



**The Book of Origins: Discover the Amazing  
Origins of the Clothes We Wear, the Food We Eat,  
the People We Know, the Languages We Speak,  
and the Things We Use**

*Trevor Homer*

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# The Book of Origins: Discover the Amazing Origins of the Clothes We Wear, the Food We Eat, the People We Know, the Languages We Speak, and the Things We Use

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**Read Trevor Homer's posts on the Penguin Blog.**

Everything—from the mundane (the pencil) to the catastrophic (the atom bomb)—has an origin, but often it's not what we expect. A few things you may not have known:

- Gandhi was married at age thirteen!
- Chinese fortune cookies are an American invention and were not eaten in China until the 1990s when they were advertised as “Genuine American Fortune Cookies.”
- Bayer lost the trademark for aspirin (which they had held since 1897) as part of the reparations Germany was forced to pay after World War I.
- The original idea for the electric chair came from an American dentist.

For aspiring mindblowers and wanna-be know-it-alls, *The Book of Origins* is a treasure trove of trivia and fascinating facts guaranteed to entertain and enlighten.

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