



Did You Know?

The pencils we use today came from an ancient Roman writing instrument called a stylus, which was a thin metal rod that left a light mark on papyrus (a type of paper). Later those styluses contained lead, and now we use non-toxic graphite in the cores of pencils. Pencils were first mass produced in Nuremburg, Germany in 1662.



Did You Know?

The history of paper goes back almost 2,000 years in China when inventors created a type of cloth for their writings and drawings. The kind of paper we use today was first made in Lei-Yang, China by Ts'ai Lun, a Chinese court official. It is thought that he mixed tree bark, hemp and rags with water, mashed it into a pulp, pressed out the liquid and then hung it to dry.



Did You Know?

Many historians consider the Epic of Gilgamesh as the oldest written “book” though it was actually written on clay tablets. It was fiction story written in Sumeria before 18th century B.C. about a young athletic king of a Sumerian place called Uruk.



Did You Know?

The word “crayon” was first used in 1644 and comes from the French word *craie* which means chalk and the Latin word *creta* which means Earth. Different types of crayons have been used for hundreds of years, but Crayola put out their first wax crayons on June 10, 1903.



Did You Know?

Steve Jobs announced the creation of a new device on January 27, 2010. On April 3rd of that year Apple put out its first iPad tablet. When it was launched over 300,000 were sold, but by May 3, 2010 Apple had already sold one million of them in just one month!

The background of the entire page is a vibrant blue with a pattern of small white dots. Scattered throughout this background are several yellow school buses, each with a black grille and a white roof. The buses are oriented in various directions, some facing forward and others slightly angled. Each bus has the words "SCHOOL BUS" written on its side in black capital letters. The buses are arranged in a way that they appear to be moving across the page, creating a sense of motion and energy.

Did You Know?

The word “chalk” comes from the Latin word *caix* which means limestone. Most chalk is made from rocks & minerals such as limestone or gypsum. Chalk has been around millions of years and was actually used in the earliest drawings on cave walls. Chalk became popular in schools in the 19th century on blackboards or chalkboards.



Did You Know?

The earliest form of calculator was called an “abacus” and it was first used by Sumerians and Egyptians in 2000 B.C. The first mechanical calculator showed up more than 3,500 years later in 1642, as the creation of a man named Blaise Pascal. Much smaller handheld calculators similar to those still made today didn’t come out until the 1970s.



Did You Know?

In 1936 Alan Turing came up with the idea of a machine that could compute anything that was computable. The first personal computers weren't introduced until the 1970s when companies such as Microsoft and Apple were formed.