



## 2021 Curious Questions Contest Entries

*Our students come from different backgrounds. Some of their honest questions are on some controversial or religious topics. Sharing these questions does not constitute an endorsement.*

### **Jackson C., 12, Illinois**

1. How come Mercury is the closest planet to the sun, but Venus is the hottest planet?
2. Why do you have two kidneys if you can live off of just one?
3. Why does the youngest person always go first in board games?
4. How do crumbs get in your eyes when you sleep?
5. What would happen if everyone in the world jumped at once?

### **Ashland S., 12, New Mexico**

1. Why does my dog chase butterflies?
2. Why do people say what's up instead of what's down?
3. Why are roses red and violets blue?
4. Why do you need water if it can kill you?
5. Why do we have toes?

### **Faith S., 14, Maryland – Honorable Mention**

1. Why do people say "They're head over heels!" when we are always head over heels?
2. If shorts are called shorts, why aren't pants called longs?
3. Why do some soaps smell like food? Do people want to smell tasty?
4. Why does the Apple logo have a bit in it?
5. **Why is it sometimes easier to be nice to your dog than to your sibling?**

## **Cecilia P., 13, Maryland**

1. If all the dust in the world was gathered together, how much space would it take up?
2. Why do almost all question words start with W?
3. Why do people say "I know!" when they really don't know?
4. Why does "shhh" mean "be quiet"?
5. Pigs don't say oink. Why do we say that they do?

## **Arthur E., 13, Maryland – Honorable Mention**

1. What is the difference between living and existing?
2. Are we living or slowly dying?
3. What's wrong but sounds rite?
4. What is the goal of humanity?
5. **How far up do bald people go when they wash their face?**

## **Brian C., 13, Maryland – Honorable Mention**

1. Since experts, scientists, and astrologers say there could be something inside the colossal, midnight black monsters that are black holes, could there be something in them?
2. Why do molecules make noise when they collide?
3. **Why haven't genes adapted to pollen yet?**
4. Why do people believe in insane myths like the Abominable Snowman- a giant, hairy, snow gorilla?
5. How do we actually know that our birthdays are on the days we're told they fall on since we just take someone's word for it?

## **Emma B., 13, Maryland – Honorable Mention**

1. Why are we here?
2. **How do bells ring while other metals clank?**
3. **Why do some things look easy, but are actually hard?**
4. Why do people eat unhealthy food if they know it's bad for them?
5. Why does God allow bad things to happen?

## **Makena H., 14, Indiana**

1. Is the lady who's a big fan of George Washington, Mr. Daniel's wife?
2. Why did they make English grammar so confusing? Who are "they" anyway?
3. Why does fire seem to be so appealing to people like Uncle Jim, Tobiah (and myself)?
4. Did lions actually live in North and South American or is the writer of that article just crazy?

## **Tobiah H., 12, Indiana – Honorable Mention**

1. Did the BIBLE say anything about having fleas?
2. Why are the magnetic fields on earth changing?
3. Why can't my mom and dad answer all my questions?
4. **Why don't folks that do graffiti sell their art?**
5. Why does nobody want to hear my conspiracy theories?

## **Lydia C., 11, California**

1. Why does the world revolve around power and money?
2. Why do people allow dictatorships to happen?
3. Why do people enjoy food so much?
4. Is Santa really real?
5. Why is there a microchip shortage?

## **Mikayla S., 15, Colorado – 2nd Place**

1. **Why do people say something is "tasty," as in "delicious," when often the most disgusting things could also be called "tasty?"**
2. People feed cats human food. Why don't cats feed people cat food?
3. When you sneeze, why is the proper response "Bless You?"
4. **Do animals think in words or pictures?**
5. Who would literally laugh in the face of danger?

## **Brianna S., 12, Colorado**

1. Why do cats always barf on the carpet and not tile?
2. Why do Mosquitos make that incessant buzzing noise?
3. Who decided to stab themselves in the nose first? (nose piercing)
4. Why do sisters always snore loudest when you are trying to sleep?
5. Has anyone noticed the thin sharp line on the map of the USA?

## **Jackson M., 15, California**

1. Why do grown-ups take so long to do everything?
2. Why are nice shoes always uncomfortable?
3. How come I can't yawn with my mouth closed?
4. Why are teenagers so moody?
5. Do humans need "up" to function?

## **Rillian C., 10, Utah**

1. Why don't we use laser tanks?
2. Why do people like certain smells?
3. Why do people watch T.V. and dream of doing what they see on T.V. instead of going out and actually accomplishing it?
4. Why do people like things neat?
5. Why am I doing these questions?

## **Elijah B, 12, Idaho – 4th Place**

1. Why do some people eat fish eggs? That sounds disgusting! You could just wait for the eggs to hatch, and eat the fish! I bet that tastes way better than slimy balls!
2. Why can one word in the English dictionary mean many, many things?
3. Why does water taste like nothing and is so bland? Is it because it is clear and has no color?
4. Why do dogs howl at the moon? It doesn't do them any good.
5. **How do people from different cultures say the same words, and speak in the same language, but it still sounds different?**

## **Malachi N., 13, Arkansas**

1. Why do they take certain animals hostage and call them pets?
2. Why do they speak in strange tones with rhyming words, and call it music?
3. Why is it that music from the 70's and 80's is so good?
4. Why is English vocabulary so complicated?
5. Why is coffee so addicting?

## **Camilla F., 11, Minnesota**

1. How many other colors are there that butterflies can see, while we can't?
2. Why are diamonds more valuable than quartz?
3. How do chameleons change color?
4. How tall is the tallest tree?
5. Why do parrots mock people?

## **Jonas S., 12, South Carolina**

1. Why do people like loud cars?
2. Why do people stock up on fire wood that they will never use?
3. Why is a computer company named after a fruit?

4. Why does the trash truck come on Wednesday?
5. Why are people intent on killing some flowers in their lawns (such as the dandelion) and desperately cultivate others (such as the rose)?

### **Bianca F., 11, Minnesota**

1. Where did the first tree seed come from?
2. If there's life on Mars, what does it look like?
3. How does the universe pick what time period you live in?
4. In the autumn, how do trees change color over night?
5. Why are Halloween colors black and orange?

### **Phoenix M., 13, Auckland – Honorable Mention**

1. **Why are larger animals like wild rabbits and birds more scared of humans than insects?**
2. Why do people prefer to listen to music rather than bangs and screeches?
3. How come people can close their eyes but not their ears?
4. **Do animals keep secrets?**
5. Why does everyone think they are always right?

### **Julia A., 12, Florida – 1st Place**

1. **Do all memories have an emotion attached?**
2. **Why are humans so determined to destroy the world we live in?**
3. **Can you ever truly obliterate or create something?**
4. Would flying cars ensue chaos?
5. What would people from medieval times think if they saw the world as it is today?

### **Ella U., 13, Minnesota**

1. Why do people cut down bird's homes to make birdhouses?
2. What if trees could actually feel, think, and see? But we just didn't know that, and impale them with saws and axes?
3. What if every person saw colors in different ways? They'd say, "That's red." but someone else might see your red the way you see your blue-just with the same title. But no one would know this because there is no way to truly explain what the color looks like to themselves.
4. Are aliens as desperate to find people as we are to find them?
5. What if the world was just a computer simulation and there was no purpose to life?

## **Grace O., 12, Auckland**

1. Do animals ever wish they could do the fun things only humans can do?
2. Why is “humans” the plural form of “human” and not “humen”

## **Astrid D., 12, Ontario, Canada**

1. Does the Universe go on forever?
2. Why does fire opal have a sky inside?
3. How did people come up with ghosts?
4. Why does EEny have a death wish? (our cat)
5. How do we know which clock is right when we change time twice each year?

## **Luke R., 13, Florida – 3rd Place**

1. How do we know that water is wet?
2. **What color is a mirror?**
3. **Where does a memory go once it's forgotten?**
4. What is the point of a mosquito?
5. How is it possible that fire is made from almost the same thing as water?

## **Felix J., 11, North Dakota**

1. Why does the wind blow?
2. Why does a clock tick?
3. What are colors for?
4. Do angels have an age?
5. What is ink?

## **Zachary J., 13, North Dakota – Honorable Mention**

1. Coins have the year they were made imprinted on them. Why and who decided that?
2. **What is it like to be dead?**
3. **What is it like to play the bagpipes?**
4. **Which tiny Saint was the first to be made?**
5. Who first discovered budgies, and who named them that?

## **Ryan C., 12, Ohio**

1. If zombies were to destroy humanity and eat all of our brains, would they move on to animals or become vegetarians?
2. Who decided that it's illegal to own axolotls in certain states but legal in others?
3. Does my guardian angel have a sense of humor?
4. Who will be reading this when I die?
5. Why can't I drive a car now? Why do I have to wait to be sixteen first?

## **Joseph C., 12, Texas**

1. Why don't we spell words the way they should sound?
2. Why can't we see the clouds moving when they move so fast?
3. Why is holding a pencil the "correct" way a thing?
4. Why is everything in the world so complicated?
5. How come chickens eat their poop and eggs and we don't?

## **Lincoln B., 13, Ontario, Canada – Honorable Mention**

1. How do I fix my pen?
2. Why do I exist?
3. Why is cooking so hard?
4. Why must it be so cold in this dull world?
5. **What is a shade/tint?**

## **AuLaura W., 12, Saskatchewan, Canada**

1. Why do chickens have useless wings, instead of an extra set of legs?
2. Why is a circular pizza delivered in a square box?
3. What part of your brain makes dreams?
4. Who invented dancing?
5. If Egyptians were so smart, why didn't they invent toothbrushes?

## **Lucy T., 12, Florida – 5<sup>th</sup> Place**

1. If some shells are right-handed or left-handed, are there ambidextrous sea shells?
2. Who invented cooking? Did they just throw random ingredients into a pot and expect it to work out?
3. **Does the amount of people in the car affect the fighting levels on a family road trip or is it the different types of people?**
4. People always pull up weeds, but I wonder if any plants were discovered by not weeding?
5. **Do mermaids need to drink water?**

## **Aletheia B., 13, New Mexico**

1. Why did people vote for our governor?
2. Why do I do school?
3. How did people start doing school?
4. How were all the sports invented?
5. What was life like when pizza didn't exist?

## **Logan L., 12, Virginia**

1. How did humans decide what name goes with what color?
2. Why is milk white?
3. When people invented the calendar years, how did they know when to start?
4. Why is ice clear but not snow?
5. Are there other colors we can't see?

## **Mitchell M., 12, North Carolina – Honorable Mention**

1. Why are my slippers so comfy?
2. Why do people want to go to Mars when there are no bathrooms?
3. Who was the first person to milk a cow?
4. **Would a blue watermelon taste as good as a red one?**
5. Why do pinto beans give you gas?

## **Ellie J., 13, Queensland, Australia – Honorable Mention**

1. Why are most poems, songs and stories about sad things, when we should focus on happy things since there's already enough sadness in the world?
2. Why do people hurt others when they are hurting themselves?
3. **Why is it so hard to think of others when we want other people to think of us?**
4. **Why can colours change our mood and why do we connect certain colours with certain emotions?**
5. **Why is it so easy to forget that people love us?**

## **Megan M., 11, Indiana**

1. Why does Thor (our dog) snore so loud?
2. Why are colds called colds?
3. Why is bone china called bone china?
4. Why are there rules for spelling and then they break them?
5. Why are light bulbs glass?



## **Ashley W., 10, Maryland – Honorable Mention**

1. Why does it seem like mirrors/reflective things seem to hold the depths of the underworld inside, despite being harmless unless broken physically?
2. **Why do quiet noises sound louder than the actual loud ones?**
3. How is anything real?
4. How did we communicate before set languages?
5. How did we know we needed food and water?

## **Vant C., 12, Colorado**

1. Why do humans lie?
2. Why do people hate each other?
3. Why can't humans stop thinking?
4. Why do some animals attack us and others run away?
5. Why are people's skills different?

## **Elijah D., 9, Missouri**

1. Why is brown so...well, brown?
2. Why do wizards use brooms?
3. Why is love love?
4. Why does history repeat?
5. Why am I human?

## **Isabelle L., 12, Iowa – Honorable Mention**

1. Why do old people not like to say their age? Is it because they feel old?
2. Why don't we just have reading, writing, and arithmetic like they used to have?
3. **Why do people say things like "It's raining cats and dogs", when it is shorter to say it is raining hard?**
4. What do old people do with all of their time?
5. Why does the season of fall/autumn have two names and the other seasons only have one?

## **Sarah S., 12, Alberta – Honorable Mention**

1. How many grains of sand would fill one cup?
2. Why is ocean water salty?
3. Will people become smarter and create lots of things or dumber and create pollution and more garbage in the future?
4. **How can people fight while loving each other?**
5. Why do people have to keep secrets?

## **Elias S., 14, Colorado**

1. If you drive really fast the opposite direction the earth is spinning, will you go back in time?
2. Who ate the universe?
3. What's the last thing I'll see when I die?
4. What is at the center of the earth?
5. Which came first the phoenix or the flame?

## **Elsa K., 13, Minnesota – Honorable Mention**

1. What do you call a male ladybug?
2. Do worms have eyes?
3. How can worms still live once you rip them in half?
4. Do the fish in the ocean get cold?
5. **Do worms freeze when the ground freezes?**

## **Grant K., 10, Tennessee**

1. Why did evolution make us crave sugar?
2. Why are humans shaped like we are?
3. Why did Mendeleev write the periodic table the way he did?
4. When did a cell first form?
5. How is a virus dead and alive?

## **Ezra D., 12, Florida**

1. Why is half the chip bag not filled with chips?
2. How tall is the biggest Cheeto?
3. Are there square Doritos?
4. Is Bigfoot real?
5. What's the longest far?

## **Levi D., 12, Florida**

1. What are boogers made of?
2. Why aren't fireworks free?
3. Why don't I have superpowers?
4. Quinoa?
5. Who invented the bath?

## **Madelyn P., 12, Virginia – Honorable Mention**

1. What makes some things "pretty" and other things "ugly"?
2. Where do idioms come from, and what makes them a saying?
3. What makes some words "bad"?
4. Why does the alphabet have to have an order?
5. Quite a few sayings refer to a mysterious "they." Who are "they"?

## **Marina L., 16, Florida**

1. What is time?
2. Why do people hate the truth?
3. Why do we have a lunar eclipse and a solar eclipse?
4. Why do we not have wings?
5. Why do we see colors?

## **Bethany E., 13, Florida**

1. Who was the first person to get stung by a wasp and what did they do?
2. There are some lily pads that a small child can lay on how did they test that?
3. Who was the first person to swim and what were they thinking?

## **Laura R., 12, Kentucky**

1. What makes junk food so good? Is it the fact that we are not allowed to eat a lot of it?
2. Why does being told not to do something only make you want to do it more?
3. Why do people find pleasure in watching people hurt each other? It's brutal, and disgusting.
4. Why do the simplest things always seem to make us so mad?
5. Why would someone want to be so lazy that they would rather live on the streets, and beg for food then get a job?

## **Brock S., 11, Alaska**

1. Why is it that when a law is passed to ban a certain thing (like drinking alcohol), more people start doing the thing that is banned?
2. Why are vaccinated people who believe the vaccine will protect them so angry and/or afraid of an unvaccinated person?
3. Why can a parrot speak, but apes can't when primates are more closely related and physically like humans?
4. How can snakes move so quickly over the ground when they don't have arms or legs to propel themselves with?
5. Are humans destined to become extinct or will they evolve into something grander?

## **Josie W., 11, Tennessee**

1. Why is Christmas sometimes called Xmas?
2. How do we not feel the earth moving?
3. Why do people discover new animals, but not new colors?
4. Why are nickels bigger than dimes?
5. How many people are born each day?

## **Charlize B., 12, British Columbia, Canada**

1. Is writing considered a sort of wizardry?
2. Why do horses need riders?
3. Why do some humans have ginger hair?
4. What do you call a female knight in shining armor?
5. Where is Gunther von Steuben now?