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Mark Twain was a very famous author.

He was born on November 30th, 1835 in Missouri.

One of his most famous books is <u>Huckleberry Finn</u>.

His real name was Samuel Clemens.

Mark Twain wrote 28 stories as well as several short stories and letters.

Penguins are aquatic birds that cannot fly like most others.

Though they can't fly, they are very strong swimmers.

Their wings have bones, however they are more like flippers which is why they are more suited to swim.

Penguins find their food underwater within 60 feet of the surface.

Penguins can spend up to 75% of their life in water.

Pikes Peak is a mountain in the Rockies that is very famous.

It is located in Pike National Forest in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

People from all over the world try to climb to the top of Pikes Peak whose summit is over 14,000 feet high.

It was named for the famous American explorer Zebulon Pike who, strangely enough, never reached its top.

Pikes Peak is recognized as a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. government.

There are eight major planets in our Solar System.

The four small inner planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars, all of which are made mostly of rock and metal.

Jupiter and Saturn are gas giants that are made mostly of hydrogen and helium.

Uranus and Neptune are the furthest planets from the Sun and are Considered ice giants.

Pluto used to be considered the ninth planet in our Solar System, but is now considered a dwarf planet.

Basketball, one of the world's most popular sports, was invented in 1891 by James Naismith.

Naismith was a P.E. teacher in Massachusetts who was looking for a way to keep his gym class busy on a rainy day.

He began by writing some basic rules and then nailing a peach basket onto a board standing 10 feet off the ground.

Peach baskets were eventually replaced by metal hoops in 1906 and a net was added so that balls could pass through.

Just four years after James Naismith invented the game, the first college 5-on-5 game was played at Hamline University.