10 jaw-dropping Lego facts that everyone should know

Lego was recently named the world's most powerful brand, overtaking Ferrari for the top spot. The Internet is completely obsessed with the company. In fact, an estimated 85 million children played with Lego products in the last year alone. But how much do you know about Lego? Here are 10 fun facts to celebrate all things plastic and fantastic.

1) "Lego" means "I put together"

The Lego name was invented in 1934 by the Group's founder, Ole Kirk Kristiansen. Kristiansen took the first two letters of "Leg" and "godt" (Danish for "play well") to make the brand's moniker. Coincidentally, in Latin, "lego" means "I put together," something Kristiansen was apparently unaware of at the time.

2) The combinations are endless

There are a staggering 915 million ways to combine six Lego bricks of the same color.

3) Lego is the world's largest tire manufacturer

In 2012, the Lego Group was awarded the Guinness World Record for "largest tire manufacturer per annum." The Group produced over 650 million tires in 2014, ranging from the smallest 14.4mm wheel for a two-seater car, to a 10.7cm high wheel for the "Power Puller" tractor.
4) There are 13 'Lego Certified Professionals'

Did you know there are "Lego Certified Professionals?" It's an official program of adult Lego hobbyists, and there are currently 13 people from as far afield as Singapore, Australia, and Japan who have "turned their passion for building and creating with Lego bricks into a full-time or part-time profession." They are recognized by the Lego group as "trusted business partners."

5) The tallest Lego tower is 35 meters tall.

The Lego Group regularly breaks its own Lego-themed world records. Lego Italia recently got the Guinness World Record for the "tallest structure built with interlocking plastic bricks." The tower, made in Milan, reached the lofty heights of 114 foot 11 inches (35.05 meters) and was created from an astonishing half-million bricks.

6) There are 760 billion Lego bricks out there

By the Lego Group's latest estimate, if you averaged out how many Lego bricks there are in the world, every person on Earth would own 102 bricks. As of 2014, around 760 billion individual Lego elements had been manufactured.

7) The largest Lego set has almost 6,000 pieces

With just under 6,000 individual pieces, the Lego version of the Taj Mahal boasts the most elements ever featured in one set. Measuring over 20-inches wide and over 16-inches tall when complete, the $300 set is now retired, but it sells for thousands to die-hard collectors who want a special challenge.

8) Lego is ridiculously accurate

Lego bricks are manufactured in Denmark, Hungary, Czech Republic, and Mexico. The molds used in production are super precision accurate meaning only 18 items in every million products fail quality standards. The exact design has remained the same for over 50 years, so any Lego element made since 1958 is fully compatible with all other elements.

9) Minifigures are massive

The first Lego "minifigure" as you'd recognize them today was made in 1978. Since then, over 5 billion have been made. The Lego group claims this makes the minfigs the "world's biggest population group."

10) A golden Lego brick

In 2012, Lego retailer Brick Envy sold a very rare, solid 14k gold Lego brick for $14,449.99 to an American collector. The same size and shape as the original 2 x 4 Lego brick, the commemorative piece was given to long-serving Lego employees in the Hohenwestedt, Germany factory.
Comprehension questions – answers may be in phrases.

1. Explain why Internet is capitalized.

2. How would one originally obtain a gold Lego brick?

3. Define jaw-dropping as used in the article.

4. What happens when a Lego product “retires”?

5. Define moniker as used in the text.

Answer each question in one or more complete sentences and by providing complete explanations.

1. Based on the information provided, what is the approximate population of Earth? Show your math and provide an explanation.

2. Define “precision accurate” and explain why Legos would require this level of accuracy.
3. In your opinion, are Legos genuinely a toy worthy of being “the world’s most powerful brand”? State your opinion in a well-developed paragraph citing from the text to support your claim.