

SCIENCE TRIVIA QUESTIONS XV



(www.TriviaChamp.com)

1> What is the value of 5! (ie, 5 factorial)?

- a. 3125
- b. 15
- c. 120
- d. 0

2> A heavy-duty style of number crunching called sabermetrics gets its name from SABR, founded by a warehouse security guard named Bill James. What is the SABR?

- a. Statistical Analysis of Backward Records
- b. South Atlanta Brotherhood of Railroaders
- c. Society for American Baseball Research
- d. Stars-and-Bars Resurgent

3> The periodic table is based on the atomic number of the elements. But what is the atomic number based on?

- a. Electrons
- b. Protons
- c. Neutrons
- d. Bygones

4> A staple of science fiction, what theoretical particle can theoretically go faster than light?

- a. Baryon
- b. Quark
- c. Tachyon
- d. Photon

5> In the 1986 book "Engines of Creation," Eric Drexler described what then-futuristic technology?

- a. Fiber optics
- b. Cloning
- c. Nanotechnology
- d. Robotics

6> Although popularized by Leonard Euler, what symbol was first used in 1706 by William Jones, who picked it because it was the first letter in the Greek word for perimeter?

- a. Chi
- b. Pi
- c. Rho
- d. Iota

7> What pioneer of computing also backed SpaceShipOne, the private spacecraft that won the \$10 million Ansari X Prize in 2004?

- a. Steve Jobs
- b. Paul Allen
- c. Steve Wozniak
- d. Steve Ballmer

8> There's 3D and Einstein added time. The Fifth Dimension took us "Up, Up and Away". But how many dimensions are required by superstring theory?

- a. Ten
- b. Six
- c. An infinite number
- d. None

9> What unit of electrical charge is named for a French pioneer in electrical theory who was once a military engineer in the West Indies?

- a. Ampere
- b. Joule
- c. Coulomb
- d. Ohm

10> What element did its discoverer, Paul Lecoq de Boisbaudran, name for both his native country and as a pun on the Latin translation of his name?

- a. Francium
- b. Polonium
- c. Gallium
- d. Americium

11> In math, what word describes the average of a group of numbers?

- a. Mean
- b. Mode
- c. Median
- d. Middle

12> Sometimes, you find a beautiful bit of glass called a fulgurite. What created it?

- a. A bolt of lightning
- b. Pressures of the earth
- c. Constant flow of saltwater
- d. Volcanic reactions

13> Eratosthenes of Cyrene is said to be the first to estimate accurately the diameter of the earth. What does the Sieve of Eratosthenes do?

- a. Helps divide large numbers
- b. Calculates pi
- c. Finds prime numbers
- d. Estimates square roots

14> What Apple computer, the first commercial PC with a mouse, was purportedly named for Steve Jobs' illegitimate daughter?

- a. Jennifer
- b. Michelle
- c. Lisa
- d. Kathleen

15> Where did the NEAR Shoemaker spacecraft land on February 12, 2001?

- a. The asteroid 433 Eros
- b. The comet Borrelly
- c. The International Space Station
- d. Pluto

Answers:

- 1> 120 - A factorial is the product of all the positive integers up to and including that number, so 5! is $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5$ or 120.
- 2> Society for American Baseball Research - Because editors thought his freelance pieces too quirky and stats heavy, James started self-publishing The Bill James Baseball Abstract every year.
- 3> Protons - It is found in its atomic nucleus.
- 4> Tachyon - Tachyons are hypothetical superluminal particles.
- 5> Nanotechnology - People are captivated by the idea of tiny robots rebuilding cells from the inside, but nanotech will also be used in molecular electronics to make transistors for very dense working components, making possible weird quantum optical computers that use light rather than chips.
- 6> Pi - It is also the number you get by dividing a circle's circumference by its diameter.
- 7> Paul Allen - Inspired by the Orteig Prize, won by Charles Lindbergh, Peter Diamandis offered the Ansari X Prize to the first team that carried three people 100 km into space twice within a two-week span.
- 8> Ten - This is the theory that particles are actually multidimensional strings. Vibrating particles create the four forces of energy.
- 9> Coulomb - A coulomb is the charge of 6.24×10^{18} electrons (negative) or protons (positive).
- 10> Gallium - Gallus means rooster in Latin, which is le coq in French.
- 11> Mean - The mode is the most common number in a series, while the median is in the middle, as far as probabilities are concerned.
- 12> A bolt of lightning - From the Latin for thunderbolt, it is, almost literally, fossilized lightning.
- 13> Finds prime numbers - He worked at the Library of Alexandria.
- 14> Lisa - Jobs realized that Apple would have to create a PC of its own that had a graphical user interface.
- 15> The asteroid 433 Eros - NEAR stands for Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous. The car-sized craft left in 1996, travelled 196 million miles, and sent back detailed photos.