Interesting Canada – USA Facts

Compiled by Rick Astley

Geography

Canada has the longest coastline in the world with 125,567 miles (202,080 km).

California is the closest state to Hawaii, but Hawaii is the furthest state from California.

Palm trees grow in parts of northern England at 55° N, but at the same latitude in parts of Canada, there are polar bears.

Detroit is farther east (83° W) than Atlanta (84.4° W).

More than half of all the lakes in the world are located in Canada, where are more than 3 million.

Canadians in St. John's Newfoundland live closer to Brits in London, England (2,365 miles, 3806 km) than they do to their fellow countrymen in Vancouver, BC (2,744 miles, 4,416 km) away.

Border

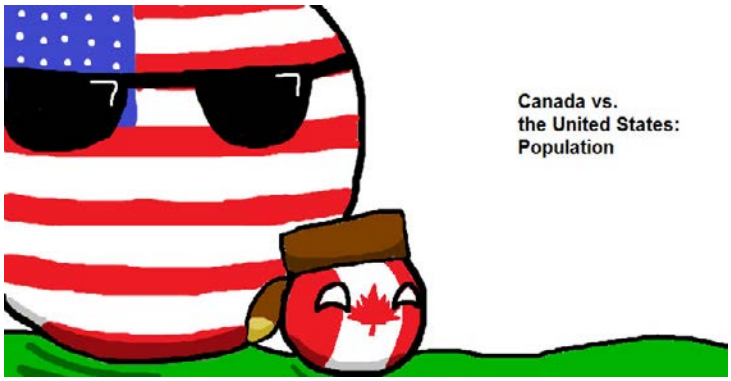
The USA/Canada border is the longest undefended border in the world.

Most of the length of the border passes between forested areas. In order to aid border monitoring, there is a vacant 20' (6 m) gap cut in the forest along the border. The gap is 5,500 miles (8,850 km) long and is considered the longest deforested straight line in the world according to the Guinness World Records.

The Ambassador Bridge between Detroit and Windsor is the busiest international border crossing in North America based on trade volume. The amount of trade that passes across it daily is almost $500 million.

There are 119 legal land border crossings between the United States and Canada. Of those, there are two that are one-way crossings only. Churubusco, NY provides a port of entry only from Canada to the USA. Conversely, there is a one direction crossing into Canada from Fort Fairfield, ME to Four Falls, NB.

Population



Despite Canada being known as the USA's "neighbor to the north," the majority of Canadians live south of Seattle.

90% of Canadians live within 100 miles (160 km) of the US border, but only 12% of US residents live within 100 miles (160 km) of the Canadian border.

The population of California is greater than that of Canada.

Language

The United States has no official language.
Although there are no laws stating that English is the official language at the federal level, 31 states have their own laws proclaiming it as the official language on the state level.
Hawaii recognized Hawaiian Pidgin English as an official language in 2015. Since then, South Dakota made Sioux an official language and Alaska added more than 20 indigenous languages.

Canada two official languages, English and French.
French is the sole official language of the province of Quebec.
In the Northwest Territories of Canada, along with the two official languages, there are nine other official languages.

It's a common stereotype that Canadians can be polite to a fault, embodied by overuse of the term "sorry," often regarded as a national catchphrase on par with "eh." But this caricature has such a strong basis in truth that several provinces have passed laws to accommodate Canadians' indiscriminate apologizing. These "apology acts" stipulate that expressions of regret and condolences are not self-incriminating, meaning Canadians can say "sorry" without it being viewed in court as an admission of guilt. However, don't try that in the USA after being pulled over for speeding or involved in a fender-bender, where "sorry" means, "It was my fault".

The United States has more Spanish speakers than Spain.

Food

The first soda — or "pop" — made in the USA was Michigan's Vernor's Ginger Ale in 1866.

Hawaii isn't the home of Hawaiian pizza. This pizza, topped with ham and pineapple, reportedly originated in 1962 at the Satellite Restaurant, in Chatham, Ontario (within the WDMGC membership area). It is now the most popular pizza in Australia.

Over 10 billion donuts are consumed in the USA every year, but per capita Canada consumes the most at 1 billion per year, and has the most doughnut shops per capita of any country in the world.

Blame it on wings and beer? More people call in sick after the Super Bowl than any other day of the year.

Canada produces 71% of the world's maple syrup with 91% produced in Quebec and the price per barrel is many times higher than that for oil.

In the USA, 20% of all meals are eaten in the car and at least 1 in 4 people eat some type of fast food every day.

Quebecers love wet fries, well at least they love poutine, a meal of squeaky cheese curds, french fries and gravy.