

SCIENCE TRIVIA QUESTIONS VII



(www.TriviaChamp.com)

- 1> As part of the Manhattan Project, what did Enrico Fermi produce in a basement squash court under Stagg Field at the University of Chicago?
- 2> About 80 percent of the world's earthquakes and many of the worst volcanoes are found along the Ring of Fire around what body of water?
- 3> What element is symbolized by a K, because it was named for "kalium", the Arabic word for "alkali"?
- 4> In 1901, something peculiar was discovered off the Greek island of Antikythera. It was an ancient version of what object?
- 5> Now found mostly in high school science classes and horror movies, what electrostatic generator was invented as a kind of particle accelerator?
- 6> In the 1040s, Bi Sheng invented something, getting a 400-year jump on a goldsmith from Mainz. What was it?
- 7> If, per the title of the Jules Verne book, you really were "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea," how far down would you be?
- 8> The first person in space who was neither a Soviet nor an American citizen was Vladimir Remek, who went up in 1978. What country was he from?
- 9> As the ancient Listerine ad campaign warned us, what is halitosis?
- 10> Immune to its host's poison, what funny fish hides among the sea anemone's tentacles?
- 11> If you're leaking lacrimal fluid, what part of your body is it dripping from?
- 12> In addition to being a field of mathematics, "calculus" also refers to what dental condition?
- 13> What drug did chemists at Pfizer discover while looking for a way to treat

heart disease?

14> Based on the volume of a typical barrow, New York state wildlife expert Richard Thomas calculated how much a woodchuck could chuck (if, of course, it could chuck wood). How much?

15> The Disney documentary "White Wilderness" popularized the myth that what creature has a suicidal urge to leap en masse into the ocean?

Answers:

1> Nuclear fission - A Henry Moore sculpture marks the spot on Stagg Field where Enrico Fermi achieved the first self-sustained nuclear reaction.

2> Pacific - Earthquakes are produced by all that shuffling of tectonic plates, which also have a role in producing those volcanic vents that allow magma to spurt up from deep within the earth.

3> Potassium - Strictly speaking, it comes from the Arabic for "calcined ashes".

4> Computer - Used for astronomical calculations, it was found in a shipwreck and turned out to have been built sometime between 150 and 100 BCE, exhibiting mechanical gear technology that would not resurface for nearly 2000 years.

5> Van De Graaff generator - It looks like a metal ball on a stick, with a smaller version next door.

6> Printing press - With 40,000 ideographs, though, this invention wasn't very practical in China, so people went back to wood blocks.

7> 70,000 miles - The actual distance in a league varies. It's supposed to be as far as a person can walk in an hour, which is a bit over 3 miles.

8> Czechoslovakia - In fact, there were astronauts from Poland, East Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, Cuba, Mongolia and Romania before there was one from France or Britain.

9> Bad breath - When the ads began running during Prohibition, Listerine was more popular for its 25 percent alcohol.

10> Clownfish - Because it is immune to the sea anemone, it can live in coral reefs.

11> Eyes - It drips from through the lacrimal canaliculi, better known as tear ducts.

12> Tartar - Calculus gets its name from the Latin word for pebble.

13> Viagra - Viagra prevents blood clots by hampering platelets, and it enhances blood flow by relaxing the walls of arteries and veins.

14> 700 lbs - This was based on an average barrow, which is 35 cubic feet.

15> Lemming - The doc was filmed in landlocked Alberta with a few dozen lemmings bought from Manitoba Eskimos. They were filmed on a snow-covered turntable and then tossed off a cliff.

