

In order for "common knowledge" to be true, true knowledge needs to be common.

We have all accepted various things to be true at one point or another that have since proven to be false. Sometimes, as with the below myth-busters, the true information doesn't spread as widely as the myth did:

There is no increased risk of cramp or drowning associated with eating before swimming

There is no evidence that vikings wore horns on their helmets

Napoleon Bonaparte was not short

Great white sharks do not confuse humans for seals

There is no such thing as an alpha in a wolf pack

John F. Kennedy never claimed to be a jam donut

All five primary tastes (bitter, sour, salty, sweet, and umami) can be tasted (by taste buds) on all parts of the tongue

Which hemisphere you are in does not affect whether water flows clockwise or anticlockwise while draining

MSG isn't bad for you

The order in which different types of alcoholic beverages are consumed does not affect intoxication or cause any adverse side effects

A goldfish's memory is measured in months, not seconds

"Detox" diets have no scientific basis

Sugar does not cause hyperactivity in children

The common cold is caused by germs, not exposure to low temperature

Bulls are not enraged by the colour red

Swallowed chewing gum does not take seven years to digest; the mostly indigestible matter that makes up gum is processed at the same rate as everything else

Exercise-induced muscle soreness is not caused by lactic acid buildup, and stretching (before or after exercise) does not reduce soreness

People do not use only 10% of their brains

Pythagorean theorem was in use more than a thousand years before Pythagoras was born, and was (erroneously) attributed to Pythagoras for the first time centuries after his death

Fortune cookies were invented in Japan, not China

The colour of your sputum (snot) during a cold does not indicate infection

Coca-cola did not create the "jolly old man in red robes" version of Santa we know today

Bats are not blind

Chilli seeds contain a low amount of heat-causing capsaicin; most of the heat in a chili pepper comes from the tissue holding the seeds

Marie Antoinette did not say "let them eat cake"

Searing meat causes it to lose moisture, not retain it

Vitamin C does not help to prevent (or lessen the effect of) a cold

Cracking one's knuckles does not cause osteoarthritis

The daddy longlegs spider is not the most venomous spider in the world and it can pierce human skin

There is no "red phone" connecting the White House to the Kremlin, and there never has been

Spinach isn't a good source of iron

Waking sleepwalkers does not harm them

Duck quacks echo

Thomas Edison did not invent the light bulb

All humans learn in fundamentally similar ways.; there is no evidence to support the "learning styles" myth

You don't need to drink 8 glasses of water a day

If you want to make good decisions, base them on evidence - rather than assumptions.

