

# Fascinating facts about... sugar and salt

At different times in history, both sugar and salt were called “white gold” because they were so expensive and difficult to get. But there are many more interesting facts about sugar and salt...

- 1  is used to make glass, laundry detergent, and paper.
- 2  really helps the medicine go down!  
It's an important ingredient of many modern medicines.
- Christopher Columbus introduced 3  to the New World in 1493 on his second voyage.
- If you put 4  into a vase of flowers, the flowers last longer.
- If you want to check if an egg is fresh, put it in a cup with water and 5 . If the egg floats, it isn't very fresh.
- In the UK, there's a club for people who collect the little packets of 6  you get when you order tea or coffee in a café or restaurant.
- If your dog or cat has fleas, and they are now living in your rugs, put some 7  on the rugs and leave it for 12 hours. This kills all the fleas.
- Only 6% of the 8  used in the US is used in food; another 17% is used for de-icing roads in the winter months.
- *Sure* and 9  are the only two words in the English language that begin with “su” and are pronounced “sh.”
- Scientists use 10  to make different kinds of plastic, e.g., for food packaging.
- 11  kills some bacteria, and so helps food to last longer, which is why cheese contains a lot.
- If you eat too much 12  (about one gram per kilogram of weight), you can die.  
This was a method of ritual suicide in ancient China.

## Glossary

**flea** a very small insect that can jump and that lives on and bites animals and people



