

# SCIENCE TRIVIA QUESTIONS XVII



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1> In 1655, Christian Huygens became the first person to discover a moon orbiting a planet other than ours or Jupiter. He called it, simply, Saturni Luna ("moon of Saturn"). What do we call it today?

- a. Ganymede
- b. Titan
- c. Triton
- d. Europa

2> Many mammals, such as cats, can detect chemicals in the air with their Jacobson's organ. Where is this organ?

- a. Inside the nose
- b. Behind the ears
- c. Roof of the mouth
- d. At the corners of the eyes

3> Castor oil comes, not from beavers, but from the castor bean. What poison comes from the castor bean plant's seeds?

- a. Sarin
- b. Ricin
- c. Anthrax
- d. Mustard gas

4> With about 25,000 species, what group of animals makes up almost half of all known vertebrate species?

- a. Fish
- b. Insects
- c. Birds
- d. Mammals

5> What blue pill is known chemically as sildenafil citrate?

- a. Viagra
- b. Prozac
- c. Claritin
- d. Zoloft

6> What kind of radiation produces tans by releasing the pigment melanin into the skin's cells?

- a. UV rays
- b. Infrared rays
- c. Gamma rays
- d. X-rays

7> The Queen Alexandra's birdwing is considered the largest species of what type of animal?

- a. Songbird
- b. Bat
- c. Butterfly
- d. Dinosaur

8> This isn't lactose. It's actually a hydroxide of element #12. But it helps with indigestion and constipation. What is it?

- a. Sodium bicarbonate
- b. Milk of magnesia
- c. Antacid
- d. Calcium carbonate

9> If you have Tay-Sachs, a fatal brain disease, your family tree almost certainly includes which people?

- a. Eastern European Jews
- b. Irish and Scots
- c. African Americans
- d. Armenians and Arabs

10> What is unusual about kids with progeria?

- a. They are aging incredibly rapidly
- b. They have extremely heightened senses
- c. They have stratospheric IQs
- d. They never grow taller than 3 feet

11> Dr Julius Wagner von Jauregg won a Nobel Prize for figuring out a way to fight syphilis with what other disease?

- a. Influenza
- b. Smallpox
- c. Malaria
- d. Tuberculosis

12> Who or what would have lanugo hairs?

- a. Fur-bearing animals
- b. Fetuses
- c. Whales and dolphins
- d. Reptiles and birds

13> The poorwill was the first bird discovered to be doing something that we once thought no birds did. What?

- a. Attacking with poison
- b. Hibernating
- c. Bonding in same-sex partnerships
- d. Using human words intelligently

14> French and British astronomers predicted the existence of what planet in 1846, which Johann Gottfried Galle found later that year?

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

15> The smallest true member of the bear family is *Ursus malayanus*, known popularly by what name?

- a. Sun bear
- b. Panda bear
- c. Koala bear
- d. Sloth bear

## Answers:

- 1> Titan - The son of a Dutch poet and composer, he speculated that life existed on other planets.
- 2> Roof of the mouth - When a snake flicks its tongue, it is 'tasting' the air. It then sticks the tongue up on the roof of its mouth, where the organ is.
- 3> Ricin - In 2003, radical Moslems in North London were planning an attack with ricin. Ricin was also found in the White House mail room later that year.
- 4> Fish - By counts, there are 9000 birds, 6000 reptiles, 4500 mammals and 2500 amphibians.
- 5> Viagra - When men get aroused, nerves in their penises release nitric oxide, which activates an enzyme called cyclic GMP, which in turn relaxes the walls of the blood vessels in the penis. Sildenafil slows down the degrading of cyclic GMP.
- 6> UV rays - Sunlight triggers the production of melanin, which darkens the skin and protects it from UV. But it also causes melanin to break down in hair, causing it to lighten.
- 7> Butterfly - The Atlas moth is the largest moth.
- 8> Milk of magnesia - It pulls a saline solution from the bloodstream, producing excess fluid that flushes the intestines. It's also alkaline enough to cancel out the hydrochloric acid in your guts.
- 9> Eastern European Jews - Cajuns are also genetically vulnerable to Tay-Sachs disease, which usually kills little children by eating at their brains.
- 10> They are aging incredibly rapidly - They are often lucky to make it to their 40s. It is also called Hutchinson-Gilford syndrome.
- 11> Malaria - The malaria produces a high fever, and malaria can be treated with quinine.
- 12> Fetuses - They are all over the fetus.
- 13> Hibernating - The smallest of the nightjars, the poorwill was called the Sleeping One by the Hopi.
- 14> Neptune - It was in Capricorn.
- 15> Sun bear - It is named for a ring-shaped yellow mark on its chest.