



## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

In 1940, the instruction booklet that went along with the United States' standard 1040 income tax form was two pages long. For the 2012 tax year, it was 100 pages long.

Think you give a lot to Uncle Sam today? Just be thankful you weren't paying income tax in 1945, when the country's top earners doled 94 percent of their salaries over to the government, mostly to recoup costs incurred from the war effort.

When the modern incarnation of U.S. income tax was introduced in 1913, the word "lawful" was included in the text, referring to the kind of revenue that could be taxed. With the loose definitions of that term under question, the government deleted the word in a 1916 amendment. As a result, many bootleggers and criminals who had previously evaded the law were jailed on tax evasion.

Income tax, along with many other taxes imposed during the Civil War, was repealed after 1865 because the government simply had no need for the extra revenue. The majority of federal income came from taxes on tobacco and alcohol, which were hot commodities at war's end.

The Gettysburg address is 269 words, the Declaration of Independence is 1,337 words, and the Bible is 773,000 words. However, the tax law has grown from 11,400 words in 1913, to over 7 million words today.

The IRS sends out 8 billion pages of forms and instructions each year. Laid end to end, they would stretch 28 times around the earth. 300,000 trees need to be cut down every year to produce enough paper for all IRS forms and instructions.

American taxpayers spend \$200 billion and 5.4 billion hours of their time to comply with the federal tax laws each year. That's more than it takes to produce every car, truck, and van in the United States.

