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That means knowing more about them can actually help us create rules and incentives to improve our lives. In 1980, an art collector bought it from the Leicester estate, and none other than Bill Gates bought it from the collector in 1994. Today, only seventeen copies predating 1300 survive. The book ended up back in the hands of the German government around 800 years later when it was purchased at a 1983 London auction for \$11.7 million. If you love books but don't want to pay exorbitant amounts, here are some websites that let you read great books for free. The identity of the buyer is most likely David Rubenstein, who is also the lucky (or perhaps just wealthy) owner of the Bay Psalm Book. In the years leading up to its 2012 purchase, it was on loan to the British Library. 11 / 12 Justin Lane/EPA/REX/Shutterstock The Magna Carta, the thirteenth-century charter that laid the foundation for the future of the law as we know it, is one of the most famous texts in history. Naturally, it earns a high spot on this list. Of the 750 copies originally published seven years after his death in 1623, only 228 remain. To ensure its safety, it is only put on display once every two years! Check out the most expensive things thieves have ever stolen. This data will show us how seemingly unrelated events are connected, help us determine whether those connections are mere correlations or cause and effect relationships, and even allow us to predict future events in ways we've never been able to before.How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made the Modern World Steven Johnson We have a very linear view of history – especially the history of inventions. The current record for the most expensive book of all time belongs to this 72-page notebook filled with the Renaissance genius's notes and theories. Innovations in one area of life can trigger changes that seem entirely unrelated. And, as James Burke once pointed out, when a big enough part of your knowledge changes how you see the world also changes. We base our decisions not on rational considerations but irrational ones. Among these, they discuss the importance of thinking like a child, saying you don't know, and learning how incentives work to affect behavior. This takes good examples to draw upon, practice, and an awareness of our cognitive biases and how to address them. This one stands out from its fellows, though, because of its distinction as the first book ever printed in the British colonies that would become America. In 1998, that amount was equal to about five-and-a-half million U.S. dollars. Check out the most expensive movie props ever bought. Often our mistakes are simple and predictable. Next, check out the most overdue library books that ever made it back to the library. Despite being mass-produced, the Gutenberg Bible is still incredibly rare and valuable, as its \$5.4 million price tag makes clear. One mega-fan paid \$3.98 million for it, and Rowling donated the proceeds to a children's charity. While far from the most expensive book on this list, Beedle was the priciest book ever purchased that was written and published in the twenty-first century. At the time, 1987, it set the record for the most expensive book ever purchased. Something went wrong. It cost him a cool \$6.2 million. Henry the Lion was the Duke of Saxony from 1142 to 1180 (Saxony, in case you were wondering, is a German state). Many of the themes in these books connect and while reading any one will give you some new insights, reading all of them may just revolutionize how you see the world and your place in it.The Invisible Gorilla and Other Ways Our Intuitions Deceive Us Christopher Chabris & Daniel Simons You don't see everything you think you see. Seeing how the stories of the past relate to each other helps you see that you too are connected to these same people, places, and events. Each of these books provides insights and examples to help improve your ability to make connections. By examining these microtrends up close we can learn more about how societal change happens and how to predict which microtrends will become major social changes. However the role of chance and randomness in our lives is much greater than we realize. 5 / 12 Paul Vicente/EPA/Shutterstock This enduring collection of stories from the Middle Ages by fourteenth-century poet Geoffrey Chaucer fetched a hefty sum of money in 1998—7.5 million dollars, to be exact. Here are 10 eye-opening books that might just do that for you. We often see patterns to events where there are none and we see causes and work when the reality is much more random. The Codex set Gates back a cool \$30.8 million. Wait a moment and try again. You are part of the knowledge web too. His reasoning for spending so much money? Henry David Thoreau once said “a book should contain pure discoveries.” Some books can do even more and change how you see the world. The more connections you can make, the more knowledge you have. The internet reveals this better than ever but it has always been so. Together, the 435 illustrations form the complete first edition of Birds of America, of which there are only 119 remaining copies. The places we go and the people we know serve as our data set. There are approximately eleven copies still intact today, mostly in the possession of libraries and universities. In 1640, 20 years after the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock, the Bay Psalm Book emerged from printers in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The book measures only five-and-a-half by three-and-a-half inches. The 17,000 lines of The Canterbury Tales tell the story of a motley crew of pilgrims who engage in a storytelling contest while on their way to visit a holy shrine. 6 / 12 Lefteris Pitarakis/AP/Shutterstock Between 1827 and 1838, naturalist John James Audubon published a series of exquisite prints depicting hundreds of different North American bird species. One of the biggest changes this will bring is that you will collect and control your own medical information using your smartphone. Gates decided to share his purchase with the world, and did it in the most Bill Gates way possible: he scanned the pages of the book and turned them into a Windows 95 screensaver. 10 / 12 Kirsty Wigglesworth/AP/Shutterstock This pocket-sized version of the Gospel of John is one of the earliest surviving examples of Western bookbinding. But these inventions rarely arise in a completely deliberate fashion as the result of intentional effort. We've all been taught that we can learn how to live from studying the past but this lesson is rarely taught in concrete ways, which makes it difficult to see the truth in this. Paul Allen, the co-founder of Microsoft, snatched one up at Christie's, an auction house in New York City, in 2001. The buyer of this copy was Maruzen Co. Ltd., a major Japanese bookseller. We can learn about how we make decisions and how to improve them by seeing our lives as experiments.The Drunkard's Walk: How Randomness Rules Our Lives Leonard Mlodinow ↵ Scroll down to continue reading article ↵ ↵ Scroll down to continue reading article ↵ We think what happens to us is the result of our education, skills, and deliberate decisions. You might know the buyer's name as well: Bill Gates. It is difficult to see randomness at work not because it is rare but because our minds are biased to see order, correlation, and causation. 12 / 12 RICHARD DREW/AP/Shutterstock You might know this author's name: Leonardo da Vinci. 8 / 12 Mark Chivers/The Independent/Shutterstock These are some pricey prayers: this Flemish collection of Christian texts, psalms, and images cost its buyer \$13.4 million. He thought it “very important” that there be a copy of the Magna Carta in the United States. Stokes loaned it to the National Library of Australia in Canberra, where it remains today. These items are about to get way more expensive. 9 / 12 Sotheby's/Shutterstock Religious texts continue to fill this list of expensive books, with the Bay Psalm Book continuing the trend. With concrete examples of ideas from the past in such areas as love, work, dealing with death, raising children, and travel it becomes clear that the past is a wealth of knowledge that we can use to improve our lives.The Patient Will See You Now: The Future of Medicine is in Your Hands Eric Topol ↵ Scroll down to continue reading article ↵ ↵ Scroll down to continue reading article ↵ Major disruption is coming to health care and you will benefit. We may be missing very useful information and failing to make connections. Fortunately, there are steps we can take to improve our intuitive and observational skills.Think Like a Freak Steven Levitt & Stephen Dubner ↵ Scroll down to continue reading article ↵ ↵ Scroll down to continue reading article ↵ To solve problems you need to be willing to change how you think. It was compiled in the early 1500s and features the works of a myriad of Flemish scholars, which fill 254 separate pages. ↵ Scroll down to continue reading article ↵ ↵ Scroll down to continue reading article ↵ We can now see the world in vastly new ways because we now have the ability to collect and analyze massive amounts of data. 7 / 12 Shutterstock Only just beating out the birds in this list of expensive books is a lion.. Henry the Lion, to be exact. As you learn to think like a freak you will learn to see these non-obvious connections everywhere.Predictably Irrational: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions Dan Ariely Everyone assumes they act rationally most of the time, but as Dan Ariely points out there are many cases where we do not. Rowling gave six of these “Moonstone Editions” to friends and people who worked on the Harry Potter books, but one went up for auction on Amazon. It's widely believed that the document helped inspire the Declaration of Independence. If you own one of these rare books, you're sitting on a gold mine. 1 / 12 SANG TAN/AP/Shutterstock JK Rowling's first book since the conclusion of the Harry Potter series fetched a huge chunk of change. In reality, you can pick any person, place, or event and connect it with virtually any other because they all exist together and connected on the knowledge web. The most ordinary things in our lives such as glass, the clock, and air conditioning not only arose in surprising ways but led to surprising changes as well.The Knowledge Web James Burke ↵ Scroll down to continue reading article ↵ ↵ Scroll down to continue reading article ↵ Schools teach us that academic subjects are discrete entities with no relationships between them but this is untrue. In the early 1700s, the Codex was purchased by the Earl of Leicester, hence its name. This entails changing how you see the world in several important ways. The text was a masterpiece, 266 pages long with 50 Romanesque illustrations depicting scenes from all four gospels. If you do the math (there are 24 separate tales), that's approximately \$230,000 per tale. Published in December 2007, Beedle was the complete book of fairy tales that play a crucial role in the final installment of the Harry Potter series. Creativity and problem solving both involve making connections. He commissioned the production of a gospel book for display on the altar of Brunswick Cathedral. But, since many large social changes start out as small micro-movements we often miss these trends until they explode on the scene seeming to come out of nowhere. As often as not, they arise as the result of accident or chance connections. Armed with this information you will have greater control over your health decisions and greater choice about how to improve your health. 2 / 12 ED BAILEY/AP/REX/Shutterstock The title of this eighteenth-century French handbook translates to “Treatise of Fruit Trees.” The book was written by botanist Henri Louis Duhamel du Monceau and contained five separate volumes filled with detailed illustrations. Only 48 copies of the original 1450s-printed batch remain today. Through a series of experiments Chabris and Simons show that, due to attention blindness, we often fail to see what is right in front of our eyes. Today, the complete manuscript has a home in Wolfenbüttel, Germany's Herzog August Library. One sold for a whopping \$21.3 million at a 2007 auction. Only 12 original copies still exist today. This manuscript went for 3.4 million euros (about \$4.5 million U.S.) at a 2006 auction. Yes, someone spent four-and-a-half million dollars for a book about fruit trees. One copy, though, has belonged to American businessman David Rubenstein since 2013, when he bought it at a Sotheby's auction for \$14.2 million. Another reason for the bird book's massive value is the fact that six of the bird species depicted are now extinct. It may be small, but its price tag sure isn't; the British Library raised over \$10.7 million to buy it for good at an auction. In 2010, the most expensive copy of Birds of America went for \$11.5 million at Sotheby's Auction House in London. Two other copies of the book also raked in big money in the twentieth century: an \$8.8 million copy in 2000 and a \$7.9 million copy in 2012. One ended up in the hands of London book dealers, who purchased it for 4.6 million pounds. Originally Published: May 07, 2018 These books were incredibly beautiful: leather-bound, with silver and moonstones decorating the cover. The text was one of the earliest to lay out the concept of basic human rights and limit the powers of a king. The doctor will no longer be in control of your health, you will.Microtrends: The Small Forces Behind Tomorrow's Big Changes Mark Penn On an individual level it is almost impossible to see trends as they unfold because we mostly base our ideas about what is going on in the world on our own limited perception. Formally titled “Mr. William Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories & Tragedies,” the folio contains all but four of the Bard's dramatic works. In 1999, an Australian businessman named Kerry Stokes purchased it from Christie's in New York. 3 / 12 Uweázucchi/Epa/Shutterstock This was the first-ever edition of the Good Book to be produced using moveable-type print, with Johannes Gutenberg's printing press (hence the name). 4 / 12 Jerome Favre/Epa/Shutterstock This collection of William Shakespeare's plays is widely considered one of the most significant treasures in literary history. Doctors will have to adapt or patients will choose other options. Created in the eighth century, it spent years in the coffin of its namesake, St. Cuthbert, before becoming the property of an English Jesuit school. The implications of this are important. Their tips often seem counter intuitive because they are based on seeing connections among events in non-obvious ways.JK Rowling produced seven separate handwritten copies of Beedle, filled with illustrations she herself had drawn.







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