

Bodily Bits 'N' Bobs

Your body is a wonderful result of millions of years of evolution. Even though everybody looks unique, there are some amazingly similar things about all human beings. Let's have a look at some brilliant bodily bits 'n' bobs!

There are some amazing ratios within your body. Stretch your arms out to the side as far as you can, and the distance between the tips of your two middle fingers is the same as your height! The length of your femur - the bone inside your thigh - is about a quarter of your height. Take a piece of string and measure the circumference of your head. Multiply that by 3, and you'll have your height again!

Even though there are lots of things the same about us all, we are all unique in certain ways. Take your fingerprints. It is extremely unlikely that anybody in the history of the world will have had exactly the same fingerprint as you. How cool is that?

It's not just fingerprints, though. The coloured part of your eye is called the iris. The patterns in every person's iris are different. They're not only different from other people's, but your left and right iris are different from each other. This is because of an amazing way that the human foetus develops. As the baby grows in the womb, it opens and shuts its eyes. Each time it does this, the iris folds and tightens. Eventually, these creases are set and form the patterns. Eye can't believe it either!

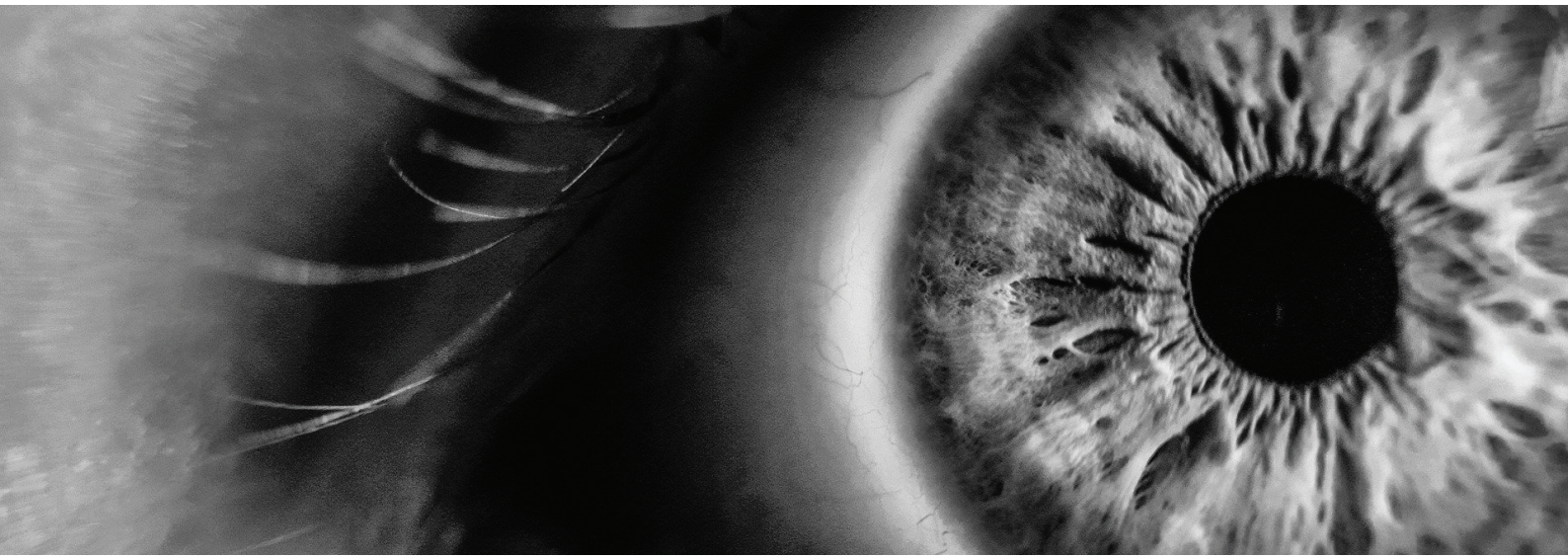
Have you ever seen a cat or dog get scared? Their hairs stand up and make them look a lot bigger than they are. This is a great way to deter predators. It turns out that millions of years ago, humans did this as well. In fact, our body still reacts the same way when we are scared or cold. The result? Goosebumps!

Close your mouth and breathe. You can feel air going in and out of your nostrils, right? Wrong! At any one time, your body is mainly using one nostril only. The other one is having a break. Your body

alternates which nostril it is using throughout the day. This means that each nostril gets a rest and can stay in top condition for filtering the air you breathe.

There are 8 different muscles in your tongue. It takes 10 different muscles to smile and about 200 to walk! The fastest muscles in your body are in your eye. They allow your eyes to both flick in the same direction in 50 milliseconds.

So there you have it. We are all incredibly unique and yet surprisingly similar to each other. Remember, you only get one body so make the most of it!



VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. Which word could be used to describe something as one-of-a-kind?
2. What is the contraction 'n' in the title short for?
3. Find a word that means "to respond to something".
4. What does the word "filtering" tell you about a nostril's function?
5. Find an antonym in the text for "slowest".

VIPERS QUESTIONS

- S** Describe one of the ratios you could use to calculate your height.
- I** How does the author express their feelings about people having different fingerprints?
- R** What is the coloured part of an eye called?
- S** Why are all iris patterns different?
- E** Why has the author included the phrase "Eye can't believe it either!"?

Answers:

1. Unique
2. And
3. Reacts
4. A nostril has to remove particles and viruses from the air
5. Fastest

S: Length of your arm reach, 4 times your femur, 3 times your head circumference

I: The author ends the paragraph with “how cool is that?”. This shows that the author thinks the fact is cool/surprising/fun

R: Iris

S: They are formed by the iris folding as the foetus/baby grows.

E: It is a pun/play on words/the word eye is used instead of I to make it funnier