

Jane Doe

Ms. Ima Teacher

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The Great World and Other Stuff: Sample Paper in MLA Format

The world is full of interesting trivia. For example, events in history often have strange back stories. When a copy of Darwin's *Origin of Species* was sent to an important British publisher, the editor said the book was nice but wouldn't sell. He advised Darwin to write a nice book on pigeons because, of course, everyone likes pigeons (Bryson 381). Names are also interesting. Although few have heard of "Yippies," they were a short lived group in the 60's who staged some poorly planned protests (Holloway 214-15). Even animals have strange names. A cat encyclopedia describes a Ragdoll as a cat, not a toy ("Ragdoll" 112). Although the name brings up images of stupidity, the Dodo is just an extinct bird that was unable to fly ("Dodo").

Not all the stories behind the names are believable, however. The book, *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, tells how explorers came back with strange tales of the "homo caudatus" or "man with a tail" (Bryson 382). Just as strange are some of the laws on the books. For example, according to one source, it is illegal to walk around in high-heeled shoes in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California (James). Places can be interesting, too. One science website mentions how a person can "see both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans on a clear day from the Republic of Panama" (Loveridge). Even fairy tales have interesting origins. According to legend, the Man in the Moon was placed in the moon as punishment for collecting sticks on Sunday ("Manic Man"). So a lot of interesting, if useless, information can be discovered in the most unlikely of places. This all just goes to show we live in a really quirky world!

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