

HumanProgress



Our ancestors lived in a more brutal world, where violence against humans was routine and animal abuse hardly given a thought.

They were also often bored out of their minds.

Combine those two facts, and you get pastimes like gander pulling, the Easter tradition of tearing off a goose's head.

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Child labor was once ubiquitous.

Take, for example, ancient Rome. As University of Cambridge classicist Mary Beard noted in her 2015 book, *SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome*,

“Child labour was the norm. It is not a problem, or even a category, that most Romans would have understood. The invention of ‘childhood’ and the regulation of what work ‘children’ could do only came fifteen hundred years later and is still a peculiarly Western preoccupation.”



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