



Global Commitment to Children: November 20, 1989

On November 20, 1989, the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), a landmark international treaty aimed at protecting the rights and well-being of children worldwide. The convention sets out fundamental rights, including access to education, healthcare, protection from exploitation, and the right to express opinions. It emphasizes the principle of the best interests of the child in all decisions affecting them. Widely ratified by countries around the world, the CRC has become a cornerstone of child welfare, shaping policies, legislation, and global awareness to ensure every child grows up safe, healthy, and empowered.

## #THEORY

# "Every U.S. President is related to King John of England"

Are All U.S. Presidents Related to a Single King? The Myth and the Meaning Behind the Viral Claim



In the realm of viral facts and internet curiosities, few claims are as sensational, and as persistent, as this one: "Every U.S. President is related to a single British monarch: King John of England." This theory has been featured in social media posts, documentaries, and even school projects. The idea that all American presidents, from George Washington to Joe Biden, share bloodlines with a 12th-century English king both surprises and unsettles people. If true, it suggests that leadership, even in a democracy, could be less about elections and more about elite lineage.

### The Origin of the Theory: King John and the Genealogy Web

The theory largely centers on King John of England (1166-1216), infamous as the tyrant who was forced to sign the Magna Carta in 1215. Often portrayed as the villain in the Robin Hood legends, King John ruled at a time when royal bloodlines were meticulously documented, something that allows modern genealogists to trace lineage with surprising detail. In 1996, a 12-year-old student named BridgeAnne d'Avignon went viral for her genealogy project claiming that 43 of 44 presidents (at the



## The Mystery of Lost Mastery

Roman concrete, known as opus caementicium, was used to construct architectural marvels such as the Pantheon, Colosseum, and the aqueducts that still stand today. Unlike modern concrete, Roman concrete was incredibly durable, with some structures surviving for over 2,000 years. Researchers have discovered that the secret to its strength lies in the inclusion of volcanic ash and lime, which helped the concrete set underwater.

● Bulbul Joshi

Throughout history, humans have crafted remarkable inventions that shaped civilizations and revolutionized technology. However, some of these ancient creations have remained shrouded in mystery, with their secrets lost to time. Despite our advanced technologies, there are several inventions from antiquity that modern scientists and engineers have yet to replicate. From Damascus steel to the Library of Alexandria's cataloging system, these ancient wonders showcase human ingenuity and raise questions about why some advanced technologies were lost.

### 1. Damascus Steel

One of the most legendary materials in history, Damascus steel was used in the creation of swords and armor in the Middle East, particularly during the 6th to 17th centuries. Known for its strength, flexibility, and ability to be sharpened to an incredibly fine edge, Damascus steel featured distinctive patterned surfaces. Despite efforts, modern metallurgists have struggled to recreate the exact properties of this ancient steel, which is believed to have been forged using unique methods and materials that are no longer known.

The precise process of creating Damascus steel was lost around the 18th century. Today, while modern steel-making techniques have advanced, the specific combination of carbon content, crucible steel, and forging methods used in the ancient recipe remains elusive.

### Is It True? Yes... and No.

There's a kernel of truth in the claim. Due to the way genealogy works, millions of people today, particularly those of European descent, can trace some part of their lineage back to medieval royalty. This phenomenon is known as "pedigree collapse," as you go back generations, your number of ancestors increases exponentially, but since people married within similar regions and communities, lines eventually overlap.

So, it's not that hard to trace distant ancestral connections between U.S. presidents and European monarchs like King John. Some presidents have more direct royal ties (such as Franklin D. Roosevelt and George H. W. Bush), while others are connected through very distant cousins, sometimes dozens of generations removed. But saying every U.S. president is "related to a king" implies a level of direct influence or control that doesn't exist. These are distant, often meaningless genetic links, not evidence of a secret royal blueprint controlling American democracy.

## #INVENTIONS



Stradivari Violins

could be ignited and thrown onto enemy ships, even floating on water. The composition of Greek Fire is still unknown, though it was likely a mixture of petroleum-based substances, resins, and quicklime. Its use as a potent flame weapon made it a terrifying secret that the Byzantines guarded fiercely.

Despite numerous theories and modern attempts to recreate the substance, Greek Fire's exact chemical formula was lost with the fall of Constantinople in the 15th century. No modern scientist has yet been able to replicate its effects reliably.

### 3. Roman Concrete

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Roman Concrete

years. Researchers have discovered that the secret to its strength lies in the inclusion of volcanic ash and lime, which helped the concrete set underwater.

Modern concrete, while effective, does not match the Roman version in terms of longevity and environmental resilience. Scientists are still working to fully decode the specific formulation and techniques used by the Romans, but some aspects of the recipe remain lost.

### 4. Stradivari Violins

The violins, crafted by Antonio Stradivari in the 17th and 18th centuries, are considered the finest in the world. Their distinctive tone and sound quality have been the subject of intense research for centuries, with modern violin makers

unable to match the perfect craftsmanship of Stradivari violins. The materials, methods, and varnish applied may have contributed to the extraordinary acoustics. Despite sophisticated analysis and attempts to replicate his methods, no violin created in modern times has been able to achieve the same resonance and tonal clarity that Stradivari violins produce.

### 5. Antikythera Mechanism

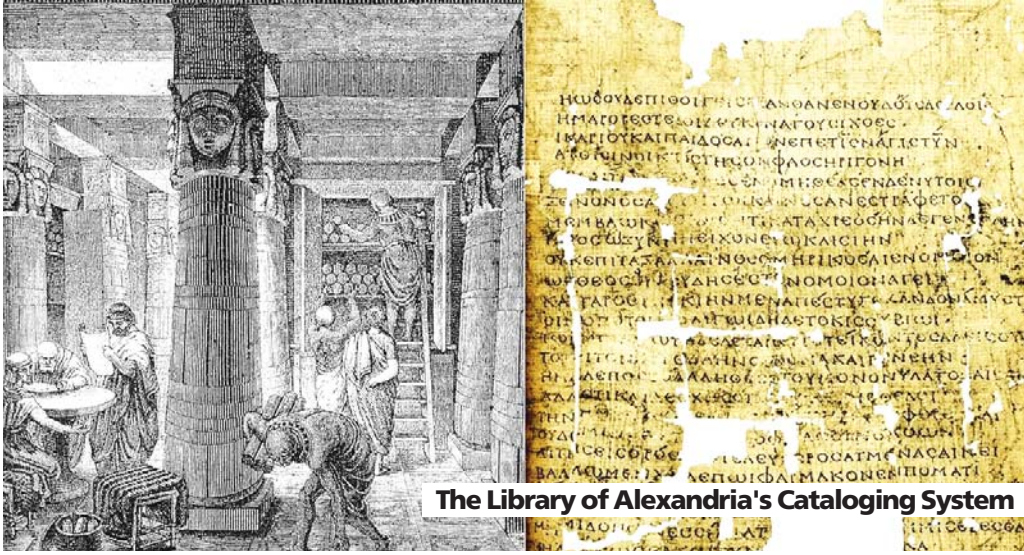
Discovered in a shipwreck off the coast of the Greek island Antikythera, the Antikythera Mechanism is an ancient analog computer that dates back to around 100 BCE. It was used to predict

astronomical positions, eclipses, and other celestial events. Comprised of gears and cogs, the mechanism's complexity was unmatched in the ancient world and remained unparalleled until the development of similar mechanical devices in the 14th century.

Despite extensive research, modern scientists have not been able to replicate the exact functionality or understand the full scope of its engineering, particularly given its advanced gear ratios and the precision with which the device was constructed.

### 6. Mayan Blue Pigment

The Mayan Blue pigment, used in art and architecture by the ancient Maya civilization, is a vibrant blue color that was resistant to degrada-



The Library of Alexandria's Cataloging System

tion over time. The exact chemical composition of Mayan Blue, which combines indigo with palygorskite clay, was not fully understood until modern scientists studied it. However, even with this knowledge, replicating the molecular structure and long-lasting stability of Mayan Blue remains difficult.

The pigment's unique properties, which include heat resistance and color stability, have not been successfully recreated with modern synthetic materials, leaving it one of the ancient world's most mysterious colorants.

### 7. Wootz Steel

Wootz steel was a form of crucible steel produced in ancient India, known for its superior quality and the stunning patterned surface that often resembled Damascus steel. The process of making Wootz steel was highly advanced for its time, and it was highly prized by civiliza-



Damascus Steel

tions across the world, particularly for its use in weaponry. The steel's high carbon content and unique properties, such as sharpness and resilience, made it stand out.

Despite modern advancements in metallurgy, the exact methods of producing Wootz steel were lost over time. The specific process of high-temperature forging and controlling carbon content in ancient furnaces cannot be fully replicated today.

### 8. The Library of Alexandria's Cataloging System

The Library of Alexandria, one of the largest and most significant libraries of the ancient world, housed a vast collection of texts from across the known world. It is said that the library's cataloging system was highly sophisticated, with scrolls and manuscripts organized according to a system of classification and cross-referencing that may have been similar to modern libraries.

Unfortunately, the destruction of the Library of Alexandria and its records led to the loss of this remarkable cataloging system. While modern libraries have developed systems like the Dewey Decimal System and Library of Congress classification, the ancient methods of organizing knowledge in Alexandria remain a mystery.

### Lost Mastery of Ancient Technologies

The inventions and discoveries of the ancient world showcase human ingenuity and creativity at their peak. While many of these innovations, such as Damascus steel and Greek Fire, were highly advanced for their time, the secrets behind them have been lost to history. Modern technology and research continue to explore and attempt to recreate these lost marvels, but some mysteries may never be fully solved.

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## #DISCOVERED

# The Venezuelan Poodle Moth

This insect is unlike any other moth species, thanks to its almost poodle-like appearance

In 2009, the world was introduced to one of the most peculiar and captivating creatures to ever be documented in the insect world, the Venezuelan poodle moth. This extraordinary moth, discovered in the remote cloud forests of Venezuela, is unlike any other moth species, thanks to its almost poodle-like appearance. With a fluffy, curly body, large eyes, and soft, feathery wings, the Venezuelan poodle moth quickly captured the imagination of people worldwide.

### Discovery and Habitat

The Venezuelan poodle moth was first discovered in 2009 by a team of scientists led by Dr. Gustavo L. P. Londoño, who was conducting research in the Serranía de la Neblina, a mountainous region near the border of Venezuela and Brazil. This area, which lies at an altitude of around 2,500 meters (8,200 feet), is part of the remote and biologically rich cloud forests of the region. It's a habitat known for its unique biodiversity, which made it an ideal location for the moth's discovery.

The moth was found in a high-altitude cloud forest that is difficult to access, and as a result, it had evaded scientific discovery for a long time. Dr. Londoño's team was able to capture the moth and document its appearance, which led to its eventual classification as a new species of moth.

### Physical Appearance

What makes the Venezuelan poodle moth so unique is its distinct, almost comical appearance. It has a fluffy, fur-covered body that closely resembles the curly hair of a poodle dog. Its large, expressive eyes and feathery antennae contribute to its striking look, making it seem almost otherworldly. The moth's wings are covered with fine hair, giving them a soft, puffy texture that contrasts sharply with the typical sleek wings of most moths.

The moth's coloration is generally light, with shades of brown and cream, which helps



it blend into its natural environment. However, the fluff on its wings and the furry coat create a texture that makes it look more like a plush toy than a living creature. This unusual appearance has earned the Venezuelan poodle moth widespread attention, especially on social media, where its photos have been shared globally.

### Ecology and Behaviour

Not much is known about the moth's behaviour as its discovery was relatively recent, and it is a nocturnal species, making it difficult to observe in its natural habitat. However, scientists

speculate that, like other moths, it likely feeds on the nectar of night-blooming flowers and plays a role in local pollination.

Its fluffy appearance likely serves an important survival function, such as providing camouflage or protection against the colder temperatures found in high-altitude environments. The Venezuelan poodle moth's ability to thrive in the dense, humid cloud forests is also an indicator of its adaptability to specialized ecosystems.

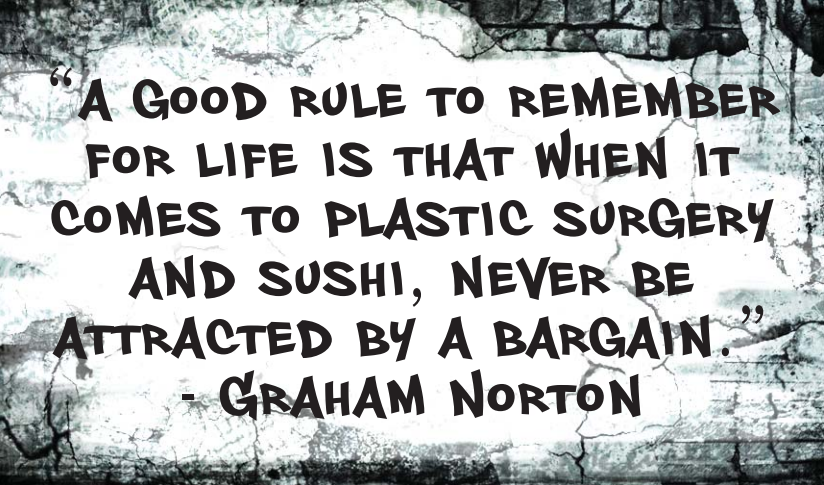
### Conservation and Importance

The discovery of the Venezuelan poodle moth highlights the importance of preserving the cloud forests of Venezuela and other regions with rich biodiversity. These habitats are often threatened by deforestation and climate change, and many unique species, like the poodle moth, remain vulnerable to extinction without proper conservation efforts.

Though the Venezuelan poodle moth is not currently considered endangered, the discovery of such rare creatures underscores the necessity of protecting remote ecosystems that are still teeming with unknown species.



## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman