

# SCIENCE TRIVIA QUESTIONS VI



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1> Whose 1988 book, "A Brief History of Time", sold 729,000 copies, about 728,000 of which were probably never read?

- a. Stephen Hawking
- b. Carl Sagan
- c. Richard Feynman
- d. Albert Einstein

2> What is the only even prime number?

- a. Two
- b. Zero
- c. One
- d. Ten

3> In 1989, Stanley Pons and Martin Fleischmann claimed to have produced what frigid phenomenon?

- a. Superconductivity
- b. A solution to Fermat's Theorem
- c. Cold fusion
- d. Cloning

4> Although the Askesian Society was best known for sniffing laughing gas, it was here that English pharmacist Luke Howard presented his scheme for dividing what meteorological phenomenon into stratus, cumulus and cirrus?

- a. Raindrops
- b. Clouds
- c. Rainbows
- d. Hurricanes

5> What letters do you add to the name of an Austrian geneticist to get the name of the Russian chemist who designed the periodic table?

- a. EYEV
- b. IMOV
- c. OSKY
- d. CHEV

6> You know astronauts and cosmonauts. But what country was the third in space when it launched its taikonauts?

- a. India
- b. China
- c. Japan
- d. Taikoland

7> Sagittarius is aiming at the constellation that killed Orion. That constellation's brightest star is a red supergiant called Antares. What is it?

- a. Scorpius
- b. Ursa Major
- c. Perseus
- d. Taurus

8> Alchemist Henning Brandt is the first person known to have discovered an element. And he found it because he was fascinated with human urine. What is it?

- a. Arsenic
- b. Sulfur
- c. Phosphorus
- d. Methane

9> If you were being electrocuted, what exactly would kill you?

- a. The coulombs
- b. The ohms
- c. The amperes
- d. The volts

10> Imagine that it's midnight on December 31 and that the entire Earth was

created just one year ago. On this time scale, how long have humans been on earth?

- a. 2 weeks
- b. 11 minutes
- c. 3 days
- d. Four months

11> What French mathematician and amateur theologian is said to have invented the roulette wheel en route to the perpetual motion machine?

- a. Blaise Pascal
- b. Voltaire
- c. Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- d. Antoine Lavoisier

12> Which of the following isn't true of organic sulfur compounds called thiols or mercaptans?

- a. Part of the aroma of garlic and coffee
- b. Responsible for the smell of skunk spray
- c. Active ingredient in marijuana
- d. Used so you can smell natural gas

13> Who says astronomers can't have a sense of humor? Massive astrophysical compact halo objects and weakly interacting massive particles may sound dull, but MACHOs and WIMPs may explain which intergalactic mystery?

- a. The edge of the universe
- b. The fate of black holes
- c. The source of dark matter
- d. Whether particle physicists or astrophysicists are more manly

14> Two people filed patents for the same invention on the same Valentine's Day in 1876. Who beat Elisha Gray by just hours?

- a. Alexander Graham Bell
- b. George Westinghouse
- c. Thomas Edison
- d. Robert Fulton

15> The constellation Sagittarius might have use for a constellation called Sagitta. What is Sagitta?

- a. An arrow
- b. A target
- c. A chariot
- d. A shield

### Answers:

1> Stephen Hawking - That may be why, in 2005, he updated the book with 'A Briefer History of Time'.

2> Two - The number 1 is neither a prime nor a composite, but every other integer is either a prime number or a composite number.

3> Cold fusion - They were working with palladium's ability to wolf down hydrogen.

4> Clouds - Howard became known as the Father of Meteorology.

5> EYEV - The name can also be spelled Mendeleev.

6> China - It made Lt Col Yang Li-wei its first taikonaut, sending him aloft on Shenzhou 5 ("divine vessel") from the Gobi Desert.

7> Scorpius - The scorpion had killed Orion in Greek myth.

8> Phosphorus - The artificial manufacture of urea, found in urine, broke down the distinction between organic and inorganic chemistry, as it showed you could make 'natural' products.

9> The amperes - What kills you is the current moving through your body. The human body has a resistance of about a half million ohms and Old Sparky only delivers a 2000-volt shock, so they reduce your resistance to 5000 ohms by giving you electrodes soaked in salt water.

10> 11 minutes - A minute ago, we discovered agriculture, 20 seconds ago we moved into cities, and 1.5 seconds ago, the French and Americans had their revolutions. It wasn't until July that the atmosphere was even breathable. It wasn't until November that anything other than microscopic organisms lived here and later that month, we had the first fish. A week later, we had plants on land. Over the next days, we were introduced to insects, amphibians, forests and reptiles. On December 16, dinosaurs first walked the Earth, while the first mammals appeared on the 17th.

11> Blaise Pascal - The first known appearance of the roulette wheel was in Bordeaux in 1716.

12> Active ingredient in marijuana - The horrible smell of flatulence comes from several sulfur compounds, particularly mercaptans.

13> The source of dark matter - We know there is more matter than we know about, given the balance between kinetic energy (from the Big Bang) and gravitational attraction (among the objects in the universe).

- 14> Alexander Graham Bell - Considerable monkey business afterward suggests that Bell used contacts in the patent office to displace Gray's claim.
- 15> An arrow - Its brightest star is the point of the arrow.

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