



Science Newsletter

May 2023 - Summer



QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Which organ covers the entire body and protects it?

How many taste buds are on your tongue? 10,000 or 10,000,000

(answer at the bottom of the next page)

SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

Follow the links to read about the latest science news:

[Find out about the largest ever space explosion](#)

[Why do hammerhead sharks hold their breath?](#)

[Wind is the main source of electricity in UK for the first time](#)

ANIMALS SCIENCE FACTS— DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- The ears of an African Elephant can be 6 feet long!
- Naked Mole Rats can live for up to 30 years, making them the longest-living rodents.
- Naked Mole Rats have incisors that can move independently of each other, a bit like chopsticks.
- A type of stick insect called Chan's Megastick can grow to over half a metre long!
- A platypus is a mammal that lays eggs!
- Pufferfish (image) teeth grow continuously.



SCIENCE SELFIES

Over the next few weeks and the half-term holiday, please take a photo of you using science or investigating science at home.. It could be: recreating an investigation that you have done in school; using a new science related gift; investigating what happened to something over a period of time to food; trying out this month's Dancing Raisins activity; planting seeds; making slime; looking at the effects of exercise on your body; baking... use your imagination! Be creative— we can't wait to see them! **We would like you to take a photograph and then, in one sentence, explain how it is science!** **Send them to Mrs Smith on Class Dojo or send a paper copy back into school by Wednesday 7th June.** We will be displaying all of your entries in school.



SCIENCE AT HOME

Dancing Raisins

Materials

- A clear drinking glass half-filled with water
- About 1 Tbsp baking soda
- Enough vinegar to fill the remainder of the glass
- 3 raisins, cut or ripped in half
- A spoon

Instructions

1. First, use your spoon to place about a tablespoon of baking soda into the glass half-filled with water. The exact amount is not important.
2. Stir the baking soda until it is dissolved in the water.
3. Drop the 6 raisin halves into the glass.
4. Next, pour some vinegar into the glass until it is about 3/4 full. Now watch what happens. Why do you think this happens? Is it what you thought would happen?

Make sure an adult helps you with experiments!



SCIENCE NEAR YOU

Climate Busting ThinkTank Birmingham Ever wondered what affect our changing ocean is having on its millions of fish shells? Join their Visitor Services team this May half term to discover what happens and find out more about what we can do for our climate.. This drop-in activity will run Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June at 10.30am - 12noon. Included within the price of admission. **ZooLab Climate Crusader's Show ThinkTank Birmingham** Join ZooLab in our Thinktank theatre this May half-term and get up close and hands on with exotic animals as we learn about our changing planet. They'll take a look at Snakes, Spiders and Giant Snails as you delve into what we're doing to our planet, how our climate is changing because of this and the things we can do to help. **45 minute shows will be running from Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June at 11.30am and 1.30pm, on level 3 in the theatre.** Included within the price of admission. **This event is included in the price of admission.**

SUMMER TERM SCIENCE AT TIMBERTREE

At Timbertree we are learning about the following topics this half term.

RECEPTION

Reception class will be: *investigating forces.*

YEAR 2

Year 2 will be learning about and revisiting:

- *Plants -What do plants need to survive and grow?*
- *Plants and Animals, Including Humans – How do seeds and bulbs grow? What do I know about animals including humans?*

YEAR 4

Year 4 will be learning about:

- *Electricity – What makes an electrical circuit?*
- *Sound – What is sound?*

YEAR 6

Year 6 will be learning about:

- *Electricity - How do the number of components in an electrical circuit affect how it works?*
- *Evolution and Inheritance – How has life evolved?*

YEAR 1

Year 2 will be revisiting:

- *Animals, Including Humans: How do I know if it's an animal?*
- *Plants – What makes a plant/tree?*
- *Animals, Including Humans, and Plants – How do plants and animals change during the year?*

YEAR 3

Year 3 will be learning about:

- *Light – How are shadows formed and changed?*
- *Plants – How do the parts of a plant help it survive?*

YEAR 5

Year 5 will be learning about:

- *Living Things and Their Habitats – How do life cycles of animals differ?*
- *Forces – How do forces help us?*

Biology
Chemistry
Physics

• Answer to the question of the month

- *Skin* is the outer covering of humans and all other animals with a backbone. It protects the body from germs, injuries, and extremes of hot or cold.
- Taste buds have very sensitive microscopic hairs called microvilli. Those tiny hairs send messages to the brain about how something tastes, so you know if it's sweet, sour, bitter, or salty. The average person has about 10,000 taste buds and they're replaced every 2 weeks or so.

STEM CAREERS VETERINARIAN

A veterinarian is a medical professional, who protects the health and well-being of animals. They diagnose and control animal diseases and treat sick and injured animals. They also advise owners on proper care of their pets and livestock. They might work with pets, farm animals or wild animals in a zoo or safari park.



Science Technology Engineering Mathematics



SCIENTIST OF THE MONTH – CHARLES DARWIN

Charles Darwin was a scientist who was born on 12th February 1809 in Shrewsbury, England. After university, he found out that the captain of the ship HMS Beagle, (which set sail in 1831) was looking for someone to be the ship's naturalist. The person would have to explore, collect and record information about the rocks, plants and animals that they found on their trip. Darwin knew this was his dream job and so persuaded his father to let him go on the trip. The Beagle's voyage lasted for 5 years. They travelled to South America and reached the Galapagos islands. When he went ashore Darwin found plants and animals that nobody had ever seen before! Animals Darwin discovered living in the Galapagos islands: including finches and tortoises. In 1859 Charles Darwin wrote a famous book all about the things he had found on his travels.

After 20 years of studying, he had an idea that the plants and creatures he had collected hadn't always been the same as they were when we found them.

He thought that, millions of years ago, living things had all started off in the same way and had gradually, very, very slowly, changed. In this way lots of different animals and plants had developed. This idea is called 'evolution'.

Charles Darwin died on 19th April 1882 and even now, over 100 years later, people are still talking about his ideas and findings.

