

# SCIENCE TRIVIA QUESTIONS XVI



( [www.TriviaChamp.com](http://www.TriviaChamp.com) )

1> The CIA is believed to have targeted Fidel Castro with this toxic element, also used as a murder weapon in Agatha Christie's *The Pale Horse*. What is this 81st element?

- a. Cadmium
- b. Thallium
- c. Arsenic
- d. Mercury

2> Honda built the first humanoid robot capable of walking, calling the process "advanced step-in mobility". But what did they name the robot?

- a. Aibo
- b. Asimo
- c. Grio
- d. Kismet

3> In 2004, a potential tenth planet was named Sedna, for a sea goddess in whose legends?

- a. Inuit (Eskimos)
- b. Mayans
- c. Vikings
- d. Celtic

4> The year the Wright brothers actually flew, they kept it quiet, because newspapers were laughing at whose failed attempts?

- a. Henry Ford
- b. Tennessee Williams
- c. Samuel Langley
- d. Thomas Edison

5> In 1909, Louis Bleriot won £1000 for being the first person to fly across what body of water?

- a. Lake Superior
- b. English Channel
- c. Atlantic Ocean
- d. Mediterranean Sea

6> According to Isaac Newton's first law of motion, what happens to a body in motion, thanks to inertia?

- a. It slows down
- b. It stays in motion
- c. It speeds up
- d. It stops

7> Based on its Messier number, Andromeda is known scientifically as M31. What is it?

- a. A constellation
- b. A galaxy
- c. A star
- d. An asteroid

8> In its pure form, what metal has the highest thermal conductivity, highest optical reflectivity and lowest contact resistance?

- a. Copper
- b. Silver
- c. Aluminum
- d. Graphite

9> Based in New Mexico, Ed Roberts sold kits for what is called the first PC, even though you had to build it yourself. What was it?

- a. Altair-8800
- b. TRS-80
- c. Apple II
- d. Commodore 64

10> John Harrison, a barely educated craftsman, invented a H-4 chronometer that beat out London's smartest scientists to win a £20,000 prize for doing something. What?

- a. Dating fossils
- b. Setting standard time
- c. Determining longitude
- d. Calculating the speed of light

11> Often called the first roller coaster, the Gravity Pleasure Switchback Railway rocketed along at 6 mph, and was built by a preacher named LeMarcus Thompson to keep people away from what location's beer halls?

- a. Atlantic City
- b. Las Vegas
- c. Coney Island
- d. Fort Lauderdale

12> Where would you find a plane's empennage?

- a. Wings
- b. Underneath it
- c. Tail
- d. Cockpit

13> In what century did the Montgolfier brothers make their famous balloon ride over Paris?

- a. 1500s
- b. 1700s
- c. 1600s
- d. 1900s

14> Al Stewart sold ferric hexacyanoferrate, which people added to their laundry to combat yellowing. What is this chemical?

- a. Danish red
- b. American white
- c. Prussian blue
- d. Asian yellow

15> When are astronomers likely to observe a peculiar phenomenon called Baily's beads?

- a. During a solar eclipse
- b. During a supernova
- c. During the landing of a Martian probe
- d. During the Northern Lights

### Answers:

1> Thallium - This soft grey metal's name comes from the Greek for 'young shoot' and properties are so odd that it's called the platypus of elements.

2> Asimo - The humanoid Asimo (short for Advanced Step-in Innovative Mobility), which mostly walked around, including up and down stairs.

3> Inuit (Eskimos) - She rules over Adlivun, the Inuit Underworld.

4> Samuel Langley - In 1896, the Smithsonian's Stanley Pierpont Langley flew the steam-powered aerodrome, for the first sustained flight in a mechanically propelled heavier-than-air craft, which crashed into the water.

5> English Channel - This was also the first international flight.

6> It stays in motion - The law of inertia holds that an object moving in a straight line will continue to move in a straight line unless acted upon by an outside force, and that an object at rest will stay at rest unless a force moves it.

7> A galaxy - It contains smaller galaxies that it has devoured.

8> Silver - It also has the highest electrical conductivity.

9> Altair-8800 - The January 1975 issues of Popular Electronics announced Roberts' MITS Altair 8800 kit, which cost \$350.

10> Determining longitude - The £20,000 Longitude Prize was offered to the first person to figure out longitude within 30 nautical miles.

11> Coney Island - Robert Moses closed the "tawdry" amusements and the area went into decline.

12> Tail - A plane has landing gear (the undercarriage), a tail (the empennage), wings, fuselage (the body) and an engine.

13> 1700s - The pair were in the business of papermaking.

14> Prussian blue - Prussian blue is made of potash, iron and animal by-products.

15> During a solar eclipse - They appear when sunlight shines through lunar valleys.