

# #FunFactFebruary

## Hi kids!

Mack and I love learning interesting things about people, animals, food, countries and more. We want to share with you some of the fascinating facts we've learned in our travels. That's why we're starting #FunFactFebruary, where we'll share one fun fact with you every day of the month.

Now we know that it might be hard to not read this whole list right now, so we won't try to stop you. But we do think it would be cool to share each day's fun fact with at least one person every day — in person or online (if your parents will let you). Maybe you can tell your mom or dad, your teacher or your classmate, or even the cashier at the grocery store. Try to find someone new every day that you can tell, because it's so exciting to be able to share interesting things with other people. And chances are they'll be learning the fact for the very first time!

We'll be sharing these facts too, so more and more people will learn about all the awesome things happening around the world. There's so much to discover, and #FunFactFebruary is just the start.



**So are you ready to learn some fascinating things this month?**

Kate & Mack 

# #FunFactFebruary Days: 1-7

## February 1

Sloths sleep up to 20 hours a day! They live in the tropical forests of Central and South America, and although they look like monkeys, they're actually related to armadillos and anteaters.

## February 2

The country of Belgium is famous all around the world for their waffles, and boy, are they delicious! There are three main kinds: Liege waffles (you eat them like a cookie), Brussels waffles (you eat them with toppings like strawberries and ice cream), and Galettes (you eat them for breakfast with jam).

## February 3

Did you know that LEGO was invented in Denmark? The name LEGO is made from the first two letters of the Danish words *Leg godt*, which means "play well."

## February 4

Many famous authors are from England, including William Shakespeare ("Romeo and Juliet"), C.S. Lewis ("The Chronicles of Narnia"), J.R.R. Tolkien ("The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit") and lots more!

## February 5

Finland is also called "the land of midnight sun," because during the summer, the sun shines all day and night! That's because of how close Finland is to the North Pole.

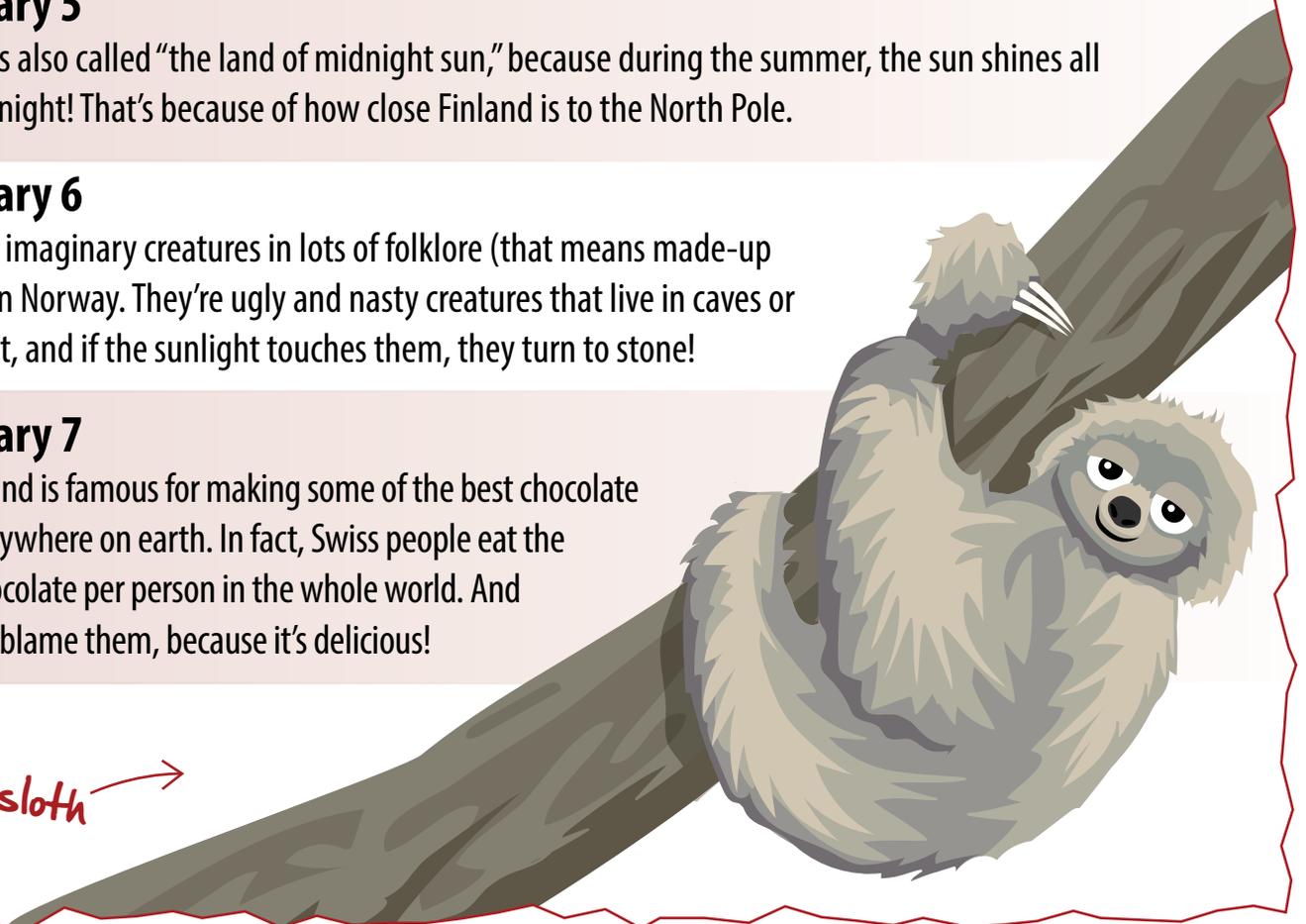
## February 6

Trolls are imaginary creatures in lots of folklore (that means made-up stories) in Norway. They're ugly and nasty creatures that live in caves or the forest, and if the sunlight touches them, they turn to stone!

## February 7

Switzerland is famous for making some of the best chocolate found anywhere on earth. In fact, Swiss people eat the most chocolate per person in the whole world. And who can blame them, because it's delicious!

sloth →



# #FunFactFebruary Days: 8-14

## February 8

Turkey (and no, not the bird, but the country!) sits in both Europe and Asia, but 97 percent of the country is actually part of the Asian continent.

## February 9

The longest river in the world — the Nile — runs through Egypt. It's a little over 4,000 miles long, and it flows across 10 different countries!

## February 10

France is famous for many things, but one of their biggest claims to fame is the Eiffel Tower. You can visit it in Paris, just like many other people who have come to see it since it was built as the entrance for the 1889 World Fair. It took two years, two months and five days to build it!

## February 11

The Olympic games first started in Ancient Greece. In fact, they go all the way back to 776 B.C. when they first started in honor of the Olympian gods. Back then, if you won an event, you were given a palm branch to hold and red ribbons were tied to your head and hands as a sign of victory. Then a kotinos, or sacred olive tree wreath, was put on the winner's head.

## February 12

Mount Rushmore (it's in South Dakota) is a giant carving of four U.S. presidents — George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. It took 14 years to carve and almost all of it was done by dynamite. Each president's face is 60 feet tall from chin to the top of the head (their noses are 20 feet long all by themselves). Wow, that's big!

## February 13

Madagascar is the only place where you can find lemurs living in the wild. There are around 100 different kinds of lemurs living there, but many of these are rare or endangered.

## February 14

Did you know that around one billion Valentine's Day cards are sent every year? That makes it the second biggest card-sending holiday of the year, with more cards only being sent out at Christmas.



# #FunFactFebruary Days: 15-21

## February 15

The tallest waterfall in the world — Angel Falls — is in the country of Venezuela. It's 3,230 feet tall, and it drops without touching anything for 2,647 feet. Wow, that's a long drop!

## February 16

There are lots of colorful insects living in Honduras, like butterflies, beetles and spiders. You can also find lots of reptiles, like snakes and crocodiles, living in the tropical forests.

## February 17

The Dead Sea (you can find it between Israel and Jordan) is the lowest point on the entire surface of the earth. It sits 1,365 feet below sea level, and the water is so salty and filled with minerals, plants and animals can't survive there.

## February 18

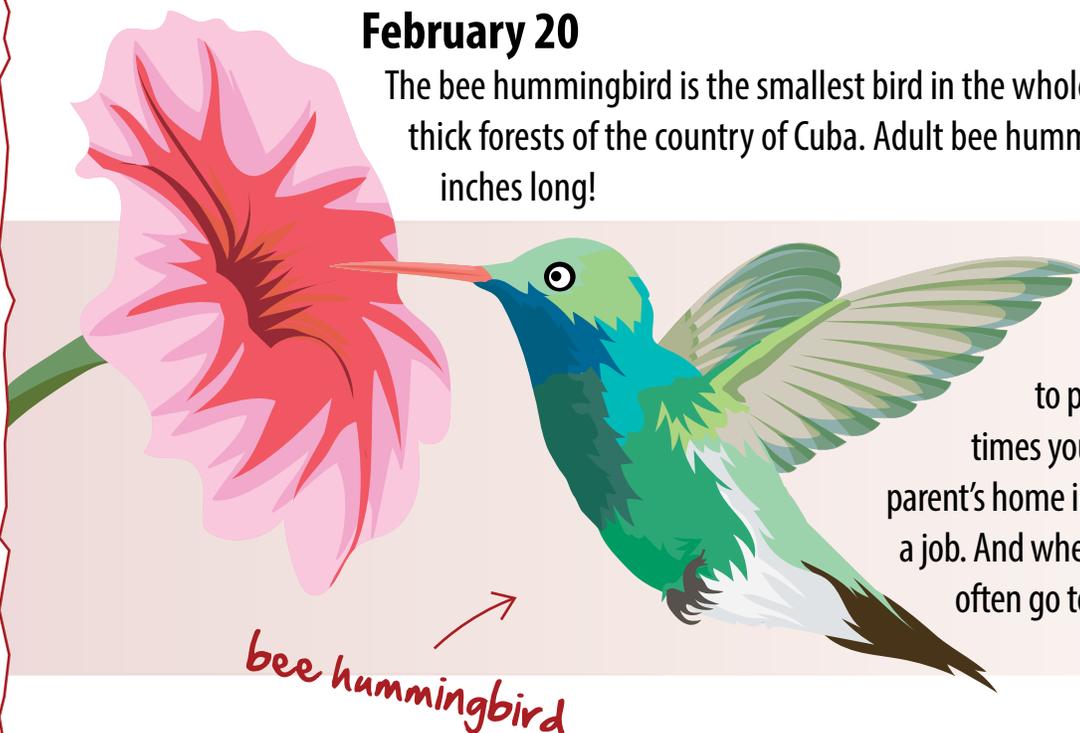
Sweden is one of the least populated (that means not very many people living there) countries in Europe. Only around nine million people live there — just a little more than the number of people living in New York City.

## February 19

There are over 200 different kinds of reptiles in Costa Rica, and most of them are snakes! They also have brightly colored toads and frogs, and the famous poison arrow frog comes from there too.

## February 20

The bee hummingbird is the smallest bird in the whole world, and it lives in the thick forests of the country of Cuba. Adult bee hummingbirds only grow to two inches long!



bee hummingbird

## February 21

Family is really important to people in Italy. In fact, many times young people live at their parent's home into their 30s, even if they have a job. And when their parents retire, they often go to live with their adult kids.

# #FunFactFebruary Days: 22-28

## February 22

The Vikings (their name means “a pirate raid”) were famous for sailing long distances from their homes in Scandinavia to raid and plunder (that means they go there and take other peoples stuff) from far away countries. The Vikings were also really good at building boats and sailing, which is probably why they were able to sail to countries so far away!

## February 23

Giraffes have legs that are about six feet long. Because of these long legs, they can run as fast as 35 miles an hour for short distances, or walk at 10 miles an hour for longer distances. You can find giraffes all across the continent of Africa.



## February 24

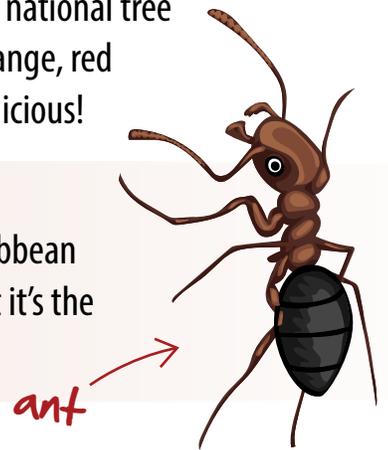
There are more than 10,000 different kinds of ants known around the world! They often live in tropical forests, and sometimes they're more than half of all the insects living in an area. Ants can also carry more than three times their own weight, so they're super strong.

## February 25

The mango is the national fruit of India, Pakistan and the Philippines. It's also the national tree of Bangladesh. Mangoes come in different shapes, sizes and colors — yellow, orange, red and green. They can be sweet and juicy or sour and crunchy, and they sure are delicious!

## February 26

One of the smallest countries in the whole world is Grenada. It's found in the Caribbean Sea. Grenada (also known as “The Island of Spice”) is only 132.8 square miles, but it's the world's biggest producer of nutmeg and mace (two kinds of spice).



## February 27

Blue whales are the biggest animals ever known to live on earth, and they're found in all the oceans. They can grow up to 100 feet long and weigh 200 tons (and if one ton is 2,000 pounds, that means they can weigh 400,000 pounds)! In fact, their tongues alone can weigh as much as an elephant and their heart as much as a car. Wow!

## February 28

There are more sheep than people living in New Zealand! In 1982, there were 70 million sheep in the country, with 22 sheep for every one person. Nowadays the number has dropped and it's more like seven sheep to every one person, but that's still a lot of sheep!

