

SCIENCE TRIVIA QUESTIONS XXI



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1> Harley Earl designed chrome trim, two-tone paint, hardtops, wrap-around windshields and (especially) tailfins for what company?

- a. Ford
- b. Tucker
- c. Chrysler
- d. General Motors

2> Happily, it only eats teeny tiny food like plankton. At up to 60 feet, what is the largest known fish?

- a. Hammerhead
- b. Giant catfish
- c. Whale shark
- d. Jumbo shrimp

3> Originally, a gram was defined as how much pure water, at the temperature of melting ice?

- a. 1 cup
- b. 1 tablespoon
- c. 1 cc
- d. 1 teaspoon

4> What distinctive feature of the Stegosaurus was named the thagomizer, a term that originally appeared in a Far Side comic strip about the late Thag Simmons?

- a. Two horns and a bony facial frill
- b. Fins
- c. A turtle-like shell
- d. Double row of kite-shaped plates on its back

5> No, this drug was never used as an appetite suppressant or as a stimulant for the military, but Merck did hope it would stop abnormal bleeding. What?

- a. Acid (LSD)
- b. Cannabis (THC)
- c. Ecstasy (MDMA)
- d. Angel dust (PCP)

6> When would a gerontologist take an interest in you?

- a. When you grow old
- b. When you exercise
- c. When you enjoy a hobby
- d. When you study your ancestry

7> The largest single living animal cell on Earth is the yolk found in what animal's egg, which in turn is the largest egg in the world?

- a. Blue whale
- b. Komodo dragon
- c. Ostrich
- d. Elephant

8> Supersonic is at least Mach 1, roughly. What word is used for Mach 5, or five times the speed of sound?

- a. Ultrasonic
- b. Megasonic
- c. Transonic
- d. Hypersonic

9> In 1919, while flying the *Lame Duck*, Albert "Putty" Reed and his crew became the first people to fly across which ocean?

- a. Arctic
- b. Atlantic
- c. Indian
- d. Pacific

10> Although the agouti gene is responsible for bay-colored horses and the stripes on a tabby, what is an agouti itself?

- a. A North American wildcat
- b. A South American rodent
- c. An Asian primate
- d. An African antelope

11> Henrietta Lacks, who lived in a segregated community, died of cervical cancer in 1951, but she's still saving lives today. How so?

- a. Her death led to tighter meat packing standards
- b. She appeared in one of the first anti-smoking videos
- c. Her cells are still being used in medical research
- d. Her body was used to model the CPR dummy

12> If you're converting from metric, how many inches are there to the meter?

- a. 19.37
- b. 79.37
- c. 39.37
- d. 59.37

13> The appendix hangs off the cecum. Where would you find the cecum?

- a. Small intestine
- b. Liver
- c. Stomach
- d. Large intestine

14> The male deep-sea angler only feeds when it bites the larger female and sucks her blood, giving him even more incentive to do something. What?

- a. Mate
- b. Surface
- c. Hunt
- d. Hatch

15> 1930 saw the introduction of a Disney character and the discovery of a planet, both of which had the same name. Which one?

- a. Pluto
- b. Uranus
- c. Goofy
- d. Neptune

Answers:

- 1> General Motors - He worked for GM from 1927 until 1959.
- 2> Whale shark - The whale shark gets to more than 65 feet long and has the thickest skin of any animal, at up to 4 inches.
- 3> 1 cc - A gram is now defined as one one-thousandth of a kilogram.
- 4> Double row of kite-shaped plates on its back - In a 1982 Far Side strip, cavemen attend a lecture in which the speaker points to an image of the spikes, saying that it was called a thagomizer in honor of 'the late Thag Simmons'.
- 5> Ecstasy (MDMA) - It was patented by Merck on Christmas Eve 1914. It was mostly forgotten until it started to be used for fun in the 1970s.
- 6> When you grow old - Gerontology is the study of the psychological, social and biological aspects of aging.
- 7> Ostrich - But for birds, it's the smallest egg in relation to body size.
- 8> Hypersonic - NASA defines 'high' hypersonic as any Mach number from 10 to 25.
- 9> Atlantic - The Lamie Duck was an NC-4 navy patrol bomber they flew from Long Island to Plymouth with stops in Newfoundland, the Azores and Lisbon under the watchful eye of 50 destroyers.
- 10> A South American rodent - It is one of the few animals that can break into Brazil nuts.
- 11> Her cells are still being used in medical research - Although she never knew her biopsied tissue was being used this way, the HeLa cell lines have been instrumental in research on cancer, AIDS, polio and much more.
- 12> 39.37 - Only Burma, Liberia and the United States have not officially adopted the metric system.
- 13> Large intestine - The large intestine consists of the cecum, rectum and the anal canal.
- 14> Mate - However, he eventually gets, literally, absorbed into her body.
- 15> Pluto - Although originally classified as a planet, Pluto is now considered a dwarf-planet.