

Science Newsletter

October 2022— Autumn

Question of the Month

Do you know what is the fastest flying insect? (answer at the bottom of the page)



SCIENCE NEWS

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SCIENCE TRIVIA

- Jelly fish are not really fish because they don't have a backbone. They are underwater creatures with tentacles and a jelly-like body shaped like a bowl turned upside down. The Portuguese man-of-war has tentacles that can be more than 100 feet long. The tentacles contain poison used to catch the prey they eat. If you brush against a Portuguese man-of-war while swimming it will release venom that will cause you a great deal of pain.
- Peanuts are upside down nuts! Nuts are really the seeds of a plant. Seeds normally grow toward the sun. The peanut's seed pod instead of growing upward toward the sun, grows downward into the soil where it ripens underground.



SCIENCE ACTIVITY— BALANCING ACT

Every object has a centre of gravity. In this activity you will find the centre of gravity of a spoon and fork..

Materials

- Spoon and fork
- Ballpoint pen or pencil

Directions

1. Joint the spoon and fork by sliding the spoon through the tines of the fork.
2. Place the ballpoint pen beneath the fork and spoon so it balances.
3. Now balance the fork and spoon on the eraser of the pencil. Determine if the spoon and fork are more stable on the pencil lead or eraser.



Science Behind the Experiment

The centre of gravity of the spoon and fork is below the base of support, which in this activity is the point of the pencil lead or the pencil eraser. The eraser is more stable than the pencil point because it has a larger base of support.

Answer to the question of the month

The dragonfly is the fastest insect. It can fly more than 30 miles per hour. It beats its wings between 25 and 40 times per second as it travels through the air.