

Grossology Trivia



The *Grossology* exhibition, based on a popular series of books by science teacher Sylvia Branzei, is an educational experience grounded in the theory that the best way to get kids interested in science is to present it in terms they find most appealing. Let's face it, topics such as snot, vomit, gas and scabs are completely fascinating for your average six to 14 years old.

By physically stepping into the *Grossology* book, these subjects have become an interactive, larger-than-life biology lesson that harnesses kid's natural curiosity about themselves and teaches them about how the human organism functions. Following are some fun facts associated with many of the entertaining and educational displays and games at *Grossology: The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body* Exhibition.

- Hydrochloric acid in your stomach is so strong that it can eat up stainless steel razor blades.
- Seventy out of 100 people admit to picking their nose. Three out of those seventy admit to eating their boogers.
- Thomas Crapper was an Englishman who invented the shut-off for clean water entering the toilet tank in the 1800's. The word "crap" comes from Crapper.
- Your large intestine is about five feet long.
- In a study of people who do not speak English, researchers read a list of words and asked the people to choose which words they thought sounded pretty. Diarrhea was one word that most people chose.
- Fresh urine is cleaner than spit or the skin on your face because healthy pee is not home to bacteria.
- The lineup at men's and women's washrooms vary because of the length of time it takes us to pee: men average 45 seconds; women spend about 79 seconds.
- Every day you make four to eight cups of urine. The amount depends on how hot it is outside, what you eat and how much you drink.

- more -

- You make about one quart of saliva each day. Every day about one liter of saliva enters your mouth. If you were a hay-eating cow, it would be about 190 liters every day.
- You swallow about one quart of snot every day.
- Ear wax naturally dries up and forms little balls that drop out when we yawn, chew or swallow.
- Ear wax coats the inside of the ear canal to trap any nasty stuff like dirt, dust and bugs that get into your ear. People who live in big cities make more ear wax.
- The skin is the largest organ of the body. You shed skin every day to produce a whole new layer of skin every 28 days.
- About ten billion tiny scales of skin rub off your body every day. In a lifetime, you could fill eight five-pound flour bags with dead skin.
- Your mouth is the most unsanitary part of your whole body. More than 100,000,000 micro-creatures live there at any one time.
- Feet sweat because there are about 250,000 pores on their soles that squirt a quarter cup of liquid each day.
- At birth you have 350 bones in your body. You now have 206 bones. What happened to the rest? They fused to other bones to make larger bones.
- Normal breathing sucks air into the nose at 4 mph (6 kph). A good sensory sniff is 20 mph (32 kph). A sneeze will shoot out of the nose at 100 mph (160 kph).
- Vomiting removes liquid from your body, so it's important that you replace the lost liquid by sipping on water, tea, juice or bouillon.
- Many cultures still use urine to tan leather.
- Your bladder can hold about two cups of urine comfortably.
- Your nostrils take turns inhaling. You breathe through one nostril for three to four hours and then switch to the other one.
- It is better to breathe through your nose than your mouth. Only air going through the nose is cleaned, warmed and moistened before it reaches your lungs.
- Your nose can sense smell best when you are 10 years old. That's probably why kids notice gross smells faster than adults.
- Carrying your skin around can be a lot of work. The average adult's skin weighs about seven pounds (about 3.2 kilograms).