the dodo die out? 143 What buries its head in the sand? 144 Where do gorillas sleep? 145 What's the most common bird in the world? 145 What animal are the Canary Islands named after? 147 What's the smallest dog in the world? 148 How do dogs mate? 149 How did Catherine the Great die? 150 How long do your fingernails and hair grow after death? 151 What did Atlas carry on his shoulders? 152 How high is cloud nine? 153 What makes champagne fizz? 155 What shape is a raindrop? 155

What produces most of the earth's oxygen? 156 What were World War I German uniforms made from? 157 Who discovered penicillin? 158 Is a virus a germ? 159 What causes stomach ulcers? 160 What are guinea pigs used for? 162 What was the first animal in space? 163 Which has the most neck bones: a mouse or a giraffe? 164 Who was the first man to circumnavigate the globe? 165 Who was the first to claim that the earth goes around the sun? 166 Who invented the Theory of Relativity? 167 What shape did Columbus think the earth was? 168 What shape did medieval people think the earth was? 170 Who first discovered that the world was round? 171 Why do bees buzz? 172 Which has the largest brain in comparison to its size? 174 How much of our brains do we use? 175 What color is your brain? 176 What effect does alcohol have on brain cells? 177 What do dolphins drink? 179 What was James Bond's favorite drink? 180 What shouldn't you drink if you're dehydrated? 181 What contains the most caffeine: a cup of tea or a cup of coffee? 182 183 Why was the dishwasher invented?

How was Teflon discovered? 184

Which organization invented Quaker Oats? 185 What shouldn't you do twenty minutes after eating? 186 How does television damage your health? 187 How much sleep should you have every night? 188 What will be the biggest killer in the world by 2030? 190 Is the answer to depression just to "walk it off"? 191 Which country has the world's highest suicide rate? 192 Was Hitler a vegetarian? 193 Which nation invented the concentration camp? 194 In what year did World War II end? 195 Who was the most dangerous American in history? 197 How many dog years equal one human year? 198 How long is a day? 198 What's the longest animal? 199 What happens if you cut an earthworm in half? 201 What's the loudest thing in the ocean? 201 Why are flamingos pink? 203 What color is a panther? 204 What makes an animal see red? 205 What color were the original Oompa-Loompas? 206 What color were Robin Hood's tights? 207 What rhymes with orange? 208 What color are carrots? 209 Do carrots help us see in the dark? 210 What do bananas grow on? 211 Where do Panama hats come from? 213 What is coffee made from? 214

Which of the following are berries: strawberry, raspberry, peach, watermelon? 215 Which of the following are nuts: almond, peanut, brazil nut, walnut? 216 Who goes gathering nuts in May? 217 What's inside a coconut? 218 What did Captain Cook give his men to cure scurvy? 219 Who discovered Australia? 221 What does "kangaroo" mean in Aboriginal? 222 What is "pom" short for? 223 What's the biggest rock in the world? 224 What were boomerangs used for? 224 Did cannibals cook their victims whole in large pots? 226 Which religion curses people by sticking pins into dolls? 227 What are you doing when you "do the Hokey Pokey"? 228 How many Wise Men visited Jesus? 229 Where does Santa Claus come from? 230 What do Bugs Bunny, Brer Rabbit, and the Easter Bunny have in common? 231 What were Cinderella's slippers made from? 233 Where do loofahs come from? 234 What's the strongest wood? 235 What do you get if you suck your pencil? 235 Have you ever slid down a banister? 237 Where was the log cabin invented? 238 Where did Stone Age people live? 238 What was the first animal to be domesticated? 240 What was odd about Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer? 241

Where do turkeys come from? 241 Who was born by Immaculate Conception? 243 Was Jesus born in a stable? 244 How many sheep were there on Noah's Ark? 244 Who's the oldest man in the Bible? 246 Where were the first modern Olympics held? 247 Why is a marathon 26 miles and 385 yards long? 248 What does the Queen say to someone she's knighted? 249 Who was the first King of England? 250 How many wives did Henry VIII have? 251

INDEX 253