

Playing Card Trivia

- The origin of playing cards is unclear, but experts are nearly certain they were created in China after the invention of paper in the 12th century. Sometime during the 13th century, they were introduced to Europe and quickly spread around the world. (Source: A History of Playing Cards and a Bibliography of Cards and Gaming)
- It is believed that some Chinese cards, which were copied from paper money, were used by gamblers to play games and pay debts at the same time. (Source: A History of Playing Cards and a Bibliography of Cards and Gaming)
- The Spanish were the first to bring playing cards to America. Here, they were made out of wood and leather before paper became more widely available. (Source: A History of Playing Cards and a Bibliography of Cards and Gaming)
- It is believed Benjamin Franklin may have been among the first commercial playing-card manufacturers, which he created using his famed printing presses. (Source: A History of Playing Cards and a Bibliography of Cards and Gaming)
- In poker, the "dead man's hand," which is a two-pair of aces and eights all black, is named after the hand Wild Bill Hickok was holding when he was shot dead in Saloon No. 10 in Deadwood. (Source: Wikipedia)
- The Guinness World Record for the Tallest House of Cards is currently held by professional cardstacker Bryan Berg, of Santa Fe, N.M., who used 2,000 decks of cards for the construction of his 25-foot tall freestanding house of cards in 1999. His most recent project is the re-creation of the "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" sign, his first project using super glue. Upon its completion, the sign, capable of being suspended above ground, measured 12 feet by 18 feet and was made of 500 decks of Loctite® Control™ Gel Super Glue playing cards; 1,200 bottles of Loctite® Control™ Gel Super Glue; 1,800 poker chips; and 800 dice and wood. Berg started the sign in June and it took him 250 hours to complete.
- The Poker Hall of Fame was created in 1979 and is currently administered by Binions Horseshoe Casino in Las Vegas. It includes card-playing greats like Crandell Addington and Edmond Hoyle, who wrote down many card games' rules for the first time in the 1700s. (Source: Wikipedia)
- Although there are many different decks of cards around the world, the standard American 52-card deck was designed by the French. American innovations include double-headed court cards, varnished surfaces and rounded corners. (Source: Poker: The Real Deal. Insider Tips from the Co-host of Celebrity Poker Showdown)
- Theories vary for where the word "poker" comes from, including an adaptation of "poke," the slang term used by criminals to describe pick pocketing, or from the French card game "poque." However, the actual game is believed to have derived from the bluffing card games of the Mississippi riverboat gamblers. (Source: Poker: The Real Deal. Insider Tips from the Co-host of Celebrity Poker Showdown)