

## Historical Improbabilities



*You can view history as an inevitable progression of events—or you can see it as a kaleidoscope of strange details and small surprises. Read the following statements and decide if they're actually true.*

1. In his later years, Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, decided that the telephones in his home and his laboratory were a troublesome nuisance that damaged his thought processes, and so, had them removed. He liked listening to the radio, however.

True

False

2. General Robert E. Lee traveled throughout much of the Civil War with a pet hen. On most mornings, under the General's army cot, she laid an egg, which Lee liked to eat for breakfast.

True

False

3. President Millard Fillmore caused a widespread public sensation about the adoption of newfangled, foreign customs when he installed a bathtub in the White House in 1850.

True

False

4. At a woman's rights convention in 1852, Susan B. Anthony spoke from the platform to denounce, by name, fellow reformers for wearing fashionable clothing to the convention. According to Anthony, these clothes left their necks and arms exposed, thus making them incapable of representing the great mass of women.

True

False

<http://teachinghistory.org/history-content/quiz>