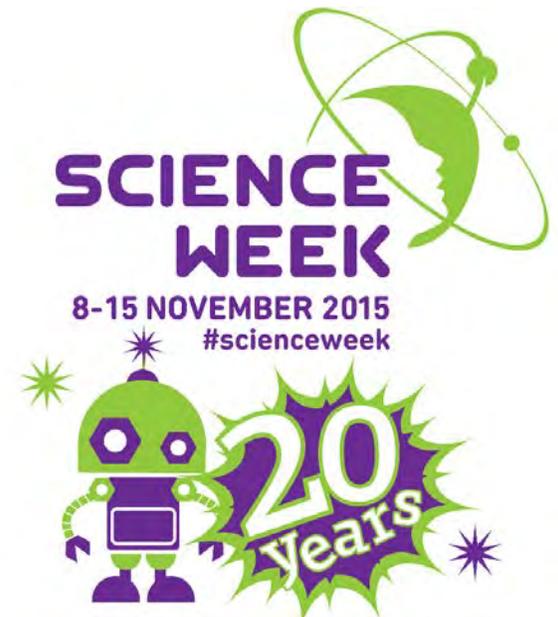


Science Table Quiz 2015



20 years ago: Science and Technology in 1995

1. Which comet, visible to the naked eye 2 years later, was discovered independently by 2 astronomers?
2. What theorem was proved by Andrew Wiles?
3. What data storage format was developed by Philips, Sony, Toshiba and Panasonic?
4. Which website sold its first book?
5. Which Search Engine, for a while the most popular in the world, was launched by Paul Flaherty and others?
6. Which programming language was launched by Sun Microsystems?
7. What was important about the genome of *Haemophilus influenzae*?
8. The first preventative treatment for which common hereditary blood disorder was announced? (Clue: not Haemophilia)
9. Three atmospheric chemists won the Nobel prize for work on the decomposition of which gas?
10. Which Science fiction film, starring Kevin Costner, was at the time the most expensive film ever made, and which failed to cover costs from box office receipts?



Science in 2015

1. January: Which object did the *Dawn* spacecraft visit?
2. February: the teeth of which animal are made from the strongest natural material known?
3. March: Which fuelless aircraft began its circumnavigation of the world?
4. April: Which machine resumed operation after a 2 year upgrade and maintenance?
5. June: *Philae* woke up. What comet is it on?
6. July: Which spacecraft visited Pluto?
7. July: An vaccine against which virus was found to be 100% effective in a clinical trial?
8. September: Fossils of a new hominid *Homo Naledi* was discovered in which country?
9. October: name any of the Nobel prize winners in Chemistry, Physics or Medicine/Physiology
10. December: Science Fiction – what will the title of Star Wars Episode VII be?



Chemistry – The Periodic Table



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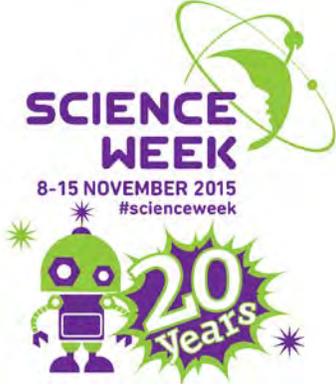
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Botany: Fruits and Vegetables



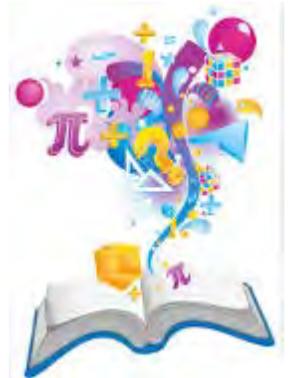
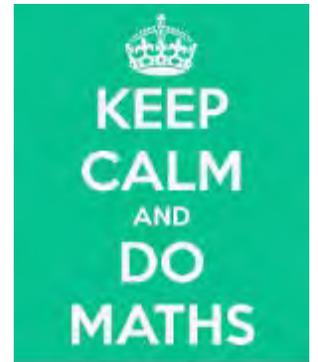
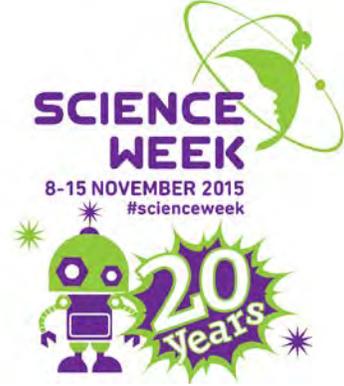
What are the following:

1. A..... (6 blanks) *Persea Americana*
2. B..... (9 blanks) *Rubus fruticosus*
3. C..... (5 blanks) *Daucus carota*
4. D... (3 blanks) *Phoenix dactylifera*
5. E..... (7 blanks) *Solanum menangea* (a species of nightshade!)
6. F.. (2 blanks) *Ficus carica*
7. G..... (8 blanks) *Prunus domestica italica*
8. H..... (7 blanks) *Corylus avellana*
9. I..... (6 blanks) L..... (6 blanks) *Lactuca sativa* “Great Lakes”
10. Jo... (4 blanks)



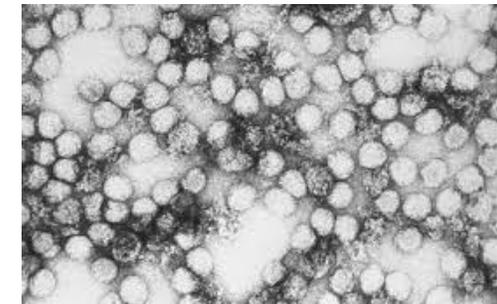
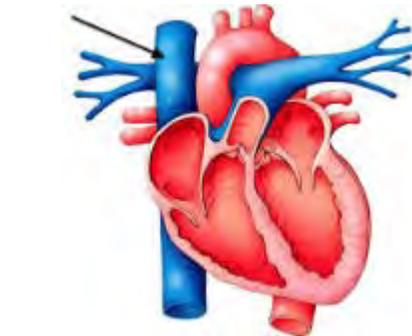
Mathematics

1. How many vertices does an octahedron have?
2. If the speed of light is 3×10^8 m/s, how many metres are there in a light year, to the nearest power of 10?
3. What are the two solutions of $x^2 - 5x - 300 = 0$?
4. The circle, the ellipse, the parabola and the hyperbola are collectively known as what?
5. How many prime numbers are there below 100? (1 doesn't count)
6. If the numbers 10-15 are written as A-F in hexadecimal, how is "2015" written in the same system?
7. What is the Maths equivalent of the Nobel prize?
8. If a circle has a circumference of 154 cm, what is its radius to the nearest cm?
9. What is the value of e (Euler's number) to one decimal place?
10. What is the value of 8! (8 factorial)



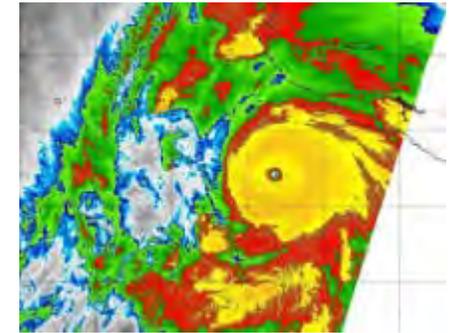
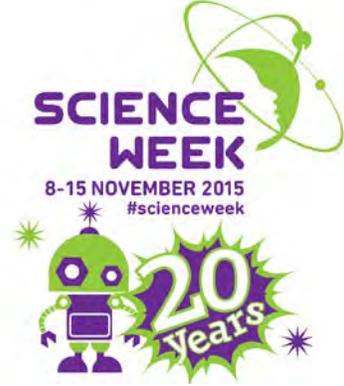
Medicine & Physiology

1. The Nobel prize for medicine this year was awarded for work in treating malaria and which other type of parasite?
2. Which protein is the main constituent of hair and fingernails?
3. And which mineral is the main constituent of bone and dental enamel?
4. How is 2-(acetoxy)benzoic acid better known?
5. Where in the body is the Carpus?
6. Which treatment, meaning “dissolution”, was developed by Willem Kolff in Nazi occupied Holland?
7. Which veins return deoxygenated blood from the body into the heart?
8. In March 2010 a Spanish team carried out the first full transplant of what?
9. Which disease, still common in the tropics, is caused by an RNA virus of the *Flaviviridae* family?
10. Which parts of the body are also called the “palpebrae”?



Earth Sciences

1. How is the warm phase of the Pacific Southern Oscillation better known?
2. What is the boundary in the atmosphere immediately below the Stratosphere called?
3. Which hurricane this year was the most intense ever recorded in the Western Hemisphere?
4. The word F...s... (F 3 blanks s 3 blanks) refers to a very common group of tectosilicate minerals. What is it?
5. Which class of towering clouds is associated with thunderstorms?
6. Which ocean current runs along the northwest coast of Africa?
7. After iron what is the next most common metal in the Earth's outer core?
8. Which geological *period* are we living in?
9. And in which *epoch* of the above?
10. Argon forms approximately what percent of the atmosphere? (to the nearest whole number).



Zoology: Birds



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10

Physics & Engineering

1. Brian Cox is Professor of Particle Physics at which university?
2. What is the SI unit for luminous intensity?
3. Which unit of length, 1/10 of a nanometre, is named after a Swedish physicist?
4. The Roadster is an electric car launched by which motor company?
5. “Additive Manufacturing” is an alternative name for which set of technologies that are currently creating considerable excitement?
6. Which constant is approximately 6.6×10^{-34} J-s?
7. “Ordinary matter” (as opposed to “dark matter” and “dark energy”) is estimated to make up what % of the total mass-energy of the universe (to the nearest whole number)?
8. In what country is the world’s longest road bridge?
9. NASA is currently developing which spacecraft to enable manned missions to Mars?
10. Light with a wavelength of 405 nm is what colour?



Science Fiction

1. 1657: Who wrote “L’Autre Monde...”? (possibly the first ever science fiction book)
2. 1936: Who directed “Things to Come”?
3. 1950: Who wrote “I, Robot” and “Foundation”?
4. 1963: Who was Dr Who’s first companion (the character, not the actor/actress)?
5. 1966: Which *Star Trek* character was played by DeForest Kelley?
6. 1975: Who played Superman in the film?
7. 1979: Who played Kane, the first victim, in “Alien”?
8. 1995 (20 years!): Which film featured Sylvester Stallone as a SF comic book character?
9. 2015: What was the subtitle of this year’s “Avengers” film?
10. 2015: What is the name of the original ship/mission in “The Martian”?

