

Balkan Gypsy Marriage Customs
The gypsy in the Balkans is able to marry, divorce and remarry as often as his fancy changes. Each time the marriage ceremony, performed under gypsy rites, consists of both man and bride remaining tied together to the trunk of a willow tree for one whole night. Divorce consists merely of cutting a willow branch held between them. Both sides can insist on divorce at will.

Search for Fountain of Youth
An old woman told Ponce de Leon about a fountain of youth in Florida when he visited the Bimimis, in the Bahama group. The legend probably originated in the story of a fresh water spring in the ocean near the Florida coast. A Spaniard who drank from the spring was said to have attained a new lease on life.

Early Retirement
Temple dancers on the Island of Bali, Java, are forced into retirement at the age of twelve, as after that age it is thought that their muscles become too stiff and set to render the requisite grace and agility. These dancers are said to be at their best at the age of six.

Peculiarity of Cactus Family
The cactus natural order, known to botanists as cactaceae, ranges in size and form of plants from globular bodies little larger than peas to candelabra-like arboreal growths fifty feet high. In the case of the giant cereus of Arizona, southeastern California and northern Mexico, shafts of this height are occasionally single or with very few branches, but, in southern Mexico and below, great umbrageous cactaceous giants are mistaken for trees at a distance, for they are of sufficient stature, states a writer in the Los Angeles Times. There is scarcely any form in plant life throughout the world, aside from lofty trees, that some member of the cactus family cannot match. No flower grows whose counterpart in color cannot be found in this interesting group of more than 5,000 named and published species.

How the Tiger Got Its Name
The word tiger really means an arrow, and comes to us from the Old Persian. An arrow fired from a bow travels very swiftly through the air, and as the tiger also travels swiftly it was called by the Orientals an arrow, or tiger.

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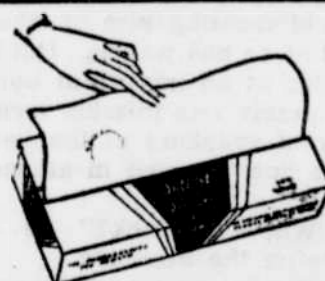
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