

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
KIDS



That's GROSS!

BY CRISPIN BOYER



**ICKY
FACTS**
THAT WILL
TEST YOUR
**GROSS-OUT
FACTOR**

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC







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GEOGRAPHIC

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Meet Your
GROSS
Host!

Meet Your Gross Host!

HI THERE! I'M DARYL. I'm a dung beetle. Like all dung beetles, I eat poop. I roll it into balls, too, and then push the balls all over the place. It's kind of my thing, but people think it's nasty. I guess that makes me the perfect host to introduce you to the world of everything gross!

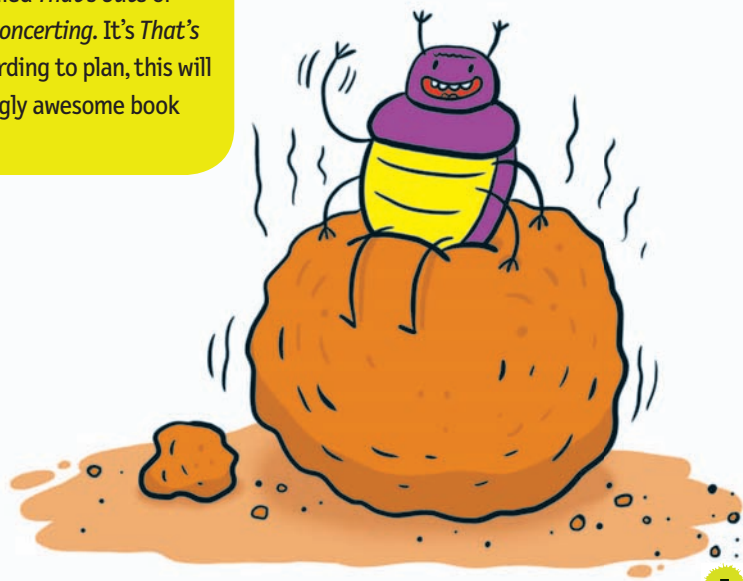
Why in the world would you want to engage your gag reflex? According to the scientists who study these things, disgust is crucial to human survival. People evolved a sense of revulsion to protect them from eating icky things and sticking their fingers in stuff that could make them sick. See, a sense of grossness is good for you!

But before we get the dung ball rolling, let's make sure you know what you're in for.

This book isn't called *That's Cute* or even *That's Mildly Disconcerting*. It's *That's Gross!* If all goes according to plan, this will be the most disgustingly awesome book you've ever read!

You're about to see things that you can't unsee, such as tongue-eating sea monsters and wasps that turn cockroaches into zombies. You're going to learn things you'll never forget, including the real scoop on poop and the truth about toe jam. By the time you've put down *That's Gross!*, you'll know which insect tastes like a Jolly Rancher, what object in your pocket has more germs than a toilet seat, and why you should never—ever—squat to pee in the Amazon River. My, won't dinnertime conversation be fun at your house!

Now that you've been warned, let's get gross! Oh, and look for me on the pages where you want some nasty bonus knowledge. Until then, I gotta roll!



STEP 1: LIMBER UP!

How to Get the Most From *That's GROSS!*

QUICK: Wrinkle your nose, furrow your forehead, and stick out your tongue. Good. Now, do it again. And ... one more time. Psychologists call this puckered expression the “gape face” or “yuck face.” All people make it when they see something repulsive. It’s no coincidence that the yuck face involves the same facial muscles that come into play when you puke. Practice your gape face now, and you might be less likely to upchuck later, like when you get to the part of the book about dining on a snake heart ... while it’s still beating!



STEP 2: CHECK YOUR GROSS GLOSSARY!

This book is full of fancy—and not-too-fancy—terms for foul fluids and other nasty substances. If you're ever stumped about the meaning of a word, flip back to this gross glossary for a repulsive refresher.

BARF: Puke, spew, throw up, toss cookies, upchuck, vomit

BURP: Belch

PASS GAS: Break wind, flatulence, poot, toot

GERM: Microbe

PEE: Number one, urine, wee, whiz

POOP: Bowel movement, doodie, doo-doo, dookie, dung, excrement, fecal matter, feces, number two, poo, scat, stool

SNOT: Boogers, mucus, slime

SPIT: Saliva, spittle



STEP 3: GET READY TO RATE!

It was a disgusting job, but somebody had to do it! Our horrible host, Daryl the Dung Beetle, rated this book's troubling topics in order of grossness. You'll find the results on the Gag Gauge at the end of each chapter. Don't agree with the results? Make your own Gag Gauge and poll your pals!

Bad Breath



BLAAARGH!

Body Odor

Toe Jam

Pimples

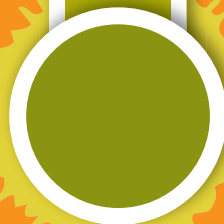
Scabs

Dandruff



SICKENING

UNSETTLING



Welcome to
Your
HAPPY
Place!





It's a Fact!

Feelings of disgust invoke physical responses, including a change in heart rate and a heightened gag reflex. If at any time you feel woozy, nauseated, or just too grossed out while flipping through the book, zip back to this page for an awesome blast of fun overload. Remember, **YOUR HAPPY PLACE** is always here for you. We suggest you bookmark this disgust-free refuge and make frequent rest stops during your grand gross adventure.


CHAPTER 1

Horrible History

A cluster of red splatters, resembling blood or paint, is located below the main title. The splatters vary in size and shape, with some being small dots and others being larger, irregular blotches.



WHAT'S CONSIDERED GROSS today might not have been so repulsive yesterday. Think rotten teeth are repulsive? Try telling that to the 16th-century English ladies who blackened their choppers to imitate their yuck-mouthed queen. And good luck explaining to a medieval lord that it's rude to spit gristle on the dining room floor! History books often leave out the details of horrible hygiene and foul professions. This chapter, however, will convince you there really is no better time than the present.



If some wild-haired scientist ever invites you to explore the past in a time machine, don't forget to pack nose plugs! Bad breath, body odor, and the stench of poo piled willy-nilly all combined to create a funky fog that stunk up the ages. Hold your nose as we make two stops in the putrid past.

HISTORY

Stinks

Ancient Egypt (1500 B.C.)

You can't fault the ancient Egyptians for smelling less than fresh. After toiling in the fields or slaving away on monumental construction sites in the desert heat, they had to brave bathing in the Nile River and its canals, home to hungry crocodiles, ornery hippos, and parasites that flourished in the floating sewage. Only royalty and the rich scrubbed in bathtubs. They used a primitive soap made from a salty substance known as natron—a key ingredient in the mummy-making process!

Typical ancient Egyptian villages had narrow streets splattered with donkey poop and cluttered with garbage. Dogs lifted their legs on doorways, while cats treated each village like a giant litter box. Now add the aroma of human waste piling up in primitive toilets (usually a box of sand placed under a stone seat) and take a whiff at high noon in the desert heat. It's no surprise that villagers burned incense to mask foul smells!



Medieval Europe (A.D. 1300)

You'd likely wrinkle your nose even before crossing the drawbridge of a 13th-century European castle.

Sewage from the garderobes—or bathrooms—floated in the moat. Roaming livestock and the castle stables made the main courtyard smell like a zoo. In the great hall, where the lord and lady ate and entertained, diners fed scraps to begging dogs that did their business under the tables.

The lord and lady traveled with their own bathtubs, but they rarely used them. Queen Elizabeth I boasted that she bathed once a month, “whether she needed it or not.” Knights leaving the battlefield or tournament grounds would have been especially aromatic. Their armor was too cumbersome to accommodate bathroom breaks, so they answered nature’s call from the saddle. Imagine the job of the poor squire who had to scour mud, blood, and doo-doo from his master’s armor using nothing but vinegar-soaked sand!

HISTORIC SCENT STOPPERS

PERFUME: To cover their stench, ancient Egyptians wore wigs scented with sweet-smelling goop and used deodorants mixed from incense, lettuce, fruit, and myrrh.

BATHHOUSES: Two thousand years ago, citizens of the Roman Empire scrubbed daily in elaborate public baths. After the empire’s fall, bathing was beyond the means of most people—and was even considered sinful and unhealthy!

NOSEGAYS: North America’s 18th-century colonists buried their noses in scented kerchiefs to block the sweaty stench of their unwashed neighbors.



A TOILET TIME LINE

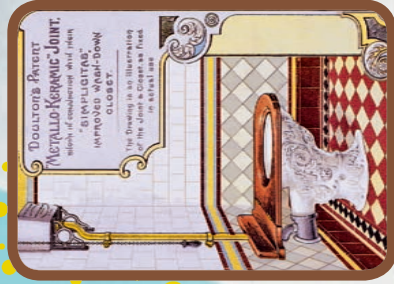
Potty Spotting

WE TRACE THE
EVOLUTION OF
THE BEST SEAT IN
THE HOUSE

3000 B.C.

STONE AGE DRAINAGE

The first in-home toilets are developed 5,000 years ago in Skara Brae, a small settlement on a chilly Scottish island. Holes in each stone hut lead to smelly drains that carry the waste away—if not the poopy smell. Hey, it beats going out in the cold!



A.D. 1596

SIR JOHN'S "JOHN"

Englishman Sir John Harington invents a new type of flushable "water closet" for his home. His powerful godmother—Queen Elizabeth I—installs one in her palace, but Harington's invention goes unnoticed for 200 years, until a Scottish watchmaker named Alexander Cummings invents a pipe that blocks stinky sewer odors.

1700 B.C.

QUEEN'S THRONE

Knossos Palace on the Greek island of Crete is home to history's first-known flush toilet. Built for the queen, it has a wooden seat set over a drain flushed with water poured through earthenware pipes.



A.D. 200

TOILET FOR TEN

Roman citizens do their business side by side on benchlike toilets that empty into an elaborate sewer system. They even share a spongetipped stick for wiping! Toilet technology goes down the drain after the fall of the Roman Empire. For the next 1,700 years, most people poop and pee in "chamber pots" they empty out the window.



FLUSH FORWARD

FUTURISTIC FLUSHING

Japan takes the lead in toilet technology with seats that spray water, eliminating the need for wiping. Later models come with heaters (no more cold seats!) and even make bubbling sounds to disguise any, er... natural noises. Today, Japan reigns as the world's leader in toilet comfort.

A.D. 1200

HOLE IN THE WALL

People living in castles relieve themselves in the garderobe: a hole cut into a stone bench over a shaft that empties into the moat or a latrine pit. Lords and ladies wipe with scratchy hay.



DARYL
THE DUNG BEETLE'S
FOUL FACTS

A SOLID GOLD TOILET on display in Hong Kong is worth roughly \$37 million.

A.D. 1884

CRAPPER'S TOILETS

English plumber Thomas Crapper perfects flushing toilet technology at a time when indoor plumbing becomes more common in Europe and the United States. Crapper's improvements bring toilets into the mainstream. Toilet paper also comes into popular use around this time.



IF YOU CAUGHT A FEVER

in ancient China, your doctor would have prescribed hot earthworm soup. In a medieval castle—where your barber doubled as your surgeon—a typical medical treatment involved being bled to the point of dizziness. European doctors in the 16th century crafted cures from ground-up mummy. It's tough to tell what was worse in the days before modern medicine: getting sick or getting healed. Consider these other nasty treatments prescribed throughout the ages ...

BAID MEDICINE



THE AILMENT: Eye irritation

THE PLACE: ancient Egypt

THE DATE: 2000 B.C.

THE TREATMENT: Sweet-and-sour goop!

Priests applied an ointment of honey mixed with human brains—and maybe a little animal poop—to the eye. Fortunately, the eye makeup fancied by men and women of the time also fought infection.

THE AILMENT: Infected cut

THE PLACE: Europe

THE DATE: A.D. 1550

THE TREATMENT: Maggots!

These writhing white worms—the larval (or baby) form of flies—were crammed into the wound. The maggots munched all the rotten meat, leaving behind healthy tissue.

MAGGOTS!



POISON!



THE AILMENT: Aging

THE PLACE: United States

THE DATE: A.D. 2002–today

THE TREATMENT: Poison!

Men and women unhappy with their wrinkles can seek injections of botulinum—the most potent neurotoxin known to science. (It can cause a lethal food poisoning known as botulism!) Taken in regular “Botox treatments,” this toxin helps smooth away the lines of aging. Unfortunately, Botox can also hinder a person’s ability to form facial expressions.

SKULL DRILLING!

THE AILMENT: Headache

THE PLACE: Peru

THE DATE: 400 B.C.

THE TREATMENT: Skull drilling!

Since ancient times, healers have treated everything from skull fractures to depression by drilling holes in their patients’ skulls—a procedure called trephination. Many patients survived this earliest form of brain surgery. They often wore the skull chip around their necks to drive away evil spirits!



THE AILMENT: Fever

THE PLACE: Europe

THE DATE: A.D. 1810

THE TREATMENT: Leeches!

Believing that bleeding helped drain bad blood and restore proper circulation, doctors attached blood-sucking worms to the sick. As many as a hundred leeches might feed off a patient in one session!



LEECHES!

The ancient Egyptians get all the credit for making mummies, but that's hardly fair to the Chinchorro people of ancient Chile. They figured out how to preserve their dead 2,000 years earlier! Many cultures, in fact, left a legacy of creepy corpses. Disengage your gag reflex and you can learn a lot from these far-flung mummies.



BOG BODY

Meet the MUMMiES

BOG BODIES

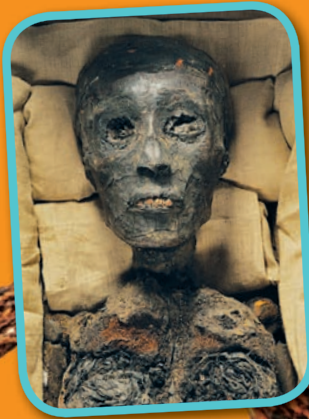
The murky waters of Europe's peat bogs hold a scary secret. For more than 2,000 years, these foggy swamps have been dumping grounds for executed criminals, murder victims, and human sacrifices. The battered bodies undergo a bizarre preservation process once they slip beneath the surface. Plant-based chemicals in this squishy soup turn skin to leather, dye hair orange, and melt bones into mush. What's left is a leathery bag of boneless skin that retains the body's features right down to fingerprints and beard stubble.

What archaeologists learned: Ancient Europeans had style! Archaeologists found gel made from vegetable oil and tree sap in the hair of one 2,000-year-old bog body. The preserved corpse of another man found nearby had manicured fingernails to die for!

organs, peeled off the skin, then put everything back together using sticks and reeds. Undiscovered until 1917, these are the world's oldest man-made mummies. The Chinchorro continued their mummy-making tradition for another 3,000 years.

What archaeologists learned: Many had died from drinking water contaminated with a natural poison.

king was sickly and likely died of infection from a busted leg rather than foul play.



FRIENDLY GHOSTS

Shriveled mummies perch on a cliff face overlooking the jungle village of the Anga people in Papua New Guinea, but the villagers aren't afraid. Instead, they treat these ghastly guardians—the skin-and-bone bodies of respected ancestors—as if they were still among the living. They even involve the mummies in village activities! Mummification has fallen out of fashion in the region, but the Anga chief wants to resume the tradition, starting with his own body. When he dies, his son will cram a bamboo tube into his backside to drain his body's fluids. Next, the chief's body will sit in a smoke-filled hut until his flesh withers like beef jerky. Once dried out and preserved, he will join his ancestors on the cliff wall.

What archaeologists learned: American mummy expert Ronald Beckett got a hands-on lesson in preserving the dead. The Anga tribe invited him to spruce up the tattered bodies of their beloved ancestors.

THE BOY KING

The discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun, aka King Tut, in 1922 ignited a worldwide passion for everything ancient Egypt, but unfortunately the boy king took a beating in the process. Archaeologists cut Tut's 3,300-year-old body into pieces to pry it from the sticky sacred oils that coated the inside of his coffin. Such rough handling inflicted injuries that made it tough to tell what really caused the king's demise. Some archaeologists suspected that he had been murdered!

What archaeologists learned: Recent DNA testing revealed that the teenage

CHINCHORRO PEOPLE OF CHILE

When their people began keeling over from mysterious causes 7,000 years ago, northern Chile's Chinchorro culture disassembled the bodies, yanked out the



HOW TO MAKE A MUMMY

For the people of ancient Egypt, death was just the beginning of an eternal adventure. But gaining entry into the afterlife wasn't as easy as tumbling off a pyramid. The Egyptians believed the spirits of their dearly departed would wither without access to their former bodies, so priests perfected the process of mummification to keep corpses from rotting away. Here's the 4,000-year-old formula in four grisly steps...



Step 1

DRAIN THE BRAIN

The mummy makers carry each corpse to a sacred tent deep in the desert, where the body is washed and laid on a special table. A priest crams an iron hook up the dead person's nose, swirling it like an eggbeater to mash the brain into gooey bits. Considered useless, the liquefied brain is dumped in the trash. Next time you see a scary mummy in a horror movie, remember: It's brainless!



Step 2

ORGANIZE THE ORGANS

Another priest makes a long slice in the body and yanks out all the organs. The liver, stomach, intestines, and lungs are all cleaned, preserved, and sealed in special “canopic jars” carved to look like the gods who guard these organs. The heart—considered crucial equipment for the perilous journey through the underworld—is kept in place.

Step 3

DRYING TIME

Priests pack the body cavity with an Egyptian salt called natron that sops up all the moisture. More natron is piled on top of the corpse, which is left to dry for 40 days. (Less well-to-do Egyptians get the budget treatment, which lasts just a week.) The natron is then scooped away, and the body is filled with spices, rags, and plants so it doesn't look like a deflated flesh balloon.



DARYL THE DUNG BEETLE'S FOUL FACTS

THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS mummified animals as well as people. Archaeologists have discovered mummies of cats, dogs, donkeys, hawks, crocodiles—even lions!

Step 4

THAT'S A WRAP

Priests rub the corpse's skin with oils and resins to soften it. (Modern scientists discovered that these substances repel bacteria that would decompose the body.) Layers of linen, treated with the same oils, are wrapped around the mummy, giving it the famous bandaged look seen in movies. Finally, the priests tuck magical amulets into the wrappings and utter spells to activate their protective powers. The finished mummy is ready for a happy hereafter.



DIRTY WORK

HISTORY'S FIVE NASTIEST CAREERS



Next time you have to change your baby brother's poopy diaper, consider this: At least wiping smelly butts isn't your full-time job! Pity the poor people stuck with these cruel careers.

ODOR TESTER

5 When modern cosmetics and food companies need to know if their products stink, they hire professional smellers to take a whiff. Odor testers stick their noses in a lot of places—from vats of packaged food to stinky armpits while testing deodorant.

GROOM OF THE STOOL

4 How good is it to be the king? Get this: his highness had his own heiney-wiper. It was the groom's number-one mission to cleanse the king after he went number two. As nasty as it sounds, groom of the stool was a highly prized appointment in 16th century England.



LEECH COLLECTOR

3 Healers from the Middle Ages through the 19th century paid handsomely for leeches, but that didn't make the job of gathering these bloodsuckers any less ghastly. Collectors waded through worm-infested waters, using their bare legs as bait. Infection was a common on-the-job hazard.



SEARCHER OF THE DEAD

2 One out of every six Londoners died from the bubonic plague in 1665. Searchers of the dead had the grim job of going door to door and carting away the corpses, risking infection from the "Black Death" at each stop.



GONG FARMER

1 Charged with cleaning the cesspits beneath castle garderobes and 16th century homes in Europe, the gong farmer was a human pooper scooper. The job paid well, but hard-working farmers often found themselves up to their necks in doo-doo. Some even suffocated from the foul fumes!



WHO'S FOR DINNER?



Here's a Hint: It's **NOT** Chicken!

IT'S A SCENE RIGHT OUT OF A SILLY OLD MOVIE: Two inept explorers lose their way in the jungle and suddenly find themselves in hot water—literally! Prodded at spearpoint by fearsome tribal warriors, the confused explorers climb into a cauldron of broth flavored with bobbing carrot slices and minced onion. As the village chief fans the flames beneath the cauldron, the two men come to grips with their horrible fate: They're about to become explorer soup!



This Hollywood predicament is actually rooted in reality. Since prehistoric times, people have eaten people—a worldwide practice known as cannibalism. Cannibals didn't boil their victims alive in cauldrons the size of hot tubs like in the movies. They prepared their prey just like they did any animal-based dish. Victims were skinned and roasted. Bones were split to remove the tasty marrow. Skulls were boiled and cracked like coconuts for their protein-rich brains. Cannibals steamed human flesh in palm leaves, added spongy bits of bone to soups, and simmered fat in stews of beans and corn. Humans and their ancestors have been eating each other for at least 800,000 years, so the recipes for our flesh are likely endless!

While hunger drove our Neanderthal ancestors—along with survivors of air and sea disasters and stranded explorers—to nibble on one another, other cases of cannibalism arose for all kinds of cultural reasons. The ancient Xiximes of northern Mexico believed that devouring their enemies would guarantee a bountiful harvest. Hunters of many cultures munched on morsels of their dearly departed to absorb their stalking skills. Warriors of the fierce Maori culture in New Zealand would eat fallen foes as a sort of ultimate insult. (What could be more disrespectful, after all, than turning your enemy into dinner?)

Which really only leaves one question: Are humans really that delicious? According to research, people meat has a flavor similar to pork. Now there's a fun fact you can share at your next barbecue.



DARYL THE DUNG BEETLE'S FOUL FACTS

UP UNTIL 2006, wannabe cannibals could have sampled Hufu, a **TOFU-BASED NOVELTY FOOD** with the texture and flavor of human flesh.

HOW THEY SHRANK HEADS!

Of all the world's head-hunting tribes, only the Jivaro clan of Peru and Ecuador shrank their prizes to a convenient souvenir size! Here's how they minimized noggins...

STEP 1 Hack off the victim's head in battle.

STEP 2 Slit the skin of the head from the back of the neck to the crown. Yank it off the skull, hair and all, like a rubber mask.

STEP 3 Sew up the slit in the skin, along with the mouth and eye holes. Dip the entire sticky mess into vegetable extract to stave off smelly rot.

STEP 4 Fill the head with hot sand or rocks and rotate it so it dries evenly. Replace the sand once it cools. Within a few days, the head will have shrunk to the size of a fist. Ta-da! The world's most horrible keychain is ready!



Roman Feast vs.

A THOUSAND YEARS separate the toga-clad citizens of the Roman Empire from the lords and ladies of medieval Europe, but the powerful people of both periods had one thing in common: They knew how to party! Kings and their barons dined with knights and nobles in rowdy castle halls. Roman aristocrats practically filled their bellies to bursting at frequent festivals—and then made room for more. Who had the fouler feast? Here's a hint: Only one group partied till they puked.

↓ The SETTING

Ancient Rome: There was nothing nasty about the posh villas where well-to-do Romans wined and dined. Revelers reclined on comfy couches around a table piled with exotic dishes, while slaves on the sidelines saw to every guest's whim. And because Roman citizens scrubbed in bathhouses, everyone at the table could actually smell their food—not just each other's armpit odor.

Medieval castle: In the great hall, diners sat at long tables while servers carried mounds of food from the kitchens. Begging dogs wandered the hall and lifted their legs on the benches. Animal poop and food scraps littered the floor, attracting bugs and rodents. Instead of sweeping it up, servants scattered leaves and dried flowers over the whole mess, giving the great hall a not-so-great aroma.

→ The TABLE MANNERS

Ancient Rome: Diners were expected to lie on their sides facing the table, with one hand propping up their heads.

They used the fingers of their other hand to eat. It was considered impolite to use the ring and pinky fingers.

Medieval castle: The lord, lady, and their guests often drank from the same cup and dug into shared dishes with greasy hands (forks hadn't been



Medieval Banquet



The MOST GROSS

ROMAN FEAST!

Romans may have had finer foods and better hygiene, but just think about the poor slaves who had to mop up all the throw-up left on the floor after each feast!

Medieval castle:

Belching was considered perfectly appropriate at the lord's table, as long as diners didn't burp directly at their neighbors.

Ancient Rome:

Romans were infamous for feasting until they could feast no more—and then spewing on the floor to make room for seconds, and thirds, and fifths.

↑ The BODILY FUNCTIONS

Medieval castle:

For extra-special occasions, the cooks prepared peacocks sautéed in their feathers, roasted porpoise, or fried stork, all washed down with wine and a low-alcoholic beverage called small beer—even the children drank it!

→ The DELICACIES

invented). Spitting bones and gristle on the table was a no-no; spitting on the floor was A-OK! Don't try that at home.

Ancient Rome: Ancient Romans were big fans of dormouse, a ratty rodent they raised just for eating. A typical dormouse dish called for pork stuffing

and a honey glaze. Snails were another delicacy. Every meal was accompanied with lots of watered-down wine.



→ FIRST PERSON TO WHIZ ON THE MOON!

Date: July 20, 1969

Original moonwalker Neil Armstrong may have made history with his “one small step for man,” but his fellow Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin was the first person to take one giant leak for mankind. Aldrin did his business into a special pee bag built into his space suit while bounding across the lunar surface.



History's Worst Firsts

→ FIRST MAN MUMMIFIED BY MOTHER NATURE!

Date: 3300 B.C.

Despite his shriveled, see-through skin and rotted facial features, Ötzi the Iceman actually looks great for his age. His body is 5,300 years old! Preserved by the cold, dry climate of the Alpine region where he was discovered in 1991, Ötzi is the world's oldest natural mummy. Scientists studying his tattooed body discovered that he was murdered by an arrow to the back. The identity and motives of his Copper Age killer, however, are lost to the mists of time.



FIRST PERSON TO CAN HIS POOP!

Date: May 1961

When he filled 90 tins with his own feces, Italian artist Piero Manzoni planned to sell each can for its weight in gold.

Thirty years later, one can sold at auction for nearly \$70,000!

Art collectors debate whether Manzoni truly pooped in his cans or just filled them with worthless plaster, but no one has broken out a can opener to find out.



FIRST FAMOUS PROFESSIONAL TOOTER!

Date: 1887

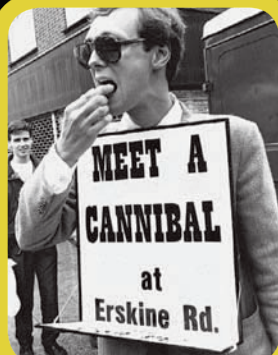
Tooting is art for the flatulist, a type of entertainer who passes gas on command. The most famous of all was Joseph Pujol. This 19th-century French "fartomaniac" entertained royalty with his tooting abilities, which included imitating thunderstorms and "playing the flute." Here's hoping no one tried playing that flute the normal way after one of Pujol's performances.



FIRST PERSON TO EAT PEOPLE AS ART!

Date: July 19, 1988

Rick Gibson—an artist with an appetite for the outrageous—was far from repulsed when a pal gave him a bottle of preserved human tonsils. Instead, he decided to devour the meatball-size organs on a London sidewalk, becoming the first street-corner cannibal in British history.



SQUEAKY CLEAN

According to one study, today's kids on average bathe **EVERY DAY** of the week.



STINKY QUEEN

Queen Isabella of Castile claimed she only bathed **TWICE** in her life. Fortunately for her husband, one of those times was right before her wedding.



LIFE EXPECTANCY THROUGH THE AGES

Stone Age (10,000 B.C.): 20 years
Ancient Greece (500 B.C.): 28 years
Medieval Europe (A.D. 1200): 31 years
Today: 78 years



WARNING!

**THIS BOOK MAY CAUSE
CRINGING, SQUIRMING,
GASPING, AND OUTRIGHT DISGUST.**

(READ AT YOUR OWN RISK.)

DO YOU THINK WORMS ARE WONDERFUL? COCKROACHES ARE COOL? BURPS ARE A GAS? Then you've picked up the right book. Welcome to *That's Gross!*, where we've brought together the slimiest, smelliest, and stickiest topics imaginable and packaged them in this handy guide. Want to learn about the nasty side of nature? Flip to chapter 3. Your abominable body? Chapter 2's got you covered. Food that will make you lose your lunch? Check out chapter 6 (caution: sweetbreads are not a delicious pastry dessert). With Daryl the dung beetle as your charming host, you'll read thousands of foul facts, buckets of icky information, and a smattering of sickening sidebars that are guaranteed to make your stomach churn. The best part is, you're actually learning something . . . so your parents might just let you get away with it!



PHOTO CREDITS

Cover: (tarsier), Alain Compost/Biosphoto; (skunk), Tom Brakefield/Gi; (cockroach), Redmond Durrell/AY; (sneeze), Peter Cade/Gi; (bird), Genevieve Vallee/AY; (rat), Andaluia Plus Image bank/AY; (woman), Chip Simons/Gi; (bird waste), Dmitrijs Bindemanis/SS.

Back Cover: (Daryl the dung beetle), Clayton Hammer; (cockroaches), Redmond Durrell/AY

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