



2024 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.

Noah T., 11, Pennsylvania

1. How do waterfalls never stop producing water?
2. Why is it so hard to stick to a schedule?
3. What makes wood flammable?
4. Why do bee stings hurt so much?

Jacob L., 12, Florida

1. What would it be like to fly?
2. Do dogs have dreams like we do?
3. Why is my mom such a healthy person that makes us eat disgusting food?
4. Why are the weeks so long and the weekends so short?
5. How many books are in the world?

Nate Q., 12, Pennsylvania – HONORABLE MENTION

1. How do you get a headache?
2. Why do people not invent more languages?
3. When does rice stop expanding in water?
4. How do neural pathways get built and/or work?
5. **What makes a preference and why does it feel like you don't have much control over them?**

Leyla W., 10, North Carolina

1. Why do humans put plastic in clothes?

Maisy Y., 12, Virginia – HONORABLE MENTION

1. How come mice and rodents get such a bad reputation?
2. **Why are people scared of spiders?**
3. Do dogs understand people?
4. Why does history repeat itself?
5. Do plants eat sunlight or nutrients?

Silas B., 13, Ohio – 1st PLACE

1. What's inside a black hole?
2. **How many times was I close to buried treasure?**
3. Why does it feel great to do something for someone else?
4. Why do we get angry at stuff like a football game we aren't even playing in?
5. Why is one type of paper (money) worth more than other types of paper?

Silas S., 13, Taiwan – HONORABLE MENTION

1. Why, when you are in your car, does it feel like you are the only thing not moving?
2. Who took the time to mix thirty-six different flavors to make Dr. Pepper?
3. Who makes up slang?
- 4. Who decided that green means go and red means stop?**
5. Why are emotions such a big factor in fighting a battle?

Nicholas S., 13, South Carolina – 3rd PLACE

- 1. Why does boring go slow and fun go fast?**
2. Do people who work for the government pay taxes?

Aedan S., 12, South Carolina

1. Is space endless?
2. What is the point of mosquitoes?

Liam M., 13, South Carolina

1. What is whiteout made of?
2. What is the heaviest material on the periodic table?
3. Why doesn't the USA use the metric system?
4. How many books are there in the world?
5. How big is the universe?

Mia H., 12, South Carolina

1. How did people know meat needed to be cooked?
2. Who found out poison was poison?
3. Who decided red was red and blue was blue?

Trent P., 13, South Carolina

1. What dictates streaming programs from not showing other shows?
2. How is pi a number?

Amos Z., 12, Texas – HONORABLE MENTION

1. Why did God create us if he knew we were going to sin, murder, and steal?
- 2. Why does my brother bother me so much even though he is my best friend?**
3. Why did God take away my grandpa if He knew I loved him so much?
4. Why do people want power?
5. Why is using your mind so hard?

Katelyn T., 13, Texas – HONORABLE MENTION

1. What dictates the growth pattern of trees?
2. Is the sun as close as we'll ever get to having an Eldritch abomination?
3. If an acorn tree grows from an acorn planted in 1990 is that tree technically a time capsule?
- 4. Which came first: the color orange or the orange?**
5. Do sharks find us scary?

Aoife A., 12, California – HONORABLE MENTION

1. Is my path predestined?
2. How was the alphabet invented?
- 3. Why do we forget to look around us?**
4. Did something happen to make people think lowly of others?
5. Why do I know such cool people?

Sebastian Z., 13, Ohio – HONORABLE MENTION

1. What creates the wind?
- 2. How do computers pass sound through headphones?**
3. How did scientists find out that the sun has layers?
4. Why did people come up with different sports that are similar?
5. Is air pollution or water pollution worse?

Shaina W., 13, Saskatchewan – HONORABLE MENTION

- 1. If a tree from Canada was planted in a tropical climate would the leaves ever change colour and fall off?**
2. Why is sitting on the floor so uncomfortable?
3. Why do dogs chew bones?
4. Why can't everything be free?
5. Why is school so confusing?

Joel C., 12, Ontario

1. Can you punch a hole in the earth's space time and travel to different earths?
2. Do aliens have advanced technology?
3. Can you time travel?

Eli W., 13, North Carolina

1. Why do the questions jump around so much, January 21, 1997 to May 13, 1999, then back to January 1997?
2. Does Gunther ever go through change or have any fashion taste?
3. Is Gunther's planet peaceful? He is sickened by war, bloodshed and arguing?
4. There are elders as chiefs on his planet, does Gunther live in a tribe?
5. Does Gunther have meat back home? Ash asks if it tastes good.

Kerith F., 11, New York – 2nd PLACE

1. Why do kids have bigger imaginations than some adults?
2. Why are some mushrooms poisonous and others are not? Is it because they have a different root, or do they soak up a different nutrient?
3. **Why does your tongue muscle never get tired, but your other muscles do?**
4. Why do colors change your emotion?
5. Why are your toes separate? Would they work if they were smashed together?

Amelia O., 13, Florida

1. Is a stick a small branch or is a branch a large stick?
2. What was invented first: singing or instruments?
3. Why do we have different names for animals we eat, except for poultry and fish?

Taylor A., 14, Ohio

1. Why are cookies called cookies if we bake them and bacon called bacon if we cook it?
2. Why don't brown cows make chocolate milk?
3. Why are red and green considered Christmas colors?
4. Why are siblings always so determined to annoy each other?
5. If technology is so advanced, why does it still have the simplest problems or malfunctions?

Eleanor K., 13, Texas – HONORABLE MENTION

1. Has someone already been to Stephen Hawking's Time Travel Party?
2. Who was the first person to "dye" their hair?
3. Why are people scared of the truth?
4. **What do other people see when they look at me?**
5. Why do geckos lick their eyes?