

# KINDERUNI CURIOSITY CONTEST



## Questions from Kolkata, India

**1. How can Google answer so many questions within a second or in real time?**

*by Kripa Agarwal, Mahadevi Birla World Academy*

**Ans:** OMG, I would like to do the same! Google has thousands of computers working together at the same time. That's called "multitasking". And you surely know, if many people work together, they are much faster than one alone. That's it!

**2. My father says that water attracts other water parts because of cohesive force. What will happen to water if cohesive force was not there?**

*by Arav Garg, The Heritage School*

**Ans:** Then water would behave more like water and oil. Perhaps, the single drops would stay single much longer before marrying other droplets. Kind regards to your father!

**3. Warum ist ein Schwanz immer hinten? Why do all animals have the tail at the back?**

*by Aunoushka Bardhan, Modern High School for Girls*

**Ans:** That's true! Because animals need the tail to steer. If they spring or fall, the tail keeps them in balance so they land on their paws or claws. You can examine the birds: if they put their head downwards, the tail is moving upwards and vice versa. That's pretty tricky!

**4. Why do I feel a tickle in my body when someone else does it, but when I do it by myself I don't feel anything?**

*by Keshav Somani, Mahadevi Birla World Academy*

**Ans:** The thing is, if another person is doing it, it's unpredictable what happens, so you and your body are surprised. If you do it yourself, your body knows exactly what will happen and can adapt to it.

**5. Why don't birds get electrocuted when they sit on wet electric wires?**

*by Somarya Dutta, Mahadevi Birla World Academy*

**Ans:** Because they don't create any electric circuit. It's like sitting on one contact point of a battery. As soon as you touch the second contact too, you would get an electric shock because then you would have closed an electric circuit with your body. The second contact for the bird would be the metal pylon. But usually they sit somewhere between the two points. Very smart!



**6. What if a big explosion causes the sun to fall on the earth?**

*by Ayush Mondal, Mahadevi Birla World Academy*

**Ans:** Well, the earth would fall into the sun because the sun is much bigger and attracts earth towards it. The sun's force of attraction is much greater than that of earths towards the sun. And there's no explosion which can impress our sun, for sure!

**7. Why do we see a colony of ants entering our house days before it rains?**

*by Eva Ghosh, Mahadevi Birla World Academy*

**Ans:** Perhaps randomly. But some species can "feel" bad weather even if it is approaching but still far away. Scientists don't know what these animals feel. Perhaps, they can sense the infrasound created by heavy weather storms and lightning. Or they can somehow feel electromagnetic waves created by a storm front. Animals have much better senses than we do, because the world is much more dangerous to them.

**8. Why does the rainbow always have only seven colors and semi-circular shape? I wish it had more colors and different shapes - then our world could look more beautiful with its presence.**

*by Sejal Gupta, Sushila Birla World's School*

**Ans:** The rainbow has an infinite number of colors the main colors are yellow, orange, red, green, blue and violet. But there are many colors in between. The semi-circular shape relates to the position of the observer because our eyes are very close together. If there were a thousand meters between our right and left eye, the shape of the rainbow would seem to be different.

**9. I am curious to know when the earth spins@1000 mph speed, why do we not feel the spin. On the contrary, when we enjoy the merry-go-round, our head starts to spin. Why don't we feel the same in earth's case?**

*by Saarang Gunecha, Mahadevi Birla World Academy*

**Ans:** Pretty good question! Because earth's surface is nearly flat and the gravitation of earth is very strong. On a smaller planet, we would feel it much more. And we do not feel any airstream of the spinning earth because earth's atmosphere is moving with it. As a result, the earth seems to stand still and the sun appears to be moving instead. But it's amazing, that the earth moves faster than sound can travel through air!

**10. We know that plants need sunlight to make their food, so how do plants at the bottom of the ocean or the sea make their food since no sunlight reaches there?**

[www.goethe.de](http://www.goethe.de)

*by Naitik Ghiria, Mahadevi Birla World Academy*



**Ans:** Great question! Plants need energy to make their food. This can either be delivered by sunlight or by the heat from an underwater volcano or a hot spring at the sea bottom. Or they take energy from animals they catch and eat.

**11. Eating an ice cream gives us a cooling effect but it makes our body warmer. Why?**

*by Alankrita Chatterjee, Mahadevi Birla World Academy*

**Ans:** That's really amazing. Our body feels the coolness and creates heat to overcome coolness and maintain body temperature. So in other regions where it is very hot, people drink hot tea. It's warm first, but then the body cools itself down to overcome the heat. Smart, yeah?

**12. What would happen to astronauts if they go inside the 'Black Hole'? What is inside it and will they be able to return safely from there?**

*by Ayesha Ejazz Ahmed, Modern High School for Girls*

**Ans:** Black holes are so fascinating. If astronauts enter a black hole, they would surely die and their body would compress to a very small size. They'll never be able to escape it because the gravitation of a black hole is so strong that you can't leave it.