

SCIENCE TRIVIA QUESTIONS VIII



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1> In 2001, a physicist named John Keogh used a loophole in Australian law to patent a "circular transportation facilitation device". By what name is this device usually known?

- a. Bicycle
- b. Perpetual motion machine
- c. Wheel
- d. Running shoes

2> Which Wright brother was actually at the controls when their plane first flew?

- a. Cecil
- b. Wilbur
- c. Orville
- d. Douglas

3> Who reportedly shouted "Eureka!" when his bath revealed the secret to finding an object's density?

- a. Euclid
- b. Archimedes
- c. Pythagoras
- d. Socrates

4> Which American became famous for conducting an insane 1752 experiment with a kite and a key in a thunderstorm to prove that atmospheric electricity causes lightning?

- a. Benjamin Franklin
- b. John James Audubon
- c. Thomas Edison
- d. James Whistler

5> All 12 people who walked on the Moon did so in whose presidency?

- a. Lyndon Johnson
- b. Richard Nixon
- c. John Kennedy
- d. Gerald Ford

6> By applying electric current to dead frogs' legs, I got the legs to twitch, and became convinced that this "animal electricity" was its life force. Who am I?

- a. Alessandro Volta
- b. Antoine Lavoissier
- c. Luigi Galvani
- d. Benjamin Franklin

7> This bookbinder's apprentice had no formal education, but picked up enough science to get a job as Humphry Davy's assistant and then went on to revolutionize electromagnetic theory. Who was he?

- a. Isaac Newton
- b. William Gilbert
- c. Michael Faraday
- d. James Clerk Maxwell

8> Mathematician Bertrand Russell won a Nobel Prize, even though there is no Nobel Prize for Mathematics. In what field?

- a. Peace
- b. Economics
- c. Literature
- d. Square Dancing

9> To a meteorologist, March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. But if you're an astrologer, March comes in like a Pisces and out like what sign?

- a. Aquarius
- b. Aries
- c. Taurus
- d. Gemini

10> If Ralph Kramden even did manage to send Alice "to the Moon", how far would she have had to travel?

- a. 3,844 kilometers (238,857 miles)
- b. 384,403 kilometers (238,857 miles)
- c. 38,440 kilometers (238,857 miles)
- d. 3,843,033 kilometers (238,857 miles)

11> The first astronauts were military test pilots. Who was the first US civilian in space?

- a. Jake Garn
- b. Christa McAuliffe
- c. Neil Armstrong
- d. Harrison Schmitt

12> Aside from the fact that it's a flying saucer, what else is unusual about a spy plane called the DarkStar?

- a. It has no pilot
- b. It can become invisible at night
- c. It is used exclusively by civilians
- d. It can reach the Moon and back

13> When the Montgolfier brothers launched their first balloon, whom or what was it carrying?

- a. A duck, rooster and sheep
- b. France's crown prince
- c. The brothers themselves
- d. Weather instruments

14> Shortly after winning the Nobel Prize, Pierre Curie died. What killed him?

- a. Radiation poisoning
- b. A horse-drawn carriage
- c. A bad egg
- d. Marie Curie's gun

15> Arguably, Germany's Heinrich Gobel, Britain's Joseph Swan and Canada's

Henry Woodward all beat Thomas Edison to which of his inventions?

- a. Light bulb
- b. Motion pictures
- c. Phonograph
- d. Radio

Answers:

- 1> Wheel - IP Australia was awarded an Ig Nobel Prize in 2001 for granting this patent as one of the world's oldest known inventions.
- 2> Orville - Wilbur won a coin toss and made a three-second flight attempt on December 14, 1903.
- 3> Archimedes - Archimedes was a Greek mathematician, physicist, engineer, inventor, and astronomer.
- 4> Benjamin Franklin - Franklin was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States.
- 5> Richard Nixon - On August 9, 1974, Nixon resigned in the face of almost certain impeachment and removal from office.
- 6> Luigi Galvani - The experiment was one of the first forays into the study of bioelectricity, a field that still today studies the electrical patterns and signals of the nervous system.
- 7> Michael Faraday - Historians of science refer to Faraday as having been the best experimentalist in the history of science.
- 8> Literature - Bertrand was a well-known anti-war activist and went to prison for his pacifism during World War I.
- 9> Aries - Aries is the first astrological sign in the Zodiac.
- 10> 384,403 kilometers (238,857 miles) - The Moon is the fifth largest satellite in the Solar System and the only natural satellite of the Earth.
- 11> Neil Armstrong - Neil Armstrong was in the United States Navy and he also served in the Korean War.
- 12> It has no pilot - DarkStar made its first flight on March 29, 1996.
- 13> A duck, rooster and sheep - The flight covered 1.2 miles and lasted 10 minutes.
- 14> A horse-drawn carriage - Crossing a busy street in the rain, he slipped and fell under a heavy horse drawn cart, which ran over his head killing him instantly.
- 15> Light bulb - Edison was one of the first inventors to apply the principles of mass production and teamwork to the process of invention.

