Myths busted

SoManyFacts

Things lots of people believe that are not true.

The truth

- ✓ Studies show goldfish can remember things for months and can be trained to respond to sounds and lights.
- ✓ Bulls cannot see red well. It is the movement of the matador's cape that provokes them.
- ✓ All bats can see, and many fruit bats have excellent eyesight. Many bats also use echolocation.
- ✓ Brain scans show activity across the whole brain, and damage to almost any area causes problems.
- ✓ Tall structures are struck again and again. The Empire State Building is hit around 20 times a year.
- ✓ Studies have found no link between knuckle cracking and arthritis.
- ✓ Ostriches lower their heads to the ground to turn their eggs or to hide by lying flat, which may look like burying from a distance.

The myth

- ✗ Goldfish have a three-second memory.
- ✗ Bulls get angry when they see the colour red.
- ✗ Bats are blind.
- ✗ We only use 10% of our brains.
- ✗ Lightning never strikes the same place twice.
- ✗ Cracking your knuckles causes arthritis.
- ✗ Ostriches bury their heads in the sand when scared.

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Sources: Sources for each myth are listed on its So Many Facts page. Checked October 2026.