



KINDERUNI CURIOSITY CONTEST

Questions from New Delhi, India

1. When we all know that plastic is extremely bad, then why is it not 100% banned yet?

by Ryan Gupta, KR Mangalam World School, GK2

Ans: OMG, that's such a simple, but tricky question. Because plastic is very cheap to produce and very comfortable to use. If the manufacturers would have to pay for their waste, there won't be as much plastic in the world.

2. If the world is a million years old, then why are we only in 2020?

by Maitreyi Choudhary, TDI International School, Sonapat

Ans: Very smart! Because you don't exactly know where to start counting earth-years, so people decided randomly by defining the year Zero, some 2020 years ago. It was the year Jesus Christ was born, so it was set by Christians. Thais, for instance set their year Zero, 543 years earlier than the Zero decided by Christians, so they are now already celebrating the year 2564 instead of 2020.

3. Can we travel to the future or into the past?

by Aadrit Parashar, Rainbow International School, Himachal Pradesh

Ans: I like this question ;-). As a matter of fact, we do travel to the future all the time, second by second, day by day, year by year. But we can't jump into the future or go back in time. Nonetheless, you can travel back in your mind.

4. Why do we have allergic reactions, why do we start sneezing and things like that?

by Atharv Sharma, Delhi Public School, Gurgaon Sec-45

Ans: Because there are many chemicals around us which irritate our immune system, so we become allergic to natural substances like pollen, which is pretty weird, and it can result in sneezing or eczema or asthma.

5. Despite thousands of raindrops falling at a time, why do only one or two rainbows get formed?

By Harshita Singh, Subodh Public School, Jaipur

Ans: Because there's only ONE sun. Sunlight leads to the creation of rainbows. If sunlight is reflected once by raindrops you see one rainbow, if it is reflected twice you see two rainbows at the same time. If there were two suns, you would see two or four rainbows at the same time and so on and so forth.



6. Why does glue not stick inside the bottle?

by Pranjal Choudhary, TDI International School, Sonapat

Ans: Great question! Because it's in liquid state inside the bottle. As long as it is in liquid state, it doesn't fix anything. Glue only becomes really sticky when it dries.

7. Deaf people don't know what language is, but they can't stay with empty minds, they need to think of something. So, my question is in what language do they think in?

by Navya Sharma, Shikshantar School, Gurugram

Ans: To be honest: This question is inside me for 20 years too!

8. Why are owls awake at night and asleep in the morning?

By Ayanna Kapoor, Shiv Nadar School, Gurugram

Ans: Because they are smart. Most animals sleep at night, so owls are like the chiefs of the night. They also have great eyesight and senses, so they can orientate and hunt very well in the dark. Owls have found a so-called ecological niche where they can exist very well.

9. Because of no air and hence, no friction in outer space, satellites and other space rockets travel much faster than their maximum speed on earth. I always wondered that if we on earth, could create a big vacuum kind of invisible tube-like escape path for our satellite vehicles, it would not only reduce our launching cost, risk factor of failure, total time taken, but also provide us a permanent channel to outer space. Can we do this?

by Keshav Khattar, DLF Public School, Sahibabad

Ans: Very, very good idea. May I say „Mr. Musk“ to you?

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyperloop>

10. My question is: how are black holes created? How are they related to time? And if Earth ever goes into a black hole, will we and the things around us be able to survive it?

by Dhairya Vij, Shikshantar School, Gurugram

Ans: Black holes are made up of huge volumes of matter which is stuffed very densely. Inside of a black hole, astronomers say, time stands still. If earth were to go into a black hole, we wouldn't survive it and the whole earth would become smaller than a pinhole.

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11. Since it was man that created the computer and computers work on the instructions given by man, then why do machines not make any errors and



man does? If we say machines work on pre-loaded instructions and the human brain thinks beyond that, then can artificial intelligence also make errors? Please help me with an answer?

by Arnav Gupta, Don Bosco School

Ans: That's philosophical. Of course, computers and artificial intelligence make errors, simply because they are man-made. And humans too, make errors, even though some people say, we are God-made. If you look at autonomous driving you can see, that if it works correctly people say: "Excellent technique". If an accident occurs, the same people say: "That's human's fault". Following these arguments, you can easily see that technology only wins and humans only lose. That's not fair!

12. If science doesn't advocate soul leaving the body at death, then why do humans die even though we are made up of different types of cells that have different functions? If one stops working the others are still working, no?

by Dhanishka Anand, Shikshantar School, Gurugram

Ans: Because the cells are arranged in bigger units called organs like liver, lung, heart, kidney or spleen. So if one organ is out of order, the whole body can collapse following the principle of the domino-effect.

13. Why are metals good conductors of heat and electricity?

by Hunar Mandhyan, Shikshantar School, Gurugram

Ans: Because electrons can move very well. Current (and voltage) is made up of invisible electrons which move from one atom to another in one direction. By the way, all elements that conduct electricity, conduct heat too. Isn't it amazing?