Amazing Eye Facts [1]

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1. Having 20/20 vision does not necessarily mean you have perfect vision.

It only indicates the distance and sharpness of clarity, but doesn't include other vision skills such as peripheral vision, eye coordination depth perception, focusing ability and color perception.¹

2. Your retinas receive your vision of the outside world as upside–down.

Similar to how a camera functions, your brain flips the image for you.²

3. There's a word for fear of eyes.

It's called ommatophobia.³

4. Your eyes can get sunburned.

That's why it's important to wear sunglasses that protect you from UVA and UVB rays.³

5. You not only see with your eyes, but also with your brain. The "visual processing center" is called the occipital lobe.

Found in the back portion of the brain, damage to the visual areas of the occipital lobe can leave a person with fractional or complete blindness.⁴

6. Most blindness is preventable.

Through timely treatment and access to eye care, most visual impairment can be prevented, treated or cured.⁵

7. 80% of sensory information our brains receive is through our eyes.

Our visual system is a significant part of how we process information and a key factor in how
8. If your eyes are blue, you share common ancestry with every other blue-eyed individual in the world. A genetic mutation affecting the OCA2 gene is the cause.

9. The eye muscle is the fastest reacting muscle in the body. It contracts in less than 1/100th of a second. Maybe that's why people say "in the blink of an eye".

10. An eagle's eyesight is eight times more powerful than a human. The human eye has some 200,000 vision cells and the eagles have 1.5 million. It's no wonder we use the term "eagle-eyed" for someone with a strong sense of sight or observation.

11. More men than women have color-blindness. In fact, as many as 8 percent of men and 0.5 percent of women with Northern European ancestry have the most common form, red-green color blindness.

12. The average size of an eyeball is about an inch in diameter and weighs
around 0.25 ounces.

It's about the size of a ping pong ball.  

13. The retina uses many rods and cones to process light.

How many rods and cones does it take to process light? Try 120 million rods and 7 million cones — in each human eye!  

14. Everyone will have cataracts if they live long enough.

Cataracts are like gray hair. It's a natural result of aging.  

15. Women blink almost twice as much as much as men.

And older women blinked more frequently than younger women.  

16. On average, the human eye can detect more than 10 million colors!

But only distinguish about 30 shades of gray.  

17. Newborn babies do not produce tears.

Newborns are born with working tear ducts. However, despite their cries, babies do not produce teardrops until around four to 13 weeks old.  

18. Male and female Egyptians both wore eye makeup.

Believing it gave them protection from the gods Horus and Ra, ancient Egyptians wore ample amounts of eye makeup made by grinding ores like malachite and galena into kohl.  

19. Week four of pregnancy is when cells from the developing brain tissue begin developing the optic nerves.

Around the same time, cells on the outer layer of the fetus develop what will soon become the lens of the eye.  

20. Eyes can heal quickly.

With proper care, your eyes will only take around 2–3 days to repair from a minor corneal scratch.  

21. Our iris, or the color part of our eyes, has over 256 unique characteristics.

Our fingerprints have only about 40 unique characteristics. This is why many new security
measures have iris scans instead of those using fingerprints.  

22. Your eyelashes keep foreign particles, like dirt, out of your eyes.

Eyebrows prevent sweat from dripping into your eyes.  

23. We blink on an average of 17 times per minute, 14,280 times per day, and 5.2 million times a year.

This number could increase as there is also a connection between blink frequency and your emotional state.  

24. An ostrich's eye is bigger than their brain.

They also have the largest eye of any land animal, measuring almost two inches across.  

25. "Red eye" in photographs occurs when light from a camera's flash reflects off of the retina's blood vessels.
Light rays travel through your cornea and pupil to the retina in the back of the eye reflecting back and captured on film.\(^{25}\)

Disclaimer:

References

2. All About Eyes. Available at: Kids Health from Nemours (Children's Health System) \[^4\]. Accessed June, 2015.

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