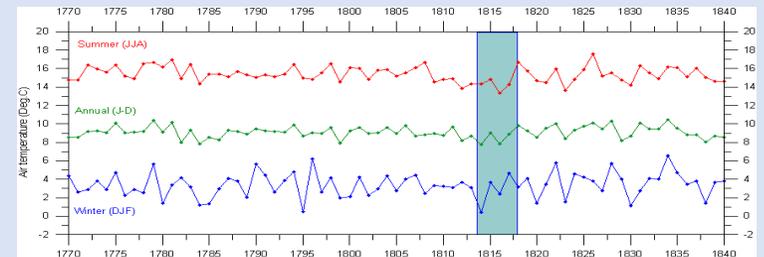


# DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

*Amazing facts about the environment*

# 1816: THE YEAR WITHOUT SUMMER

1816 is known as “the year without summer”. It is an example of climate change due to the eruption of [Mount Tambo](#) in Indonesia which began on April 1815. It is regarded as the most destructive volcanic event in history. It caused the death of almost 10,000 inhabitants on the island of Sumbawa and a global drop in temperature around the world which lasted about three years. Most of the world’s population lived on subsistence agriculture and without regular harvests they suffered from hunger. Famine, poverty and migrations spread everywhere.



# FALLSTREAKS

Do you know what a [Fallstreak](#) is? It's also called "hole punch cloud" and it forms in mid-level clouds. These clouds are usually composed by small water droplets which are on the point to freeze, but to do that they need ice crystals. If a plane passes through them, it brings these ice crystals which help water droplets quickly freeze and start to fall. So, a hole is left behind, and it expands when neighboring droplets start freezing.



# FATA MORGANA MIRAGE

Did you know that in the Strait of Messina (Italy) you can enjoy an incredible mirage? It's called Fata Morgana and it's a strange and complex form of [superior mirage](#) that you can see in a narrow band right above the horizon. The name refers to the Arthurian sorceress [Morgan le Fay](#), from a belief that these mirages were fairy castles in the air or false land created by her witchcraft to attract sailors to their deaths.

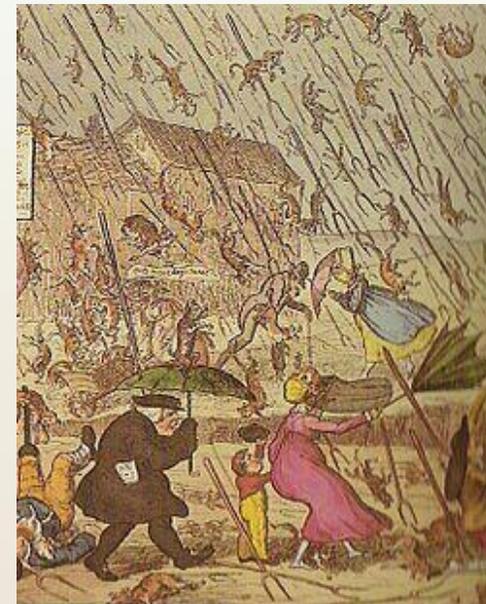
It consists of an [optical phenomenon](#) and it happens wherever the surface temperature is colder than the air above it and occurs over water. An object on the horizon, such as a ship appears taller than it is because its inverted image is reflected above or superimposed on it.



# RAIN OF ANIMALS

Raining animals is a rare [meteorological](#) phenomenon in which animals fall from the sky. Waterspouts pick up small animals such as fish or frogs, and carry them for up to several km. However, this phenomenon has never been witnessed by scientists.

One of the most famous showers is the one which took place in 1794 near the French village of Lalain. After a heavy rain a group of soldiers found frogs in their hats and on their uniforms.



# THE HUM

In 2015 some French scientists announced that they had solved the mystery of the so called “Bristol Hum”, the [strange humming noise](#) that has puzzled people for more than forty years and that no instrument can trace.

The “Bristol hum” was reported for the first time in the late 1970s. It had been described like “a diesel engine in the distance” and it is especially heard during the night.

Researchers claim that it deals with a micro seismic activity due to long ocean waves impacting the sea bed. They make our planet oscillate and produces the sound. It usually lasts from 13 to 300 seconds and it can be heard only by a small proportion of people sensitive to the hum.

But the most likely explanation is that the hum is only tinnitus, a sound that comes from inside your body, rather than from an outside source.

But who knows???

**Bristol**

