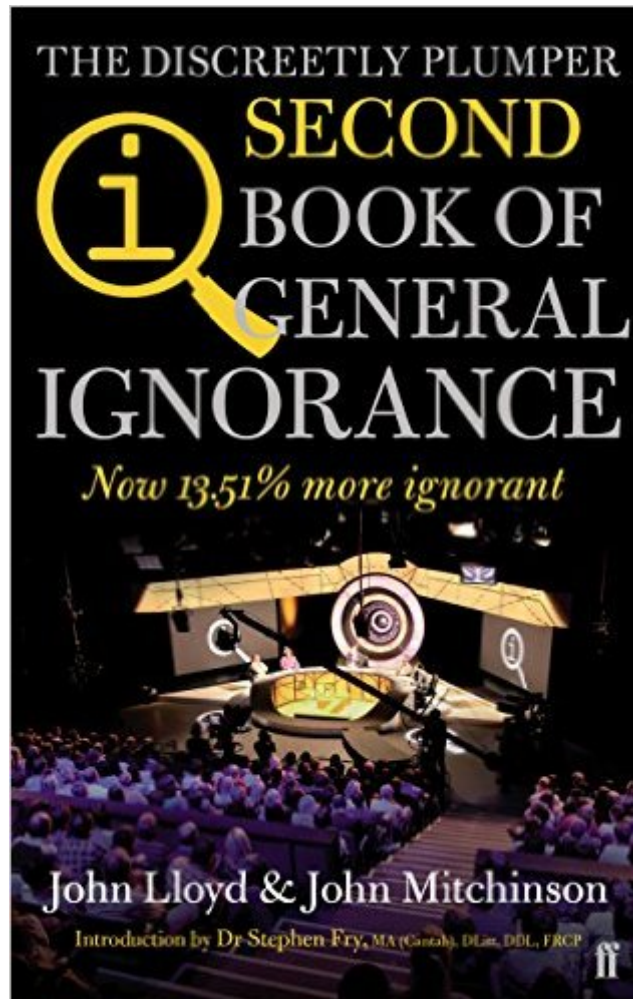


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# QI: The Second Book Of General Ignorance



## Synopsis

Just when you thought it was safe to start showing off again, the bestselling authors of *The Book of General Ignorance* and *1,277 QI Facts To Blow Your Socks Off* are back. With a foreword by Stephen Fry, this parcel of unimaginable information is here to solve a few common misconceptions, mistakes and misunderstandings. Octopuses have six legs, oranges aren't orange, bats aren't blind, Napoleon wasn't short, Vikings didn't wear horned helmets, there is no such thing as a fish. *QI: The Second Book of General Ignorance* is the essential set text for everyone who's proud to admit that they don't know everything, and an ideal stick with which to beat people who think they do. John Lloyd and John Mitchinson are the bestselling authors of *QI: The Book of General Ignorance* and *1,277 QI Facts To Blow Your Socks Off*. Here they present a wonderful collection of astonishingly interesting facts, perfect for pub quiz lovers, trivia buffs and general knowledge experts alike. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Probably, but I'd at least be accurate. In general, there were very little overarching topics in the book that hadn't been covered in the series, but inclusions did provide far greater context, insight and additional interesting factoids relating to all the various little tidbits of above-casual interest than the series' brief mentions of each. I loved the quote from Stephen Fry from the book's introduction, and thought it worth reproducing here for those who choose not to go ahead with a purchase: "...the lack of curiosity is the Dementor that sucks all hope, joy, possibility and beauty out of the world. The dull torpid acedia that does not care to find out, that has no hunger and thirst for input, understanding

and connection will desertify the human landscape and land our descendants squarely in the soup. Do we want our species to make its way, foreheads thrust out, knuckles grazing the ground, into a barren of tedium and brutish unquestioning blindness, or do we want to skip through the world filled with wonder, curiosity and an appetite for discovery?". If only to appease Mr Fry in broadening your understanding of and context for this wide and varied universe of ours, delve in as I did.

While the First Book of General Ignorance was both informative and entertaining, this one was written by a British author who, for the most part, referenced British facts, not as interesting or relevant to one from "across the pond".

So the War of the Roses was not really Yorkshire versus Lancashire? I am embarrassed! The only problem with this great book is that so many icons are clasted that one starts to doubt the quality of the research in a burst of Freudian self-protection. I can see some definitions being stretched, and even with S Fry in the chair the syntax creaks with authoric licence. The famous episode on the setting sun is an example, and I am with Jupitus on that one. So it is challenging and rewarding and stimulates the reader to test the data for themselves. All in the most entertaining manner. Every bit as good as the first edition.

O.K., it is a bathroom book, if you have a really fancy five piece bathroom with a bidet and a glass walk-in shower, and a stained glass window that looks out over your yacht. Most bathroom books have silly stuff or the same old stuff or lists of stuff. They're fine and entertaining. This book is special because the topics are unexpected, the explanations, anecdotes and facts are more detailed and interesting, and the entire project has a distinctive personality, which I attribute to the care that has been paid by the authors. They have a great formula here and an engaging style. The series certainly doesn't seem to be running out of gas.

This book is interesting, but not as much as its predecessor, which includes significantly less questions British related. For potential buyers, I strongly recommend you to check the table of content of each of the three QI Books before your purchase. For those who will borrow from a library nonetheless, all three are good for bathroom reading!

Very interesting facts and lots of additional information. Sometimes those information follows so loosely, the last paragraphs has close to nothing in common with the initial topic. Just like an actual

conversation between suspiciously informed people.

The general concept of the book is simple: Ask a loaded question about a commonly known trivia fact, and dismantle it. It is well written, upbeat and fun. There are literally no boring bits and even if you found one, the segments are quite short, so it's easy to skip. The style is similar to the BBC Show QI and many of the factoids are covered by the show, but personally I find it better to have the book because in the show the comedians muddy the waters of what is true and false, for the sake of a laugh. This is a book that should be read by everyone, twice, because there is just so much packed into it. What strikes me is that the facts that are debunked are just so prevalent in our society, so really, everyone should have a look. If I have a complaint it would be that this is really a very engaging read, meaning that it is quite easy to read through the entire book in one afternoon, at which point it is over all too soon, and you probably didn't absorb the lot.

...and not only fun to read, but to keep on hand for get togethers...(better than Trivial Pursuit), or for all those "Know-it Alls" in one's life.

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