



# Science and Nature

## Pot Luck 33



"When in doubt, guess loudly and confidently 🌟 😎"

1. What is the collective noun for a group of porcupines?
2. Which astronomical object, known for its extreme brightness and distant location, is also called a quasi-stellar object or QSO?
3. What is the name of the visible sun rays that stream through gaps in clouds, especially at sunrise or sunset?
4. What is the name of a facility equipped with telescopes and other instruments used for observing celestial events?
5. What colour does oxygen appear in its solid state?
6. *Toxoplasma gondii*, a parasite found in cat faeces, is known to alter the behaviour of which type of animal?
7. Which planet in our solar system is so light it could float in water?
8. As of now, how many confirmed elements are on the periodic table?
9. What is the term for alcohol that has been made undrinkable by adding chemicals like methanol, pyridine, and a dye?
10. What is the scientific name for the temperature -273.15 degrees Celsius?
11. Which scientist proved that germs cause disease and developed vaccines for anthrax and rabies?
12. The Mohs Scale is used to measure what physical property of minerals?



Total  
Score





Question	Answer	Did You Know?
1. What is the collective noun for a group of porcupines?	1. A prickle	1.  Porcupines are mostly solitary, but a group is humorously called a “prickle” due to their sharp quills.
2. Which astronomical object, known for its extreme brightness and distant location, is also called a quasi-stellar object or QSO?	2. Quasar	2.  Quasars are so bright that they can outshine entire galaxies and are powered by supermassive black holes.
3. What is the name of the visible sun rays that stream through gaps in clouds, especially at sunrise or sunset?	3. Crepuscular rays	3.  The term crepuscular comes from Latin and refers to twilight, when these dramatic rays are most visible.
4. What is the name of a facility equipped with telescopes and other instruments used for observing celestial events?	4. Observatory	4.  The oldest surviving observatory, built in 1279, still stands in China and was used for astronomical measurements.
5. What colour does oxygen appear in its solid state?	5. Light blue	5.  Solid oxygen appears pale blue because of how it absorbs and transmits light under pressure.
6. Toxoplasma gondii, a parasite found in cat faeces, is known to alter the behaviour of which type of animal?	6. Rodents (especially mice and rats)	6.  Infected rodents lose their fear of cats, making them more likely to be eaten, which helps the parasite complete its life cycle.
7. Which planet in our solar system is so light it could float in water?	7. Saturn	7.  Saturn is mostly hydrogen and helium, making its density lower than water—so it would float if you had a big enough tub!
8. As of now, how many confirmed elements are on the periodic table?	8. 118	8.  Element 118, oganesson, is named after Yuri Oganessian and is part of the noble gases, though it's highly unstable.
9. What is the term for alcohol that has been made undrinkable by adding chemicals like methanol, pyridine, and a dye?	9. Denatured alcohol	9.  Denatured alcohol is dyed and treated to prevent human consumption, making it useful but hazardous.
10. What is the scientific name for the temperature -273.15 degrees Celsius?	10. Absolute zero	10.  Absolute zero is the theoretical point where all molecular motion stops—making it the coldest possible temperature.
11. Which scientist proved that germs cause disease and developed vaccines for anthrax and rabies?	11. Louis Pasteur	11.  Louis Pasteur's work laid the foundation for modern microbiology and vaccine development, including rabies and anthrax.
12. The Mohs Scale is used to measure what physical property of minerals?	12. Hardness	12.  The Mohs Scale, created by Friedrich Mohs in 1812, ranks minerals from talc (1) to diamond (10) by their scratch resistance.