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Curious George™: Let's Get Curious! Fun Facts

Have a barrel of fun at *Curious George™: Let's Get Curious!* at **Strong National Museum of Play** **September 20, 2008 through January 4, 2009**. Following are some fun facts about the lovable little monkey and his creators Margret and H.A. Rey:



- Curious George initially appeared in H.A. Rey's first children's book, *Raffy and the Nine Monkeys*. The book was published in the U.S. under the name *Cecily G. and the Nine Monkeys*. One of the nine featured was Fifi, who later became known as Curious George.
- The manuscript for *Curious George* was one of five that the Reys brought with them when they fled Paris in 1940 on bicycles H.A. devised from spare parts. They escaped Hitler's invading army by just a few hours.
- The first George book, *Curious George*, was published in the U.S. in 1941. The book was followed by: *Curious George Takes a Job* (1947), *Curious George Rides a Bike* (1952), *Curious George Gets a Medal* (1957), *Curious George Flies a Kite* (1958), *Curious George Learns the Alphabet* (1963), and *Curious George Goes to the Hospital* (1966).
- Curious George books have never been out of print. Nearly 30 million copies have been sold worldwide, with versions published in 17 languages, including Yiddish, Afrikaans, and Braille.
- Curious George starred in his own movie (*Curious George*) produced by Universal Pictures, which premiered February 10, 2006 in the United States. Will Ferrell voiced The Man with the Yellow Hat, also known as "Ted." Curious George was voiced by Frank Welker.
- The *Curious George* television series, produced by Imagine Entertainment, WGBH Boston and Universal Studios Family Productions, premiered September 4, 2006, on PBS KIDS®. The series launched No. 1 with preschoolers and moms* and was recently nominated for a Daytime Emmy in the category of Outstanding Children's Animated Series. DVDs of the television episodes along with a full-line of toys, apparel, and more featuring Curious George are now available at retailers nationwide including the stores at Strong National Museum of Play.
- Margret Rey did not receive credit on all the early *Curious George* books. The publisher suggested to use only H.A.'s name because at the time, women wrote most children's books and it was thought that the novelty of a man writing one would cause higher sales. Margret commented, "After a time, I thought, 'Why the devil did I do that?' so since then my name has appeared also."
- H.A. (Hans) originally created watercolor illustrations for *Curious George* but had to redraw all the pictures to keep printing costs down.
- Curious George has had many different names throughout the years and languages. Different monikers include: Zozo, Fifi, Peter Pedal, Nysgierrige Nils, Nicke Nyfiken, Hitomane Kozaru and Jorge el Curioso.

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Sources: Houghton Mifflin Books <http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/features/cgsite/>, Universal Studios, www.universalstudios.com, PBS KIDS® <http://pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/index.html>, Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curious_George, and IMDB.com <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0381971/>

*Source: For PBS, NTI Pocketpieces for September 2006. For broadcast, cable, and syndication, Nielsen Galaxy Explorer, September 1-30, 2006.