

## Cleveland Fun & Interesting Facts

- **History:**

- Cleveland was founded by General Moses Cleaveland (yes, that spelling is correct). As the story goes, the name was reduced to "Cleveland" when the local newspaper discovered the name was one character too long for its masthead.
- The Cleveland Arcade opened in 1890 and is widely considered the first indoor shopping complex in America.
- Cleveland's nickname is The Forest City. The inspiration for the name is a reference to Cleveland, describing a highly sophisticated society amid a heavily forested environment, in Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, which contains the Frenchman's observations of the United States in the 1830s.
- The Cuyahoga River, which runs through Cleveland, is known as "The River that Caught Fire." The river has caught fire on 13 different occasions.

- **Music:**

- The Cleveland Orchestra is frequently cited among the best classical orchestras in the world.
- Alan Freed, a radio DJ for WJW Cleveland in the 1950s, was the first to promote a new kind of music under the name "rock and roll," and he put together the first rock concert, called the Moondog Coronation Ball.
- Eric Singer, known as "The Catman" from the rock band Kiss, is from Cleveland.
- Michael Stanley, rock n' roll singer/songwriter, is from Cleveland.

- **The Arts:**

- Cleveland's Playhouse Square Center is the second largest performing arts venue in the United States, after the Big Apple. Cleveland's Playhouse Square has the world's largest permanent crystal chandelier. The chandelier itself is 20 feet in height, adorned with more than 4,200 crystals, and is suspended from a 44-foot high steel structure. The chandelier graces the intersection of East 14th Street and Euclid Avenue.
- Comic writer Jerry Siegel and artist Joe Shuster first came up with their iconic superhero creation, Superman, in 1933, while attending a high school in Cleveland.
- The world's largest rubber stamp, the "Free Stamp," has a home in Cleveland's Willard Park. It was created for the Standard Oil Company.
- Bill Watterson, creator of Calvin and Hobbes, started drawing his iconic doodles while attending high school near Cleveland.
- Tom Batiuk, comic strip creator of "Funky Winkerbean," is from Cleveland.

- **Film:**

- Many films have been shot in Cleveland, including: "The Fortune Cookie" (1966), "A Christmas Story" (1983), "Major League" (1989), "Happy Gilmore" (1996), "Air Force One" (1997), "Marvel's The Avengers" (2012), "Draft Day" (2014), "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" (2014), "White Boy Rick" (2018).
- Famous actors from Cleveland include: Jim Backus ("Rebel Without a Cause," "Gilligan's Island"), Drew Carey ("The Drew Carey Show," "The Price is Right"), Phil Donahue ("The Phil Donahue Show"), Kathryn Hahn ("Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy"), Arsenio Hall ("The Arsenio Hall Show"), Margaret Hamilton ("The Wizard of Oz"), Patricia Heaton ("Everybody Loves Raymond"), Bob Hope ("Road"),

Terrence Howard (“Iron Man,” “Empire”), Paul Newman (“The Color of Money”), James Pickens Jr. (“Grey’s Anatomy”).

- **Food:**

- Clarence A. Crane wanted to solve the ever-troubling problem of candy melting. He used a machine that pharmacists use to make round flat pills, punched a hole in the center of the candy concoction and called it a Life Saver.
- Michael Symon, chef, restaurateur and TV personality, got his humble beginnings growing up in Cleveland.
- Before Chef Boyardee went global, Italian chef Ettore Boiardi moved to Cleveland and opened a restaurant here called Giardino d'Italia, in 1924. People began asking for the spaghetti sauce recipe. The rest is history.
- Cleveland is known for its “Polish Boy” sandwich. What is it? A messy marriage of kielbasa, coleslaw, French fries, and barbecue sauce.
- Cleveland’s famous Bertman Original Ball Park Mustard has deep roots in Cleveland. It has been used in Cleveland sports stadiums for over 90 years.

- **Inventions:**

- Cleveland was the first city to be lit electrically in 1879. It was also the first city to use an electric traffic signal in 1914.
- Charles Brush debuted the very first electric rail streetcar in Cleveland, forever changing public transportation in major cities.
- Garrett A. Morgan invented the modern gas mask in 1916. It came just in time for World War I, as chemical weapons were beginning to be used. All sides of the conflict borrowed the technology, even though the masks were originally designed to rescue trapped miners.

- **Sports:**

- Jesse Owens, who won four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics, was from Cleveland.
- In 1898, Coburn Haskell, a Clevelander and avid golfer, inadvertently came up with the wound rubber design of modern golf balls.
- Cleveland sports' losing streak started early, with the 1899 Major League Baseball team called the Spiders. They had 20 wins and 134 losses.
- The Cleveland Browns have never played in a Super Bowl, but have 8 All-America Football Conference titles.

- **Of note:**

- James A. Garfield, 20<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, is buried in Lakeview Cemetery (just a few blocks away from Cleveland Clinic), as is John D. Rockefeller.
- The Terminal Tower, standing 708 feet tall in downtown Cleveland, was the second-tallest building in the world upon completion in 1930.
- Cleveland is known as the Emerald Necklace because of its extensive system of nature preserves. Eighteen reservations span more than 23,000 acres and offer more than 300 miles of trails, eight golf courses, eight lakefront parks and a nationally-acclaimed zoo.
- The West Side Market has been in existence since November 2, 1912. It is Cleveland’s oldest continuously operating, municipally owned market. The grand structure has a 44-foot high vaulted Guastavino tile ceiling and a clock tower, which stands 137 feet tall. The tower was historically fashioned with a clock designed and manufactured by the Seth Thomas Clock Company. Originally, there were 109 stands inside the market, selling meats, dairy products, bread, groceries and ethnic specialty foods. Produce was sold from curb stands until the outdoor produce aisles were erected a few years later. In 2008, the West Side Market was designated as one of “10 Great Public Places in

America,” by the American Planning Association and continues to offer an authentic and culturally diverse shopping experience.

- The NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland designs and develops innovative technology to advance NASA's missions in aeronautics and space exploration. Glenn's main campus, Lewis Field, has world-class facilities including wind tunnels, drop towers, vacuum chambers and a research aircraft hangar. One of ten NASA centers, Glenn's work is essential to the agency and integral to the regional economy.
- American Greetings and Sherwin-Williams have its headquarters in Cleveland.
- Cleveland is home to the world's largest indoor Ferris wheel, built in 1985. It stands more than 120 feet high.
- Lake Erie is the most biologically productive of the Great Lakes and considered one of the best hotspots to reel in walleye, which helps explain why Cleveland streets smell like fish sometimes. Lake Erie also is the warmest and shallowest of the Great Lakes.

## Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

- In 1983, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Foundation was formed to create the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Many cities wanted the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, such as New York, San Francisco, Memphis and Chicago. More than 600,000 people signed a petition asking that the museum be located in Cleveland. In addition to the enormous fan support, Cleveland was the home of Alan Freed, who is credited with coining the term "Rock & Roll." The museum opened in Cleveland on September 2, 1995.
- People are inducted into the Hall of Fame in one of four categories: Performers, Non-Performers, Early Influences and Side-men. To be inducted into the Hall of Fame, a person must be affiliated in some way with rock and roll. He or she does not have to be a singer or a musician. If the person is a performer, he or she is not eligible for induction until 25 years after his or her first album was released.
- The first inductees into the Hall of Fame were Alan Freed, Chuck Berry, James Brown, the Everly Brothers, Ray Charles, Sam Cooke, Fats Domino, John Hammond, Buddy Holly, Robert Johnson, Jerry Lee Lewis, Sam Phillips, Elvis Presley, Little Richard, Jimmy Rodgers and Jimmy Yancey.
- The 2019 call of inductees include: the Cure, Janet Jackson, Def Leppard, Stevie Nicks, Radiohead, Roxy Music and the Zombies.
- Designed by internationally renowned architect I.M. Pei, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame is one of Cleveland's most striking and recognizable pieces of architecture. The 150,000-square-foot building has a glass-enclosed, double pyramid adjacent to a 162-foot tower, both of which soar above the shores of Lake Erie. Upside-down cars from U2's Zoo TV tour greet visitors in the sun-filled lobby atrium, which often hosts concerts and other special events, while a nosh-worthy café and the museum store offer plenty of dining and shopping options.
- The Rock Hall's exhibition space stretches over 55,000 square feet and seven levels, and features plenty of nooks and crannies filled with multimedia goodies to explore.
- There are seven levels in the building. The lower level is the museum's main gallery. It includes exhibits on the roots of rock and roll (gospel, blues, rhythm & blues, folk, country and bluegrass). It also features exhibits on cities that have had a major impact on rock and roll: Memphis, Detroit, London, Liverpool, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and Seattle. There are exhibits about soul music, the Fifties, Sun Records, Atlantic Records, hip hop music, Cleveland's rock and roll legacy, the music of the Midwest, rock and roll radio and dee-jays, and the many protests against rock and roll. This gallery also has exhibits that focus on individual artists, including the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix and others. It also includes two theaters, one of which features a film about the roots of rock and roll and one that features films on various subjects.

- The first floor of the museum is the entrance level. It includes a cafe, a stage that the museum uses for various special performances and events throughout the year, and a section called "Backstage Stories." The second floor includes several interactive kiosks that feature programs on one-hit wonders and the "Songs That Shaped Rock and Roll." This level also includes a gallery with artifact-filled exhibits about Les Paul, Alan Freed, Sam Phillips and the evolution of audio technology. Visitors enter the Hall of Fame section of the museum on the third floor. This section includes "The Power of Rock Experience," which includes one of Jonathan Demme's final works, a film shown in the Connor Theater. The film includes musical highlights from some of the hall's induction ceremonies. Visitors exit the Hall of Fame section on the fourth floor. That level features the Foster Theater, a state-of-the-art 3-D theater that is used for special events and programs. Finally, the top two levels of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame feature large, temporary exhibits. Over the years, numerous exhibits have been installed on these two levels, including exhibits about Elvis Presley, hip-hop, the Supremes, the Who, U2, John Lennon, the Clash, Bruce Springsteen, Women Who Rock, and the Rolling Stones.

### Cleveland by the Numbers

- Cleveland is located in northeastern Ohio on the southern shore of Lake Erie, about 60 miles west of the Pennsylvania border.
- At the 2010 census, Cleveland had a population of 396,000.
- The city proper has a population density of 5,107 people per square mile.
- The Greater Cleveland metro area is the 28th largest metropolitan statistical area in the U.S., with a population of just over 2 million.
- Cleveland is the second most populated city in the state of Ohio.
- Cleveland is home to several small communities of Slovaks, Slovenians, French, Hungarians, Poles, Arabs, Dutch, Czechs, Ukrainians, Scots, Russians, Scotch Irish, Croats, Puerto Ricans, West Indians, Romanians, Greeks and Lithuanians. At one time, Cleveland had the highest number of Hungarians outside of Budapest.

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