

# TWELVE THIRTY TWO **(1232)** TRULY TRIVIAL TRIFLING TITBITS.....

that temporarily titillate tetchy, talented tadpoles, timidly traipsing throughout terrifying tearful turmoil, then thankfully turning towards tangible transformation.

Tangentially tied together through

**David Tait**

**FINALLY!    *FOR FREE!***

**101** *QUIRKY QUESTIONS*

**97** *MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'S'*

**142** *PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEMS*

Totalling **1572** terrific top tasting tales, to tantalise taut tastebuds!

# ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT.....

Compiling a book crammed full of all the sparkling quips that you'll ever need to be at the heart of every scintillating conversation, astounding people with your brilliant brain and readily retentive memory, is not easy. Particularly when one can't even remember where he left those invisible car keys!

However, by utilizing the power of the modern computer, pioneered by men such as Sergey Alekseevich Lebedev who in 1950 created the first stored programme computer in continental Europe, and the successors of Johannes Guttenberg's 1436-40 invention of the Printing Press, even I can do it! Little did Johannes know what high and noble purposes his stupendous, world changing invention, would be used for! So, if your memories like mine, you'll just have to join me and take this book with you everywhere!

On the other hand, if you simply like a good chortle over the wondrous ways of this magnificent yet sometimes, crazy world read on too, for you will be entertained and fascinated by God's creation and man's machinations.

All possible care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this trivializing, but please understand, it is purely a light entertainment read, not a scientific treatise. If you have any comments or corrections, please let me know by email at [trivia@wwj.org.nz](mailto:trivia@wwj.org.nz) The italicized comments in the brackets simply reflect the meanderings of my weird mind. Love 'em, hate 'em - they are me!

I must not let this opportunity pass without thanking, along with my family who continue to own me, most of the time anyway, my computer - whom they say owns me all of the time! Thank you for not getting too angry when I have frequently pressed your wrong buttons, confused you with contradictory commands, and greatly overworked your chips in my passionate desire to finally put your files to rest. I salute you!

And don't forget, there are, along with the 1232 gems of information and entertainment, there are 101 'Quirky Questions' to test your knowledge of the world around you, plus 97 'Miscellaneous Mind-a-cises' to sharpen your computational skills. Topped off with a sweet sauce of 142 of life's 'Palpably Puzzling Problems', which will quickly show us we aren't God and don't yet know everything there is to know. If only for this, the whole exercise will well be worth it!

Come on, let's have a chuckle, let's have a laugh,  
If that doesn't work, then we'll take a cold bath!

David Tait

### 1. Lots Of 'Kitten Kuddles'

Did you know that a group of kittens is called a kindle? (*Kittens kindle kindly kinetics of adoration in us.*)

### 2. Getting Things Done – Eventually!

The Procrastinators Club of America sends news to its members under the masthead "Last Month' s Newsletter."*(How old is the news?)*

### 3. A Health Food?

Tomato Ketchup was once used as medicine in the United States. Was sold as "Dr.Miles Compound Extract of Tomato". (*My sort of medicine!*)

### 4. Don't Worry About It

In the event of a major meteorite collision with the earth, your odds of dying are 1 in 20,000. Nearly 400 tons of space debris rains down on us daily, far too small an amount to detect. To date, no known big asteroid is on a collision path with Earth. However, a near miss by one in 1996 was found only four days before it passed within 280,000 miles of Earth, a hairbreadth by space standards. (*But a long way from home.*)

### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

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Answer: Page 43

### 5. The Ultimate Obsession

King Charles VIII of France, who ascended to the throne in 1483, was obsessed with the idea of being poisoned. As his phobia grew, the monarch ate so little that he died of malnutrition circa 1498. (*The ultimate diet!*)

### 6. A Living Monument To War

Built in only 16 months between 1941 and 1942, the Pentagon is only 71ft tall, yet it has 5 floors, 17.5 miles of corridors, 150 stairways, 280 restrooms, 685 drinking fountains, 7,748 windows and workers replace more than 250 light bulbs each day. (*A bureaucratic battlefield.*)

***PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 1..... Why is the time of day when the traffic is slowest called the 'rush hour'?***

**7. A 'Muckraker'?**

President Theodore Roosevelt coined the word 'muckrake' in a speech that he delivered to the Gridiron Club in Washington, DC in 1906. *(A politician looking into a mirror?)*

**8. And Ne'er The Twain Shall Meet – Temporarily!**

The Berlin wall that separated East from West in Berlin was 155km (96 miles) long, lasting for 28 years and 3 months until November 1989 had 302 watch towers and 20 bunkers. 77 people were killed while trying to escape over it. *(Physical walls cannot contain the restless soul.)*

**9. Doll Talk**

Thomas Alva Edison (of light bulb fame), not toy maker Mattel, transferred this major feminine characteristic to dolls in 1888. *(Generations of young ladies now trained in its ways!)*

**10. Rarefied Atmosphere**

La Paz, the capital city of Bolivia, is the world's highest city at 3600 metres above sea level. *(Wouldn't want to walk to it!)*

**11. Bra-locution!**

In Britain, 2 women were killed in 1999 by lightning conducted through their under-wire bras, according to the West London Coroner's Office. *(Now 'PC' to ban bras?)*

**12. Burger Heaven**

Americans eat 45000 burgers per minute. *(Cows don't appreciate this statistic!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

If you cut an earthworm in half, will it grow into two new worms?

Answer: Page 44

**13. Single Minded**

An autocracy is a government by a single person having unlimited power. *(Many households however, are 'cat-ocracies'.)*

#### 14. Who Invented The Lightbulb?

Edison improved the incandescent lamp in 1879, but he didn't actually invent it. Sir Humphrey Davy is reputed to be the true inventor of the electric light. He passed electricity through a platinum wire and caused an arc lamp to glow as early as 1802. However, Davy did not pursue the discovery. By the time Edison entered the scene, arc lamps had been burning for several decades, but were limited by short life spans. Edison developed a long-lasting filament light in 1877, and in 1879 produced the first long-lasting light bulb. *(Saw the light?)*

#### 15. All Goosed up!

A group of geese on the ground is called a gaggle. But if the geese are flying, they're a skein. *(Gives rise to split personalities?)*

#### 16. Reality Filming

The first time movie audiences were treated to the 'reality' of a flushing toilet was in Alfred Hitchcock's 1959 release 'Psycho'. *(How many viewers had an instant 'hot flush'.)*

#### 17. Star Wars Stars Split Personality

Darth Vader was actually a composite of four people. James Earl Jones did the voice, David Prowse served as the body, while Sebastian Shaw was the face, and a fourth actor performed the heavy breathing. *(Why don't we know who it was?)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 2..... Why isn't 'phonetics' spelt the way it sounds?**

#### 18. Bollywood

India's version of Hollywood produces over 800 full-length feature films every year in 14 languages. This amounts to more than 2 films every day. *(Quantity or even less quality?)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

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**A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

Answer: Page 43

#### 19. Just Warming Up

The Harlem Globetrotters played their unprecedented 20,000th career basketball game on January 12, 1998. No professional sports team,

including the NBA, MLB, NHL, and NFL, has ever reached this historical milestone. The Globetrotters got their start in 1926 as the "Savoy Big Five." (*Leaping into the Record Books.*)

## **20. A Mouthful**

The longest person's name in the Bible at 18 letters is found in Isaiah 8:1, being 'Maher-Shal-Hash-Baz'. (*Fortunately later simplified to Jesus!*)

## **21. Multitudinous Colourful Possibilities**

There are 1,929,770,126,028,800 different colour combinations possible on a Rubik's cube (*Counted each one!*)

### **QUESTION TIME:**

How did trivia (such as this), get its name?

Answer: Page 44

## **22. No Escape**

The famous magician and escape artist, who survived numerous death-defying stunts, died on Halloween 1926 at the age of 52. The cause of death was peritonitis, internal poisoning resulting from a ruptured appendix. Interestingly, a few months before he died, Houdini bought a bronze coffin and had himself locked into it and submerged in a hotel swimming pool for an hour and a half before the coffin was pulled up and opened to reveal a healthy Houdini. He took the coffin on tour with him and jokingly instructed his wife to use the coffin should anything happen to him while on tour. It was in that very coffin that his body was returned to New York for burial. (*And he's still in it – as far as we know!*)

## **23. Swan Lake**

A young swan is called a "cygnet". (*Identified upon marriage by a 'cygnet ring'?*)

## **24. Puffing People**

The world's largest Employer is the Indian Railways, employing over one million people. (*Yet it works well – most of the time.*)

## **25. Inflation**

In 1920, the average check at a diner was 28 cents. (*The 'average diner' must have been on a diet!*)

## 26. A Heavy load

In the late 16th century French geographer Gerhard Mercator (1512-1594) published a book of maps whose cover was a picture of Atlas holding the world on his back. Almost from then on any collection of maps has been called an atlas. *(First to carry the problems of the world on his shoulders.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 3..... Why are homes called apartments when they are all stuck together?**

## 27. An Imposter?

Napoleon was not born in France. He was born on the small island of Corsica. But he was born on the day when France gained control over Corsica from Italy. So he was born in France. *(Confused – I am. Maybe he was too.)*

## 28. The World's Tallest Mountain?

You thought it was Mount Everest? All New Zealanders do, as it was first climbed by our favourite son Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing Norgay, from Nepal reaching the Earth's highest point at 11:30 am on May 29, 1953. Although Mount Everest, at 29,028 feet, is often called the tallest mountain on Earth, Mauna Kea, an inactive volcano on the island of Hawaii, is actually taller. For only 13,796 feet of Mauna Kea stands above sea level, yet it is 33,465 feet tall if measured from the ocean floor to its summit. *(Difficult to climb from the bottom though!)*

## 29. Multi Skilled

Leonardo da Vinci invented scissors. *(A cut above the rest.)*

### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

### A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

Mrs. Fumblefinger was working in the kitchen when a loose ring, with a big diamond on it, slipped off her finger and fell smack into some coffee. Strange to say, the diamond did not get wet. Why?

Answer: Page 43

## 30. Liquid Labour Saving Device

In the 1800's making tomato ketchup at home was a tedious all day project, and American housewives hated the process. So when Henry J. Heinz introduced bottled ketchup in 1875, he promoted it as a labour

saving device. His first slogan was "Blessed relief for Mother and the other women of the household." (*Bottled 'woman-power!'*)

### **31. Natures Technology**

Coconut shells can absorb more impact than most crash helmets. (*Need smaller heads though.*)

### **32. Minute Reign**

King Louis XIX ruled France for a total of fifteen minutes. (*All good things come to an end – some more quickly than others!*)

### **33. A Wooden Canvas**

Leonardo Da Vinci painted the Mona Lisa on a simple piece of pinewood in 1506. (*But not a wooden smile!*)

### **34. 'Tomato-less' Ketchup**

The Chinese invented ke-tsiap - a concoction of pickled fish and spices (but no tomatoes) - in the 1690s. By the early 1700s, its popularity had spread to Malaysia, where British explorers first encountered it, and by 1740 the sauce - renamed ketchup - was an English staple. However, it wasn't until the 1790s that New England colonists first mixed tomatoes into the sauce. Until then, it was widely believed that tomatoes (a close relative of the toxic belladonna and nightshade plants) were poisonous. (*Wonder what colour it was before the tomatoes were added?*)

### **35. Tower Towers**

The actual height of the Eiffel Tower is 984 feet. But it grows by 6 inches in summer, as metal expands. And shrinks back to normal in the winter, as metal contracts. (*What goes up must come down.*)

### **QUESTION TIME:**

From where does the saying "Hobson's Choice" originate?

Answer: Page 44

### **36. The Seven Seas**

An ancient term describing what were believed to be all the seas and oceans of the world. Many people believe the seven are what we now know as the Arctic, Antarctic, North Pacific, South Pacific, North Atlantic, South Atlantic and Indian oceans. However, the phrase has no literal meaning and is used to romanticise sailing. It came into use before some



of the oceans were even known to exist. *(Nothing romantic about seasickness though!)*

### **37. Nothing Like Being Prepared!**

The world's first landing field for UFOs was installed in Ares, France on 15th August 1976. *(No confirmed reports yet on landings.)*

### **38. Safe At Sea**

Seals have been known to swim for as long as 8 months, and as far as 6,000 miles, without touching land. *(Sounds like a great idea some days!)*

### **39. A Late Bloomer**

Vincent Van Gogh didn't begin drawing until he was 27 years old. *(Soon made up for it)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**  
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A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

Answer: Page 43

### **40. Versatile**

The Tower of London has served as a fortress, a prison, a place of worship, an arsenal, the Royal Mint, the original London zoo, the Royal Armouries, the Record office, and as a residence of kings and queens. *(Never warm though, irrespective of tenants.)*

### **41. A Cool Summer Holiday**

'The Ice Hotel' in Swedish Lapland is a large Igloo, including a restaurant, a cinema and wedding chapel. *(Cools the ardour?)*

### **42. What's In A Name**

In the Disney movie "Fantasia," the Sorcerer's name "Yensid" is "Disney" spelled backwards. *(Still highly elbatiforp)*

### **43. Money for Monet**

The famous Impressionist painter Claude Monet won 100,000 francs in the state lottery. The money made him financially independent. *(A rare species – a rich, living artist!)*

### **44. How Times Change**

In England in 1880s, the description 'pants' was considered to be a dirty word. *(Maybe they were more polite?)*

#### **45. Might Is White!**

An average iceberg weighs 20,000,000 tonnes, 90% below the water. *(An irresistible force?)*

#### **46. When The Bell Tolls**

Big Ben is actually the name of the largest bell inside the London clock tower, not of the clock itself. *(Presumably accompanied by 'Little Bens'.)*

#### ***PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 4..... Why do we drive in parks and park in drives?***

#### **47. Hello Halley**

Chinese astronomers made the first recorded observation of Halley' s Comet in 240 BC *(The first sky rocket?)*

#### **48. Don't Race Your Cat**

Domestic cats can actually run faster than humans, at slightly more than 30 miles per hour. *(Not very often though!)*

#### **49. Modern Art Mystery**

Henri Matisse' s famous painting 'Le Bateau' hung in New York' s Museum of Modern Art for 47 days before someone noticed it was upside down? *(An improvement perhaps?)*

#### **50. The Right Fit**

The metal contraption shoe salesmen use to measure your feet is called the Brannock Device. *(Measures in 'feet' and inches?)*

#### **QUESTION TIME:**

Is it true that hair and nails continue to grow after death?

Answer: Page 44

#### **51. Healthy Eating?**

McDonalds Olympic Restaurants served nearly 1.5 million sandwiches, 188 tonnes of Potatoes and 12,000 kilos of lettuce to athletes, coaches, officials and spectators during the Sydney Olympics 2000. *(McDonalds were the winners – again.)*

### 52. Carry Gold – It's Lighter!

It takes 490 crisp new dollar bills to weigh a single pound. *(Worth only a fraction of their weight in gold)*

### 53. Back East

Herbert Hoover was the first US president born west of the Mississippi. He was born 8/10/1874 in West Branch, Iowa. *(Took a while for the 'young men' who went out west, to come back to the east.)*

### PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 5..... Why don't sheep shrink in the rain?

### 54. It's All About...

The word 'God' occurs 4,370 times in the Bible, 'Jehovah' 6,855 times and the word 'Lord' 7,736 times. *(Jesus is Lord!)*

### 55. Caught By A Cat

During the rein of Kublai Khan, the Chinese trained lions to pursue and attack big animals like bulls. *(But how did you get them to release their prey?)*

### 56. A Maori Mouthful

One of the many hills in the North Island of New Zealand is named 'TAUMATAWHAKATANGIHANGAKOAUUAUOTAMATEATURIPUKAKAPI KLIMANGAHORONUKUPOKAIWH ENU AKITANATAHU.' *(Don't worry, not many Maoris – the native people of NZ – can spell it either. I know – I live there and have asked!)*

### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

### A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

On a conventional clock, how many times does the minute hand pass the hour hand between noon and midnight?

Answer: Page 43

### 57. High Blood Pressure

The giraffe has unusually high blood pressure. Its heart uses tremendous force to pump blood through its neck, which is about 10-12 feet long. A giraffe heart weighs about 25 pounds (11 kilos) and has walls up to three inches thick! *(Does it also suffer from 'tall poppy' syndrome?)*

### **58. Ice Delight**

There are more than 100 words for 'ice' in the Eskimo language. (*Is 'icebound' one of them?*)

### **59. Long Lived Big Bird**

The Boeing 747 Jumbo Jet made its first flight on February 9 1969. It is most likely that later models will still be flying commercially in 2019, 50 years after its first flight. (*Not a 'fly by night' model!*)

### **60. A Hot 'Cup Of Tea' Please – Anywhere!**

The noted Scottish physicist Sir James Dewar, invented the thermos flask, in 1906. (*To keep his tea hot or his whisky cold?*)

### **61. 'Not So Simple' Arithmetic**

There are 43,560 square feet in an acre. (*No wonder the world changed to metrics – well, most of us have!*)

### **62. Paper Wars**

Papyrus was invented by the Egyptians around 1800 BC. (*Spelling miztakes have abbounded eva sinse!*)

### **QUESTION TIME:**

What is an "inclined elevator"?

Answer: Page 45

### **63. More Life**

In George Washington's day, average life expectancy in America for men was just 34 years and 36 years for women. A hundred years and modern medicine can make a lot of difference! (*Some things don't change though. Women still outlive men.*)

### **64. Cancer-less?**

The Hunza, who live in Northwest Kashmir, reportedly have not experienced cancer. The group is also said to have unusual longevity. (*But would we want to eat their food?*)

***PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 6..... If nothing sticks to teflon, how do they make it stick to the pan?***

### **65. Worse Than War**

The Influenza Epidemic that followed World War 1 killed 20 million people and sickened 1 billion, making it more devastating than the world's most deadly war itself! (*Nature, once again, greater than man.*)

#### 66. "Four-told"

Thomas Edison's first major invention was the quadruplex telegraph. Unlike other telegraphs at the time, it could send four messages at the same time over one wire. (*Starting information overload.*)

#### 67. Absentee Queen

Queen Berengaria, wife of Richard I of England, the Lion-Heart, never stepped foot in the country for which she served as queen. (*Afraid of entering the 'lions den'?*)

#### 68. Ahead Of His Time

The brilliant inventor Gail Borden Jr., invented condensed milk in the 1850' s and later the Lazy Susan, but he struck out with one other invention: the poorly-received "meat biscuit." (*Before the Pet Food market evolved.*)

#### 69. Selective Digestion

The gastric juices of a snake can digest bones and teeth — but not fur or hair. (*The fluff' s too tough!*)

#### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

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#### A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

Answer: Page 43

#### 70. Ancient Weed Killer

The primary purpose of growing rice in flooded paddies is to drown the weeds surrounding the young seedlings — rice can, in fact, be grown in drained areas. (*Is diced rice nice?*)

#### 71. Starch Start

Englishman Orlando Jones patented that fabulous miracle food known as 'corn starch' in 1841. Today it can be found in multitudes of products including deodorants, it heals diaper (nappy) rash, and of course, thickens gravy. (*The source of the English 'stiff upper lip' perhaps?*)

#### 72. New Vision

The Chinese invented eyeglasses. Marco Polo reported seeing many pairs worn by the Chinese as early as 1275, 500 years before lens grinding became an art in the West. *(Marco Polo had 'vision' to be there.)*

### **73. Not All Is As It Seems**

The 'black box' that houses an aeroplane's voice recorder is orange so it can be more easily detected amongst the debris of a plane crash. *(High altitude colour blindness.)*

***PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 7..... Why is it for each and every action, there is an equal and greater criticism?***

### **74. Inflationary Fame**

Tickets for Frank Sinatra's first solo performance at the Paramount Theatre in New York City in 1942, sold for 35 cents each. *(And they thought it was expensive then too!)*

### **75. Perceptive Viewers**

A colour-bar test pattern on a Los Angeles television drew higher ratings than for two competing stations' 10 p.m. newscasts *(More restful to sleep in front of.)*

### **QUESTION TIME:**

What is a Welsh rabbit?

Answer: Page 45

### **76. Theory and Practise**

The 1982 National Father's Day Association's 'Father of the Year' went to jail for failing to pay child support. *(A sad dad.)*

### **77. Faithfulness**

A Florida wedding reception was interrupted when the bride threw macaroni salad at the groom and he responded with gunfire. At the hospital, the wounded bride insisted on checking in under her new married name. *(Begin as you mean to continue!)*

### **78. Too Clean**

A woman in Royal Oak, Michigan, USA, was arrested, handcuffed, and jailed for putting her garbage cans out too early. *(Was the cell clean?)*

### 79. Wanting More

One of the men arrested for looting in the infamous Los Angeles riots was a \$3 million Lotto winner who receives \$120,000 a year from the state. *(How much is enough?)*

### 80. A Mirror Image

In 1992 a San Francisco man walked through a plate-glass storefront trying to board the cable car he saw reflected in the shiny window. *(Knew there was a good reason for not cleaning windows.)*

### 81. The Weather

In 1875 the Times of London became the first newspaper to print a daily weather chart. *(How accurate then - and now!)*

### 82. The First Car Engine

Samuel Morey of Oxford, New Hampshire patented the internal combustion engine in 1826. It was pretty much the kind of engine we still use in cars and trucks, but not as complicated and needing less maintenance than those of today. *(No longer have to have a man with a red flag walk in front of our cars though - might be a good idea!)*

### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

soon soon  
tell tell

Answer: Page 43

### 83. The POP in Popcorn

A drop of water in each kernel, surrounded by starch, puts the 'POP' in popcorn. When the corn is heated, the water turns into steam. Pressure builds until it explodes, and the starch inflates, inverting the kernel. *(How do we react under pressure?)*

### 84. The Ultimate Bathtub

The first metal-lined bathtub was constructed by Adam Thompson of Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1840 and weighed nearly a ton. *(Strong floor a necessity)*

### 85. ' Who AreYou?'

Female koel birds of India have a shriek that sounds exactly like, "Who are you?" *(David - I think!)*

***PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 8..... If fire fighters fight fires and crime fighters fight crime, what do freedom fighters fight?***

**86. Dedicated**

Someone is reputed to once have spent 17 years looking for the exact middle point of the Bible. It is not known whether he found it! *(Oh for computers, which now provide an instant answer.)*

**87. Sea Angel**

The sea angel is a snail with wings. *(But can it fly?)*

**88. Presidential Prophecy**

Here in New Zealand, the Presidential Highway links the towns of Gore and Clinton. These towns existed long before the said gentlemen were a twinkle in their mother' s eyes. Gore is also known as the Brown Trout Capital of the World and is New Zealand' s country music capital*(And both towns will still be there, long after the presidential team fades away.)*

**89. Goldfish See Better Than Us**

Goldfish have four colour receptors in their eyes compared to our three - the mantis shrimp has ten colour receptors. *(See in Quadrosonic!)*

**90. Honeybees See**

Honeybees navigate using the sun as a compass, even when it is hidden behind clouds - they find it via the polarization of ultraviolet light from areas of blue sky. *(Stay in the warm on rainy days.)*

**91. A Smelly Business**

George Ellery Hale' s 100-inch lens built in the early 1900s was the largest solid piece of glass made until then. The lens was made by a French specialist who poured the equivalent of ten thousand melted champagne bottles into a mould packed with heat maintaining manure so that the glass would cool slowly and not crack. *(Champagne and manure - oops, caviar - for all)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

Where did the term "private eye" originate?

Answer: Page 45



## 92. From Pasta Pan into the Fire

Before beginning his movie career - Keanu Reeves managed a pasta shop in Toronto, Canada. (*Was it a promotion?*)

## 93. Are You a 'Will-o' -the-Wisp' ?

Will-o' -the-wisps are fleeting lights, blue or white, that move mysteriously in the night. They are also known in Wales as "corpse candles" because they are often seen in graveyards, as well as in bogs and marshes. Such lights do exist and can still be seen, but are not supernatural, as was once believed. (Some people believed that to see one was to be forewarned of your own death.) The lights are most likely caused by the ignition of gases produced by the decay of plant or animal matter. (*All move mysteriously in graveyards, bogs and marshes at night.*)

### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A RIDDLE FOR YOU!

How do you know when the tide goes out?

Answer: Page 43

## 94. St. Elmo' s Fire

St. Elmo' s fire is a luminous electric discharge that appears on sharp projections such as steeples and mastheads of ships during intense storms. Sailors have a superstitious dread of it, but it is actually an explainable natural phenomenon. Mediterranean sailors named it for their patron saint, St. Elmo. (*A saintly halo?*)

***PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 9..... If a service station never closes, why do they still have locks on the door?***

## 95. Ball Lightning?

Imagine seeing a strange glowing sphere that moves through the air. Experts cannot explain what ' ball lightning' is, but it occurs during lightning storms and may be an ordinary bolt of lightning. Witnesses who have observed this rare phenomenon typically report the ball of light is about the size of a grapefruit (but it may be much larger or smaller) and that it survives for only a few seconds. Some also report a bad smell. (*Reported as UFO sightings too?*)

## 96. ' JAWSTrue or Make-Believe?

Believe it or not, JAWS author Peter Benchley based his story about a rogue man-eating shark on a real series of shark attacks that occurred

along the New Jersey shore in 1916. At that time a single shark attacked five people, and killed four of them. The shark swam up the New Jersey coast, terrorizing beach goers, and actually entered Mattawan Creek where it killed a young boy and the man who dived down to retrieve his body. Just like in the movie, resort owners were loathe to publicize the attacks (the first one received hardly a mention in the local press). A retired seaman who saw the shark when it first swam into the creek wasn't taken seriously. Shortly after the attacks, two fishermen killed a Great White shark with human remains inside its belly. Interested in learning more? Check out Michael Capuzzo's book, 'Close to Shore', which vividly recreates the summer of 1916 and the rogue shark that terrorized New Jersey, USA. *(Could also, of course, have been about Hollywood itself!)*

### 97. 'Birdservation'

The Wright Brothers spent time observing the flight of the buzzard to help them solve the mystery of flight. They realized that the bird retained balance in the air by twisting the tips of its wings. By creating a wing warping method based upon this observation, the brothers were able to obtain a remarkable degree of manoeuvrability. *(Today they look to the eagle)*

### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

My own heart a person

Answer: Page 43

### 98. Are you a Quidnunc?

A 'quidnunc' is a person who is eager to know the latest news and gossip—in other words, a busybody. *(The 'full quid' - misused)*

### 99. 'Busted'

In the movie "Speed"(1994) twelve buses were used, including two which exploded; one for the freeway jump; one for high-speed scenes; and one used solely for 'under bus' shots. *(Quite a bus-iness)*

### 100. 'Peer-sing'

Young songbirds appear to learn singing from their parents or adult birds of the same species. If separated from their species at a young age, the birds do not develop normal song patterns and may simply produce odd warbles. *(Fortunately I didn't learn to sing from my father!)*

### 101. In the Vee

Migrating geese fly in a 'V' pattern to conserve energy. When flying, the bird' s wings churn the air and leave an air current behind. By flying in a 'V' pattern, each goose is positioned to get a lift from the air current left by the bird in front of him. ('V' ery clever.)

#### QUESTION TIME:

Who wrote the first detective novel?

Answer: Page 45

### 102. Bird Calls

Birds can learn the songs of other birds and when they do, they can pass the "foreign" songs onto their offspring. (*Conbirds!*)

### 103. Hot Lightening

The typical bolt of lightning heats the atmosphere to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. (*Best not to be there.*)

### 104. Scrabble

An unemployed architect, Alfred Mosher Butts, created the game that would become Scrabble, in the early 1930s. He called it Lexiko, then Criss Cross Words and then sold the rights to James Brunot. In 1948 it was renamed Scrabble and was manufactured in a converted schoolhouse in Connecticut. Bruno sold the game to Selchow and Righter, who were bought out by Coleco in 1987, and in 1989 Milton Bradley bought it. More than 100 million Scrabble games have been sold worldwide. (*A scramble for scrabble!*)

***PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 10..... Do vegetarians eat animal biscuits?***

### 105. The Pacific is a Deep Paradise

The deepest spot in any ocean is found in the Pacific. The Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench, near Guam, extends about 36,000 feet below the surface. To compare, Mount Everest is 29,000 feet high. The average depth of the Pacific is about 13,000 feet.

The Pacific provides more than half the world' s annual seafood catch, about 57 million tons. (*Tastes great too.*)

### 106. Ring of Fire

The 'Ring of Fire' is a string of about 300 active volcanoes that rims the Pacific, going from the tip of South America north to Alaska, west to Asia through Japan, then south to the Philippines, Indonesia, and New Zealand. (*My home.*)

### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

YOU!

NEFRIENDED

A WORDPUZZLE FOR

Answer: Page 43

### 107. The Bare Bones of It

Bones are actually not brittle or even solid. They are living tissues - extremely porous, and pulsating with blood. They are soft, light, and sort of spongy on the inside.

Human bones have four layers: a core of marrow (where white blood cells are produced); an area of thick, spongy material full of blood vessels; a wall of hard, calcified material; and a thin area of skin like tissue on top.

Bones really aren' t all white at all. They actually range in colour from beige to light brown. The bones you see in museum displays have been boiled and cleaned. (*Except for Ezekiel' s vision of the Valley of Dry Bones in the Bible Ezekiel 37:1-14*)

### 108. Navigate by the Birds!

The Vikings would release ravens as they sailed. They knew that the direction the birds flew would lead them to land. (*Bird watch.*)

### 109. Unsentimental

A female magpie whose mate has died is courted immediately by other males who assemble promptly near the body of the dead magpie. (*Victory to the swift!*)

### 110. Insect Trap

The plant *Pinguicula vulgaris*, catches insects by imprisoning them with its leaves. (*Can' t ' leaf' them alone.*)

### 111. God Cares

The church of Renaison in France, while crowded with 200 worshippers, was set afire by a bolt of lightning and destroyed; yet, although every person in the church was injured, not a single parishioner was killed. And all were discharged from the hospital 2 months later on the same day in June 1760. *(A bolt from the blue!)*

#### QUESTION TIME:

Why do pigs like to wallow in mud?

Answer: Page 45

### 112. A Healthy Diet!

According to a December BOSTON GLOBE report from Xi' an, China, the Three Brothers Scorpion Restaurant claims to be the first in the country to reintroduce the 18th-century fascination with the scorpion into domestic cuisine, based on the health benefits. Scorpion venom, reduced in potency by a six-month process of preparation, is believed to aid against fever, chills, skin problems, immune disorders, bad kidneys, and possibly tumours. Other favourite dishes of Three Brothers are silkworm larvae, cicadas on sticks, and poisonous tree ants. *(The cure worse than the problem?)*

### 113. Redneck Heaven

You name it; Americans will turn it into a contest. At the annual Redneck Games in East Dublin, GA, contestants compete at seed spitting, bobbing for pigs' feet, and mud pit belly-flopping, to name just a few of the unique events. *(More than red necks after this lot!)*

### 114. All by Chance?

The epidermis, the outermost layer of the skin, sheds itself at a rate of about a million cells every 40 minutes. In the second it takes to turn the page of a book, you will lose about 3 million red blood cells. During that same second, your bone marrow will have produced the same number of new ones. The average square inch of skin holds 650 sweat glands, 20 blood vessels, 60,000 melanocytes (pigment cells), and more than a thousand nerve endings. *(Not all by chance!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 11..... How come an iron has a setting for 'permanent press'?**

**115. The Ultimate Motherly Sacrifice**

The cecidomyian gall midge, a fly, can reproduce either by laying eggs or by parthenogenesis (reproduction without a male). In the latter method, the female' s offspring develop within her tissues and when the time for their birth arrives, they eat the mother from inside. (*The male is still the best option!*)

**116. Favourite Cookies**

Since its first appearance in 1912, OREO Chocolate Sandwich Cookies have reigned supreme as being the number one selling cookie in America. The basic design of the cookie has not changed for more than 50 years. Today' s version is a neat 1 3/4 inches across(*That' s one, two or three bites - depending on how big your bite is!*)

**117. Spider Power**

If you suffer from arachnophobia (fear of spiders), beware the countryside. An average of 50,000 spiders roam round every acre of land. Spiders reduce the number of other insects, annually killing a hundred times their number. (*A web of intrigue.*)

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

**A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

give give give give &  
get get get get

Answer: Page 43

**118. Slow Seller**

The record for the world's slowest selling book belongs to David Wilkin's translation of the New Testament into Coptic. Since it was first published in 1791 it has never sold more than 2 copies a year. (*But one day...*)

**119. First Underground**

The world' s first underground railway, between Paddington (Bishop' s Road) and Farringdon Street - with trains hauled by steam engines - was opened by the Metropolitan Railway on January 10th 1863. The initial section was six km (nearly four miles) in length, and provided both a new commuter rail service and an onward rail link for passengers arriving at

Paddington, Euston and King' s Cross main line stations to the City of London. (*Pity about the view though!*)

**QUESTION TIME:**

What is the only bone in the body that does not connect to other bones?

Answer: Page 45

**120. The Americas' First University**

The Americas' oldest university is not in the United States but in the Dominican Republic. It is the University of Santo Domingo, established in 1538. (*The first brain drain?*)

**121. Not Poker!**

The word 'karate' means 'empty hand.' (*Don' t need anything else!*)

**122. Let Not Death Us Do Part - For a While!**

After Frank Lahainer died in March 1995 in Palm Beach, Florida, his widow Gianna had him embalmed and stored for 40 days at a funeral home. It seemed that Frank, worth \$300 million, died at an inconvenient time – in the middle of Palm Beach' s social season. Gianna didn' t want to miss any of the parties. (*A party animal?*)

**123. Space Junk**

The Apollo astronauts left behind 'Camelot' the gold-plated 33-rpm record on the moon. (*Did they leave a record player with it?*)

**124. Pinocchio and Big Ears**

A person' s nose and ears continue to grow throughout his or her life. Our senses of smell and hearing, however, both decrease. (*Life's not fair!*)

**125. The Oldest.....**

The oldest stained-glass window in the world is in the Cathedral of Augsburg, Germany, depicting the Prophets. It dates from the second half of the eleventh century. (*An extreme ' window of opportunity.'* )

**126. A Language of Few Words**

The language of Taki, spoken in parts of French Guinea, consists of only 340 words. (*Makes spelling easier.*)

**127. Mr Juliet**

Men and boys originally acted all of the roles in Shakespeare's plays. In England at that time, it wasn't proper for females to appear on stage. (*Lord and Lord Macbeth?*)

### **128. That Sinking Feeling**

Mexico City is sinking at a rate of 6 to 8 inches a year because it's built on top of an underground reservoir. Wells are drawing out more and more water for the city's growing population of more than 15 million people. (*A tragedy in the making.*)

***PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 12..... If Barbie (the doll of course) is so popular, why do you need to buy her friends?***

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**  
OBJE4CT

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

Answer: Page 43

### **129. Cinema on TV**

The 1st Academy Awards ceremony to be telecast was the 25th, in 1953. (*Big screen drama - small screen publicity.*)

### **130. Tying the Knot**

A poem written to celebrate a wedding is called an epithalamium. (*Poetic (marriage) license perhaps?*)

### **131. Coke is the Real Thing!**

A single share of Coca-Cola stock, purchased in 1919, when the company went public, would have been worth \$92,500 in 1997. (*A bubbly investment.*)

### **132. In The Limelight**

Limelight was how we lit the stage before electricity was invented. Basically, illumination was produced by heating blocks of lime until they glowed. That is why we say actors and actresses are in the limelight. (*Famous and infamous people too.*)

### **133. Chinese Aluminium**

The Chinese were using aluminium to make things as early as 300 AD. Western civilisation didn't rediscover aluminium until 1827 (*Nothing's new - except the American spelling of aluminum.*)



**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 13..... What's another word for 'Thesaurus'?**

**134. Gaseous Nitrogen**

The air we breathe is 78% nitrogen, 21.5% oxygen, .5% argon and other gases. *(Including pollutants!)*

**135. De-Ice**

Ten per cent of the salt mined in the world each year is used to de-ice the roads in America. *(But rusts the cars.)*

**136. Heavy Water**

Not atomic, but sea water, which loaded with mineral salts, weighs about a pound and a half more per cubic foot than fresh water at the same temperature. *(Heavier but you float easier!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

Is there really such a thing as a flea circus?

Answer: Page 46

**137. Prussian Prussic Acid**

Prussic acid, in a crystalline powder called Zyklon B, was used to kill in Germany' s gas chambers. The gas would paralyze the victim' s lungs, causing them to suffocate. *(May it never happen again.)*

**138. A Smelly Tale**

Natural gas has no odour. The smell is added artificially so that leaks can be detected. *(Is it still natural?)*

**139. Molten Metal**

Mercury is the only metallic element that is liquid at room temperature. Many alloys though, have lower melting points, the most common and important being NaK, pronounced 'nack' , which is a mixture of sodium and potassium. *(Mix ' n match metals!)*

**140. Hollywood' s Here**

The ' Hollywood' sign was first erected in 1923. Conceived as a real estate ad, it originally read 'Hollywoodland' . The sign stands 50 feet tall,

stretches 450 feet across, weighs 450,000 pounds. *(Not nearly as big as some of the salaries.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 14.....** *If you had everything in the world, where would you put it?*

#### **141. Low Snowfall**

It only snows about 2 inches per year over most of Antarctica. The coldest temperature ever recorded on Earth was in Antarctica: - 128.6 degrees Fahrenheit. *( ' It rains but it never thaws!' )*

#### **142. In God We Trust**

The U.S. two-cent coin was minted between 1864 and 1873 and was the first coin to bear the motto "In God We Trust". The motto was omitted from the new gold coins issued in 1907, causing a storm of public criticism. As a result, legislation passed in May 1908 made 'In God We Trust' mandatory on all coins on which it had previously appeared. Legislation approved July 11, 1955, made the appearance of "In God We Trust" mandatory on all coins and paper currency of the United States. By Act of July 30, 1956, 'In God We Trust' became the national motto of the United States. *(Is it true though?)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**  
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A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

EMASGES GESSMAE

Answer: Page 43

#### **143. A Web of Strength**

Spider silk is an extremely strong material and its on-weight basis has been proven to be stronger than steel. Experts suggest that a pencil-thick strand of silk could stop a Boeing 747 in flight. *(One strand stops a fly!)*

#### **144. Precious**

There are more than 1,700 references to gems and precious stones in the Bible. *(The jewel in God's crown is Jesus!)*

#### **145. A Market For X-ray Proof Underwear**

When the X-ray machine was first developed in 1895, it (like almost any new technology) was a bit feared. One of the fears was that the machine

would be used primarily by 'peeping Toms' to look through people' s clothes. Thus, London merchants sold 'X-ray' proof underwear to the more anxious segment of the population. (*One fashion colour - ' leaden grey.'* )

### QUESTION TIME:

Do sword swallowers really swallow the sword?

Answer: Page 46

### 146. How Often Do You Say Them?

Top 10 Most Common Words In The English Language Are

	<u>Spoken</u>	<u>Written</u>
1.	the	the
2.	and	of
3.	I	to
4.	to	in
5.	of	and
6.	a	a
7.	you	for
8.	that	was
9.	in	is
10.	it	that

Various surveys have been conducted to establish the most common words in spoken English of various types, from telephone conversations to broadcast commentaries. Many other words such as yes and well, also appear with far greater frequency in everyday speech than in the comparative list of the most common words in written English, which is based on a survey of newspaper usage. (*Easy to spell too!*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 15..... After they make styrofoam, what do they ship it in?**

### 147. Too Old?

So you think you' re too old? Well, here' s 20 reasons, why you' re never too old to accomplish your dreams.

At age 40, Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run, more than anyone had ever hit.

At age 41, Christopher Columbus landed in the New World.

At age 44, Marie Curie won the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

At age 49, Mario Puzo published The Godfather.

At age 52, Ludwig Van Beethoven composed the Ninth Symphony.

At age 53, Margaret Thatcher was elected Prime Minister of Britain - the first woman to hold that office.

At age 55, Alex Haley published Roots.

At age 57, Annie Peck climbed Mount Huascaran in the Andes. She was the first person to reach the top.

At age 59, Clara Barton founded the Red Cross.

At age 63, Francis Galton revealed to the world that no two people have the same fingerprints and revolutionized crime fighting in the process.

At age 64, John Pierpont Morgan formed U.S. Steel, the world's first billion dollar corporation.

At age 65, Laura Ingalls published Little House In the Big Woods, the first story in the popular "Little House on the Prairie," series.

At age 68, Clifford Batt swam the English Channel.

At age 69, Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize.

At age 78, Grandma Moses began taking painting seriously. Soon afterward, her career took off.

At age 79, Benjamin Franklin invented the bifocals.

At age 92, George Burns starred in the movie, Eighteen Again.

At age 94, Leopold Stokowski signed a six-year contract to conduct music.

At age 95, Mother Jones, Union Organizer, wrote her famed biography.

At age 100, Ichijirou Araya climbed Mount Fuji.  
(Goodbye excuses!)

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

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Answer: Page 43

**148. Lung Power**

Because of their extreme elasticity, human lungs are 100 times easier to blow up than a child's toy balloon. (*Wonder how they proved it?*)

**149. Look After This Lot!**

The female king crab incubates as many as 400,000 young for 11 months in a brood pouch under her abdomen. (*Wouldn' t like to have to name them all.*)

**150. Plant an Egg?**

The eggplant has many names worldwide. In addition to 'eggplant', it is called aubergine, brinjal, melanzana, garden egg, and patlican. (*Doesn' t improve the taste though.*)

**151. Not to Worry**

The odds of you being hit by a celestial stone, that is, a meteorite, are 10 trillion to one – against! (*some things are just not worth worrying about. Nothing is - according to Jesus!*)

**152. Sesame Street**

There are an average of 178 sesame seeds on a McDonald's Big Mac hamburger bun. (*Check it out by the bite*)

**153. An Age Old Rule**

Football (Soccer) was played in the 12th Century without any rules. (*Sometimes today too!*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 16..... When you see a microwave, do you wave back?**

**154. Longevity**

If heart disease, cancer and diabetes were eliminated, life expectancy for both men and women would increase to 99.2 years. *(Of course, if death were eliminated..... )*

**155. Speediest**

The land speed record for birds is held by the Australian emu, which rocket along at about 50 kilometres per hour. *(Still, they do have a big country to cover!)*

**156. To Drown Yet Live?**

This is theoretically possible, as technically drowning refers to the process of taking water into the lungs, not to the death caused by the process. *(Called splitting hairs!)*

**157. Colour Fast!**

If you feed mice on coloured crayons, they're droppings will be the same colour as the crayon they were fed upon. *(mix and match?)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

In terms of chemical composition, what substance does human blood most closely resemble?

Answer: Page 46

**158. One At a Time**

The mythological Phoenix is a very lonely bird as only one can exist at a time. A mythical symbol of resurrection and immortality the beautiful Phoenix lived for 1000 years (according to Pliny) before building a nest of aromatic herbs which it sits on until the sun ignites and cremates it. Out of the ashes crawls a worm which grows into the new, but still lonely, Phoenix. *(But my Jesus is real!)*

**159. Russian Roulette Without the Gun**

Ten percent of all Russian government revenue comes from a tax on vodka. *(Unfortunately earned more through the amount consumed than by an excessive tax rate.)*

### 160. Cow-sense

It is possible to lead a cow upstairs, but if you do, you will have to carry it down again, as it will not go by itself. (*Disproves the truism that 'what goes up, must come down'!*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 17..... Why does 'slow down' and 'slow up' mean the same thing?**

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

PERFORMANCE

PERFORMANCE

Answer: Page 43

### 161. A Lethal Dose

You would only have to drink 100 cups of coffee in 4 hours to get the fatal 10 gram dose of caffeine poisoning! (*Drowning would of course be a more likely outcome*)

### 162. Muscular Headship

The average garden caterpillar has 248 muscles in its head. (*Leaving little room for a brain! Who counted them?*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 18..... Why is experience something you don't get until just after you need it?**

### 163. We all Knew it

On an average day a man will speak a mere 2000 words while a woman will speak 7000 words during the same time. (*A man expresses himself succinctly or has little worthwhile to say depending upon the 'point of words' you come from.*)

### 164. Ultimate in Masculinity?

The common old barnacle has a penis 40 times the length of its body! (*No comment!*)

### 165. Planning for the Future

German chemists have made a replica of the Soccer World Cup that is the size of a single molecule – less than 100-millionth the size of the original. (*Saves on building a larger Trophy Case*)

### 166. What a Handle!

The longest, known officially used persons name is, 'Adolph Blaine Charles David Earl Frederick Gerald Hubert Irvin John Kenneth Lloyd Martin Nero Oliver Paul Quincy Randolph Sherman Thomas Uncas Victor William Xerxes Yancy Zeus Wolfeschlegelsteinhausenbergerdorff Sr.'  
(*Wouldn't really want to be called 'Adolph' for short, would you?*)

### 167. A Woman's Dream?

In the magic world of seahorses it is the male who gets pregnant and has the babies. (*The ultimate in Woman's Liberation or the ultimate lost experience?*)

### 168. One For the Birds

Ancient Romans believed that birds mated on 14th February each year to produce Spring babies. Of course, this date matches our celebration of Valentines Day. (*Is there a link? In New Zealand, females are sometimes referred to as 'birds'.*)

### 169. What Means Everything but Nothing?

The universally recognised distress signal 'SOS' doesn't mean 'Save Our Ship.' Actually it doesn't stand for words at all. It's just a coincidence that the three dots, three dashes, and three dots, used to signal for help in Morse code, form the acronym 'SOS.' (*Presumably devised for ease of signalling and memorising – a very definite problem for me with Morse Code*)

### QUESTION TIME:

Which Roman emperor succumbed to smallpox?

Answer: Page 46

### 170. Avoiding the Blues?

Is not a good idea if you wish to feel good, for the colour blue has a calming effect upon people. Depending upon the shade, the brain may send up to 11 tranquillising chemicals around your body when it sees blue. (*How about jazz 'blues'?*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 19..... Why is the severity of an itch inversely proportional to your ability to reach it?**

### 171. After Death?



The letters 'AD' appearing after a date do not, as many believe, mean 'After Death', in reference to the death of Jesus Christ. the initials actually stand for "Anno Domini," a Latin phrase meaning "in the year of the Lord. 'AD' refers to dates occurring after the birth of Christ. Although actually, He was probably born in 3BC. *(A vital difference when considering the possible return of Christ after 2000 years.)*

### **172. A Better Mousetrap**

The average cat's meal is equivalent to eating 5 mice. *(Stop feeding cats to catch more mice?)*

### **173. Near Certain Death**

History states that all of the writers of the New Testament, but the apostle John, were martyred. *(Committed to the cause to the very end.)*

### **174. Mule Power**

The United States has never lost a war in which it used mules. *(Nor nuclear warheads – yet!)*

### **175. Donald Who?**

Donald Duck's original name was Donald Drake. *(Walt Disney playing 'ducks and drakes'.)*

### **176. Doing it the Hard Way**

The Australian Koala never drinks water. It gets its fluids –slowly – from the Eucalyptus leaves it eats. *(Many Australians are similar – their fluid comes from beer – but not so slowly!)*

### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

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BASICS BASICS

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

Answer: Page 43

### **177. Sleepless Nights?**

Did you know that giraffes only sleep for 5 minutes a day? *(Lying down would be an effort, wouldn't it?)*

### **178. Makes You Think**

There is a very negative attitude towards Life Insurance in Spain as it is considered to be wrong to profit from a spouse's death. *(The attitude towards Life Insurance Salesmen though, is the same universally?)*

**179. You Always wanted to Know...**

That the word 'Laser' stands for Light Amplification by Simulated Emission of Radiation. *(Already knew that?)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

How long was the world' s longest prayer meeting?

Answer Page 47

**180. The Ultimate Achievement – Selling Your Shadow**

Peter Schlemiel, a character dreamt up by French author Adelbert von Chamisso, sells his shadow in the 1814 classic novella "Peter Schlemiel: The Man Who Sold His Shadow". The sale makes him a rich man, but ruins his life, causing others to despise and fear him and resulting in the loss of his true love, Mina. *(Became a mere shadow of his former self?)*

**181. You Know Times Have Changed...**

When in 1994 the average age of top General Motors executives 49.8 years and the average age of the Rolling Stones was 50.6. *(And it only gets worse – some may say – like the Stones!)*

**182. Joining in the Action**

It takes the skins of 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year' s supply of footballs*(Presumably why cows 'steer' away from football. Never know when they might become part of the game.)*

**183. A Small Catch**

In Cleveland, Ohio, it' s illegal to catch mice without a hunting license. *(Are mousetrap sales legal?)*

***PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 20..... Why is change inevitable, except from vending machines?***

**184. What is a Scapegoat?**

The term is now used to refer to a person who is inappropriately blamed for the sins or behaviour of a group of people. But in the Bible, in Leviticus 16, it refers specifically to the practice of presenting two goats at

the Altar of the Tabernacle of Moses. The casting of lots determined which goat was sacrificed to the Lord and which was set aside. The high priest would then transfer the sins of the people onto this unfortunate 'scapegoat' and send it into the wilderness where it died of thirst. (*Death - the ultimate price of all sin*)

### **185. Will Take Your Word For It**

There are apparently 1792 steps to the top of the Eiffel Tower. (*Haven't checked it out for myself - yet!*)

### **186. A Sign of the Times**

Artificial Christmas trees have outsold real ones every year since 1991. (*Real trees being lost as well as the real meaning of Christmas?*)

### **187. 60 Quintillion Legs!**

Belong to the estimated 10 quintillion or 80% of the 800,000 species of world's animals that are insects. (*Fortunately they don't need to wear shoes*)

### **188. A Bit Late Taking Flight!**

The longest recorded chicken flight was 'undertaken' by a headless chicken. (*Lacked a sense of direction though!*)

### **189. Unprepared?**

Ethelred the Unready, an English king of the 10th century, had the dubious distinction of spending his wedding night in bed with his wife and his mother-in-law. (*Would never have been ready for that!*)

### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

### **A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

Why do Christians say 'amen' and not women' ?

Answer: Page 43

***PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 21..... Why do bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of cheques?***

### **190. True Royalty?**

Lobsters have blue blood. (*Thick skinned, crusty, sunburned aristocracy when boiled*)

### **191. Prophetic?**

If you add up all the number on a roulette wheel, that is 1through 36, you get 666, the biblical number of fallen man. *(And who said the Bible was outdated?)*

### **192. Cat Power**

When your cat rubs up against your legs you may assume it to be a sign of affection. However, the reality is that it is merely marking its territory or property. *(It really is a cats world)*

### **193. Paperthin?**

No matter the size or thickness of a piece of paper, it cannot be folded in half more than 7 times. *(Is a 'paperthin majority' less than 7 then?)*

### **194. Bat Attack**

The bat is the only mammal in the world that can fly without the assistance of an aeroplane. *(The original batmobile)*

### **195. Super Human Effort**

In perhaps the greatest athletic feat of all time, in 1935 Jesse Owens broke 4 world records in the space of 45 minutes. *(Didn't include the marathon though!)*

### **QUESTION TIME:**

Is it true that it takes more muscles to frown than it does to smile?

Answer: Page 47

### **196. Enjoy it While You Can**

Snails mate only once in their lifetime – but it can last for up to 12 hours! *(Memories, memories)*

### **197. A Gentle Reminder?**

Peter the Great was not so great in his wife's eyes when he had the head of her lover cut off and put in a jar of preserving alcohol which he then ordered to be placed by her bed. *(In summary - a pickled head by the bed)*

### **198. Lateral thinking**

It is not unknown for Eskimos to use fridge's to keep their food from freezing. *(Wouldn't need to use the Icebox however.)*

### 199. By 'Geep!'

The 'geep' is the offspring of a sheep and a goat. (*Could equally well be a shoat*)

### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

FUNNY FUNNY

WORDS WORDS

WORDS WORDS

Answer: Page 43

### 200. By 'Jeep-ers!'

The name Jeep came from the abbreviation used in the army for the 'General Purpose' vehicle, G.P. (*serviced by doctors or mechanics?*)

### 201. And Then There Were 1000!

The Red Sponge, a sea animal, can be broken into a 1000 pieces and still reconstruct itself. (*ancient genetic engineering?*)

### 202. An Inappropriate Name

A group of goldfish is called a 'troubling.' (*Surely can't be anything less troublesome than a group of goldfish*)

### 203. A Useless Invention?

Alexander Graham Bell, who invented the telephone, could not phone the two most important women in his life, his wife and his mother, as they were both deaf. (*Successive generations of women have more than made up for this!*)

### 204. Non Compulsory Fast

The South European Tarantula Spider is able to survive for up to 2 ½ years without food. In Southern Italy, it was formerly thought to cause a dancing mania in those lucky or unlucky enough to be bitten by it. (*Could go for a long time between drinks!*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 22..... Why is the 3rd hand on the watch called the second hand?**

### 205. Owl Stealth

The primary feathers of some types of owl are fringed to enable silent flight. This isn't to stop the prey hearing the owl, but rather to enable the owl to hear its prey. *(Then time for the prey to pray!)*

### **206. Punishing Push-ups**

On 24 April 1993, Charles Servizio unbelievably managed to compete 46,001 push-ups in a 24 hour period, or one every 1.8741865 seconds. *(Give or take a millisecond or two!)*

### **207. Anyone For Cricket?**

The first recorded reference to the glorious game of cricket dates way back to 1272AD. *(Has given 22 generations (i.e. 2 teams) of administrators' ample time to complicate the rules so much so that only a few of those who play can understand them. And not the umpires of course! Still the world's most glorious game, however.)*

### **QUESTION TIME:**

Why do scientists describe cancer cells as "immortal"?

Answer: Page 47

### **208. Need a Real Tooth Fairy**

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself. *(Ironically the part that most often needs replacing too!)*

### **209. Just a Mention**

These two descriptions appear only once in Bible: 'Reverend' (Psalms 111:9) and 'Grandmother' (2 Timothy 1:5) *(‘Revs’ have revved up in numbers since!)*

### **209. We Still Have to Talk**

About two thirds of the world's population have no regular contact with newspapers, television, radio or telephones. *(And the other third often wish they hadn't!)*

### **210. Earthquake Prevention**

Elephants can't jump. Every other mammal can. *(A 'trunk-ated' disability)*

### **211. The Last Shall be First**

The cigarette lighter was invented before the match. *(Took a bright spark to come up with it!)*

## 212. How Insignificant is Man!

In 10 minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all the world' s nuclear weapons combined. (*Puts the wind up me!*)

## 213. The Price of Sin

Now, only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older. (*Adam managed to live to 930years (Genesis 5:5) but it's all been downhill from there!*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 23.....** *If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?*

## 214. The Ultimate in Woman's Liberation

In parts of Malaysia the women keep harems of men. (*What for? To get the undone jobs around the house done?*)

## 215. Mouthwatering & Munchie

Q. What does 'M&M' stand for?

A. Those addictive little candies are named for the two big bosses at M&M Candies in the 1940s – Victor Mars and his partner Mr. Merrie.

Q. Why were red M&Ms discontinued in the 1970s?

A. They' re back now, but in the mid ' 70s, red M&Ms were discontinued due to fears that they contained Red Dye No. 2, a substance that is carcinogenic (cancer-causing). They never did contain the dye, but to assuage the fears of the public, the red M&Ms were simply dropped for awhile.

Q. Which colour M&M do most people prefer?

A. Surprisingly, it' s the brown M&M (perhaps because it looks most like chocolate?) Market research conducted by the company that makes the candy has determined that brown is the favourite, so that' s what each bag contains the most of. (Much of our 'tastebud' is in our eyes!)

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

**A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

S T  
I U  
T H  
& S

Answer: Page 43

**216. Anyone For Tennis? Again and Again and .....**

The oldest competitor to have appeared at The Championships (Wimbledon) was J.R. Borota (FRA) who was 65 years, 317 days when he played in the Gentlemen' s Doubles in 1964(*'Service' above and beyond duty!*)

**QUESTION TIME:**

What bird migrates from the Arctic to the Antarctic each year?

Answer: Page 48

**217.  $(3 \times (30+30)) = 1,000,000,000!?$**

Such is the amazing progress of computer chip miniaturisation that in 1960 a single chip held 3 circuits, while 30 years later in 1990 the total was 30 million. It is estimated that in 2020, thirty years later again, the total will rise to at least 1 billion per chip. (*Anyone offering to do a manual check?*)

**218. On the Straight and Wide**

The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies. (*Unfortunately no-one realised that the interstate is also a 'moving parking lot.' Where would the cars park to let the planes land?*)

**219. Who Takes the Credit for This?**

There are two credit cards for every person in the United States. (*Why are credit cards always in debit?*)

**220. Chicken Wingpower**

The longest recorded flight of a chicken is thirteen seconds. (*Why did the chicken fly across the road? To get to the other side without dirtying its feet.*)

**221. Where is The World's Largest Village?**

Canada is an Indian word meaning ' Big Village'(*Description by a Texan Indian?*)

***PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 24..... If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?***



### 222. I Wish 'Eyed' Got a Bigger Brain

An ostrich' s eye is bigger than it' s brain*(I have 'ostrich-like' days too!)*

### 223. Getting The Hint!

Clans of long ago that wanted to get rid of their unwanted people without killing them used to burn their houses down - hence the expression ' to get fired.' *(Now simply called euthanasia – mercy(?) killing)*

**224. No Crime, No Rhyme** (Sorry its meaningless, but rhyming with rhyme is difficult too!) No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, and purple. *(Poets beware, take care, or these words, they will you snare.)*

### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

### A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

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Answer: Page 43

### 225. Under the Thumb

The phrase 'rule of thumb' is derived from an old English law that stated you couldn' t beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb. *(Farmers wives were at a disadvantage!)*

### 226. Having a Ball!

Ballroom dancing is a major at Brigham Young University. *(Mr Fox trotted in with Miss Gay Gordon.)*

### 227. Sweet Kisses

Hershey' s Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it' s kissing the conveyor belt*(Who would have thought that even 'kissing' could be mechanised!)*

### 228. Horse Sense

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle; if the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes. *(However we don't know the fate of the horse!)*

### **229. The Dogfight**

The term 'the whole 9 yards' came from WWII fighter pilots in the Pacific. When arming their aeroplanes on the ground, the .50 calibre machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet, before being loaded into the fuselage. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got 'the whole 9 yards.' *(Unfortunately most ended up 6 feet {2 yards} under.)*

***PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 25..... Why do we say something is 'out of whack'? What is a whack?***

### **230. A Different Perspective**

Rene Descartes came up with the theory of co-ordinate geometry by looking at a fly walk across a tiled ceiling. *(No wonder I couldn't understand it – for the fly has now flown away!)*

### **231. Illiterate?**

The term 'the 3 R's' (for reading, writing and arithmetic) was coined by Sir William Curtis, who was illiterate. *(Naturally, he couldn't spell either!)*

### **231. Typing Practice**

One Bible verse contains all the letters except J (Ezra 7:21) Another, all except Q. (Daniel 4:37) *(Long before the 'quick brown fox' was born!)*

### **232. A Show of Independence?**

Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later *(An independent spirit dies hard – look at America today!)*

### **233. Tuneless**

About half the pianos in England are thought to be out of tune. *(explains the quality of singing at their football matches!)*

### **QUESTION TIME:**

What controversy involving Pluto occurred in 1999?

Answer: Page 48

### **234. Been Fired?**

Clans of long ago that wanted to get rid of their unwanted people without killing them used to burn their houses down - hence the expression 'to get fired.' *(And probably 'to come to a fiery end.')*

### **235. Let There be War No More**

Monaco's National Orchestra is bigger than its army. *('Tis music to the ears!)*

### **236. Check it out - Longhand**

$111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$  *(What goes up, must come down!)*

### **237. Dangerous Occupations**

In 1996 more people died on the job working in advertising than in the petroleum refining industry. *(A fact not well advertised!)*

### **238. 'Kingly Kards'**

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history. The French say Spades - King David; Clubs - Alexander the Great; Hearts - Charlemagne; and Diamonds - Julius Caesar. Alternatively, the King of clubs may have represented the arms of the Pope; spades, king of France; diamonds, king of Spain; and hearts, England. *(They all dug with spades, swung clubs, won hearts and collected diamonds!)*

### **239. Cold Comfort**

You are more likely to be struck by lightening than to be eaten by a shark. On the other hand (if you still have one), you are less likely to be struck by lightening than be infected by flesh-eating bacteria. *(Youzzzzz Takes Your Choice!)*

### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

What three manmade items are in heaven?

Answer: Page 43

### **240. Circuitous Logic**

The reason firehouses have circular stairways is from the days of yore when the engines were pulled by horses. The horses were stabled on the ground floor and figured out how to walk up straight staircases. *(What about the horses on merry-go-rounds?)*

### **241. It's a Plastic World**

There is a Tupperware Party held somewhere in the world every 2 seconds. *(Simply cannot contain(er) my excitement!)*

### **242. Unrepeatable?**

The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is 'uncopyrightable'. *(Copyrighted for sure!)*

### **243. Rats to you, too!**

Rats are such rampant breeders that in 18 months, two rats could have over a million descendants. *(Hence the 'Rat Attack')*

### **244. Why do we say Quack-Quack?**

When a duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why. *(A quacker of a mystery!)*

### **245. Animal Activity**

Right now as you are reading this, more than 100,000 creatures are swimming, feeding, reproducing and depositing waste inside your mouth. *(It's no wonder then that so much drivel comes out!)*

### **246. Planned Obsolescence?**

The average life span of a major league baseball: 7 pitches. *(Presumably only 1 if it is hit – my pitching would be expensive!)*

### **247. Coconut Killers**

More people are killed each year by coconuts than sharks. *(It is safer to look heavenward than earthward if you are worried about this – is best too, even if you aren't!)*

### **248. Subliminal Advertising**

In every episode of Seinfeld there is a Superman somewhere. *(Obviously not Jerry!)*

### **QUESTION TIME:**

Where and when was the first underground train line opened?

Answer: Page 48

### **249. The 'Frozen Chosen'**

In 1980, the 'Yellow Pages' accidentally listed a funeral home under 'Frozen Foods.' *(Sends a chill up the spine!)*

### **250. The Typing Teachers Dream (And pupils downfall)**

The sentence 'The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.' uses every letter in the alphabet. (Developed by Western Union to Test telex/twx communications) By the way, the average typist does 56% of the typing with their left hand. *(Today saving the right for the mouse – someone must have known!)*

### **251. Almost Human?**

The chameleon has a tongue 1.5 times the length of its body! *(See the book of James 3:5-6 in the Bible.)*

### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

### **A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

Some months have 31 days. How many have 28?

Answer: Page 43

### **252. A Licking Doll!**

The word 'puppy' comes from the French 'poupee', meaning 'doll'. *(But what is a grown up doll called?)*

### **253. Sacrificial Stock**

In Pakistan, goats are often sacrificed to improve the performance of the stock market. *(The Stock Market makes a goat out of most of us!)*

### **254. And N'er The Twain Shall Meet**

While Columbus was seeking a 'New World' to the west, Italian engineers were rebuilding the Kremlin in Moscow in the East. *(One of life's unanswered questions – where do East and West meet?)*

### **255. Just a Little Chap**

In 1996, at 6 feet 6 inches (2 metres) tall, Charles Barkley was the shortest basketball player ever to lead American Basketball's NBA in rebounding. *(In motor racing there is no substitute for 'cubic money', while in basketball, for 'cubic inches'!)*

### **256. Badly Scarred**

George Washington's face was badly scarred from smallpox *(Didn't have to be beautiful to be elected back then! Or now?)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 26..... Why does 'fat chance' and 'slim chance' mean the same thing?**

**257. MRS**

'Mrs' is an abbreviation of Mistress, originally a title and form of address for a married woman. It was always capitalised. *(And now a 'mistress' destroys marriages!)*

**258. Made It!**

'Big cheese' and 'big wheel' are medieval terms of envious respect for those few who could afford to buy whole wheels of cheese at a time. They're more derogatory in their usage today. *(Today's shops sell cheese in small wheels. Must be deep and meaningful – somehow!)*

**259. Counting the Calories?**

On average, Americans consumes 117 pounds of potatoes, 116 pounds of beef, 100 pounds of fresh vegetables, 80 pounds of fresh fruit, and 286 eggs per year. *(And put on the beef doing so.)*

**260. Free Air?**

A person breathes almost 7 quarts (7.5 litres) of air every minute. *(Becomes our most valuable resource when it is limited in supply.)*

**261. Labour Saving Devices**

At the height of its power, in 400 BC, the Greek city of Sparta had 25,000 citizens and 500,000 slaves. *(Now we have 20 machines per person!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

Is it true that turtles don't age?

Answer: Page 48

**262. It's Salty**

A human being can taste one gram of salt in 500 litres of water (0.0001M). *(Why do we need so much salt to taste our food then? Age?)*

**263. All Arms and Legs**

Ants stretch when they wake up. They also appear to yawn in a very human manner before going about the tasks of the day. *(Do they ever sleep in?)*

### **264. Plenty of Room For More**

Astronomers believe that the universe contains one atom for every 88 gallons of space. (*Somewhat spaced out!*)

### **265. Energy Hungry**

All the coal, oil, gas, and wood on Earth would only keep the Sun burning for a few days. (*But the Son is everlasting.*)

### **266. The Bible**

The word 'Bible' is derived from the Greek word 'Biblia', which means 'books,' and refers to the sacred writings of Judaism and Christianity. The Bible consists of 66 books and has two parts. The first part is called the 'Old Testament' by Christians. It consists of 39 books of the sacred writings of the Jewish people which was written originally in Hebrew, except for some portions in Aramaic. The second part is called the 'New Testament'. It consists 27 books which was composed in Greek and records the story of Jesus Christ and the beginnings of Christianity. It is translated in whole or in part into more than 2,000 languages, The Bible is the worlds best seller ever, and the most widely distributed book in the world. Its influence on history and culture, including literature and the other arts, is incalculable. (And on individual lives too!)

### **267. Liberty, Inequality and Fraternal Cats!**

The cat was the symbol of liberty in ancient Rome. (*Cats haven't yet deigned to liberate us humans though!*)

### **QUESTION TIME:**

Are fish more abundant in cold ocean water or warm water?

Answer: Page 48

### **268. Are You a POSSLQ?**

If you are classified as a POSSLQ by the US Census Bureau, you are a 'Person of Opposite Sex, Sharing Living Quarters.' (*PC POSSLQ?*)

### **269. Who Built the Taj?**

Nobody actually knows who built the Taj Mahal. The names of the architects, masons, and designers that have come down to us have all proved to be latter-day inventions, and there is no reliable evidence to

indicate who the real creators were. *(Many that would like to claim the credit though!)*

**270. Cutting the Mustard**

Mount Horeb, Wisconsin, in the US, is home to the largest mustard museum in the world. It houses 1,493 different varieties from Argentina to Switzerland and 48 of the U.S. states. Of yellow mustard alone, the museum has about 200 varieties. *(‘Must-ard’ been a big job getting it going.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 27..... Why do ‘tug’ boats push their charges?**

**271. Mechanical Mouth**

A machine has been invented that can both read and speak. It reads printed English books aloud to the blind. And it can do so at half the speed again as normal speech. *(How many years did it have to go to school for to learn this?)*

**272. Two Milestones at Once**

In November 1998, Johnathan Lee Iverson became, at age 22, both the youngest and first black ringmaster in the 129-year history of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. *(Who was the first black clown? Impossible to tell under the makeup!)*

**273. The Weakest Link**

At greatest risk of injury to a professional football player’ s anatomy is the knee, which is involved in 58 percent of all major football injuries. *(Definitely not ‘kneeded’.)*

**MISCELLANEOUS ‘MIND-A-CISE’**

T42

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

Answer: Page 43

**274. A Lot From a Little**

A standard garden hose can pour out as much as 20 gallons of water per minute. So a hose left on by mistake can waste as much as 28,000 gallons (126,000 litres) in just 24 hours. *(‘Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink’.)*



### **275. Moving Mountains**

The process of mountain formation or upheaval is 'orogeny'. (*An official name for 'making a mountain out of a molehill'.*)

### **276. Political Influence?**

American President Franklin Pierce was arrested while in office for running over an old woman with his horse, but the case was dropped due to insufficient evidence in 1853. (*'My horse runneth over!'*)

### **277. Amish Speak**

The Amish speak a dialect they call 'Mudderschprooch' or 'Pennsylvania Dutch' to the uninitiated. (*As clear as mud!*)

### **278. God's Sentence**

' I am.' is the shortest complete sentence in the English language. (*Interestingly, it is also God's name for Himself. He is the ' I Am' .*)

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 28..... Why do we sing, 'Take me Out To The Ballgame' when we are already there?**

### **279. On The Other Hand...**

' Almost' is the longest word in the English language with all the letters in alphabetical order. (*Almost as amazing!*)

### **280. A Kiwi Perspective**

' To whinge' is Australian slang for 'to complain constantly'.i.e. As in: Australians, a nation of 'whingers'.! We really do love you Aussies, all the same! Signed 'Kiwis' (*New Zealanders. They're close neighbours – only 2,000km (1,200 miles) away!*)

### **281. One Graffiti?**

Graffito is the little-used singular of the much-used plural word graffiti. (*Mostly redundant as graffiti is mostly multiple!*)

### **QUESTION TIME:**

Are there really such things as elephant graveyards?

Answer: Page 48

### **282. Racially Inclusive!**

A 15-pound turkey typically has about 70 percent white meat and 30 percent dark meat. (*Sadly for the Turkey, they don't get to keep it for very long!*)

### **283. Something in the Name?**

Spam, spam, spam: One billion cans of Spam had been sold by 1959. The two billion mark was hit in 1970, followed by three billion in 1980, four billion in 1986, and five billion cans in 1993. (*First in the can, then in the computer!*)

### **284. Lemon Power**

Thin-skinned lemons are the juiciest. (*Thin skinned people the sourest too?*)

### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

### **A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

How many birth days does the average man have?

Answer: Page 43

### **285. Wondrously Made**

There are 35 million digestive glands in the stomach and 62,000 miles of arteries, capillaries, and veins in the adult human body. (*Wouldn't want to get lost inside!*)

### **286. Watch Out**

At funerals in ancient China, when the lid of the coffin was closed, mourners took a few steps backward, lest their shadows get caught in the box. (*Shadow boxing?*)

### **287. The Party Line**

After being forced to state in public that the earth does not rotate, Galileo is reputed to have muttered under his breath, "But it does move." (*A good move!*)

### **288. Ant Conquest**

Ants keep slaves. Certain species, the so-called sanguinary ants for example, raid the nests of other ant tribes, kill the queen, and kidnap many of the workers. The workers are brought back to the captors' hive, where they are coerced into performing menial tasks. (*Animal Ant-ics! Ant-iquated behaviour?*)

### 289. Lovely Lunch

Astronaut John Glenn ate the first meal in space when he ate pureed applesauce squeezed from a tube aboard Friendship 7 in 1962. (*'An apple a day to keep the doctor away' applies in space too?*)

### 290. Running Hot and Cold

Afternoon temperatures on Mars go up to about 80 degrees in some areas, and then down to -190 degrees F (-123C) at night. (*'As different as night is to day' is truly meaningful to Martians! Just got to find one to confirm it!*)

### 291. Go Reptile, Go!

The world's fastest reptile - on land - is the spiny-tailed iguana of Costa Rica. It has been clocked at 21.7 miles per hour (35kph). (*A veritable 'Reptilian Racer'.*)

### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

### A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

twink twink twink twink

Answer: Page 43

### 292. Mammoth Ivory

The woolly mammoth, extinct since the Ice Age, had tusks almost 16 feet (5m) high. (*A mammoth task, raising tusks.*)

### 293. Life's a Headache

According to Bayer Aspirin, over 50 billion aspirin tablets are taken worldwide each year. (*Aspirin makes the world go round. Instead of the head!*)

### 294. Looking Forward

The Hoover Dam was built to last for 2,000 years. The concrete in it will not be fully cured for another 500 years. (*A damnable good idea!*)

### 295. Splosh

A ball of glass will bounce higher than a ball of rubber. Again, a ball of solid steel will bounce higher than one made entirely of glass. (*The bounce in life comes from unexpected sources.*)

### 296. Short Changed

The running time of the average American TV sitcom, with commercials removed, is 22 minutes. *(And you thought you were watching a half hour show!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 29..... Why are they called 'stands' when they are made for sitting on?**

**297. Brains and Brawn**

Babe Ruth is credited with the invention of the modern baseball bat. He was the first player to order a bat with a knob at the end of the handle. Louisville Slugger produced the bat with which he hit 29 home runs in 1919. *(The hitting end remained the same though, for it worked for him better than anyone!)*

**298. Tree Compass**

In the Northern Hemisphere, the rings of a tree are always farther apart on the tree's southern side. Woodsmen, by reading tree rings, can find the compass points. Of course the reverse is the case on the other side of the Equator. *(Even trees search for the sun.)*

**299. Be Happier**

A survey by the Barna Institute has shown that 84% of Evangelical Christians in America are very happy with life, and feel connected to others as compared to 57% of Agnostics and Atheists. 89% felt their faith was getting deeper, compared to 19% of non-faith people. Only 14% felt life was becoming more stressful compared to 29% of those with no faith who felt that way. *(No comment is necessary.)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

What infamous Countess was a mass murderer?

Answer: Page 48

**300. An Early Riser**

The alarm clock was not invented by the Marquis de Sade, but rather by a man named Levi Hutchins of Concord, New Hampshire in America, in 1787. However, the alarm on his clock could ring only at 4 am! *(Early to bed, early to rise is helpful to invent an alarm clock.)*

**301. Setting a Trend**

Anne of Burgundy became the first woman to receive a diamond engagement ring. It was given to her by Maximilian I of Germany, in 1477. *(Diamonds have now become a girl's best friend. Or is that her husband really?)*

### **302. Snail Trail**

The colourless, sticky discharge that a snail produces forms a protective carpet under them as they travel along. The discharge is so effective that they can crawl along the edge of a razor without cutting themselves. *(Living life on the 'cutting edge'.)*

### **303. A Flying Diet**

An insect exerts so much energy in one hour of flying that it may lose up to a third of its total body weight. *(Why can't I do this?)*

### **304. A Little Larger**

All the planets in our solar system could be placed inside the planet Jupiter. *(How to get them all there at once to prove it, is a problem.)*

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 30..... Why is it called 'after dark' when it is really 'after light'?**

### **305. Shut Down**

The lungfish can live out of the water in a state of suspended animation for three years. *(Many of us live that way all our lives!)*

### **306. Diligent Daily**

In one year, hens in America lay enough eggs to encircle the globe a hundred times. *(No yolk!)*

### **QUESTION TIME:**

Is it true that the yo-yo was based on a weapon?

Answer: Page 48

### **307. Just Friends**

According to experts, 30 percent of all marriages occur because of friendship. *(How long for?)*

### **308. A Giant Glass**

If the Millennium Dome at Greenwich, London were to be up-turned, it would take 3.8 billion handles (half-litres) of beer to fill it up. *(Or lemonade! Both would go flat before it was full though!)*

### **309. Wide Ranging Comfort**

When it was opened in 1965, the Houston Astrodome was the world' s largest air-conditioned room - reportedly, an 18-story building can fit inside it. *(Does it cool the ardour of the fans?)*

### **310. A Second Try**

The real name of director Stanley Kubrick was in fact Terrence Nezman. His parents changed it the second day after he was born. *(Sounds much more 'Directorial'.)*

### **311. Fast Feathers**

Badminton is the world' s fastest racket sport. A shuttle can leave the racket at a speed of almost 200mph. (320kmh) *(Yet stops in less than ten paces. Should drag cars too, be feathered, then?)*

### **312. More Flies**

It has been known for an expert fly fisherman to have as many as 10,000 flies in his collection. *(Using 1 every day of the year it would take over 27 years to use them all!)*

### **313. Early and Late**

A rainbow can be seen only in the morning or late afternoon. It is a phenomenon that can occur only when the sun is 40 degrees or less above the horizon. *(Only since Noah's time. Before that there was no rain. The rainbow was God's promise to Noah not to allow it to rain everywhere at once, ever again.)*

### **314. Storm Warnings**

The practice of naming hurricanes began early in the 20th century when an Australian weather forecaster decided to insult politicians he didn' t like by naming devastating tropical storms after them. *(Were Australian politicians all females back then?)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**  
ONCE ONCE ONCE ONCE

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

Answer: Page 43

### 315. A 'Replacement' Market

Americans spend more than \$630 million a year on golf balls. *(If I hit the ball straight, I would put a lot of people out of business – that's my excuse!)*

### 316. A Boy Wonder

Stevie Wonder was just 11 years old when he signed his first record contract with Motown. *(Did he wonder if he had done the right thing?)*

### QUESTION TIME:

When did Superman first appear in print?

Answer: Page 48

### 317. One Handed

' Stewardesses' is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand. *(One finger of it too?)*

### 318. Pea Seed

On average, there are eight peas in a pod. *(No 'Q's though. Have been watching for my P's and Q's here.)*

### 319. 'Typercise'

Not a good weight reduction method as only 110 calories per hour are consumed during an hour of typing - only 30 more than used while sleeping. *(Must be even less than sleeping, at my typing speed!)*

### PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 31..... Doesn't 'expecting the unexpected' make the unexpected expected?

### 320. Fervent

Before the Chinese take-over of Tibet in 1952, 25 percent of the males in the country were Buddhist monks. *(Husbands then, would have been at a premium!)*

### 321. Some Things Change

When Spain declared war on the U.S. in 1898, the U.S. in turn declared war on Spain but backdated the declaration by three days, so it would look more heroic to have declared war first. *(Heroism is in the eye of the beholder.)*

### **322. Don't Drown Easily**

An ant can survive for up to two weeks underwater. (*Ants 'up the ant-e' underwater.*)

### **323. Let There Be Light**

An area of the Sun's surface the size of a postage stamp shines with the power of 1,500,000 candles. (*The Sun is the light of our lives!*)

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 32..... Why are a 'wise man' and a 'wise guy' opposites?**

### **324. Left Foot First**

Astronaut Neil Armstrong first stepped on the moon with his left foot. (*Put his best foot forward?*)

### **325. Ostrich-Like**

The word "struthious" refers to something that resembles or is related to ostriches. (*To a person with their head buried in the sand?*)

### **326. How Things Have Changed**

In 1977, less than 9 percent of physicians in the U.S. were women. (*How long before only 9% aren't?*)

### **QUESTION TIME:**

Who drew the original Mickey Mouse in his first short cartoon?

Answer: Page 48

### **327. Music While You Drive**

According to a survey, 75 percent of people who play the car radio while driving also sing along with it. (*Driving solo, that is!*)

### **328. Steak Out**

When it first opened in 1957, the Pinnacle Peak Restaurant in Scottsdale, Arizona, was a general store and rest stop for travellers heading to nearby lakes. To boost sales of his small business, the original owner decided to serve dinners at weekends. He bought six steaks, some lettuce, and pinto beans, and offered an authentic cowboy cookout. The simple cuisine was a great success. What started as a weekend experiment grew into the world's largest western steakhouse, with



seating for 1,800 people inside and outside for 2,000. *(Not such good news for the local cows though!)*

### **329. Many Meanings**

A 1999 survey of 25,500 standard English-language dictionary words found that 93 percent of them have been registered as .coms. *(Becoming an Internet Dictionary?)*

### **330. Fast Fingered**

In music, a 'hemidemisemiquaver' is a sixty-fourth note. *(Can you really play a note that fast? Must be to a very slow beat!)*

### **331. Weighing in at...**

Ikebono, the Japanese sumo wrestler superstar from Hawaii, weighs 516 pounds. *(Not so solid grunt!)*

### **332. A Good Drop?**

One bushel in every 14, that is 7 percent of the entire Irish barley crop, goes to the production of Guinness Beer. *(To help them cope with the miserable Irish climate or encourage the telling of their ever taller Irish yarns? The balance to make Irish whisky?)*

### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

### **A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

Mary was making apricot jam. She put all the apricots in the pot and stirred them up. Then she remembered she had to add 1 ounce of lemon juice for every two apricots. How did she figure out how much lemon juice to put?

Answer: Page 43

### **333. Pontius Pilate**

After sentencing Jesus to be crucified, 6 years later Pilate ended up killing himself. In 36 AD after Caligula ordered him to come to Rome to explain his actions in the massacre of some Samaritans. It is unclear whether Caligula ordered the suicide or Pilate simply feared harsh punishment. *(Or godly conviction over his greatest error!)*

### **334. A Lousy Selection**

During the middle ages, mayors in Hurdenburg in Sweden were elected by having the candidates bend forward, resting their beards on a table. A single louse would be placed in the centre and the lucky man whose

beard the insightful louse crawled into would be the next mayor. *(Have we had lousy politicians ever since?)*

### **335. Parroting**

Parrots, most famous of all talking birds, rarely acquire a vocabulary of more than twenty words. However, Tymhoney Greys and African Greys have been known to carry vocabularies in excess of 100 words. *(I am lost for words!)*

### **336. Natural Pollution**

About 27 tons of dust rains down on the earth each day from space, making a total of almost 10,000 tons each year. *(Must have dusty roads up there!)*

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 33..... Why do 'overlook and 'oversee' mean different things?**

### **337. Efficient Killer**

Cougars can kill animals eight times their size. *(A feed or three here!)*

### **338. A Quick Trip**

A space vehicle must move at a rate of at least 7 miles per second to escape Earth' s gravitational pull. This is equivalent to going the 140 odd miles (225km) from New York to Philadelphia in about 20 seconds. *(There and back in time for tea!)*

### **339. How Much Talk?**

Earth is putting on weight day by day as meteors and microscopic space dust falls from space. *(When will it fall out of the sky? And, of course people are getting heavier too!)*

### **QUESTION TIME:**

What do cats, camels, and giraffes have in common?

Answer: Page 48

### **340. That's Heavy!**

A pulsar is a small star made up of neutrons so densely packed together that if one the size of a silver dollar landed on Earth, it would weigh approximately 100 million tons. *(Couldn't just pick it up and put it in your pocket. The stitching would give way!)*

### 341. Real Bad Luck

A dog was killed by a meteor strike at Nakhla, Egypt, in 1911. The unlucky canine is the only creature ever known to have been killed by a meteor. *(Not worth worrying about. But then one day...)*

### 342. More Victims

'Soldiers disease' is a term for morphine addiction. The Civil War in America produced over 400,000 morphine addicts. *(Same result as a bullet, just slower.)*

### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

### A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

You go on a picnic with your friends. Each one of them wants a different amount of oil and vinegar in his salad. However, you've already mixed the oil and vinegar in one bottle. How can you please everyone at the picnic?

Answer: Page 43

### 343. Job Creation

Unemployment was so high in England in 1634 that Charles I compelled the demolition of a newly erected mechanical sawmill because it threw so many sawyers out of work. *(Many have tried it before and since with the same results. I'm sure there are mechanical sawmills in England today, aren't there?)*

### 344. Jelly Brain!

A bowl of lime Jell-O, when hooked up to an EEG machine, exhibited movement which is virtually identical to the brain waves of a healthy adult man or woman. *(Put our brains in the limelight.)*

### 345. Childless

A 'nullipara' is a woman who has never given birth to a child. *(The 'PC' people will have to get to work on this one!)*

### 346. Arm Size

The size of your foot is approximately the same as the size of your forearm. *(Forearmed and 'foot warned'!)*

### 347. A Living Museum

Many of the Vatican's museums were never intended to be museums at all, but were designed instead as unique apartments or residences. As a

result, visitors must work their way through the numerous blind passages and bottlenecks that contain many of the most beautiful works housed there. *(Were the residents museum pieces also?)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 34..... If work is so terrific, why do they have to pay you to do it?**

**348. Dreams in the Sky**

A beautiful mirage called the Fata Morgana appears in the Straits of Messina, between Sicily and Italy. It is an image of a town in the sky, but seems more like a fairy landscape than a real town. It is most likely to be a mirage of a fishing village situated along the coast. *(Like catching fish. Now you see it, now you don't!)*

**349. Gilbert**

The most intense hurricane to hit the Caribbean was Hurricane Gilbert in 1988. Wind gusts were measured at over 200 miles per hour (320kmh). *(All cyclones used to be named after women. Feminists blew up a storm to get this changed. Wonder why? I know, I know...)*

**350. On the Run**

The simple act of walking requires the use of 200 muscles in the human body. Around 40 will lift your leg and move it forward. *(Taking your muscles for a walk.)*

**351. Many Boxes**

It took 214 crates to transport the Statue of Liberty from France to New York in 1885. *(Will the French reclaim it as 'their own'?)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

How can birds sit on electric wires without being injured?

Answer: Page 48

**352. Can't Keep Ahead**

A cold front travels at a speed of about 30 miles per hour (nearly 50kph) —faster than the fastest person can run —and is able to overtake any warm front ahead of it. The resulting mix of air is called an occluded front. *(So our warm fuzzies become mixed up feelings.)*

**353. Preserving the Moment**

A 'fulgerite' is fossilised lightning. It forms when a powerful lightning bolt fuses the soil into a glass-like state. (*Fossilised in a flash!*)

### 354. Real Deep

The North Atlantic Deep Water Current is an oceanic 'river' that carries twenty times more water than all the rivers of the world put together. (*Underneath, unseen, unsung, but unsurpassed.*)

#### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

1. good guys
2. bad guys
3. big guys
4. small guys
5. nice guys

Answer: Page 43

### 355. A King Hit

The venom of the King Cobra is so deadly that one gram of it can kill 150 people. Just to handle the substance can put one in a coma. (*Natures biological warfare.*)

### 356. An Open Secret

In her 1990 autobiography, talk show host Sally Jessy Raphaël said this about the entertainment field: "I secretly believe that there are more villains than good guys in this business." (*So even talk show hosts can work out what we all know – eventually!*)

### 357. What a Shark

The largest Great White Shark ever caught measured 37 feet (14.5metres) and weighed 24,000 pounds (11,000kg). It was found in a herring weir in New Brunswick in 1930. The harmless Whale Shark, holds the title of being the largest fish, with the record being a 59-footer (18 metres) captured in Thailand in 1919. (*Who holds the record for being the biggest human shark?*)

### 358. Fine Feathers

The whistling swan has more than 25,000 feathers on its body. (*A walking, swimming, feather mattress.*)

### 359. A New Star is Born...

...in our galaxy every 18 days. Our galaxy though, comprises 100,000 million stars. *(So it makes little noticeable difference.)*

### 360. Much Heavier

A bucket filled with earth would weigh about 5 times more than the same bucket filled with the substance of the Sun. However, the force of gravity is so much greater on the Sun that a man weighing 150 pounds (70kg) on our planet would weigh 2 tonnes on the Sun. *(Would still be instantly 'sunfried'!)*

#### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

#### A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

If you rearrange the letters "RPSIA", you would have the name of a:

\*Ocean \*Country \*State \*City \*Animal

Answer: Page 43

### 361. Sweetness

When Princess Maria Theresa of Spain was betrothed to Louis XIV of France in 1615, she gave her fiancé an engagement gift of chocolate, packaged in an elegantly ornate chest. Their marriage was symbolic of the marriage of chocolate in Spanish-Franco culture. *(How long did it last? The chocolate I mean!)*

### 362. Not Really That Long Ago

In Victorian times, publications never dared show a bed in any of their advertisements. When illustrations of the bedroom were required, the bed itself was hidden by curtains. *(Now even the bed covers are left off. Is that progress?)*

### 363. Just a Few

25 trillion cells travel through the bloodstream – a stack of 500 would only measure 0.04 inches high. *(All working for us – well, mostly!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 35..... If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?**

### 364. Mixed Up

'Synesthesia' is a rare condition in which the senses are combined. Synesthetes see words, taste colours and shapes, and feel flavours. *(Until we all get to the stage where we can't see words without glasses, taste anything and feel nothing but pain!)*

### **365. Self-Supporting**

The great cathedral of St. Sophia at Constantinople (Istanbul) in Turkey, has sustained for 1,600 years what was, until very recent times, the largest self-supporting dome ever constructed. Moreover, it has done so in an active seismic region. *(Not upheld by worshippers though, as Turkey, the home of many of the early New Testament churches now has one of the least proportions of Christians in the world.)*

### **366. Only From America**

The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco was named one of the "Seven Wonders of the Modern World" by the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1994, along with the Hoover Dam, Interstate Highway System, Kennedy Space Centre, Panama Canal, Trans-Alaska Pipeline, and the now destroyed, World Trade Centre. *(Could they be just a teeny-weeny bit biased?)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 36..... If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?**

### **367. Your Roof**

Mansard, gambrel, hip, gable, and lean-to are types of roofs on buildings. *(Are roofs of the mouth all the same?)*

### **368. Much Reading**

There is a house in Rockport Massachusetts, USA, built entirely of newspaper. The Paper House at Pigeon Cove, as it is called, is made of 215 thicknesses of newspaper. *(Nothing is as old as yesterday's news.)*

### **369. An Expensive Drip**

A dripping hot water faucet wastes an average of 40 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month. This is the equivalent of running a colour television 8 hours a day for about 31 days. *(Avoid the violence though!)*

### **QUESTION TIME:**

What happened to Pontius Pilate after he sentenced Christ to be crucified?

Answer: Page 48

### **370. Miles High**

A cumulonimbus cloud can be gigantic! Six miles (10km) across and eleven miles (17.5 km) high, which is twice as high as Mount Everest! *(Not just your average fluffy cloud!)*

### 371. Sexy Orchids

The orchid is named after the male genitalia. Its botanical family name, Orchidaceae, means 'testicles' in Greek and likely derives from an early notion that the orchid possessed aphrodisiac qualities. *(Watch out for a man bearing orchids.)*

### 372. Dangerous Kisses

In Japan, where kissing was once considered 'unclean, immodest, indecorous, ungraceful, and likely to spread disease' —per Tokyo's Prefect of Police —approximately 800,000 feet of kissing scenes were deleted from American movies released there in 1926. *(Have now caught the bad habit!)*

### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

### A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

DEATH LIFE

Answer: Page 43

### 373. Many Breakfasts

The largest known egg ever laid by a creature was that of the extinct Aepyornis of Madagascar. The egg was 9.5 inches (22cm) long. It had a volume of 2.35 gallons, or over 10.5 litres. *(Did high cholesterol cause its extinction?)*

### 374. Inside Out?

A day on the planet Mercury is twice as long as its year. Mercury rotates very slowly but revolves around the Sun in slightly less than 88 days. *(Would age be measured in days there?)*

### 375. Slow Progress

A car travelling at a constant speed of 60 miles (96kmh) per hour would take more than 48 million years to reach the nearest star, excluding our Sun, Proxima Centaurii. This is about 685,000 average human lifetimes. *(How would you find your way back?)*

### 376. A Pin Up Blown Up



A pin-up photo of film star Rita Hayworth adorned the first test bomb dropped on Bikini atoll in the Marshall Islands in July 1946. (*Was not half as explosive as Rita herself!*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 37..... Why do you press harder on a remote control when you know that the batteries are dead?**

**377. Rare Protection**

The Aztec Indians of Mexico believed turquoise would protect them from physical harm, and so warriors used these green and blue stones to decorate their battle shields. (*Do people now decorate themselves with them for the same reason?*)

**378. A Man's Disease**

'Mageiricophobia' is the intense fear of having to cook. (*But what is an intense dislike of doing the dishes called? Kidphobia?*)

**QUESTION TIME:**

When was the first animal cloned?

Answer: Page 48

**379. Snore Power**

The sound of a snore at up to 69 decibels can be almost as loud as the noise of a pneumatic drill, which operates at 70–90 decibels. (*A pneumatic snore?*)

**380. At Peace**

The African bushman who lives in a quiet, remote environment, has no measurable hearing loss at age 60. (*'Rock' is to be looked at, not listened to!*)

**381. Built Bigger**

London's Millennium Dome, the largest of its kind in the world, was over one kilometre (.6 mile) in circumference and covers over 80,000 square meters. (*Evoking memories of the days of British 'dome-inion' over the earth.*)

**382. Well Travelled**

A drop of water may travel thousands of miles (even more kilometres!) between the time it evaporates into the atmosphere and again falls to the Earth as rain, sleet, or snow. (*When does a drop become a drip?*)

### 383. A Cold Morning

A 'pogonip' is a heavy winter fog containing ice crystals. (*More than a bit nippy!*)

### 384. It's All Rubbish

Public sanitation was definitely at an all-time low during the Middle Ages. Garbage was piled up so high outside the city of Paris during the 1400's that it interfered with the city's defences (*An 'offence' to the nose of attackers though.*)

### PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 38..... Why do we put suits in garment bags and garments in a suitcase?

#### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

Y  
O  
U  
R  
GAMBLING  
L  
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F  
E

Answer: Page 43

### 385. Cutting Costs

In Hollywood's early movie-making days, even the stars supplied their own wardrobe for contemporary films. Period clothes were supplied from stock, or by the Western Costume Company, established in 1912. Anyone with a dress suit could earn extra money and higher status in films of the 1920s. (*Did they claim a clothing allowance?*)

### 386. Dog Sweat

Contrary to popular belief, dogs do not sweat by salivating. They sweat through the pads of their feet. (*Walk on water?*)

### 387. Biblical Authors

The Bible was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by over 40 different authors from all walks of life: shepherds, farmers, tent-makers, physicians, fishermen, priests, philosophers and kings. *(Despite these differences in occupation and the span of years it took to write it, the Bible is an extremely cohesive and unified book.)*

### 388. Sun Shines

The Sun is about midway in the scale of star sizes, but most are smaller ones. Only five percent of the stars in our galaxy are larger than the Sun. *(You are my sunshine, my only sunshine...)*

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 39..... How come 'abbreviated' is such a long word?**

### 389. Living In

The skin of the armpit harbours up to 516,000 bacteria per square inch, while drier areas, such as the forearm, have only about 13,000 bacteria per square inch. *(But after deodorant is applied? Killers are we?)*

### **QUESTION TIME:**

How far can a kangaroo jump?

Answer: Page 48

### 390. What is That Phone Number?

The short-term memory capacity for most people is between five and nine items or digits. This is one reason that generally, phone numbers are kept to seven digits, excluding the area code. *(What was that?)*

### 391. Prolific Readers

Warsaw, in Poland, holds the distinction of opening the world's first public library in 1747. *(Was silence first imposed there too?)*

### 392. It's Deep

It would take 11 Empire State Buildings, stacked one on top of the other, to measure the Gulf of Mexico at its deepest point. *(Could a storm topple the top building though?)*

### 393. Being Prepared

The world's most drought resistant tree is the 'Baobab Tree'. It can store up to 35,900 gallons (160,000 litres) of water in its trunk for later use. *(Water, water nowhere, but I still have plenty to drink.)*

### **394. Frozen Gas Tank?**

Gasoline has no specific freezing point, for it freezes at any temperature between -180 and -240 degrees Fahrenheit (-118 and -151C). When gasoline freezes, it never totally solidifies, but simply resembles gum or wax. *(Whatever the temperature, it is really cold!)*

### **395. Cold to Hot**

It takes as much heat to turn one ounce (28gms) of snow to water as it does to make an ounce (28gms) of soup boil at room temperature. *(How about frozen soup?)*

### **396. Holding Us Down**

Air pressure at sea level is roughly equal to the weight of an elephant spread over a small coffee table. *(How did they get the elephant to stand on a coffee table to prove this? I know really!)*

### **QUESTION TIME:**

What was the first toy ever advertised on television?

Answer: Page 48

### **397. Better Thin than Thick**

If hot water is suddenly poured into a glass, the glass is more likely to break if it is thick than if it is thin. That is why test tubes are made of thin glass. *(Tested through 'thick and thin'.)*

### **398. Setting a Trend**

A & P was the first chain-store business to be established. It began in 1842. *(There has since been a chain reaction.)*

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 40..... Why do we wash bath towels? Aren't we clean when we use them?**

### **399. Bathing Banned**

In 1845 Boston, America, had an ordinance banning bathing unless you had a doctor's prescription *(Would eventually have become a good money earner for doctors.)*

#### **400. Brand New**

Band-Aid brand adhesive bandages (sticking plasters) first appeared on the market in 1921. However, the little red string now used to open the package was not added until 1940. *(How much blood has Band-Aids saved?)*

#### **401. A Real Need**

In 1937 the emergency 999 telephone service was established in London. More than 13,000 genuine calls were made in the first month. *(Would have been a lot more two years later!)*

#### **402. Looking Behind**

The praying mantis is the only insect that can turn its head! *(Maybe that's why it prays. Because it can see more than others!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 41..... Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?**

#### **403. To the Left**

Bats always turn left when exiting a cave. *(That's right!)*

#### **404. No Dishes**

A company in Taiwan makes dinnerware out of wheat, so you can eat your plate! *(But only once!)*

#### **405. Much Snot?**

Slugs have 4 noses! *(Maybe that's why they're so slimy. Sorry, couldn't resist it!)*

#### **QUESTION TIME:**

How does a frog cope with freezing temperatures?

Answer: Page 48

#### **406. Much Movement**

Your ribs move every time you breathe. In fact, about 5 million times a year! *(Aren't we wondrously made?)*

#### **407. A Consumer Society**

There are more plastic flamingos in the U.S, than real ones! *(Wonder what the flamingos think about this?)*

#### **408. Asthma Attack**

One ragweed (ragwort) plant can release as many as one billion grains of pollen! *(What's good for bees is not always good for us.)*

#### **409. Faster Up than Down?**

Seemingly defying gravity, forest fires move faster uphill than downhill! *(Sadly, people frequently can't outrun them - up nor down.)*

#### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

#### **A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

achancen

Answer: Page 43

#### **410. Turn it Off**

A car uses 1.6 ounces (47mls) of gas when idling for one minute, while less than one third as much, or only half an ounce (15mls), is needed to restart it. *(Then you can relax while you wait for the wife!)*

#### **411. Any Colour As Long As It's Black**

All gondolas in Venice, Italy, must be painted black, unless they belong to a high official. *(So that's where you got your idea from, Henry Ford! Nothing is new. Particularly privileges for the wealthy!)*

#### **412. What's in It?**

A-1 steak sauce contains both orange peel and raisins while Worchester Sauce is basically anchovy ketchup. *(Just forget this and enjoy them anyway.)*

#### **413. Repelling yet Appealing**

'Dracula' is the most filmed story of all time*(Who 'count'-ed this?)*

#### **414. Blink or Blink, Blink**

Women blink nearly twice as much as men. *(Men cause this, women say.)*

#### **415. The Gunless Canon**

'Canon' is derived from the Greek word 'Kanon,' signifying a measuring rod. Thus, to have the Bible 'canonised' meant that it had been measured

by the standard or test of divine inspiration and authority. It became the collection of books or writings accepted by the apostles and leadership of the early Christian church as a basis for Christian belief. It is the standard by which all Christians throughout the ages live and worship. The entire New Testament, as we know it today, was canonised before the year 375AD. The Old Testament had previously been canonised long before the advent of Christ. *(Has outgunned its namesake and never been replaced!)*

#### **416. No Mention**

In some islands of the Philippines, it is forbidden to mention the name of anyone living. *(A real killer for gossips!)*

#### **417. Horse Sense**

In Queensland, Australia, it remains constitutional law that all pubs (hotel/bar) must have a railing outside for patrons to tie up their horse. *(Must be why it is still known as a cowboy state!)*

#### **418. Coined**

The first vending machines in the US dispensed chewing gum and were installed in New York City train platforms in 1888. *(Did the American love affair with chewing gum precede them or did these addictive machines generate it?)*

#### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

#### **A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

Weatre

Answer: Page 43

#### **419. Not For a Night Out**

Samuel Beckett's play *Breath* is the shortest recorded play ever written, consisting of 35 seconds of human cries and breathes. *(How did he individually describe them in the script?)*

#### **420. Have a Cuppa**

There are 48 teaspoons in a cup: three teaspoons make a tablespoon, with 16 tablespoons to a cup. *(Two teaspoons of sugar is only one twenty-fourth of a cup. Maybe it would be okay to have more!)*

#### **421. Large Print?**

' The Boston Nation', a newspaper published in Ohio during the mid-nineteenth century, had pages seven and a half feet (2.3m) long and five and a half feet (1.7m) wide. It required two people to hold the paper in proper reading position. *(For those who couldn't afford spectacles?)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 42.....** If 'Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers', where did he find a pickled pepper bush?

**422. In Case You're Hungry**

There are around about 3,000 hot dog vendors in metropolitan New York. *(And a lot more dogs. No, I'm not implying it!)*

**423. The Horse**

The name of the Lady Godiva's horse was Aethenoth. *(Now why don't we remember the name of the horse? It was unclothed too!)*

**424. Why Does Ice Float?**

It's simple really. Water has a greater molecular density in a liquid form than as a solid. And that's why ice floats. (It's the same for an ice cube or an iceberg.)

**425. Whirly Girls**

Is the name of the International Association of Women Helicopter Pilots. *(So much more imaginative than IAWHP would be.)*

**426. Fifteenth**

A fifteenth anniversary is called a 'quindecennial'. *(No wonder it's a name you don't hear often. What was it again?)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

How long can honey be stored and still safely eaten?

Answer: Page 48

**427. Up in Smoke**

A perfectly clean fire produces almost no smoke. Smoke simply means that a fire is not burning properly and that particles are escaping unburned. *(Maybe 'money gone up in smoke' could be reconstituted?)*

**428. In Less Than a Flash**



A nanosecond is one billionth of a second. *(It took 96,587,403,521 nanoseconds to write this, to be exact!)*

#### **429. From The Sublime to the Ridiculous**

Dry ice does not melt. It sublimates, meaning it goes directly from a solid to a gaseous form. On the other hand, dirty snow melts faster than clean snow. *(How about dirty dry ice?)*

#### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

world  
world  
world  
world

Answer: Page 43

#### **430. Now That's Real Inflation!**

During the early 1920s, at the height of the inflation in the German Weimar Republic, one American dollar was equal to 4 trillion German marks. *(Truly, 'money not even worth burning'! Helped Hitler Hijack His Country)*

#### **431. Don't Expect to Win**

According to Gambler' s Digest, an estimated \$1 million is lost at racetracks in the US each year by people who lose or carelessly throw away winning tickets. *(Those who literally 'throw their money away'!)*

#### **432. Cat Love**

Felix the Cat' s girlfriend was named Phyllis *(Good to 'phyll-is' in on that!)*

#### **433. Unbelievable?**

According to studies conducted at Northwestern University in the US, men change their minds two to three times more than women do. Women tend to take longer to make a decision, but once they do, they are more likely to stick to it. *(Can I believe it? Yes... No...)*

#### **434. Talkathon Time**

According to the New York Telephone Company, there are 398 million telephones in the world, of which more than one-third are in the United States. *(Do Americans have more ears than others?)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 43.....How do you get off a non-stop flight?**

**435. Scientific Explosion**

It is believed that 90 percent of all scientists who have ever lived are alive now, and that more scientific paper's have been published in the years since 1950 than were published in all the centuries before 1950. *(Have the knowledge, but what about the wisdom to go with it?)*

**436. Confused Children**

According to the federal Trade Commission, there are 20,000 television commercials made each year aimed exclusively at children. Of these, 7,000 are for sugared breakfast cereals. *(Both the ads and the sugared cereals are bad for you?)*

**437. International Language**

All pilots on international flights have to identify themselves in English, regardless of country of origin. *(Some English that even the French cannot avoid!)*

**438. Stone Conductor**

Granite conducts sound ten times faster than air. *(Embed a jet in a block of granite to break the sound barrier at a tenth of the speed?)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

What is the sleeping sickness?

Answer: Page 48

**439. Leaving Your Stone**

Among the Danakil tribesmen of Ethiopia, a male's grave is marked with a stone for every man he killed. *(Run out of men before stones!)*

**440. Happy Helen**

Helen of Troy was Queen of Sparta. *(worked like a trojan but did not live a spartan life!)*

**441. Magnification**

If a glass of water were magnified to the size of the Earth, the molecules comprising it would be about as big as a large orange. *(Large multiplication giving a small answer.)*

#### 442. Not a Sure Bet

In horse races, the favourite wins fewer than 30 percent of all races. *(In the human race too!)*

#### 443. Sticky Stuff

Many hair sprays are made largely of cellulose, the major ingredient of the cell walls of plants. Ethyl cellulose adhesives dry quickly, do not remain tacky, and wash out with water. *(Plant a plant in your hair.)*

#### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 44..... How come that no-one is listening until you make a mistake?**

#### 444. Sincere Love

The amethyst, February's designated birthstone, is the symbol of sincerity. This gem was said to be a favourite of both Cleopatra's and St. Valentine's *(Always sought, not always found.)*

#### 445. Just in Case

In 18th century English gambling dens, there was an employee whose sole job was to swallow the dice if there was a police raid. *(A dicey job!)*

#### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

#### **A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

lo ose

Answer: Page 43

#### 446. Most Prolific Writers

Of the Old Testament was Moses, who wrote the first five books of the Bible, referred to as the Pentateuch; the foundation of the Bible. The Apostle Paul, wrote 14 books (over half) of the New Testament. *(By far the world's most read authors.)*

#### 447. Keeping Fit?

The average housewife (househusband) walks 10 miles (16kms) a day around the house doing their chores. In addition, they walk nearly 4 miles (6.5kms) and spend 25 hours a year making beds. *(But over 100 times as long sleeping in their beds as making them.)*

#### 448. Ad Blitz

The average American sees or hears an amazing 560 advertisements a day. *(How much money do they have to spend per advertisement seen?)*

#### **449. Not Snot**

Blowing your nose in public is considered rude in Japan (and in many other countries). The handkerchief is use primarily for wiping the mouth or drying your hands when leaving a restroom. *(Truly a 'hand'kerchief, not a 'nose'kerchief.)*

#### **450. A Big Noise**

'Brontology' is the study of thunder. *(Clap your hands to thunderous applause, A thunderclap will further your cause.)*

#### **451. Lucky?**

In 1060 a coin was minted in England shaped like a lucky four-leaf clover. The user could break off any of the four leaves and use them as separate pieces of currency. *(Spreading your money around?)*

#### **QUESTION TIME:**

What is a group of flamingos called?

Answer: Page 48

#### **452. 'Ozostomia'**

If you are suffering from 'ozostomia', you are suffering from halitosis – actually, bad breath. *(Attacking the ozone layer? Would have to be very bad!)*

#### **453. Fireproof**

As it is 12,000 feet (3.7kms) above sea level, there is barely enough oxygen in La Paz, Bolivia to support combustion, so the city is virtually fireproof. *(But not gunfire proof though!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 45..... Why is it that the colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required on it?**

#### **454. Starting Young**

Alfred, Lord Tennyson, wrote a 6,000-word epic poem when he was 12 years old. *(No time for tennis, son!) follow the biblical principle of 'The first will be last, and the last will be first'!)*

#### 455. Perseverance

Gibbon spent 20 years writing 'The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire'. Noah Webster spent 36 years writing his 'Webster's Dictionary'. *(Great men take on big challenges.)*

#### 456. Too Vivid

From 1941 until 1950, violet was part of the colour mixture for 'M&M' s' Plain Chocolate Candies. Violet was then replaced by tan. *(Roses are red, violets are blue, M&M's are tan, just for you!)*

#### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

#### A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

O O O Circus

Answer: Page 43

#### 457. Splitting Hairs

It is possible to drown and not die. Technically the term 'drowning' refers to the process of taking water into the lungs, not to the death caused by that process. *(Could it happen every day to those who 'drown their sorrows'?)*

#### 458. Squeaky Clean

Floor cleaning products in Venezuela have ten times the pine fragrance of U.S. floor cleaners, as Venezuelan women won't buy a weaker fragrance. These fastidious homemakers may well wet-mop their tile floors twice a day, leaving windows and doors open so the scent can waft out to the street, so 'scenting' out the message that their houses are clean. *(One 'mopmanship'!)*

#### 459. A Friendly Twist

Fagin, the infamous sinister villain in Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist, was also the name of Dickens' best friend, Bob Fagin *(Is it better to be remembered as a villain, than not remembered at all?)*

#### 460. Unrhymed Verse

A tanka is a Japanese verse form of 31 syllables in five unrhymed lines, with the first and third having five syllables each, the others seven. *(More difficult than rhyming?)*

#### 461. Just a Few!

A quart-size (.9 litres) pail or bucket holds 8 million grains of fine sand.  
*(How many grains on a beach? God knows the answer to that!)*

**462. On the other Hand**

A ten-gallon hat holds less than a gallon (3.8litres) of liquid. *(Everything is exaggerated in Texas!)*

**463. Foot Food**

A person who is lost in the woods and starving can obtain nourishment by chewing on his shoes. Leather has enough nutritional value to sustain life for a short time. *(If you're that hungry, you don't worry about the foot odour flavouring.)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

How many sweat glands do we have in our body?

Answer: Page 48

**464. Muddling Measurements Again**

The measurements of a mile on the ocean and a mile on land are different. On the ocean, a nautical mile is 6,080 feet (1853m). A land or statute mile is only 5,280 feet (1609m). *(Must be why walking on water is so difficult!)*

**465. Fly High**

A jet powered aircraft uses more fuel flying at 25,000 feet (76km) than at 30,000 feet (91km). The higher it flies the thinner the atmosphere and the less atmospheric resistance it encounters. *(The Concord used too much at any height.)*

**466. Get the Gears**

A car with a manual shift gets 2 miles (3.2kms) more per gallon (3.8ltr) of gas than a similar one with an automatic gearbox. *(The effort is worthwhile for both economy and fun.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 46..... Why are credit cards always in debit?**

**467. First Prize**

You may call it Britain, Great Britain, United Kingdom, or the U.K. However, if you purchase a stamp there, you won' t find any name on it.

Great Britain was the first country in the world to issue postage stamps, and still today, they are the only nation in the world that doesn't use a national name on their stamps. *(Because they wouldn't know which name to put on?)*

#### **468. Perfectly Round**

A bubble is round because the air within it presses equally against all its parts, causing all surfaces to be equidistant from its centre. *(Until the bubble bursts, when inequality again rules.)*

#### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

#### **A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

What four-letter word can be placed in front of each of the following words to form new words?

PHONE

LINE

WATERS

Answer: Page 43

#### **469. 'If at first....'**

X-rays of the Mona Lisa show that there are three completely different versions of the same subject, all painted by Leonardo da Vinci, under the final portrait. *( '..... you don't succeed, don't give up' or you just might miss out on producing, arguably the world's most famous painting.)*

#### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 47..... Why did Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?**

#### **470. An Emerald for Me**

While diamonds are usually considered the most precious of stones, a large, near flawless emerald is worth considerably more than a diamond of similar size. *( 'Emeralds are a girls best friend' somehow doesn't have the same ring to it – fortunately for men!)*

#### **471. Happy Birthday Dollars**

Warner Communications paid \$28 million for the copyright to the song 'Happy Birthday'. *(Now have to find a way to collect royalties every time we sing it!)*

#### **472. Cumbersome Currency**

Until the nineteenth century, solid blocks of tea were used as money in Siberia. *(Could literally 'drink your money away'.)*

#### **473. Very Similar**

The two chapters of 2 Kings 19 and Isaiah 37 in the Bible are almost identical. *(Can learn 2 memory verses for the effort of one!)*

#### **474. Turning Back the Clock**

Turning a clock's hands counter clockwise while setting it, in itself is not necessarily harmful. It is only a problem if the timepiece contains a chiming mechanism. *(If only it would work the same on the 'clock of life'!)*

#### **475. Can't Carry it Home**

\$1,000,000 in \$1 bills weighs approximately one ton. Placed in a pile it would be 360 feet (110 m) high – as tall as 63 average adults standing on top of each other. *(Now \$100 bills of course.....)*

#### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

#### **A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

How can you divide seven apples among 12 people such that everyone will have exactly equal portions? Each apple is not to be cut into more than 4 pieces.

Answer: Page 43

#### **476. Providing Employment**

When using the first pay telephones, a caller did not deposit his coins in the machine. He gave them to an attendant standing next to the telephone. Coin phones did not appear until 1899. *(Another labour saving device.)*

#### **477. No Time**

When in China, avoid giving the gift of a clock. To the older Chinese generation, the clock is a symbol of bad luck. *(To me too, when running late!)*

#### **478. Hear to the Last**

When a person is dying, hearing is generally the last sense to go. The first sense lost is usually sight. Then follows taste, smell, and touch. *(All of us who wear glasses – we are on the way out!)*

#### **479. How are Wars Ever Won?**



When a military contractor referred to a 'manually powered fastener-driving impact device', he was talking about a hammer. *(The quoted price no doubt reflected the 'enhancement' of the name.)*

#### **480. Short and Sweet**

The national anthems of Japan, Jordan, and San Marino each have only four lines. *(Let's get on with the game!)*

#### **481. Subtle Advertising**

The name of the statuette atop the hood of every Rolls Royce car is 'The Spirit of Ecstasy'. *(Oh, the agony of the Ecstasy being stolen!)*

#### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 48..... Do illiterate people get the full affect of alphabet soup?**

#### **482. Already Preserved**

Undertakers report that human bodies do not deteriorate as quickly as they used to. The reason being that the modern diet contains so many preservatives that these chemicals tend to prevent the body from decomposing too rapidly after death. *(Do they also serve to keep us alive longer though? That is the real question.)*

#### **QUESTION TIME:**

What percentage of a watermelon is water?

Answer: Page 48

#### **483. Soft and Loud**

The name 'piano' is an abbreviation of Cristofori's original name for the instrument: 'pianoforte', or soft and loud. *(The delight of those who listen to a virtuoso, the bane of those forced to practice in the remote hope of becoming one!)*

#### **484. Not the Real Thing**

Twenty-four-carat gold is not pure gold as there is a small amount of copper in it to harden it. Absolutely pure gold is so soft that it can be moulded with the hands. *(Seems rather to slip through the fingers!)*

#### **485. Striking a Cord**

Ten cords of wood (a pile stacked 4 feet (1.2m) wide by 4 feet (1.2m) high by 80 feet (24.4m) long) have the same heating potential as 1,400 gallons (5,300ltr) of oil. (*Winter 'woodn't' be welcome without warmth.*)

#### **486. Mixed Messages**

There are two radios for every man, woman, and child in the United States. (*Absolute confusion or simple stereo with one to each ear - on the same station.*)

#### **487. Railroaded**

There is 1 mile (1.6km) of railroad track in Belgium for every one and a half square miles (4sq kms) of land. (*How many level crossing accidents?*)

#### **488. Many Sweet Smells**

There are 'Odour Technicians' in the perfume trade with the olfactory skill to distinguish 19,000 different odours at twenty levels of intensity each – that is 380,000 smells! (*Wonder what perfumes their wives wear?*)

#### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

#### **A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

Oholene

Answer: Page 43

#### **489. Wind Power**

A balloon released into the jet stream would take two weeks to travel completely around the globe. (*'Round The World in 14 Days' With oxygen!*)

#### **490. In The Limelight**

American chemist Robert Hare discovered that blowpipe flame acting upon a block of calcium oxide, that is lime, produces a brilliant white light that could be used to illuminate theatre stages. Hence, someone who faces the glare of publicity is now said to be in the limelight. (*Should it really be whitelight?*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 49..... Why when you blow in a dog' s face he gets mad at you, but when you take him in a car he sticks his head out the window?**

#### **491. Imperial Madness**

There are 640 acres in a square mile. *(Imperial measurements were surely deliberately designed to torture the minds of countless generations of students.)*

#### **492. Yoyos for Youyou to Viewview**

The world's largest yo-yo rests in the National YoYo Museum in Chico, California. Named 'Big Yo,' the 256-pound (116kg) yoyo is an exact scale replica of a Tom Kuhn 'No Jive 3 in 1 YoYo'. Fifty inches (1.3m) tall and 31.5 inches (.8m) wide, this monster yo-yo is made of California sugar pine, Baltic birch from the former USSR, and hardrock maple. It was first launched in San Francisco on October 13, 1979. *(Wouldn't want to be around if the string broke!)*

#### **493. Hay Powered**

Licensed London taxis (the famous black cabs) are required by law to carry a bale of hay at all times. This dates from the days of the horse drawn cab and the relevant law has never been revoked. *(Travel at the same speed as their earlier counterparts, due to the traffic, but cost heaps more!)*

#### **494. A Wise Precaution**

It is against the law to remove your shoes if your feet smell bad while you're in a theatre in Winnetka, Illinois, US. *(But you have to take them off before you know whether they do smell or not!)*

#### **QUESTION TIME:**

Who invented Khaki military uniforms?

Answer: Page 48

#### **495. Carnivores**

In fourth century Sparta, in Greece, males 20 years of age and over were required by law to eat 2 pounds (.9kg) of meat a day. It was believed to make one brave. *(Well, to gain weight, at least.)*

#### **496. Un-American!**

Vermont, Alaska, Hawaii, and Maine are the four states in the U.S. that do not allow billboards. *(Have to be radical and look at the scenery instead!)*

#### **497. Can't Kiss**

In Riverside, California, there is an old law on the city' s books, which makes it illegal to kiss unless both people wipe their lips with rose water. *(So that's why men give roses to their sweethearts – in Riverside anyway!)*

**498. Run and Divorce?**

A study of New York marathoners a few years ago found that their divorce rate – male and female – was twice the national average. Persons engaging in solitary endurance sports are the ones most likely to be compulsive exercisers – for example, joggers, long-distance swimmers, weight-lifters, and cross-country skiers. Occasionally, devotees of these activities set unrealistic, ambitious goals, then drive themselves mercilessly to reach them. *(Just another excuse to become a couch potato!)*

**499. Fruity**

Scientists with the Oxford University' s Imperial Cancer Research Fund found that people who eat fresh fruit daily had 24 percent fewer heart attacks and 32 percent fewer strokes. *(An apple a day does indeed keep the doctor away.)*

**500. No Fun Left**

In Kentucky, it is against the law to throw eggs at a public speaker. *(Must make a good job of getting egg on their own faces!)*

<p><b>MISCELLANEOUS ‘MIND-A-CISE’</b></p> <p>What is the missing number in this grid?</p> <table><tr><td>16</td><td>36</td><td>148</td></tr><tr><td>25</td><td>50</td><td>?</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>9</td><td>37</td></tr></table>	16	36	148	25	50	?	4	9	37	<p><b>A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!</b></p> <p>Answer: Page 43</p>
16	36	148								
25	50	?								
4	9	37								

**501. The Good News to Many**

The American Bible Association has published almost a billion Bibles since it was founded in 1816. *(How many words?)*

**502. Now That's Small**

Bacteria, the world's tiniest free-living cells, are so small that a single drop of liquid may contain 50 million of them. *(Who counted them?)*

### 503. Our New Companion

The Ideal Toy Company was the first company to mass-produce teddy bears. *(Soon became everyone's idea of the ideal toy.)*

### 504. Peter Pan Proceeds

All the proceeds from James M. Barrie's book 'Peter Pan' were bequeathed to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for the Sick Children in London. *(A fairy tale ending.)*

### 505. Ancient Roots

Gin (Rummy) and Canasta are both descended from the ancient Chinese game, mah-jongg, which is more than a thousand years old. *(Mah-vellous fun!)*

In each column, divide the top number by 4 to get the bottom number. Then add 5 to the sum of the top and bottom numbers to get the middle number.

### QUESTION TIME:

Why do we call twins who are attached to each other physically, "Siamese twins"?

Answer: Page 48

### 506. All Good Things Take time

It takes the same amount of time to age a good cigar as it does good wine. *(And good people?)*

### 507. Almost the Original

The Codex Vaticanus, which dates from the first half of the fourth Century, is the oldest almost complete manuscript of the Bible in existence. It is located in the library of the Vatican in Rome. There are older fragments of the Bible that are still preserved however, the oldest being a tiny scrap of the Gospel of John, found in Egypt and dating back to the beginning of the second century. *(Currently held in the Rylands Library in Manchester, England).*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 50..... Why is anyone going slower than you an idiot, but anyone going faster than you a maniac?**

### 508. That Sinking Feeling

Fourteen years before the Titanic sailed on an April day in 1912 on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, a novel titled "Futility" was published about an unsinkable and glamorous Atlantic liner, the largest in the world. Like the Titanic, the fictional vessel was triple-screw and could make 24-25 knots. At 800 feet (244m), it was a little shorter than the Titanic, but at 70,000 tons, its displacement was 4,000 tons greater. Like the Titanic itself, its passenger list was the creme de la creme and there were not enough lifeboats on board. On a cold April night, the fictional 'unsinkable' vessel strikes an iceberg and glides to the bottom of the Atlantic. The name of this liner, in the story by Morgan Robertson, was 'The Titan.' *(A sad story of man's 'irresistible force' meeting nature's 'immovable object'. Nature won – again!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

Is it possible for twins to have different fathers?

Answer: Page 48

**509. Then...**

Florence in Italy, was the first city to mint its own gold coins in 1252. The 'fiorino' became known as the 'florence', then finally as the 'florin'. *(Since then we have all been trying to 'make a mint!')*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 51..... How come SUPERMAN could stop bullets with his chest, but always ducked when someone threw a gun at him?**

**510. And Now...**

According to U.S. Treasury, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, there were more than 10 billion pennies minted in the United States in 1998. The actual number of coins produced, by denomination, was pennies, 10,257,400,000; nickels, 1,323,672,000; dimes, 2,335,300,000; quarters, 1,867,400,000; and half-dollars, 30,710,000. *(More money, but seemingly, always more to spread it amongst.)*

**511. How Long?**

Early systems of measurement used body parts to calculate length. A cubit ran from elbow to middle fingertip. The distance from fingertip to fingertip of outstretched arms was a fathom. *(Used a small or tall person, depending on the length that best suited your requirements!)*

### 512. Slows You Up

According to Newton' s Law of Motion, if a car going 60 miles per hour in one direction gets hit by a mosquito going one mile per hour in the opposite direction, it will slow the car down one-millionth of a mile per hour. *(The consequences for the mosquito however, are considerably more significant!)*

### 513. Why to Lie?

Studies shown by the Psychology Department of DePaul University show that the principal reason to lie is to avoid punishment. *(Will be later even if you avoid it now.)*

### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

### **A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

This is an unusual paragraph. I' m curious how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so plain you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is unusual though. Study it, and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out.

Answer: Page 43

### 514. Alphabetic Keyboard

There are three sets of letters on standard typewriter and computer keyboards which are in alphabetical order, reading left to right. They are f-g-h, j-k-l, and o-p. *(Wouldn't it be nice if they all were!)*

### 515. Stiff Paper?

Starch is used as a binder in the production of paper. It is the use of a starch coating that controls ink penetration when printing. Cheaper papers do not use as much starch, and that is why your fingers get black when you rub your morning paper. *(Rub-bish!)*

### 516. Lucky To Speak English

There are over 40,000 characters in Chinese script. *(Memorising 1 per day, it would take 110 years to learn them all!)*

### 517. Modern Technology

' The Adventures of Tom Sawyer' , written by Mark Twain, was the first novel ever to be written on a typewriter. *(Handwriting started to deteriorate from that point – my excuse anyway!)*

### 518. Everlasting – Nearly!

Some Persian rugs last as long as 500 years before wearing out. (*What happens when everyone has one?*)

### 519. Before Heat

The hardness of ice is similar to that of concrete. (*And even more slippery when wet.*)

### 520. Granny's Music

The Granny Smith apple was used as the symbol for the Beatles' Apple Records label. (*A Grammy for Granny?*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 52..... If it was only a 3 hour cruise, why did MRS. HOWELL have so many clothes?**

### 521. Medieval Music

Scientists have discovered the oldest playable musical instrument in the world, a flute carved from a bird's wing bone more than 9,000 years ago. The flute was discovered with other flutes at an ancient burial site in China. (*A fluke the flute was now found?*)

### 522. A Rhyme in Time

The game 'crambo', in which a person or team must find a rhyme to a word or a line of verse given by another, originated around 1600. The word 'crambo' is derived from the Latin for 'cabbage' (*A game so funny, not played for money.*)

### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

### A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday?

Answer: Page 48

### 523. Generational Inheritance

The world's first iron bridge, built at Coalbrookdale, Shropshire, England in 1782, was the culmination of the creativity of three generations of Darbys. Abraham Darby I developed the use of coke; his son manufactured cast iron; and his grandson built the bridge. (*Were they 'iron fisted' too? Came from a line of 'iron maidens'?*)



### 524. False Pretences?

The British flag is correctly known as the Union Flag. It should only be called the Union Jack when flown from the jack mast of a ship. (*Sounds like a 'jack-up' to me!*)

### 525. For How Long?

The world consumes 1 billion gallons (4.5 billion litres) of petroleum a day. (*As the earth lightens from massive mining, will it fly away one day?*)

### 526. Milked!

A glass of milk contains about the same weight of air as the weight of an aspirin tablet. (*Even cows have caught on to making less seem like more!*)

### QUESTION TIME:

How do black and white stripes camouflage zebras?

Answer: Page 48

### 527. Baby Farming

On August 12, 1895, Minnie Dean became the first woman to be hanged in New Zealand. Her crime was 'baby farming'. She would adopt unwanted babies for a certain fee and then dispose of them, a 'service' she began in 1889. The police caught on to Minnie after six years and found her to be most certainly guilty when they dug up three bodies of infants in her flower garden. (*Since then we have taken to farming 40 million - was once 70 million - sheep and 10 million cattle, between only 4 million people.*)

### 528. No Sheep Please

Oxford University requires all members upon admission to the Bodleian Library to read aloud a pledge that includes an agreement to not 'kindle therein any fire or flame'. Regulations also prohibit readers bringing sheep into the library. (*An island of quaintness in an ocean of practicality.*)

### 529. No Flash

It is forbidden to take photographs at a Quaker wedding. (*Memories to remember - in the memory.*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 53..... Why does SOUR CREAM have an Expiration date?**

**530. Waste Not, Want Not**

In Somalia, Africa, it' s been decreed illegal to carry old chewing gum by sticking it onto the tip of your nose. *(By gum man. It's just not done thing!)*

**531. Don't Dare Drive Drunk!**

In San Salvador, drunk drivers can be punished by death before a firing squad. *(The final solution!)*

**532. Just Try Not To!**

In Pakistan, it is considered rude to show the soles of your feet or point a foot when you are sitting on the floor. *(For inflexible Westerners this is almost impossible not to do. Try it now!)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

**A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and grey when you throw it away?

Answer: Page 43

**533. Pay Up Legal or Not**

The United States Supreme Court once ruled Federal income tax unconstitutional. Income tax was first imposed during the Civil War as a temporary revenue-raising measure. *(Funny how the temporary has a habit of becoming permanent!)*

**534. Compulsory**

The U.S. Congress passed a law in 1832 requiring all American citizens to spend one day each year fasting and praying. For the most part, people ignored the law, and no effort was made to enforce the legislation. *(Compulsion is resented, compulsory religion, despised.)*

**535. Sound and Smell Control**

In Massachusetts, USA, snoring is prohibited unless all bedroom windows are closed and securely locked. Plus, it is illegal to go to bed without first having a full bath. *(Clean and green, to the extreme!)*

**536. When was the Bible Written?**

It was written over a period of some 1,500 years, from around 1450BC

(the time of Moses) to about 100AD (*following the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ*).

### 537. Not Much Fun Left!

In London, England, it is illegal to drive a car without sitting in the front seat. (*How is it that 'back seat drivers' usually sit in the front seat?*)

### 538. Dangerous Riding

If going on safari on horseback in Zimbabwe' s outback savannah it is recommended by safari guides that travellers not touch any of the trees, as they may be poisonous. (*A tree-mendous problem.*)

### QUESTION TIME:

What is an egg tooth?

Answer: Page 48

### 539. Flower Power

The biggest and best funeral for a gangster ever held in Chicago was for a flower shop entrepreneur named O' Banion. The shop, at the corner of State and Superior Streets, was a front for O' Banion' s bootlegging and hijacking operations. Ten thousand mourners attended, with the most expensive wreath —costing \$1,000 —coming from Al Capone, who had ordered that O' Banion be rubbed out. (*Good g-wreath!*)

### PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 54..... Why buy a product that it takes 2000 flushes to get rid of?

### 540. How Sad

The film Cleopatra (1963) was banned in Egypt for 15 years because its star, Elizabeth Taylor, had converted to Judaism. (*Tolerance lacking both in Cleopatra's time, and now.*)

### 541. Precisely Right

The Dieri tribe in Australia has strict laws regarding who can marry whom. For example, a man can legally marry his mother' s mother' s brother' s daughter' s daughter. He can also marry his mother' s father' s sister' s daughter' s daughter (*Worked it out? Your 'second cousin'.*)

### 542. A Woolly Yarn

In 1571 England, a man could be fined for not wearing a wool cap. (A 'politically correct' move to avoid embarrassment of the bald? Likely to be re-introduced very shortly!)

### 543. Sunday Trading

In Providence, Rhode Island, stores aren't allowed to sell a toothbrush on the Sabbath. Yet, these same stores are allowed to sell toothpaste and mouthwash on Sundays. (A Law with no teeth to it?)

### 544. Body Speak

Body language changes meanings from one country to another. Grasping one's ears is a sign of repentance or sincerity in India. A similar gesture in Brazil – holding the lobe of one's ear between thumb and forefinger – signifies appreciation. (What you see is not necessarily what you get!)

### PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 55..... Why do we wait until a PIG is dead, to "CURE" it?

### 545. What's New!

According to a poll, only 29 percent of married couples agree on most political issues. (That many!)

### 546. Money Mountain

A stack of \$1 bills one-mile (1.6km) high would be worth more than \$14 million dollars. (Before or after inflation?)

### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

yats---urcloseclose

### A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

Answer: Page 43

### 547. Sucking it Up

A McDonald's straw will hold 7.7 ml, or just over one-and-a-half teaspoons of whatever you are drinking. This means that it would take 17,000 'strawfuls' of water to fill up a 34 gallon (130 litre) bathtub. (Clutching at straws?)

### 548. Lifestyle Pain

Two out of three adults in the United States have haemorrhoids. (Headline in the "Body Times" – "Bowels Protest Against 'Hamburger Heaven'!")

**549. Puppy Love**

An American Animal Hospital Association poll showed that 33 percent of dog owners admit that they talk to their dogs on the phone or leave messages on an answering machine while away. *(The only ones who will listen to them?)*

**550. Not to Worry**

You' re just as likely to die by falling out of bed then you are to get struck by lightning; each is a 1 in 2,000,000 chance. You have a 1 in 3,000,000 chance of being killed by a snake. *(But if you stay in bed longer.....?)*

**551. Seeing the Blues**

Owls are one of the only birds who can see the colour blue! *(In the dark too?)*

**552. Sneeze Speed**

A sneeze travels out of your mouth at over 100mph (160kmh). *(Yet I can catch it in my hand!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

Where are all the baby pigeons?

Answer: Page 48

**553. Day After Day**

Your heart beats over 100,000 times a day! *(Around 37 million times a year – more in Leap Years!)*

**554. A Nation of 'Stars'**

One in every 4 Americans has appeared on television. *(But how many have been invited back again?)*

**555. But Worth More**

Hummingbirds can weigh less than a penny. *(Great power to weight ratio though!)*

**556. Hard Headed**

Ancient Egyptians slept on pillows made of stone. *(Most died before the age of 30 however!)*

### 557. Much Perseverance Required

If you counted steadily 24 hours a day, it would take 31,688 years to reach one trillion! (*With sleep, 42251 years, with a stutter – don't start!*)

### 558. That's Really Hot!

A lightning bolt generates temperatures five times hotter than those found on the sun' s surface(*'Lightening hot' as well as 'lightening fast'.*)

### 559. Giant Towels

Tablecloths were originally designed as giant towels with which dinner guests could wipe their hands and faces after eating! (*Some still do – and they are really right!*)

### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

### A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

There are two plastic jugs filled with water. How could you put all of this water into a barrel, without using the jugs or any dividers, and still tell which water came from which jug?

Answer: Page 43

### 560. No Facial Hair

The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows. It was the fashion in Renaissance Florence to shave them off. (*Raises a few eyebrows, this does - now!*)

### 561. A 'Hot' Name

Editorial cartoonist Tad Dorgan (1877-1899) is credited with coining the term "hot dog." The story is that Dorgan, uncertain of the spelling of dachshund sausage, the name used by New York Polo Ground vendors, simplified it to "hot dogs," and so the name was born in 1900. (*100 years old in 2000 – the name, not the 'dawgs'!*)

### 562. Hitting a Hundred

The number of centenarians in the world (Those 100 years and older) has more than doubled since 1980 to about 50,000. Four in five are women. (*Women's liberation or entrapment?*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 56..... Why do they call it the Department of Interior when they are in charge of everything outdoors?**

### 563. The Round Trip

In 1987 that Steve Newman became the first man to walk solo around the world. The 15,000-mile trek took him four years and untold pairs of shoes to complete. *(A big effort simply to end up back where you left from!)*

### 564. Inflated Value

Sylvester Stallone earned \$23,000 for his work on "Rocky" (1976). In 1999, he earned \$20 million for "Into Thin Air." *(The value of money has degenerated 'into thin air'!)*

### 565. A Longer Expiry Date

In 1953, saddled with 270 tons of unsold turkey after Thanksgiving, a Swanson exec freezes sliced bird with vegetables on a tray and ingeniously bills it as "best consumed during I LOVE LUCY." *(Reruns –of the show, not the meat – still going strong 50+ years later.)*

### 566. Convenience Is King

In the ' 80' s, the aluminium tray gets replaced by a microwaveable plastic version, much to the relief of harried working mums. *(Convenience becomes king, and sadly, cooking skills begin to skip entire generations.)*

### 567. Motor Power

In 1826, Samuel Morey of Oxford, New Hampshire, patented the internal combustion engine. It was very similar, in principle, to those that we still use in cars and trucks, but not as complicated, needing less maintenance than today's versions. *(Wonder if he thought to buy shares in an oil company?)*

### QUESTION TIME:

What' s the difference between a turtle and a tortoise?

Answer: Page 48

### 568. Monday Blues

Thirty-eight percent of parents say Monday is the most stressful day of their week. *(Things can only improve.)*

### 569. All Seeing?

Most spiders have eight eyes. These are arranged on top and near the front of the head, usually in two rows of four each. *(How many eyes to a wink? Their 'forty winks' is only a quarter of ours?)*

### 570. Cookie Crazy!

The average American eats 35,000 cookies during their life span. (*Sure increases ones 'body span' too!*)

### 571. Not so Tasty

Pigs, dogs, and some other animals can taste water, but people cannot. We don' t actually taste the water, but rather, taste the chemicals and impurities found in the water. (*Wistfully wonder what water's worth!*)

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 57..... Why do doctors call what they do "a practice"?**

### 572. Rent a Pet

Rome has more homeless cats per square mile than any other city in the world. (Just 'romein' around!)

### 573. Reaching the Peak

Mount Everest, the world's highest peak at 29,035 feet (8850m) is named after the19-century British surveyor, Sir George Everest. (*And he didn't even have to climb it!*)

### 574. Out of the Light

If you keep a goldfish in a dark room, it will eventually turn white. (*Lose their golden suntan.*)

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 58..... Why do people play at a recital and recite at a play?**

### 575. Putting on Weight

Most people believe that a camel' s humps are used for water storage, but they are actually made up of fat. The hump of a well-rested, well-fed camel can weigh up to eighty pounds (36kg) (*One time when fat is beautiful!*)

### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

Wear

Long

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

Answer: Page 43



### **576. Cooling Down**

Americans eat more ice than they do bread - nearly a hundred million tons a year or about two pounds (1kg) per person per day. *(Thought it was bread that was fattening!)*

### **577. To Beard or Not to Beard?**

Beards are the fastest growing hairs on the human body. If the average man never trimmed his beard, it would grow to nearly 30 feet (.5m) long in his lifetime. *(A shave a day keeps the beard away.)*

### **578. Highs and Lows**

Mount Everest is on about the same latitude as Tampa, Florida, US a pleasantly warm place. Everest' s extreme cold therefore, is due to its altitude, not its latitude. (Some like it hot, some like it cold.....)

### **579. No Pain**

The human brain is insensitive to pain. The suffering of a headache come not from the organ itself but from the nerve and muscles lining it. *(No pain, no gain!)*

### **580.**

Howard Hughes once 'made' half a billion dollars in one day. In 1966, he received a bank draft for \$546,549,171.00 in return for his 75% holdings in TWA. Oh sure that sounds like a lot, but after taxes, he only had \$231,896,541.32. *(Easy come, easy stay! Or it would be without the Taxman.)*

### **581. Unseen**

In the United States over 10,000 birds a year die from smashing into windows! *(Glass Cleaner has a lot to answer for!)*

### **582. It's the Same Place**

Until 1796, there was a state in the United States called Franklin. Now it' s known as Tennessee! *(I see!)*

### **QUESTION TIME:**

What is the connection of May Day to Robin Hood?

Answer: Page 48

**583. Permanently in Love?**

A hedgehog's heart beats 300 times a minute on average (*Certainly not through strenuous exertion!*)

**584. Dead or Alive**

'Taphephobia' is the fear of being buried alive! (*Many more of us have a fear of dying – but not those who know Jesus.*)

**585. Fish Face**

Most lipsticks contain fish scales. (*A fishy tale!*)

**586. Once Seen, Always Seen**

It takes glass one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can therefore be recycled an infinite number of times. (*Will 'glassnost' last forever too?*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 59..... If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?****587. Flying Fuel Tank**

A Boeing 747 airliner holds 57,285 gallons (216,847 litres) of fuel! (*Must be why it is such a big plane!*)

**588. Tourists Take Note**

Those visiting Iceland should know that tipping at a restaurant is considered an insult! (*Get an 'icy' reception!*)

**589. Pedal Power**

In Tokyo, it has been proven that a bicycle is faster than a car for most trips of less than 50 minutes! (*Keeps you fitter too!*)

**590. High Rolling!**

In the game of Monopoly, the most money you can lose in one journey around the board is \$26,040, playing by normal rules and going to jail just once. The most money able to be lost in one turn is \$5,070. (*Great to be able to lose without it costing anything!*)

**591. Snail Mail**

Still, about 166,875,000,000 pieces of mail are delivered each year in the USA. (*Impossible to know how many are posted and not delivered?*)

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over 5 minutes. Finally, she hangs him. But 5 minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner together. How can this be?

Answer: Page 43

**592. In All Rome's, Do as the Romans Do**

There is a city called Rome on each of the world's continents (*Romans roam the world.*)

**593. The Old and New of the New**

The oldest New Testament book is probably the book of James, written as early as AD45. The Book of Revelation is the youngest book of the New Testament, written in 95AD. (*Fifty years of written revelation and inspiration that has changed the world.*)

**594. Pre-prepared – Naturally!**

Pecan nuts are the only food that doesn't need to be treated or dehydrated for Astronauts to take into space. (*Helps keep down the costs of the Space Programme?*)

**595. At The Movies**

The movie that plays at the drive-in in the beginning of 'The Flintstones' movie is 'The Monster'. (*Monster movies haven't lost their popularity over the 1000's of years then!*)

**596. Nailed!**

There is enough iron in the human body to make a small nail. (*Doesn't help me with the iron-ing though!*)

**QUESTION TIME:**

Where did the expression "red herring" originate?

Answer: Page 48

**597. Hearty Appetite**

A single elephant can consume up to 500lbs (220 kilos) of hay and 60 gallons (260 litres) of water in one day. (*How would they feed themselves without a trunk?*)

### 598. Hairy Lefties

All Polar bears are both left-handed and are the only mammals with hair on the soles of their feet. *(Does one cause the other? Let me look at my feet! Phew! No!)*

### 599. Hard Rock Work

A scientific study has shown that Hard Rock music makes termites chew through wood at twice their normal speed. *(To get away from it all?)*

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 60.... If all those psychics know the winning lottery numbers, why are they all still working?**

### 600. Sacrificial Love

A female ferret will die if it goes on heat and can't find a mate. *(Reproduction is literally a life and death matter here.)*

### 601. Watch Your Step

The placement of a donkey's eyes in its head enables it to see all four feet, all the time. *(And you thought donkeys were stupid for looking down!)*

### 602. Left For Dead

Over 2500 left handed people a year are killed from using products made for right handed people! *(It's a cruel world if you're different from normal!)*

### 603. Better Late Than Never

While Wrigleys missed out on producing the world's first chewing gum by 11,000 years, they redeemed themselves by being the first product to sport a bar code. *(The bars though, had to be straight, not 'wriggley'!)*

### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

POODIb.E

### **A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

Answer: Page 43

### 604. How Thin Can You Get?

A lump of pure gold the size of a matchbox can be flattened into a sheet the size of a tennis court! *(The heavenly streets are paved, not thinly flattened.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 61..... Where did Webster look up the definitions when he wrote the first dictionary?**

**605. No Bull!**

Bulls are colour blind, therefore will usually charge at a matador' s waving cape no matter what colour it is - be it red or even black! *(Hold that cape still next time you are being charged by a bull!)*

**606. Perfectly Made**

The giraffe can clean its ears with its 21-inch (52cm) tongue! *(Does it become 'tongue tied' though?)*

**607. Tongue Print**

Like fingerprints, everyone' s tongue print is different*(Ideal for identifying the resting place of stolen food? Only if regurgitated like the housefly.)*

**608. Wings or Paddles**

The penguin is the only bird that can swim, but not fly! *(Because the Antarctic scenery 'aint that great' to fly over?)*

**609. Waterlogged**

A jellyfish is 95 percent water! *(Fortunately it lives in the sea, not the desert.)*

**610. Misleading Advertising**

There wasn' t a single pony to be found in the Pony Express, only horses! *( 'Horse Express' just doesn't have the same romantic ring to it.)*

**611. Gums Working**

The world's oldest piece of chewing gum is over 9000 years old! *(Something to chew? So nothing's new!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

What creature has infrared receptors to help it catch prey in total darkness?

Answer: Page 48

**612. Good News and Bad**

A cockroach can live several weeks with its head cut off – but eventually it dies from starvation! *(All bad things come to an end too – finally!)*

### 613. Not a Quick Count!

The American quarter coin has 119 grooves around its edge, a dime, one less. *(If in doubt, check it out.)*

### 614. 'Hard As'

Human teeth are almost as hard as rocks! *(But both have a bad habit of breaking with age.)*

### 615. The 'Termiterity' of it!

The world' s termites outweigh the world' s humans 10 to 1 *(Fortunately they are considerably smaller than we, so we don't often notice.)*

### 616. Stairway to Heaven?

There are more than 10 million bricks in the Empire State Building. *(Beats the Tower Of Babel, any day!)*

### 617. Every Eventuality

It is illegal to drink beer out of a bucket while you' re sitting on a curb in St. Louis. *(Undesirable anywhere! The next day particularly!)*

### 618. The Printed Word

Almost half the newspapers in the whole world are published in the United States and Canada! *(But are the people better informed?)*

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 62.... Why is there a road sign that says "Braille Institute, Next Exit"?**

### 619. A Fast Break

When glass breaks, the cracks move at faster than 3,000 miles per hour. To photograph the event, a camera must shoot the event at a millionth of a second! *(Not sure which is the most amazing – the speed of the crack or the shutter.)*

### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

**A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

I Right I

Answer: Page 43

### 620. Busy Body

Our bodies create and kill 15 million red blood cells per second! *(Amazing that there is time left for anything else!)*

**621. Mouse House**

The average mouse pad 8.75 inches (220mm) by 7.5 inches (185mm). *(How is it that those who hate mice still manage to operate a computer?)*

**622. Not So Prickly**

The Aubergine or Eggplant is a part of the Thistle Family. *(Sour taste too!)*

**623. A Load of Bull**

The newspaper serving the community of Frostbite Falls, the home of Rocky and Bullwinkle, is the 'Picayune Intelligence'. *(If only we could be as imaginative in real life as in the movies!)*

**624. Double Trouble**

After eating, a housefly regurgitates its food, then eats it again! *(Sounds great for ice-cream – not so good for cod liver oil!)*

**625. The Long and The Short**

Esther 8:9 with 90 words, 438 characters without spaces, 527 with, is the Bibles longest verse. John 11:35, "Jesus wept", is the shortest verse. *(The last is my sort of 'memory verse'!)*

**626. Wake Up With an Apple**

Apples are more efficient than caffeine in keeping people awake in the mornings! *(There goes that excuse!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

What is the lowest place on Earth?

Answer: Page 48

**627. The Bone Facts**

You are born with 300 bones, but when you get to be an adult, you only have 206! One quarter of all these are in your feet. Your thighbone is stronger than concrete! *(Bone up on it all!)*

**628. Are You Hungry?**

The starfish is one of the few animals that can turn its stomach inside out!  
(Fortunately!)

**629. See the Light?**

Lightening strikes the world about 6,000 times per minute while men are 6 times more likely to be struck by it than women! (*Are men positively charged?*)

**630. Teeth Scrubbers**

More people use blue toothbrushes, than red ones. (*Blue for boy, red for danger?*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 63..... When an octopus puts on deodorant, how does he remember where he started?**

**631. Immense Variety**

There are more than one million animal species on the Earth. (*And we are just another one of these?*)

**632. From Big to Biggest**

The Earth weighs around 6,600,000,000,000,000,000 tons (5,940 billion billion metric tons) yet the sun is 330,330 times again larger than the earth! (*No wonder it has so much energy!*)

**633. From the Ridiculous to the Sublime**

The South American sloth (a mammal that lives in trees) moves so slowly that green algae can grow undisturbed on its fur, while a mole can dig a tunnel 300 feet long in just one night! (*From 'slothful sloth' to 'eager beaver'.*)

**634. Comforting – To Men**

In Natoma, Kansas, it is illegal to throw knives at a man wearing a striped suit. (*But not at a woman though!*)

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

**A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

Your boss has gone out of town. Her secretary is angry at you for some reason, so he tells you, "She wants to see you in her office at 8:30 A.M. two days after the day before the day after tomorrow." What day will you show up half an hour early to see your boss? Today is Tuesday.

Answer: Page 43



### **635. Irish Again**

Windmills always turn counter-clockwise. Except the ones in Ireland, of course! (*They are the only ones moving with the time!*)

### **636. Non Fattening Donuts**

The US Mint once considered producing doughnut-shaped coins! (*Would have saved 'a mint' in materials too!*)

### **637. I was Skeptical...**

Until I checked out that 'skeptisms' is the longest word that alternates hands when typing! (*Provided it is spelt with a 'k', and not a 'c'.*)

### **638. Music of Many Parts**

A violin contains around 70 separate pieces of wood. (*But it still takes the violinist to make a sweet sound.*)

### **639. The Next Generation**

Popeye' s four nephews are Pipeye, Peepeye, Pupeye, and Poopeye! (*Pip took a peep at the pup pooping!*)

### **640. They're Richer, You're Poorer**

There are no clocks but plenty of slot machines in Las Vegas gambling casinos! In fact, one machine for every 8 inhabitants of the city. (*Many easier ways to make a million – unless you own a casino, that is!*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 64..... Why is it, when a door is open it' s ajar, but when a jar is open, it' s not a door?**

### **641. All Things Being Equal**

' Equinox' is the Latin for 'equal night'. Twice a year, in the spring and in the autumn (fall), the sun passes directly over the earth' s equator and the length of day is virtually equal throughout the entire world, with both twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness. In the spring, it' s called the vernal equinox (equal night of spring) and in the fall, the autumnal equinox. A time of the hope of the summer to come or memories of a summer gone. (*But wouldn't 100% summer be boring? Ask Californians.*)

<b>QUESTION TIME:</b>
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Are pigeons and doves of the same family?

Answer: Page 48

#### **642. Wasn't One Enough?**

One Molasses Flood is unbelievable, two impossible! Yes? No! The second one, which strangely enough, also killed 21 people, took place on December 11, 1932 in Sucarnoochee, Mississippi. As in the earlier incident, a tank exploded letting the hot liquid roared through the town. (*A bitter-sweet experience!*)

#### **643. High Jumper**

When an armadillo is threatened, it jumps straight into the air. This works well to startle other predators, but if on a road when a car is approaching, it is not a good idea. Indeed, if they would stay still, armadillos are actually small enough for cars to safely travel over them, so long as they don't hit the tyres (*Instinct acts instinctively.*)

#### **644. Memories, Memories**

According to research by taste and smell expert Dr. Alan Hirsch, the odour of baking bread, cookies, or cakes triggers the most childhood memories. (Smelt good – tasted even better!)

#### **645. Diamonds Are Forever**

Acid won't destroy a diamond (*But people destroy the earth to get at them!*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 65.... Why are they called buildings, when they' re already finished? Shouldn' t they be called builts?**

#### **646. Inheritance Lost**

The last descendant of the prolific musical Bach family died on Christmas Day, 1845. (*Wonder whose music was played at the funeral?*)

#### **647. Spider Nest**

The nest in which spiders or other insects deposit their eggs is called a 'nidus'. (*Eggspedient?*)

#### **648. Spider Speed**

A spider can spin a traditional round web in less than an hour. *(No, it's not that your housework is behind. Rather, spiders are speedy.)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

Why do some animal's eyes glow in the dark?

Answer: Page 48

**649. A Man of Many Talents**

U.S. President George Washington, was the first person to breed roses in the US. He laid out his own garden at Mt. Vernon and filled it with his own rose selections. One of his varieties he named after his mother and it is still being grown today. *(A thorn in his political opponents sides too?)*

**650. Fragrant Giveaways**

Avon started out as the California Perfume Company when 28-year-old founder, Mr. David McConnell, of New York, discovered that the rose oil perfumes he was giving away were the reason people were buying his books. He named the company Avon in 1939, as a tribute to his favorite playwright, William Shakespeare and Stratford on Avon. *(Discovered the age-old truth that the easiest way to make money is through women's vanities or men's vices.)*

**651. Catch the Koala**

The fingerprints of the Australian Koala Bear are almost indistinguishable from human ones. In fact, they could easily be confused at a crime scene! *(Real Australia – Kangaroo Courts and Koala Jails!)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

REAL  
REAL  
REAL  
REAL  
REAL  
REAL

Answer: Page 43

**652. Not Colour Blind**

A blind Chameleon is still able to change colours to match its environment. *(A colourful story.)*

**653. A Unique Million**

The first prime number after 1,000,000 is 1,000,003. *(Check it out longhand? Maybe you will take my word for it, after all!)*

**654. Where is God?**

Two Bible books make no mention of God, the books of 'Esther' and 'Song of Solomon'. *(But God is still in all and through all, as He is in life.)*

**655. Dominant**

99% of our Solar System's mass is concentrated in the sun. *(Massive!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 66..... Why do people without a watch look at their wrist when you ask them what time it is?**

**656. Getting Wet?**

Apparently, 33% of all Americans flush the toilet while they are still sitting on it! *(Why?)*

**657. Don't tell Anyone**

The wrestler, Hulk Hogan's real name is Terry Bollea. *(Doesn't have the same 'ring' to it!)*

**658. Consonant-less**

The world's only city whose name consists solely of vowels is Aiea, in Hawaii, USA. *(Sounds painful when said slowly.)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

What is the underlying meaning of the number ' 7' in the Bible?

Answer: Page 48

**659. Sea-less**

Mongolia is the world's largest entirely landlocked country. *(Oh, how I'd love to see the sea.)*

**660. Good News**

The province of Alberta in Canada has been virtually 'rat free' since 1905. *(Their cats are sad about this.)*

**661. Non Stop**

At Latitude 60 degrees south you can sail right around the world without hitting anything. *(Except an iceberg or two!)*

**662. Upside Down?**

The bubbles in Guinness Beer sink to the bottom, instead of floating to the top as in other beers. The reason for this is a mystery waiting to be solved. *(Wouldn't want to swim in it then!)*

**663. Senior Military Precision**

The average ear (cob) of corn has 800 kernels arranged in 16 rows. *(How many Majors, Captains and Lieutenants?)*

**664. Won 'em All**

Rita Moreno was the first and only entertainer to have received all four of America's top entertainment industry awards – The Oscar, The Emmy, The Tony and the Grammy. *(Re-award-ing?)*

**665. Enjoy it While You Can**

The lifespan of a tastebud is a mere ten days. *(Careful! Too much 'blue cheese' and they might decide not to reproduce!)*

**666. Bad News**

A rat can survive longer without water than a camel can. *(But not the 'Desert Rats'. (Soldiers fighting in the African desert in WW2.))*

**667. By a Whisker**

A cat uses its whiskers to determine if an opening is too small for it to squeeze through. *(Then meows for it to be opened further.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 67..... Why do women wear evening gowns to nightclubs? Shouldn' t they be wearingnight gowns? (Some seem to!)**

**668. Bulky Sprinter**

The hippopotamus can open its mouth wide enough to fit a 4 foot (120cm) child inside yet can still run faster than a man. *(Hippopower heads horsepower handsomely.)*

<b>MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'</b>
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<b>A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!</b>
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**669. Pi Please**

If you need to remember the formula for 'Pi', simply count the letters of each word in the following sentence. 'May I have a large container of coffee?' If you are extra polite and say 'thank you', you will get 2 further places. *(3.141592653 to be exact!)*

**670. Poker Please**

There are 2,598,960 possible five card combinations available when dealing from a deck of 52 cards. *(Stop! My memory can't take them all in.)*

**671. Plants Like Salt**

Surprisingly, about 85% of all plant life lives in the world's oceans. *(Plankton Pudding please!)*

**672. But of Course, Texas is the Biggest!**

So influential in fact, that it is the only state allowed to fly its state flag at the same height as the Stars and Stripes. *(You can't top Texas!)*

**673. Home of Tulips**

The city of Vernon in Washington State, USA, grows more tulips than the whole of Holland! *(It just has to be bigger in America!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 68..... Why is it that if someone tells you that there are billion stars in the universe you will believe them, but if they tell you a wall has wet paint you will have to touch it to be sure?**

**674. 'Flag-rant'**

In case you can't find it, Cypress has a map on its flag. *(Fortunately, Cypress is not much larger than its flag.)*

**675. Appropriate**

The founder of the famous retailer, J C Penny, had the surname 'Cash'. *(Cash by name, cash accumulator by nature.)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

Which three of the United States are not states? Why?

Answer: Page 48

**676. Holy Timber**

Kerimeski Church in Finland, is the world's largest wooden church. *(Do they have padding on the pews?)*

**677. Banana Rhizomes?**

The romantic Banana Palm is not a tropical tree, but in fact a very large rhizome. *(Doesn't stop bananas from being the world's most popular fruit though.)*

**678. Radio-inactive**

The character, Les Nessman, in 'WKRP in Cincinnati' wore a band –aid in every episode. *(The humour didn't get better, either!)*

**679. Cat Talk**

Cats are able to produce over 100 vocal sounds while dogs are restricted to only 10. *(More sounds to make more commands, to rule their kingdom – us – with.)*

**680. Horse Non-Sense**

A horse has approximately 35 square feet (3.5sq. m.) of skin, which it doesn't need to get dirty by lying down, as it can also sleep standing up. *(Is that why some racehorses seem to go to sleep during a race?)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

1111

2:30 a.m.

Answer: Page 43

**681. We Have Company**

A typical double mattress is home to up to 2,000,000 Demodex Folliculorum – that is House Mites. *(Must be them snoring!)*

**682. Hungry**

A large swarm of locusts can eat up to 80 tons of corn in a day. *(A new dimension of the saying, 'to be stripped bare'.)*

**683. Prime, Prime Numbers!**

2 and 5 are the only prime numbers ending in a 2 or a 5. All others are divisible by either 2 or 5. *(We know it. How do mathematicians prove it?)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 69..... Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?**

**684. It's So Easy!**

A 10 Pin Bowling pin only needs to tilt 7.5 degrees to fall over. *(To knock 10 over therefore requires 75 degrees! That must be my problem!)*

**685. Funny Money**

More money is printed each day for the game of monopoly than by the US Treasury. *(When will Monopoly embrace credit cards then?)*

**686. A Major Failure**

Around 50% of all Americans are on a diet at any one time. *(The cost of living in Hamburger Heaven.)*

**687. Logo-ally Famous**

The player silhouetted on the NBA (National Basketball Association) Logo is Jerry West while the Major League of Baseball immortalises Harmon Killebrew. *(A mere shadow of their former selves!)*

**688. Flying Bible**

The Dominican Republic is the only country to have a Bible on its flag. *(God on the highest.)*

**689. Buried Deep**

Alaska holds the World Record for the greatest daily snowfall, where 78 inches (1.95metres) of snow fell on February 16 1907. *(Even buried the snowmen?)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

Why isn't Puerto Rico on the list of countries?

Answer: Page 48

**690. Swiss Caution**



Every Swiss resident is required to have access to a bomb shelter. *(In about the only European country that has managed to keep out of all wars for more than 100 years.)*

**691. Adventurous Travellers?**

The foreign city most visited by American citizens is the closest – Tijuana. *(The closest foreign city to New Zealand is Sydney, Australia, some 2,000km away. Proportionately though, more New Zealanders have visited Sydney!)*

**692. The Great Wall of France?**

There is sufficient stone in the Great Pyramid of Gizeh to build a 10 foot (3 metre) high, 1 foot (30cm) thick wall around the entire border of France. *(Great to protect French culture?)*

**693. Peanuts for President**

Hersheys supply M&M's to the US President free of charge – but only peanut flavoured ones. *(Any comparisons with monkeys are unintended – maybe!)*

**694. To the Left we have...**

Kermit the Frog is left-handed. *(We're in good company.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 70..... Why put off 'til tomorrow what you' ll never do anyway?**

**695. Point of Difference**

Anne Boleyn had one hand with five fingers but six fingernails, a small extra nail coming out of one finger. *(Was eventually 'nailed' for it?)*

**696. Triple Protection**

Camels have three eyelids to protect themselves from the effects of blowing sand. *(In the 'eye' of the storm?)*

**697. Natural Fresh Water Plant**

Penguins have an organ between their eyes that desalinates water. The salt-water entry point can be seen as a small hole on the forehead. *(The exit's at the other end!)*

<b>MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'</b>
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<b>A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!</b>
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**698. Some Important Months and Days in the USA**

JANUARY: National Soup Month

FEBRUARY 9-15: Random Acts of Kindness Week

MARCH 14: Save a Spider Day

APRIL 7: No Housework Day

SEPTEMBER 22: Elephant Appreciation Day

OCTOBER 10: National Metric Day

NOVEMBER 17: Homemade Bread Day

DECEMBER 19: Underdog and Unsung Hero Day

P.S. Every month that starts with a Sunday, includes a 'Friday 13th'.

*(Some days there is still time left for living!)*

**699. The Symbol of Infinity**

The 'forever' sign of infinity is not wrinkles but is called a 'Lemniscate'.

*(Will always remember this.)*

**700. An Important Milestone**

At 54 years, 9 months (give or take a day or 2) you will celebrate your 20,000 day birthday. *(Like it or not.)*

**701. Back in a Jiffy**

The 'jiffy' is a unit of time that lasts  $3.3455 \times 100,000,000,000$  of a second.

For that is the length of time it takes a ray of light to travel 1cm in a vacuum. *(I must start moving faster.)*

**702. Can't Avoid Them**

Cockroaches inhabited the earth even before dinosaurs! *(Look like it too.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 71..... Why is the alphabet in that order?****703. Toasted**

The bread slots in a toaster are called 'toast wells'. *(Sometimes toasts too well ie burnt.)*

**704. Back to – Death!**

More people die of heart attacks on Monday mornings than at any other time during the week. *(Always knew work was dangerous!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

What invention has resulted in less sleep times for humans?

Answer: Page 48

**705. Paper Chase**

Some people can spend 30 minutes a day looking for papers lost on the top of their desks. *(Makes you look busy though!)*

**706. If Nothing Else Works...**

Try smelling bananas or green apples to lose weight! *(It may be 'fruitful'.)*

**707. Afloat**

If there were an ocean big enough to hold the planet Saturn, it would float. *(We will never be able to prove this theory though.)*

**708. Diverse Interests**

The very famous World Heavyweight Boxing Champion, Gene Tunney, lectured on Shakespeare at Yale University in later life. *(From 'celebrity' to 'soliloquy'.)*

**709. Song Shy**

The opera star, Enrico Caruso, liked practising his singing in the bath. His pianist accompanied from a nearby room. *(Were the low notes waterlogged?)*

**710. Baldy**

When Julius Caesar noticed the hair thinning on top, he took to wearing a laurel reef to cover his baldness. *(Vanity is not a only a modern disease.)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

**A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

Midge lives on the twelfth floor of a modern elevator apartment building. Whenever she gets into the automatic elevator on the ground floor, and no one else is in the elevator, she pushes the button for floor 6, gets off on the sixth floor, and walks up the stairway to the twelfth floor. She would much prefer to ride the elevator all the way up to her floor. Why does she do this?

Answer: Page 43

### **711. A Little Tittle**

The dot over the letter 'i' is called a tittle. *(You can 'tittle tattle' to your friends about this.)*

### **712. A Leg For Breakfast?**

Australian scientists have discovered that some spiders bite off their mother's limbs and feast on them over a period of weeks, presumably stopping them eating each other. *(Australians tend to do this to their politicians too!)*

### **713. Watch it Grow**

On your hand, the middle fingernail grows the fastest and your thumbnail the slowest. *(To prove this, hit them both with a hammer and see which black nail grows out first.)*

### **714. Seven Shuffles**

In order for a pack of cards to be mixed sufficiently to be played fairly with, it should be shuffled a minimum of seven times. *(Seven is also the Biblical number of completion. Playing cards are not in the Bible however.)*

### **QUESTION TIME:**

Why do we 'bless' somebody after they sneeze?

Answer: Page 48

### **715. Free Medical Advice**

A sick person in Babylon sat in the City Square and waited until someone who had previously suffered the same illness could share his or her cure. According to Herodotus, the ancient Babylonians were forbidden to pass an ill person without asking about his trouble and offering information about it if they could. *(Now we use the Internet for the same purpose.)*

### **716. Now that's Old!**

The oldest man to ever live was Methuselah, who lived to be 969 years old. (Genesis 5:27) *(The real wrinkly 'wrinkly'!)*

### **717. Walking on Water - Lilies**

The giant water lily Victoria Regia has leaves that can grow as big as eight feet (2.5m) across and so they are heavy enough to support the weight of a small child or animal. (*Giant, not 'liliput'!*)

### 718. Mistaken Genius

Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison and Issac Newton had trouble in school. Just goes to show that genius is not always evident to those who are trained to develop it. (*Probably knew more than their teachers anyway.*)

### PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 72..... Why is a carrot more orange than an orange?

### 719. Change Please

If you have three quarters, four dimes, and four pennies, you not only have \$1.19 but also the largest amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar. (*But you are up 19cents.*)

### 720. An Achilles' Heel

Is a vulnerable spot. The phrase comes from an ancient Greek myth about the hero Achilles. When Achilles was born, his mother Thetis dipped him the sacred river Styx to make him immortal. Unfortunately, his mother held him by the heel and the waters never covered the heel. He died in battle when an arrow (directed by the god Apollo, who knew of his vulnerability) hit him in this one vulnerable spot. (*Immortality is much searched for but only found in Jesus.*)

### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

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b

Answer: Page 43

### 721. The Grey House

Originally, the White House in Washington, DC, was grey, not white, and was called the 'Executive Mansion'. However, after a fire lit by the British in the War of 1812, the house was painted white to cover burn marks. (*As have been its occupants.*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 73.... Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?**

**722. A Love Affair**

The cuddly, Australian koala bear is easily satisfied. It is so adapted to the eucalyptus tree that it doesn't need anything else, not even water, to live. *(How it 'bears' to eat these tough, highly unpalatable leaves and still remain cuddly, I don't know.)*

**723. 'Deathday'**

Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of England during World War II, and again later, superstitiously feared January 24 because he was certain it was destined to be the day of his death. His father had died on that date. Churchill did indeed die on January 24, in the year 1965. *(A self fulfilling prophecy?)*

**724. Tough Rubbish**

Most landfilled trash retains its original weight, volume, and form for 40 years. *(Imagine storing it all at home though!)*

**725. Very Verbose**

The longest acceptance speech in the history of the Oscars was by Greer Garson in 1942. She received an Oscar for Best Actress for the movie Mrs. Miniver, and her speech was five minutes and 30 seconds long. *(Greer Garson grabbed greatness garrulously.)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

**A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between three rooms. The first is full of raging fires, the second is full of assassins with loaded guns, and the third is full of lions that haven't eaten in 3 years. Which room is safest for him?

Answer: Page 43

**726. Rabbit Know**

A rabbit's teeth never stops growing. They are kept worn down by gnawing on food. *(Did 'Bug's Bunny' not eat much then?)*

**727. The Wrong Man**

Sir Edmund Hillary, from New Zealand, did not reply, "Because it' s there" when asked why he was climbing Everest. That was said by George Mallory, the famous climber who died during a 1924 attempt to conquer Everest. His remains were found in 1999. *(Sir Ed was a lot more down to earth in his statement, "We knocked the b\*\*\*\*\* off!")*

### **728. The First Income Tax Man**

Income tax was first introduced in England in 1799 by British Prime Minister, William Pitt. *(The world's most inevitable invention. It's been the pits ever since.)*

### **729. The Pink Tint**

Flamingos are not naturally pink. They get their colour from eating tiny green algae that turn pink during digestion. (I would turn pink too, inside a flamingo's stomach!)

### **730. A Record Book**

In 1951, Sir Hugh Beaver, then the managing director of the Guinness Brewery, went on a shooting party and became involved in an argument. Which was the fastest game bird in Europe – the golden plover or the grouse? He realized then that a book supplying the answers to this sort of question might prove popular. He was right! Sir Hugh's idea became reality when Norris and Ross McWhirter, who had been running a fact-finding agency in London, were commissioned to compile what became The Guinness Book of Records. The first edition was bound on August 27, 1955, and went to the top of the British best seller lists by Christmas that year. *(A hard record to beat? In their own book?)*

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 74..... Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all?"**

### **731. Pay By Cow**

As early as about 7,000BC, cattle were used as money in the first agricultural civilisations. The first coins, pieces of bronze shaped like cattle, appeared 5000 years later. But their value was determined by their weight, making their use cumbersome. *(Coins became round once they got 'roundtuit'!)*

### **732. Blondes are Fine!**

Natural blondes have more hairs on their heads than redheads or any shade of brunette. A blonde has about 120,000 strands of hair, while a redhead has about 30% less strands than the blonde at about 80,000. Brunettes are somewhere in between the two. (*Does it take a blonde longer to do her hair?*)

**QUESTION TIME:**

Who were the Buccaneers?

Answer: Page 48

**733. Not Corney**

In 1841 Englishman Orlando Jones patented that fabulous miracle food known as corn starch. Today it can be found in most deodorants, heals diaper rash, and thickens gravy. (*Orlando "corn'ered the market!"*)

**734. The Outdoors Indoors**

The world's largest indoor lake is in the West Edmonton Mall in Alberta, Canada. Incredibly, the lake has 4 working submarines that people can ride. (*Underwater shops too?*)

**735. A Sweeter Name**

In France, an apple turnover is called a "chausson aux pommes", which means, literally, "slipper with apples." (*Sounds too good to eat!*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 75..... Have you ever wondered why just one letter makes all the difference between laughter and slaughter.**

**736. Wealthy Sad**

With U.S. trademark registration number 2,347,676, the "sad" emoticon ":-)" gets the same trademark protection as a corporate logo or other similar intellectual property. The mark is owned by Despair - an "anti-motivational" company that sells humorous posters about futility, failure and depression to "pessimists, losers and underachievers." (*How sad!*)

**737. You'd Better Believe it!**

Pumpnickel bread is thought to be named for the German words meaning "devil fart." In German, "pumpern-" means "to break wind," and "nickel" means "devil, demon or goblin." The reputed indigestibility of this



heavy bread made of unbolted rye flour causes gas as powerful as that of the devil. (A 'weighty' experience.)

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

JOB I' M JOB

Answer: Page 43

**738. Place of Death**

Amazingly, John F. Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald, and Jack Ruby all have the same place of death: Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, Texas. Ruby, the convicted murderer of Oswald, died on January 3, 1967 from a blood clot that lodged in his lungs. He was suffering from lung cancer. (*All one together in death, if not in life.*)

**739. Double Meaning**

The word "polish," with a lowercased "p," is one of the few (and perhaps the only) words in the English language that is pronounced differently when it is capitalised. (*I polished a Polish soldier's shiny shoes.*)

**QUESTION TIME:**

Is it true that August stole a day from February?

Answer: Page 48

**740. The Origin of Easter**

In the Christian faith, Easter celebrates the resurrection of Christ and is the most sacred of all holy days. Yet it carries the name of an ancient Saxon festival honouring the goddess Eastre. This arose through the work of second century Christian missionaries eager to convert the Teutonic tribes north of Rome to Christianity. The missionaries realised that interfering too much with the pagan tribes' established customs would make it impossible to convert them. Instead, they quietly transformed existing pagan practices into ceremonies that harmonised with Christian doctrine. Also, Christian converts celebrating Christian rites would be the target among non-Christians for persecution. But if the Christian could celebrate his rites on the same day as a major non-Christian festival, he'd be less noticeable and less offensive to those who didn't share his beliefs. Since the Eastre festival to celebrate spring coincided with the time of the Christian observance of the resurrection of Christ, the Eastre festival was altered to make it a Christian one as converts were slowly won over. The early name, Eastre, was eventually

changed to its modern spelling, Easter. A final indication of the antiquity of the Easter holiday is its date, determined by the ancient lunar calendar system, which places it on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or following the Vernal Spring Equinox. *(Really, Easter would more accurately be celebrated at the time of the Jewish Passover, for that is when Jesus died and rose again.)*

#### **741. Too Much Inspiration?**

Beethoven reputedly dipped his head in cold water before he composed. *(Now we would take a cold shower.)*

#### **742. Hot and Dry?**

The term 'desert' applies both to hot, dry areas and to inhospitable ice-covered regions. According to the American Heritage Dictionary, a desert is a barren or desolate area. This can mean a dry, often sandy region of little rainfall, extreme temperatures, and sparse vegetation, or a region of permanent cold that is largely or entirely devoid of life. Both hot deserts and cold deserts generally have an annual precipitation of less than two inches. *(No rain, much pain!)*

#### **743. Flying High**

'Delag', the world's first airline, was established on October 16, 1909, to carry passengers between German cities by Zeppelin airships. Up to November 1913, more than 34,000 people had used the service! *(Slow, and finally, not so sure.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 76.... Why, when I wind up my watch, I start it; but when I wind up a project, I end it?**

#### **744. A Big Shakeup**

The world experiences more than 50,000 earthquakes each and every year! *(Hold on – you might fall off!)*

#### **QUESTION TIME:**

1. What is the youngest book in the Old Testament?
2. What is the oldest book of the New Testament?

Answer: Page 48

#### **745. Super Seven**

The opposite sides of a dice always add up to seven! (*Seven is the number of 'completion' in the Bible.*)

**746. 'Cack-pawed'**

Dogs and cats, like humans, are either right or left pawed. (*Had to 'paw' over this one.*)

**747. Flutter By**

The original name for the butterfly was 'flutterby' (*Can we change it back again?*)

**748. Reverse Flow**

An earthquake on Dec. 16, 1811 caused parts of the Mississippi River to flow backwards! (*What goes down may come back up!*)

**749. The Top Choker**

A toothpick is the object most often choked upon by Americans! (*Thou shalt not eat trees!*)

**750. The Most and the Least**

The most used letter in the English alphabet is ' E' , while ' Q' is the least used! (*'E's are everywhere, even in queue!*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 77..... Does the reverse side also have a reverse side?**

**751. Wedding Etiquette**

A bride stands to the groom's left at a wedding to free his sword hand. Apparently Anglo-Saxon brides were often kidnapped before a wedding and brawls were common too. That's also why the best man stands with the groom; the tribe's best warrior is there to help the groom defend the bride! (*Men have always fought over women! Why?*)

**752. Thirteen Times Daily**

The average person laughs 13 times a day! (*More reading this – I trust!*)

**753. A . I. O. U.**

Ernest Vincent Wright wrote a novel, "Gadsby", which contains over 50,000 words -- none of them with the letter E! (*How could Wright do that?*)

### 754. The Ultimate Environmentalists

It is believed that millions of trees in the world are accidentally planted by squirrels who bury nuts and then forget where they hid them! (*Can't see the forest for the squirrel food.*)

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**  
RASINGINGIN

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

Answer: Page 43

### 755. Malting?

Most dust particles in your house are actually your dead skin! (*New skin doesn't stop the wrinkles developing though.*)

### 756. Keeping Fit

The tuna, one of them world's favourite eating fishes, can swim 100 miles in a single day. (*But still can't avoid the fishermen.*)

### 757. Strong Jaws

Every year, kids in North America chew their way through nearly half a billion dollars worth of chewing gum! (*By gum!*)

### 758. Good News for the Good News

There are approximately fifty Bibles sold each minute throughout the world! (*Can't be beaten!*)

### QUESTION TIME:

What did Chester Greenwood invent in 1873?

Answer: Page 48

### 759. Sweet Tooth's

Every second, Americans collectively eat one hundred pounds (45kg) of chocolate. (*Called 'Death By Chocolate'.*)

### 760. How Much!

An average person in the US uses approximately fifty-seven sheets of toilet paper each day! (*Some less, some even more!*)

### 761. Kids Fear

The fear of vegetables is called Lachanophobia!.. *(Most kids develop this!)*

### **762. Individuality**

A foetus develops its own unique fingerprints at eighteen weeks! *(Will the evidence stand up in Court?)*

### **763. The Greatest Earthly Honour**

In the year 2000, Pope John Paul II was named an "Honorary Harlem Globetrotter."! (Retired!)

### **764. Hungry?**

There was a bank robbery in London where two men grabbed a jewellery store manager's briefcase and made off with it. They were foiled however, as all the briefcase contained was the manager's lunch! *(Diamonds are (not always) forever.)*

### **765. Solid as a Rock?**

Rocks in Death Valley, California, are seen to move by themselves! One of many of nature's mysteries, which no one can unravel. They move fair distances and leave tracks behind them in the sand. Locally, they are known as the 'racetrack rocks.' *(One rock never moves – Jesus! But we do – often!)*

### **766. Population Explosion**

There are more Barbie dolls in existence than there are people in the United States! *(How about in heaven?)*

### **767. Cry No More**

In space, astronauts are unable to cry. Because there is no gravity, tears won't flow. *(Onion slicers heaven.)*

### **768. Energetic Work**

Every time you lick a stamp, you' re consuming 1/10 of a calorie*(Costly weight control though.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 78..... If a book on "Failure" doesn' t sell, is it a success?**

### **769. A Fate Worse Than Death**

On average, people fear spiders more than they do death. *(Without spiders, there would be a lot more deaths through rampaging insects!)*

### **770. Positive Frustration**

Banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour. *(Every cloud has a silver lining.)*

#### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

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FRIENDS standing FRIENDS

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Answer: Page 43

### **771. Fuel Efficiency**

The cruise liner, Queen Elizabeth II, moves only six inches for each gallon (4.5 litres) of diesel that it burns. *(Because it has to carry so much fuel?)*

### **772. Lovers Dread**

February 1865 was the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon. *(Dogs were quieter that month too.)*

### **773. Wide Eyed**

Our eyes remain the same size from birth, but our nose and ears keep growing. *(Human Pinocchio's)*

### **774. Didn't Die**

Two men in the Bible didn't die. Enoch walked with God and was no more (Genesis 5:22-24) and Elijah, who was caught up by a whirlwind into heaven (II Kings 2:11). *(What a way to go!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 79..... Does a bankruptcy lawyer expect to get paid?**

### **775. Embarrassing**

Donald Duck comics were once banned in Finland because he didn't wear pants. *(My son tells me that when he comes out of a shower, he wraps a towel around him, then just puts on a shirt!)*

### **776. A ' Not So Friendly' Sparkle**

Did you know that you are more likely to be killed by a champagne cork than by a poisonous spider? (*Life is dangerous in the fast lane!*)

### **777. It Comes Naturally**

You can't kill yourself by holding your breath (*If at first you don't succeed, don't try again.*)

#### **QUESTION TIME:**

Is it possible that a caterpillar could have more than 1,000 muscles?

Answer: Page 48

### **778. Watch Out For Donkeys**

More people are killed by donkeys annually than are killed in plane crashes. (*Donkey rides are dangerous – ask Jesus!*)

### **779. Taking Precautions**

Duelling is legal in Paraguay - as long as both parties are registered blood donors. (*Increases numbers of donors – temporarily!*)

### **780. No Purrs**

An 'Ailurophobic' is fearful of cats. (*Cats, on the other hand, can't understand how anyone could ever be afraid of their masters!*)

### **781. A High Pressure Pump**

The human heart creates enough pressure when it pumps out to the body to squirt blood 30 feet (9 metres). (*But how far when you fall in love?*)

### **782. It could be You!**

One person in two billion will live to be 116 or older. (*Older and wiser?*)

#### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

#### **A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

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Answer: Page 43

### **783. Not Only Yours**

You share your birthday with approximately 16,438,356 other people in the world. (*So many to celebrate – or commiserate – with.*)

### **784. Never Ending**

If the population of China walked past you in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction. *(People make people!)*

### **785. Out of Left Field**

Right handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left handed people do. *(I am ambidextrous. So where do I fit? Have now decided to become right handed!)*

### **786. Young Champ**

In 1987, World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champ, 'Iron' Mike Tyson became the youngest heavyweight titlist ever as he beat James Smith on a decision during a 12-round bout in Las Vegas. *(Old chump!)*

### **787. Behind the Times**

The Russian 'October Revolution' was actually in November our time, as the Russian Calendar was 13 days behind most of the rest of the world. *(Their revolutionary ideas were too.)*

### **788. Cats Rule**

Catgut actually comes from sheep and horses. *(Cats only produce condescension.)*

### **789. That Hat**

Panama hats come from Ecuador. *(Are wearers wearing twin hats or suffering from mistaken identity?)*

### **790. Too Long To Remember**

The Hundred Year War actually lasted 116 years! From 1337 to 1453. *(Must have become 'warisome'!)*

### **QUESTION TIME:**

Who invented aspirin?

Answer: Page 48

### **791. Ever Hungry**

The average person will consume about 60,000 pounds of food over their lifetime! *(What goes in must come out – well, most of it!)*

### **792. The Greatest Invention**



Sliced bread was invented by Otto Frederick Rohwedder, and first sold in May 1928. *(What was the greatest invention before sliced bread?)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 80..... Why does food with half the calories costs twice as much?**

**793. Got the Bounce?**

Cranberries are sorted for ripeness by bouncing them; a fully ripened cranberry can be dribbled like a basketball. *(Anyone for a game of basketberry?)*

**794. Pizza Country**

Americans, on average, eat 18 acres (8 hectares) of pizza every day. *(Which is fortunate, as otherwise the country would soon become covered with uneaten pizza.)*

**795. Save Energy**

If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days, you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee. *(Many babies inherit this knowledge and are environmentally friendly(?) from birth.)*

**796. Save a Little to Save a Lot**

American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first-class. *(They could, of course, have achieved the same result by reusing all those that passengers, who didn't like olives, left on their plates!)*

**797. Every Second Counts?**

In 32 years. there are about 1 billion seconds! *(2.5 billion in a lifetime. Now, what was I doing 184,973 seconds ago?)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 81..... Why is it that the only vacant parking space is always on the other side of the street?**

**798. Practice Makes Perfect**

Humans blink over 10,000,000 times a year! *(Or 250,000 '40 winks'?)*

**799. It Takes Just a Little...**

One gallon of used motor oil can ruin approximately one million gallons of fresh water! *(One bad egg in a barrel principle extrapolated from people to nature.)*

### 800. Slow Toes

Fingernails grow nearly 4 times faster than toenails. *(Fi(n)gure that out!)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**  
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A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

Answer: Page 43

### 801. Calamity Jane

Martha Jane Burke, much better known as Calamity Jane, was married twelve times. *(Calamities all round!)*

### 802. Pistol Praying

If you are taking a class in pistology, you are not studying pistols, but rather, faith. *(Death by pistol, death through lack of faith.)*

### 803. Rising to the Occasion

In 4000 BC, Egyptians discovered yeast' s leavening abilities and turned out more than 40 types of bread. *(But did they open 'Hot Bread Shops'?)*

### 804. Which is Worse?

Pop singer Engelbert Humperdinck' s real name is ArnoldDorsey. *(From worse to 'worster').*

### 805. Adding Flavour

Official FDA guidelines allow whole pepper to be sold with up to 1 percent of the volume made up of rodent droppings. *(Or you could try eating 'seasoned mice' for a change!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 82.... Why is it that there are always more last-minute details than there are last minutes?**

### 806. All Rice!

There are more than 15,000 different varieties of rice in the world today. *(Can anyone identify them all?)*

### 807. It's Only Fair, After All

The California Board of Equalization has ruled that bartenders cannot be held responsible for misjudging the age of midgets. *(A 'small' problem solved by yet another layer of bureaucracy.)*

#### QUESTION TIME:

What percentage of its body weight can a pelican consume in a single meal?

Answer: Page 48

### 808. Truly Meek

The meekest man in the Bible (not including Jesus) was Moses (Numbers 12:3). *(True meekness is a strength, not a weakness.)*

### 809. Scrabble Ban

A local ordinance in Atwoodville, Connecticut, prohibits people from playing Scrabble while waiting for a politician to speak. *(Would their minds be thinking too clearly for the politicians liking?)*

### 810. Silky Secrets

For hundreds of years, the Chinese zealously guarded the secret of sericulture, with imperial law decreeing death by torture to those who dared to disclose how to make silk. *(Did no-one ask the silkworms?)*

### 811. Car Ban

Private automobiles were forbidden on the island of Bermuda until 1948. This is one reason that there are still so many bicycles there. *(Life moves on slowly in the Tropics.)*

#### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

A RIDDLE FOR YOU!

If you buy it - you won' t use it!  
If you use it - you won' t know it!  
What is it?

Answer: Page 43

### 812. Toothless

According to the newspaper, the Detroit Free Press, 68 percent of professional hockey players have lost at least one tooth. *(Have boxers lost one brain?)*

### **813. Maturing With Age**

Billiards champions have the highest average age of any sport, 35.6 years. *(Oldies can still hit the ball on cue!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 83..... Why are natural, unprocessed foods so much more expensive than their synthetic, over-processed counterparts?**

### **814. Royal Women's Liberation!**

The first woman to play golf at St. Andrew's Golf Club in Scotland was Mary, Queen of Scots, in 1552. Not surprising, as she founded the club. *(Did she introduce Ladies Tees too?)*

### **815. The Busy Bee**

A queen bee may lay as many as 3,000 eggs in a single day. *(Like the world is becoming. Men all working for a woman.)*

### **816. The Ultimate Flapper**

A bumblebee flaps its wings an incredible 160 beats per second. *(Yet according to physics it shouldn't be able to fly! Of course, the bumblebee doesn't know that.)*

### **817. Wrong – and Always Wrong**

An ordinary TNT bomb involves atomic reaction, and should really be called an atomic bomb. What we call an A-bomb involves nuclear reactions and should therefore be called a nuclear bomb. (And should never be used.)

### **818. Heavenly Peace**

After his death in 1937, Guglielmo Marconi, the inventor of the wireless telegraph was honoured by broadcasters worldwide by letting the airwaves fall silent for two minutes in his memory. *(Sadly, the inventor of TV has already died.)*

### **819. That's Progress**

Today, a chip of silicon a quarter-inch (6mm) square has the capacity of the original 1949 ENIAC computer, which occupied a full city block. *(Rarely in the endeavours of the human race has so much been achieved by so little - Apologies to Winston Churchill)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

Throughout the years, many Popes have been assassinated or have been the targets of assassinations. Who was the first Pope to be murdered?

Answer: Page 48

**820. Some Things Don't Change**

Results of a survey show that 76 percent of women make their bed every day, compared to only 46 percent of men. (*But women make it better – so women tell me.*)

**821. Royal Beginnings**

The British Post Office grew out of the carrying of royal dispatches. As red was considered a royal colour, so uniforms and letterboxes were, and still are, coloured red – round most of the world. (*Does 'seeing red' then, come from late mail deliveries?*)

**822. Noose Under Tension**

A 'springe' is a snare consisting of a noose attached to something under tension, such as a bent tree branch. (*Spring the springe.*)

**823. Still a Great Investment**

In July 1934, Babe Ruth paid a fan \$20 dollars for the return of the baseball he hit for his 700th career home run. (*Today worth the value of the park then?*)

**824. Catching Up But Only Slowly**

In New York State, it is still illegal to shoot a rabbit from a moving trolley car. (*Rabbits now joke together about this law.*)

**825. By The Sea**

The U.S. coastline, which comprises Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf waters, surprisingly borders on just over half, that is 25 of the 48 mainland states. (*I sea!*)

**826. Dangerous Medicine**

1999 medical data shows that an alarming 2 million people are hospitalised and as many as 140,000 die each year from side effects of, or reactions to, prescription drugs. (*'For better for worse... in sickness we will take the risk for health'.*)

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

DRESSED

bit

Answer: Page 43

**827. Long Memories**

In 1950, Scottish Nationalists stole (reclaimed?) the 'Stone of Destiny' from Westminster Abbey. This was Scotland's Coronation Stone, taken by the English in 1296. Traditionally, all British monarchs have to be crowned while sitting on it. It was eventually recovered from Arbroath Abbey, although some claimed this was a copy, and the original remained in Scotland. But Where? In 1996, the "Stone of Destiny" was returned from London to Edinburgh Castle, exactly 700 years after being stolen by Edward I. *(Will all future coronations have to be in Scotland so that succeeding monarch can be 'stoned to be throned' .)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 84..... Why does Hot Point make refrigerators while Frigid Air makes stoves?****828. Nothing's New**

Colonel Waring, the New York City Street Cleaning Commissioner, was responsible for organising the first rubbish recycling plant in the United States way back in 1898. *(No longer to be 'just a load of rubbish'.)*

**829. A Japanese Hamburger?**

Okonomiyaki consists of a potpourri of grilled vegetables, noodles, and meat or seafood, between two pancake-like layers of fried batter. *(Healthy as well as delicious.)*

**830. Smokin' Dollar**

The Cree Indians used smoking pipes as their currency. *(Our dollars go up in a puff of smoke also!)*

**831. Not Quite Right**

Mae West never actually said, "Come up and see me some time" in a movie. What she did say was "Why don't you come up some time and see me." *(Did she really mean it?)*

**832. One Missing**

The five interlocking rings making up the Olympic Symbol stand for the five continents of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and North America. *(Are South Americans unable to compete?)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

- a. What exactly defines a planet?
- b. Which is the only planet to have an orbit that crosses that of another planet?

Answer: Page 48

**833. Zebu or Zebub?**

'Zebus' are humped cattle found in India, China, and northern Africa while 'zebubs' are tsetse-like flies found in Ethiopia. *(What happens when a zebub meets a zebu?)*

**834. A Final Count**

Forty-seven Czars are buried within the Kremlin walls. *(Would have turned over in their graves all at once, when the Communists took control.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 85..... Why does the word "sanction" mean both to permit and to prohibit?**

**835. You're Branded**

Cattle branding in the United States did not originate in the West. Rather, it originated in the state of Connecticut in the mid-19th century, when farmers were required by law to mark all their pigs. *(Undoubtedly accompanied by a cacophony of screeching squeals.)*

**836. Don't Cook Tonight, Honey**

The most popular day for eating out in the United States is one's own birthday, when 49 percent of American adults so do. *(To help us remember – or forget?)*

**837. Harmless Cakes?**

The cakes proven to be least harmful to the teeth are pies, plain cakes, and doughnuts. *(Am continually trying to replicate this experiment.)*

**838. A White Dwarf**

In astronomy, a white dwarf is the dense, burned-out remains of a star - a stellar corpse you could say. (*What about a old film star?*)

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**  
SEARCHING

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

SEARCHING

Answer: Page 43

### **839. How's your Memory retention?**

The total number of verses in the Bible (King James Version) is 31,173. Of these, 23,214 are in the Old Testament and 7,959 in the new. (*Have trouble remembering the number of verses - let alone what they say!*)

### **840. Pretty Polly**

Macaws are the largest and most colourful species of the parrot family. (*The genuine 'Pretty Polly'*)

### **841. A Lightening Recovery**

Most people struck by lightning recover. Only 20 – 30% die. However the fortunate survivors may suffer damage such as hearing loss or muscular weakness. (*But do they see the light?*)

### **842. Tokyo Rose**

A Japanese-American named Iva D' Aquino, known as 'Tokyo Rose' was convicted of treason for weakening the morale of American servicemen through her infamous World War II radio broadcasts. In 1977, she received a presidential pardon. (*A thorn in the Americans side?*)

### **843. Seeing Double?**

Andorra, which lies between Spain and France, is somewhat unique in that it is ruled by both of them. The country is governed simultaneously by a Spanish Bishop and the President of France. (*Two for the price of three! That's government for you.*)

### **844. Before and After Lunch**

The initials AM for morning and PM evening are based on Latin words-- ante meridiem and post meridiem. 'Ante,' of course means 'before' and 'post' means 'after.' Meridiem' means 'noon.' (*What about noon itself?*)



**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 86..... If its called ‘chilli’, why is it served hot?**

**845. Taking its Time**

The giant sequoia tree, which produces millions of seeds, can take 175 to 200 years to flower. No other organism takes so long to mature sexually. *(Some of us, of course, never mature!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

When did camouflage become standard military practice?

Answer: Page 48

**846. Number Please**

Gon Yang-ling of Harbin, China, has memorised more than 15,000 telephone numbers! *(And I have difficulty remembering my own.)*

**847. You’ve Got to be Quick...**

...if you are a mayfly. For this insect lives less than one whole day. The mayfly hatches, mates, and lays its eggs, and dies - all within a short 24 hours. *(Now I lay me down to – die! So sad, for it will never see a second sunset.)*

**848. Wherefore Comest Thou From?**

Hamburgers have no ham so why are they named so? The name comes from the German town of ‘Hamburg’, where the custom of serving ground meat originated. *(Where’s the ham, burgher?)*

**849. Pan v Epi**

A ‘pandemic’ is an ‘epidemic’ of a disease that spreads worldwide. *(What is an ‘academic’ then?)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

Which Shakespearean play is the only one that has a dog in its cast?

Answer: Page 48

**850. Spelunking**

‘Spelunking’ is the sport of exploring caves as a pastime. *(‘kerplunk’ is the noise you make when you lose your footing, fall and hit the cave floor!)*

### 851. Beware of Biros

On average, 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every year.  
(*Will have to chew on that.*)

### PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 87..... Why is it can you 'slow up', but you can' t 'speeddown.'?

### 852. Expensive

Pound for pound, hamburgers cost more than new cars. (*One short step for a hamburger, many miles for a Hyundai.*)

### 853. Make ' em Tough

No NFL team which plays its home games in a domed stadium has ever won a Superbowl. (*Grunt can still beat technology – occasionally!*)

### 854. Lightning Strikes Galore

The Empire State Building gets hit by lightning approximately one hundred times per year. The building is designed to serve as a lightning rod for the surrounding area. (*Perhaps the electricity could be harnessed for 'light -ening' and power?*)

### 855. Snake sprint?

Many people think snakes are fast, but they aren' t. Most only move about three to four miles per hour and both children and adults can easily outrun them. In any case, snakes do not normally chase humans anyway. They' re more likely to flee. But here is that exception again! For there is one fast snake - the black mamba of southern Africa. This snake is said to move as fast as 25 to 30 miles (40-50km) per hour, which would beat the fastest human over 100 yards or metres. (*Proves that legs move faster than bellies – nearly always.*)

### 856. Land Shy

The swift, which flies as fast as 100 miles (160km) per hour, is almost always in flight. They eat insects in the air, mate in the air, and rarely land on the ground. When they do land, it' s usually in a high tree. (*Could be said, not to have their feet on the ground!*)

### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

### A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

\_\_\_\_\_ Ventured  
\_\_\_\_\_ Gained

**857. Bachelor Boy Buchanan**

James Buchanan was the only bachelor ever to serve as US president.  
(*Proves that every rule has an exception.*)

**858. Wise War**

The war between England and Zanzibar in 1896 lasted only 38 minutes. Zanzibar surrendered 38 minutes after England attacked. (*Why haven't we learned more from it! Or from David and Goliath.*)

**859. Give Me a Home, Where the Buffalo Roam...**

Couldn't have been in America, for large herds of buffalo have never roamed there. The animals we think of as 'buffalo' are actually 'bison'. True buffalo, which have longer horns, roam Africa and Asia only.  
(*Perhaps is a game of 'Blind Man's Buff-alo'.*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 88..... Why do banks charge you a 'insufficient funds fee' on money they already know you don' t have?**

**860. Why Blame the Apple?**

Most everyone thinks it' s the apple that Adam and Eve ate. In fact, the Bible never identifies the fruit eaten by the first couple in the Garden of Eden. It merely says the "fruit of the tree" (Genesis 3:3). We have no idea what the fruit actually was. (*Surely Eve 'twas the apple of Adam's eye though.*)

**861. 'Seeing Red' was Healthy!**

In the 15th and 16th centuries in England, the colour red was believed to help the sick recover. To reduce fever, ill patients wore red bedclothes and were surrounded by red objects. (*How about rednecks then?*)

**862. Littlest Light**

A 'photon' is the smallest possible amount of light that can be produced. It' s the basic unit of light(*Can it be photographed?*)

**863. Mosquito Food**

Is not blood, as most of us would imagine, from personal experience. Female mosquitoes (males don't bite) will obtain blood from humans and

animals, but only to nourish their eggs. Their actual food consists of nectar and other plant juices. *(Tell that to my wife! She's always the most popular mosquito egg nourisher!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

What is an 'interrobang'?

Answer: Page 48

**864. Learned Traveller**

Abdul Kassem Ismael, grand vizier of Persia in the first century, is said by historians to have owned about 117,000 volumes. Whenever he travelled, he carried his books with him on about 400 camels. The camels allegedly were trained to walk in a particular order so that his books could be kept in alphabetical order. *(Volume 117,001 may well have been the book that broke the camels' backs.)*

**865. Really Delicate**

The delicate princess in Hans Christian Andersen's 'Princess and the Pea' slept on twenty featherbeds piled atop twenty mattresses, yet still felt bruised by the tiny pea placed between two bottom mattresses. Surely, the mark of a 'true' princess. *(How would she have coped with marriage? Love would have quickly 'pea-tered' out!)*

**866. Gouging as a Sport!**

It's not around anymore, but in the Ohio River Valley area in the early 19th century, 'gouging' was a popular frontier sport. The object of the game: to gouge your opponent's eye out with your thumbnail *(Wonder if 'an eye for an eye' applied?)*

**867. Cool Mints**

Mints don't actually reduce the temperature inside your mouth, but they do make your mouth feel cooler. For the menthol in mints stimulates certain nerve cells which normally react only to heat to respond and so you feel cooler inside. *(Real cool – eh!)*

**868. Wonderful Words**

The King James Version of the Bible contains 773,692 words, 592,439 in the Old Testament, 181,253 in the new. *(Not a big job for God!)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

**A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

**869. Solid Gold**

The world's largest single gold object is a 15th-century statue of Buddha in Bangkok, Thailand. It is 10 ft (3 m) high and weighs 5.4 tons (5.5 tonnes)! (*Idol worship continues unabated.*)

**870. The 'ines' Have It!**

Cats are feline, dogs canine. Sheep are ovine, cows bovine. (*Humans undermine?*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 89..... Why do you ask someone without a watch what time it is?****871. Liquid Blood**

Blood serum and blood plasma are both terms for the liquid portion of the blood after blood cells have been separated out. The difference is that plasma contains fibrinogen, an important blood-clotting factor, while serum does not. (*I was a clot not to know this. And my wife worked in a Blood Donors Clinic for 5 years!*)

**872. A Sweet Discovery**

Two German doctors, Oskar Minkowski and Joseph von Mering, who noticed that removing the pancreas caused diabetes in animals, discovered insulin in 1889. The actual hormone, which regulates the level of sugar in the body, was not actually isolated and used to treat diabetic patients until 1922. (*Now we are making ever more use of it by multiplying the disease through our bad eating habits.*)

**873. Delayed Execution**

Certain kinds of insects can live for as long as a year after having their head severed! And incredibly, they can still react to stimuli, such as light and temperature. (*More than we do on the beach, getting a suntan!*)

**QUESTION TIME:**

Do penguins live at the North Pole?

Answer: Page 48

**874. The Ultimate in Natural Selection**

A mother dogfish originally starts out with about 3 fetus sharks inside her, but as they grow, a fight for survival takes over. The sharks attack each other. The one that is the biggest and strongest soon kills and consumes the other two. This third shark, when big enough, is then the one that is born. *(It's a 'dogfish eat dogfish world' .)*

### 875. How Much is Read?

The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. was created in 1800 for Congress' reference needs. The Library of Congress is the largest public library in the world, holding not just books but movies, photographs, newspapers, maps, and many other items. The library has about 30 million books and 80 million other items stacked on the more than 530 miles (850km) of shelves in three buildings. *(But has it really helped improve the Legislation from Congress?)*

### 876. Something To Do?

Icelanders are highly literate; they read more books per capita than any other people in the world. *(A long time between Summers?)*

### 877. The First Cold War!

During World War II, the U.S. Navy commissioned the world's first floating ice cream parlour for service in the Pacific theatre. This concrete barge, capable of producing ten gallons (44 litres) of ice cream every seven seconds, kept ships well supplied. *(I scream for an ice cream!)*

### 878. You 'Pregnant Goldfish', You!

Pregnant goldfish are called 'twits.' *(And you thought you were being really abusive when you called someone a pregnant goldfish?)*

### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

### A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

What is so special about this number sequence?

8 5 4 9 1 7 6 10 3 2 0

Answer: Page 43

### 879. Tomatoes Beware

A hornworm can eat an entire tomato plant by itself in one day. *(Fortunately there are more tomato plants than hornworms.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 90..... Why is it that the guy who comes up behind you while you' re waiting for an elevator**

**presses the already lit "up" button - as though he somehow has magical powers that you didn't when you pressed it the first time?**

### **880. 'Wake' Up**

Hundreds of years ago, lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. This combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. These architects of their own destruction were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up - hence the custom of holding a 'wake'. *(This was an ongoing process as the 'wake attendees' could well become the next victims.)*

### **881. A Caffeine Fix**

Caffeine isn't restricted to coffee. Many sodas (soft drinks) are heavily laced with the world's favourite stimulant too. Jolt has 72 milligrams of caffeine per serving. Mountain Dew, at 54 milligrams, is also rather high. Coca-Cola only has 46 milligrams, and Pepsi even less - 38 milligrams. The comparison to coffee? Coffee has between 50 and 200 milligrams of caffeine per cup. *(Would the world survive as we know it without caffeine?)*

### **882. A Lot of Work**

The first volume of the Oxford English Dictionary was published in 1884. *(Did the word 'dictionary' exist before the first one was compiled?)*

### **883. Cat Nap**

There are more than 500 million domestic cats in the world, with 33 different breeds. *(Officially! Lots of others round our place!)*

### **884. Drive on the Left?**

Comes down to keeping your sword hand ready for fighting. In the days before cars, people tended to keep to their left when passing others on the road in order to be in the best position to defend themselves. (They were living in a feudal society; they had to be careful!) Jousting knights with their lances under their right arm naturally passed on each other's right, and if you passed a stranger on the road you walked on the left so that your protective sword arm was between yourself and him. This practice was made official in a Papal Edict by Pope Boniface around 1300 AD. The Pope told all his pilgrims to keep to the left. In 1773, the

UK government introduced the General Highways Act of 1773 to deal with the increase in horse traffic on the roads. The government recommended everyone keep to the left. In 1835, they made it an actual law. *(Left it enacted until today.)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

Does your skin shrink in water?

Answer: Page 48

**885. Drive on the Right?**

Blame it on France. During the period of the French Revolution, the French began to drive on the right. Some say it was just part of the country's sweeping social reforms. Others blame it on the left-handed Napoleon. One explanation is that the French aristocracy drove their carriages at great speed on the left-hand side of the road, forcing the peasants over to the right side for their own safety. When the revolution started, the aristocrats joined the peasants on the right side as a matter of self-preservation. The first official record of this was a keep-right rule introduced in Paris in 1794. When the Americans were severing ties with the British, they adopted the keep-right policy of the French. Today, only about a quarter of the world drives on the left and they live mostly in countries that once made up the British Empire. *(So the British are right-on the left!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 91..... Day light savings time - why are they saving it and where do they keep it?**

**886. Flowery Goddess**

Flora is the Roman goddess of flowers and spring. Flora, meaning 'flourishing one', is the embodiment of nature. Her name has come to represent all plant life. Her festival, the Floralia, was celebrated at the end of April and was marked by extravagant merriment and lasciviousness. *(Flora who? Flora Fauna, of course!)*

**887. Remember the Great Molasses Flood of 1919?**

You Don't! It did happen! On January 15, 1919 in Boston, 21 people, a dozen horses, and a cat met sudden and untimely ends in a gooey flood of hot molasses travelling at about 35 miles (55km) per hour. *(Don't let the goo glue to you!)*



**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

A horse is tied to a five meter rope, six meters away from it was a bail of hay. Without breaking the rope, the horse was able to get to the bail of hay. How?

Answer: Page 43

**888. Potent Medicine**

Bayer was advertising cough medicine containing heroin in 1898. (*Would soon forget the cough, even if it didn't go away.*)

**889. 4 x 4 Armadillos**

Armadillos almost always have four identical young of the same sex. The baby armadillos develop from the same egg, which splits into quarters. (*Seen one, seen 'em all.*)

**890. A Tasty Smell**

About 90% of taste is generated by our sense of smell. So if we lose the ability to take a good whiff of what we' re eating, we are unlikely to really taste what we' re eating either(*Now I know why I don't like 'Tripe and Onions': Smell it cook!*)

**891. What Goes Round, Comes Round**

In 17th-century Massachusetts, smoking was legal only at a distance of five miles (8km) from any town. (*Won't be long before it is re-enacted.*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 92..... How do you throw away a garbage can?****892. A Wrench For Monkeys**

Many believe that the monkey wrench has something to do with monkeys. It hasn't. Rather, the tool is named after the man who invented it: Charles Moncky - spelled in some sources as Charles Moncke. (*Very likely some monkey business here.*)

**893. Useful Maggots**

In a recent study from the Netherlands, researchers applied maggots to the severely infected wounds of 11 patients as a last-ditch effort to prevent amputation. They found the treatment promoted healing. According to study co-author Japp van Dissel, the maggots eat only dead tissue, and they secrete substances that help prevent infection. ( *Man*

*has known this for thousands of years, yet we have to prove it scientifically.)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

What literary sisters used male names when they published their novels?

Answer: Page 48

**894. Diamonds Are Forever - Almost**

Diamonds are the hardest substance known to man. The only thing that can destroy a diamond is intense heat. Ancient Greeks revered diamonds and some believed that they were actually splinters from fallen stars. *(Intense heat is generated over their possession too.)*

**895. May I Have This Dance Please**

Michigan J Frog was the name of the frog in the Bugs Bunny cartoons that sang and danced only when no one (besides his owner) was looking? Michigan first appeared in 'One Froggy Evening' in 1955. His poor owner, desperate to make money off the singing and dancing frog, was never able to make him sing and dance when other people were around. *(I can relate to that. Many men can!)*

**896. A Good Job Finished**

The last original Peanuts Comic Strip was published February 13, 2000. Coincidentally, creator Charles M. Schultz died the night before. *(With a smile on his face?)*

**897. Count the Characters**

The King James Bible comprises 3,566,480 characters, 2,728,100 in the Old and 838,380 in the New Testament. *(A lot of human characters in there too!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

Which American first lady carried a gun in her purse?

Answer: Page 48

**898. Wearable Insurance**

Back in the good old seafaring days of wooden ships, there was no certainty sailors setting out on long voyages would ever see their homeland again. To prepare for the worst, sailors wore gold earrings so

that if there was an accident and their bodies were found washed ashore on some foreign beach, the gold in their earrings would be used to pay for decent burials. *(More likely to be used for the enjoyment of the living – those who found them!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 93.....** If ATM stands for "automated teller machine," isn' t the expression "ATM machine" redundant?

**899. Oops!**

In 1836, a paddle steamer carrying a circus cast was shipwrecked off the US coast. Some of the sailors launched a raft, but were sadly drowned when an elephant jumped into it! *(Going my way?)*

**900. Always Alert**

Dolphins still have one eye open for danger when they are asleep. *(Could you call them one eyed?)*

**901. Wearisome Walt**

An imperceptive newspaper publisher once fired Walt Disney because he was distinctly lacking in good ideas! *(If he hadn't, the good ideas might never have come.)*

**902. Milk is Dangerous**

Abraham Lincoln's mother unfortunately died after drinking milk from the family cow that had recently eaten poison mushrooms. *(The cow's fate is unknown.)*

**903. Ever Hopeful**

Many Japanese golfers carry 'hole-in-one' insurance, as the traditional gift giving to celebrate your luck is so expensive. *(Few claims, so premiums wouldn't need to be very high!)*

**904. Banana Highway**

The longest banana split ever was over 7 kilometres long! *(What did they do with the skins?)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

**A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

A mother gave birth to twin boys, but they were born in different years and on different days. And no, the boys are not part of 2 sets. How did

she manage it?

Answer: Page 43

### **905. Stained Glass**

The world's largest stained glass window isn't in a church but rather, in the American Airlines Terminal at Kennedy International Airport, New York. At 92 metres long by 7 metres high it is both longer and higher than most churches. *(Airlines come and airlines go, but God is eternal.)*

### **906. A Horses Frog**

The underside of a horse's hoof is called a 'frog'. The frog peels off several times annually, being replaced with new growth. *(Real frogs try to avoid meeting their namesakes though!)*

### **907. Phew!**

In the 20th Century two objects with sufficient power to destroy a city have hit the earth. Fortunately both landed in remote Siberia. *(Fortunate unless you live in Siberia, that is.)*

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 94..... Why does caregiver and caretaker mean the same thing?**

### **908. Prolific**

Under optimum breeding conditions, one female cockroach can produce an amazing 2 million offspring in a single year – 35,000 at a time. *(Only time to eat and breed! Makes rabbits look positively infertile!)*

### **909. Royal Corduroy**

Comes from the French, 'cord du roi', which translated means, 'cloth of the king'. *(A royal cut above.)*

### **910. Him and Her**

Generally speaking, men are better at reading the small print than women, while women can hear better. *(What did you say?)*

### **911. A Vegetarian Killer**

Amazingly, Hitler was a vegetarian. *(Yet treated Jews and others as animals to be hunted and killed.)*

### **QUESTION TIME:**

When Sesame Street's Big Bird has a birthday, he luckily always remains the same age. How old is he?

Answer: Page 48

### 912. Sticking Together

When a young crocodile cries out in distress, any adult within hearing range will respond with a fully-fledged attack, even though it is not related. *(Not surprising the species has survived so long. Something for us to learn?)*

### 913. Cow Power

A single cow provides nearly 200,000 glasses of milk during her lifetime. *(Does a cow suffer calcium deficiency in her bones with age?)*

### 914. Shifting Sands

Egypt's Pyramids were actually constructed over 6 kilometres away from where they are now, not because of shifting sands, but rather, due to the earth's plates moving. *(Not immovable objects after all!)*

### 915. Brain Power

The brain uses over 25% of the oxygen the human body absorbs. *(Explains a lot!)*

### 916. The Queen's Fish

All sturgeon, caught in British waters are the property of the Queen. Hence she has the British monopoly on caviar! *(Hope she likes it.)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**  
THOUGHTAN

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

Answer: Page 43

### 917. Four More

In English, the number 4 is the only one to have the same number of digits in its name as its value. *(Unless you misspell 'to' of course.)*

### 918. Your Testimony

Arose from the custom in Ancient Rome where men placed their right hand on their testicles when taking an oath. The modern word 'testimony' derives from this. *(Fortunately without the need for the accompanying action. What would women do?)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 95.....** If you were on a plane going the speed of sound and walked from the back of the plane to the front, would you be walking faster than the speed of sound?

**919. The First Computer Bug**

Was discovered by Admiral Grace Hooper, in a naval computer. This previously insignificant moth caught in a computer relay switch, causing the computer to malfunction and was the ancestor of the untold millions of 'bugs' that live in our computer systems today. *(A super fertile specimen.)*

**920. Beatles Memories**

Why not play the Beatles song 'Yesterday' 6 million times to keep alive your memories of the 'Fab 4'. And by the way... it would only take you 23 ½ years! *(Some things you never tire of – perhaps!)*

**921. Horse Sense**

There are estimated to be 75 million horses in the world. The longest-lived was 'Old Billy', born 1760, died 1822 at a ripe old 62 years of age. *(Makes me hoarse, talking about it.)*

**922. Ultimate Memorisation**

The Greek National Anthem consists of 158 verses. No-one in Greece has memorised the lot. *(No-one would want to listen to them sing it either!)*

**923. Sex Change – Again and Again**

An oyster changes its sex several times during its life. *(If only I were.....)*

**924. The Greatest Glutton**

The Ribbon Worm can eat 95% of its own body weight at a sitting, and still live. *(Many of us try to emulate him.)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

Is a raven and a crow the same bird?

Answer: Page 48

**925. Chapter and Verse**

The middle chapter in the Bible is Psalms 117. In the Old Testament, Job 20 sits at the halfway point while Romans 8 & 9 share the honour in the New. Verses are slightly different due to the differing chapter lengths. The middle verse is Psalms 118:8, with 2 Chronicles 20:17/18 being at the middle of the Old, and Acts 27:17 in the New. (*The chapter and verse of it!*)

### 926. Telephone-itus

The average person spends 2 years on the telephone during their life. (*Nobody has been bold enough to split this average into male and female.*)

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 96..... What does OK actually mean?**

### 927. The Amazing Eye

The Human eye is so perfectly made that, in perfect darkness, it can see a lit match 80km away. (*At other times it can't see past the end of our noses.*)

### 928. Please Sneeze

Suppressing a cough might cause you to rupture a blood vessel in your head or neck, which could possibly be fatal. (*Pass the pepper please.*)

### 929. Pure Coffee

Coffee contains over 1,000 chemicals in every cup. Of these only 26 have been tested, of which half have caused cancer in rats. (*A cup of coffee for anyone?*)

### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

### **A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

Steve and Sally were sitting in their family room one night. While Steve was watching T.V his wife Sally was reading. All of a sudden the power went out and Steve decided to go to bed, but Sally kept on reading. With no use of artificial light, Sally kept on reading. How?

Answer: Page 43

### 930. Quads

In the normal population, there are 94 females born to every 100 males. Amongst quadruplets however, the ratio is 154 females to 100 males. (*Early female bonding?*)

### 931. Live Feather Dusters

In the 'good old days' live chickens used to be dropped down chimneys to clean them. (*Weren't the good old days so much better than the present?*)

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 97..... Why do we feel "blue"?**

### 932. The Emergency Landing

A cargo of flatulent pigs generated so much heat from their 'natural gas' that an international passenger jet was forced to make an emergency landing in London, while on the way to South Africa, after having caused the plane's fire alarm to go off. (*Pig power*)

### 933. Failed Suicide

At the age of 12, Martin Luther King was so depressed that he twice tried to commit suicide by jumping out his bedroom window. (*Fortunately for America, he didn't live in a high rise.*)

### 934. Spider Magic

Spiders' webs contain a natural clotting agent, so when applied to a cut, they actually stem the flow of blood. (*Keep the world bugs under control too. Who could hate them?*)

### 935. Lightning Strikes Twice

Lightning often strikes the same place twice, and more, as it follows the path of least resistance. Certain tall trees or tall buildings may be struck repeatedly. Certain people have also been struck by lightning more than once - in separate incidents. (*An 'electric' personality?*)

### 936. Liberty Green

The American Statue of Liberty is made of thin copper sheets. As copper turns a bluish-green when it rusts, Liberty is not only a little green around the ears (gills!), but indeed, all over. (*The price of liberty!*)

### **QUESTION TIME:**

How old are 'prefab' (prefabricated) houses?

Answer: Page 48

### 937. Prophetic



When talk show host Jay Leno was in fifth grade, his teacher wrote the following on his report card: "If Jay spent as much time studying as he does trying to be a comedian, he' d be a big star."*(And so he became!)*

### **938. Needing a Solid Foundation**

The Leaning Tower of Pisa has been leaning since it was first built - way back in 1155 - thanks to a sandy foundation. It started leaning when it was being built. Rather than begin again, the builders adjusted the third floor (making the north walls longer and the south walls shorter so the top would be level). Construction stopped at this point, due to political unrest, and didn' t start again for 90 years. When more floors were added in the late thirteenth century, the weight made the building lean in the other direction. The workers tried to adjust for it once again, by lengthening the south walls in the belfry. There have since been many attempts to stabilise the building so it won' t fall over but of course, not to straighten it. *(Much like our lives really! Is why Jesus is called the rock, the solid foundation upon which to build.)*

### **939. From Small Beginnings**

Shell Oil started out as a novelty shop in London called The Shell Shop, which actually sold seashells. The shop owner imported shells from around the world and decided he might as well export kerosene at the same time. Eventually, The Shell Shop evolved into Shell Transport and Trading Company and then the name got shortened to plain old Shell Oil Company and is now one of the world's largest companies. *(Shelling out millions to its shareholders.)*

#### **QUESTION TIME:**

Which country has the lowest crime rate in the world? Is it Japan, Singapore, Togo, New Zealand or Canada?

Answer: Page 48

### **940. A Bad Influence**

Influenza got its name from a belief that the stars' 'influence' was responsible for the disease. Centuries ago, the stars were believed to influence many things, especially health. *(Some things, no matter how often disproved, still remain the same.)*

### **941. Big Bird**

The ostrich, the world's biggest bird, can live as long as 70 years. It can run as fast as a horse and does not bury its head in the sand to avoid danger. *(It's humans that do that – in vain!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 98..... Why don' t you hear thunder with heat lightning?**

**942. See the Seeds**

The seeds on a strawberry are on the outside of the berry. A single strawberry has about 200 seeds. *(All designed to be eaten, with new plants being grown from runners. Foresight in God's plan here.)*

**943. Elementary, My Dear Watson**

Galileo realised that the earth was not the centre of the universe when he observed through his telescope that the moons of Jupiter passed in front of Jupiter. If the Earth was the centre of everything, as was believed in his day, then those moons couldn' t have orbited a planet other than the Earth. *(Now, why didn't I think of that!)*

**944. Hot Penguins**

While penguins live comfortably in the icy cold of the South Pole, they also live on the Galapagos Islands, on the equator. *(Go there for their annual holiday in the sun?)*

**945. Your Ice Cream in a Cone**

Came about by chance. At the 1904 World' s Fair in St. Louis, an ice cream vendor ran out of dishes. So he borrowed some waffles from the vendor next door and served the ice cream in those. Hey presto - the ice cream cone was created. *(A great excuse for not doing the dishes.)*

**946. Time For a Sandwich**

Sandwiches derive their name from John Montagu, the fourth Earl of Sandwich. This English nobleman loved playing cards, but hated stopping to eat. So in a world changing inspiration, he had his servants put meat between slices of bread, creating a food that he could eat while playing. *(Now we can all work and eat at the same time! 'Earl-y' John has a lot to answer for!)*

<b>MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'</b>
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<b>A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!</b>
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**947. A Distaff or a Spear**

In genealogy, the female side of your family is the 'distaff' side. (A distaff is a tool used in spinning wool). Males are called the 'spear' side. *(And the spear and the distaff became one in marriage.)*

**948. Wendy**

The name Wendy was specially made up for the book 'Peter Pan.' *(The romance lives on.)*

**949. Watch Out**

Nutmeg is extremely poisonous when injected intravenously. *(Just stopped you in time! Phew!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 99..... If one man says, "It was an uphill battle," and another says, "It went downhill from there," how could they both be having troubles?**

**950. Identical Fingerprints?**

Identical twins may be identical in every other way, but their fingerprints are unique. *(On the outside, that is. For we are all unique, inside – sometimes too much so!)*

**951. Your Doppelganger**

Your doppelganger is your double, the personification of another side of your character's personality, usually a dark or demonic side. It is said that seeing your ghostly double may be a portent of impending death. The word is derived from the German words 'doppel' (double) and 'ganger' (goer). *(Would prefer Jesus to be reflected in my personality.)*

**952. What is Jell-O (Jelly) Made of?**

Primarily of gelatine. That sounds good. But gelatine is made up of boiled bones, hides, and sinews from pigs and cattle - basically any leftover animal parts. To make the gelatine taste and look good, food colouring, sugar, and flavouring are added. *(Wish you'd never asked? You didn't actually!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

What happens to butterflies if their body temperature goes below 86 degrees Fahrenheit (30C)?

Answer: Page 48

**953. Slimy Snakes**

Snakes appear wet and slimy, thanks to the reflection of light off their two layers of skin. In fact, their skin is quite dry and feels slightly rough, sort of like leather. *(Honestly! Try it out for yourself, then! Okay, you will believe me!)*

**954. The Smithsonian Institution is English!**

America's most famous museum is named for a British citizen, James Smithson, who had no ties to the US and never even visited the country! Smithson was so unhappy with the British establishment that he left his fortune to the US. *(Must have been a good exchange rate then!)*

**955. Warts and All**

The old wives tale isn't true. Frogs and toads both have absolutely nothing to do with warts. They are really the result of a very human virus. However, toads do secrete a substance that can cause some people to have an allergic skin reaction. *(‘Wart-er’ under the bridge to that theory.)*

**956. This is Small**

Vatican City, containing less than 800 inhabitants and measuring just 0.16 mile (.25km), is half the size of the world's next smallest country - Monaco. Vatican City, the centre of the Roman Catholic Church, is located within Rome. It became an independent country in 1929 and is ruled by the Pope. *(More crosses than residents.)*

**MISCELLANEOUS ‘MIND-A-CISE’****A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

S--T--O--R--Y>>>>stry

Answer: Page 43

**957. To Sleep or Not to Sleep...**

Elephants sleep very little, a mere 2 hours a day. Cats, on the other hand, sleep for as long as 14 to 18 hours a day. *(A ‘catnap’ should really be an ‘elephantdoze’.)*

**958. A ‘Knotty’ Solution**

A "knot," the unit of speed on water, originated during the Middle Ages when sailors would throw a log tied to a knotted line over the stern of the ship. They would then feed the line out according to how fast the ship was moving. This let them judge water speed by counting the number of knots they paid out on the line in half a minute. (*'Knot' a lot! More rope between knots now?*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 100..... Why is it you walk down a road, even if it goes uphill?**

**959. Who Has Eighteen Toes?**

A cat. Each front paw has five and each hind paw has four, making a total of eighteen. Being cats of course, there are exceptions to this rule! (*Count them by the claw marks you get as you try to count them!*)

**961. Drowning in Your Sorrows**

Africa's Lake Kivu, which was formed from the damming of an ancient river of lava flows, contains huge amounts of dissolved methane. European settlers to the region used this methane to run a brewery. (*Met with a fiery end – one way or the other!*)

**962. The French and Indian War?**

Was not fought between the French and the North American Indians. They were on the same side, and along with the Canadians, fought against the British and the American colonists from 1754 to 1763. (*Were they as confused as I am? Who shot who?*)

**963. A Safe Place To Be?**

In the middle of a swarm of insects! For biting is not what they're swarming for. Most swarms (of mosquitoes, gnats, etc.) are made up of male insects waiting around for females to mate with. (*Other, more important, things to think of – written by a male, of course!*)

**QUESTION TIME:**

Thomas Edison did not invent, as many people believe, but improved upon electric lights. But which of these were Edison inventions? The phonograph, the motion picture camera, the mimeograph machine, the electric vote recorder, the dictating machine, and wax paper?

Answer: Page 48

#### 964. Fresh Air

Clothes dried outside smell better because of a process called 'photolysis.' For sunlight breaks down the compounds in the laundry that cause odour, such as perspiration and body oils. *(Mother does know best. Perhaps the same applies to people?)*

#### 965. The Bone in China

Bone China is so called because powdered animal bone is mixed with the clay to give it translucency and whiteness. *(How about 'bone laziness?')*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 101..... Why is it that it' s bad to be mean, but for something to have 'mean'ing can be good?**

#### 966. Your Ugly Mug!

Some hundreds of years ago, it was popular to make mugs with ugly faces on them. Before too long, it became common to reverse the order and call faces "mugs". *(Are 'mug shots' those on broken mugs?)*

#### 967. How Not To Be A Millionaire

If you earn \$100 a week, it will take you 192 years to earn \$1 million - before taxes! *(Includes being on a compulsory fast, living under the stars and walking wherever you go too.)*

#### 968. Put 'Zip' in Your Life

The 'zip' in 'zip code' stands for the Zoning Improvement Plan. *(My 'zip' is constantly misplaced in the deep realms of memory.)*

#### 969. Lovers Legend?

No. St. Valentine actually was a bishop in Rome in the third century, who married couples in defiance of a ban by Emperor Claudius II, who felt married men made poor soldiers. Valentine was beheaded for his impertinence on February 14, 269. Chivalrously, he was later declared a saint by (a celibate?) Pope Gelasius, and the day named in his honour. *(The Church got it right, while the Emperor was fighting a losing battle with nature.)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**  
MONIMEY

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

Answer: Page 43

### **970. A New Lease of Life**

The first heart transplant occurred in 1967 in Capetown, South Africa. The patient lived for only 18 days. A second transplant, performed several days later in New York, was even less successful - the patient lived only a few hours. Techniques have improved greatly since then and now many heart recipients can expect to live for six years or more. *(Haven't come up with a cure for a broken heart yet though.)*

### **971. Keeping it Clean**

Antiseptics, used to prevent infection, were not used widely, even in hospitals, until the late nineteenth century. Up to then, many patients died after successful surgeries from infections they contracted in the hospital. *(And the anaesthetics weren't wonderful either. We're lucky to live today!)*

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 102..... Why do we play in recitals and recite in plays?**

### **972. Snail Mating**

The snail mates only once in a lifetime, which many believe is a good thing. However, it makes the most of it, as the act itself can take more than 12 hours to consummate. *(The ultimate 'snails pace'!)*

### **973. A Military City**

Because of its huge size, the Pentagon operates much like a small city within a city, having it's own shopping mall, bank, power plant, water and sewage facilities, fire station, police force, fast food restaurants and even a 'mayor'. *(And fights battles with the Legislature and White House to fund itself.)*

### **974. Making Waves**

A tsunami, or tidal wave, is a huge wave caused by seismic movements, that is earthquakes in the ocean. The waves can reach heights of more than 100 feet (30m), destroying whole villages and thousands of people. Some historians believe that a tidal wave destroyed the Minoan culture in Crete in about 1450 BC when a 200-foot (60m) wave is believed to have demolished the island. Fortunately, tidal waves do not occur often - on average, about once every six years in the Pacific Ocean. *(In the ocean of life, tidal waves seem more frequent than this.)*

### **975. The Last Apple**

In 1984 the state of New York became the last of the United States to put photographs on drivers' licenses(*Would a mirror have been better?*)

**QUESTION TIME:**

The strongest muscle in our body is found in our leg, arm, hand or head?

Answer: Page 48

**976. Anglo-Roman Time**

The Western calendar and the names of its months were inherited from a long line of Roman calendars, but the word ' month' itself came from the Anglo-Saxon 'monath'. (*When in England, do as the Romans do - mostly.*)

**977. No Conquests**

India hasn't invaded any country in her last 10,000 years of history. (*Others haven't been so kind to her though.*)

**978. First in Cyberspace**

The first domain name ever registered was Symbolics.com. The domain name was registered on March 15, 1985, by Symbolics Technology, Inc. Seven of the first ten domain names registered went to Universities. (*Was symbolic of the future then and symbiotic today.*)

**979. A Bath First**

In the 1500's Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May (beginning of summer) and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were by then starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married. (*Kids of every generation since have tried to re-introduce this custom*)

**QUESTION TIME:**

What do selenologists study? Butterflies, traffic density, the moon, vibrations or indigenous cultures?

Answer: Page 48

**980. 'Roll Out The Barrel'**

Annie Taylor, a 63-year-old schoolteacher, was the first daredevil brave enough to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel and lucky enough to survive. (She claimed to be 43 at the time, but genealogical records say she was



older). On emerging from her barrel after plunging over Niagara Falls, Annie said, "No one ought ever do that again." (*Many a wise word is said after a barrel experience. Wisdom suddenly develops!*)

### **981. Noseprint**

The nose pad of a cat is ridged in a unique pattern, just like the fingerprint of a human. (*Cat burglars are identified by noseprints on windowpanes.*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 103..... Why is it that one person lives and many people live? Shouldn't it be one person live and many people lives?**

### **982. Can Animals Carry Leprosy?**

The armadillo can carry leprosy, but the chances of one infecting you are extremely slim. The only cases of transmission from armadillos to humans have occurred when humans ate undercooked armadillo meat. (Make my armadillo steak well done please, waiter.)

### **983. Walking on Water**

The basilisk, a Central American iguana, due to its webbed feet and speedy gait, can run across water without sinking. (*Have great faith and do it. Peter had faith and lost it. I have never had it - yet.*)

### **984. A Tree or Three**

Arbor Day, a special day for planting trees, was celebrated for the first time in Nebraska on April 10, 1872. The holiday is now usually celebrated on the last Friday in April. (*Early environmentalists?*)

### **985. If at First You Don't Succeed...**

It required 277 nuclei transfers to produce the single, viable cloned lamb, finally named Dolly. (*Practice didn't make perfect in this case, as she still died younger than normal.*)

### **986. A Married Pope?**

Adrian II (867-872) was the last married Catholic Pope. He was actually married before he became Pope, but refused to adopt celibacy or to give up his wife when he ascended the papal throne. (*Knew he was on to a good thing – most of the time!*)

### **987. Multitudinous Headaches**

Americans consume an incredible 42 tons of aspirin per day. (*What would happen if the aspirin-making machine broke down?*)

**MISCELLANEOUS ‘MIND-A-CISE’**

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

JURISMOMPRUDENCE (A little lateral thinking required here!)

Answer: Page 43

**988. Smell to Learn**

According to a Dr. Hirsch' s research, the answer is yes. Floral odours can increase learning for some people. Now there's even a line of toys that give off strong scents in the hope that this will help infants become smarter faster. (*'Infant-ile' perfume?*)

**989. Different Yet the Same**

The Bible consists of 66 different books by 40 different authors, yet blends together perfectly. Amazing when you consider that the authors were from various walks of life, including; some prophets, some fishermen, a tax collector, a herdsman, a philosopher, a doctor, a king, a statesman, and a rabbi. (*All had a guiding hand.*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 104..... If time heals all wounds, how come the belly button stays the same?**

**990. Not Too Much, Not Too Little**

A recent Harvard study found that women who sleep five hours or less nightly are 45% more likely to develop heart disease. But those who average nine-plus hours also have a 38% higher risk. (*You can't win – will die worrying about it anyway!*)

**991. An American Invention**

It is hard to believe, but true, that an American invented the Asian transportation icon, the rickshaw. The Reverend Jonathan Scobie, a Baptist minister living in Yokohama, Japan, built the first rickshaw (a hand-drawn passenger cart) in 1869 in order to transport his invalid wife through the city. Others soon caught on. (*Now we have the 'auto-rickshaw'. American inspired 'progress'?*)

**QUESTION TIME:**

Sharks and Rays are the only animals known to man that cannot get this disease. What is it?

Answer: Page 48

### 992. Clear Cut?

Most people think of diamonds as being white or clear, but they occur naturally in virtually every colour of the rainbow - blue, yellow, brown, pink, red, and even green or purple. The famous 'Hope' diamond in the Smithsonian Institute is dark greyish blue. 'Fancy coloured diamonds' are rare and expensive. *(So are the clear ones to most of us.)*

### 993. Your Eternal Turn

Comedian George Burns, who died less than two months after celebrating his 100th birthday in 1996, requested that he be buried beneath his wife and long time comedy-act partner, Gracie Allen, because he wanted her to have 'top billing.' *(So he could look up to her forever?)*

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 105..... How is it that 'back seat drivers' usually sit in the front seat? (David Tait)**

### 994. 'Fore!'

In 1971 NASA Astronaut Alan B. Shepard took a six-iron to the moon in his spacecraft, swinging at three golf balls upon his arrival on the surface. *(In a desperate attempt to improve his distance! Results not recorded!)*

### 995. Large Spots

Dark spots called sunspots, far larger than the earth's diameter, move over the sun's surface, expanding and contracting as they go, some reaching up to 80,000km (50,000 miles) across. *(But we sometimes still dare to think that the universe revolves round us!)*

### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

Cotaxableme

### **A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

Answer: Page 43

### 996. "That' s all, folks!"

Mel Blanc, the voice of Bugs Bunny was allergic to carrots! Yet he had to crunch into them, for a carrot sound is unique. 'The Man of 1100 Voices'

would crunch, then 'spit 'em out'. *(Did "That's all, folks!" the epitaph on his headstone, really mean, relief at no more carrots?)*

#### **997. 'Dontdont'**

Sadly, the last dodo bird died in 1681. *(An early environmental 'nono'?)*

#### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 106..... What would chairs look like if our legs bent the other way?**

#### **998. Tasty Tomatoes**

Tomatoes were originally thought to be poisonous. Until 1733 when Dr Siccary couldn't resist any longer and took the taste test on behalf of all mankind. Thank you Dr Siccary! *(Reminds one of Eve and the forbidden fruit – but with the opposite result - a taste of heaven!)*

#### **999. 'Doggie-chute'**

Jeanne Pierre Francois Blanchard sewed the first parachute together and tested it using a dog. Attached it to a basket containing a dog, then dropped it from a hot air balloon. *(Reminds one of the first 'dogged' space flight. And he's still man's best friend?)*

#### **1000. Why 'Good' Friday?**

In old English, 'good' was a synonym for God or God's, so that Good Friday is 'God's Friday'. *(The day that God shook the world.)*

#### **1001. Multi -Thinking**

The leech has 32 brains. *(31 more than us! Can they think straight though? Many of us have problems with just one!)*

#### **1002. Not Just Rats and Mice**

The largest order of mammals, comprising about 1,700 species, is rodents. Bats are second with about 950 species. *(Another one for the road!)*

#### **1003. Dogs and Us**

Dogs and humans are the only animals that have prostates. *(Is this because dogs prostrate themselves before humans?)*

#### **1004. Diversity**

Over 150 ethnic groups exist in Cameroon. *(All united through the national game of football!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

King Edward II of England (1324) decreed the standard measurement of the 'inch' to be equal to what?

Answer: Page 48

**1005. Keep Digging**

On average, it takes a ton of ore to produce sufficient gold to make one wedding ring. *(And tons of experience to make the marriage work.)*

**1006. A Smile on Your Dial – Or Else!**

In Milan, Italy, there is a law on the books that requires a smile on the face of all citizens at all times. Exemptions include time spent visiting patients in hospitals or attending funerals. Otherwise, the fine is \$100 if citizens are seen in public without a smile on their face. *(Go the extra smile!)*

**1007. Mispronunciation**

The correct pronunciation for Dr Seuss, rhymes with 'rejoice'. *(Of 'coise'!)*

**1008. Small But Large**

A 'hamlet' is a 'group of houses smaller than a village'. Usually consisting of around 20 people it has no Mayor and is without any form of municipal government. The largest hamlet in the world is Sherwood Park in Alberta, Canada, with a population of 45,000 and no local government. *(No bureaucrats? Unbelievable!)*

**1009. Fearsome Frog**

The poison-arrow frog has enough poison to kill about 2,200 people! *(A 'weapon of mass destruction'!)*

**1010. Patience Required**

There are 1,929,770,126,028,800 possible combinations on a Rubik's Cube. *(Must have tried them all – but one!)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

**A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

stand

Answer: Page 43

### 1011. Name Change

The weasel, which is brown in summer, is known as an ermine in the winter, once its fur turns white. *(A subtle variation on the coat of many colours.)*

### 1012. Like Minds

The electric chair was invented by a dentist. *(Was the dentists chair was invented by an executioner?)*

### 1013. Horse Sense - itivity

Sidewalk acrobatics that might frighten horses are outlawed in Denver, Colorado. *(Best not to be caught 'horsing around'.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 107..... How is it that those who hate mice can still manage to operate a computer? (David Tait)**

### 1014. Lie Back and Enjoy it

Experts at the Centre of Ergonomics at the University of Michigan have found that the tilt created where the seat and back of a rocking chair come together should be greater than 90 degrees —120 degrees is good, 135 even better—for the health of the lower back. *(My sort of research! I am now being healthy, not lazy!)*

### 1015. Brown or White? Eggs that is!

Brown and white eggs are identical in terms of nutritional value and they have the same composition. The colour of the egg is determined by the ancestry of the hen that lays it. White eggs are produced by hens originating in the Mediterranean area, while brown eggs are produced by hens originating in Asia. *(Avoid the mental 'eggs-ercise' – it doesn't really matter which you buy!)*

### QUESTION TIME:

Which ' King' in a pack of cards doesn't have a moustache?

Answer: Page 48

### 1016. Fainting Goats

America has everything, including the Tennessee Fainting Goat Association! It' s actually just what it says it is, an association for aficionados of fainting goats. Started in 1987, membership is open to anyone who is interested in fainting goats, a breed of goat with a startle reflex that makes them easy prey for predators. Fainting goats are also called 'Myotonic goats', 'Nervous goats', or 'Stiff-legged goats'. The goats have a muscle condition called myotonia which causes their external muscles to lock-up or stiffen when startled. When the muscles lock up, the goat falls over. Older goats learn to lean against a fence or barn to prevent falling over and so they don' t exhibit this trait as much as do younger goats. *(Sometimes we copy them!)*

#### 1017. Generous

John D. Rockefeller gave away over \$US500,000,000 in his lifetime. *(Billions, inflation adjusted.)*

#### 1018. Milking The Stars

When we look at the Milky Way, we' re looking at so many stars at once that they appear to us to be a milky mist, hence the name. *(Thought it was the cow who jumped over the moon from off a trampoline and got a fright.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 108..... Can God make a rock so big that he can't lift it?**

#### 1019. Amazing Amazon

The Amazon, a gigantic system of rivers and forests in South America, supplies 20% of the world' s oxygen*(For how much longer?)*

#### 1020. Peanuts Please

The original name for Charles Schulz's Peanuts comic strip was 'Li'l Folks'. *(Little folks, big profits!)*

#### 1021. Need a Real Tooth Fairy

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself. *(Ironically the part that most often needs replacing too!)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**  
HAABIRDND = BUTWOSH

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

Answer: Page 43

**1022. Barely Perceptible**

The Empire State Building does not sway... it gives. With a wind of 110 miles per hour, movement off centre is never greater than one-quarter inch (6mm), thus measurable movement is only one-half inch (12mm), one-quarter inch (6mm) on either side. *(Built on a firm foundation – hopefully!)*

**1023. More Brain Power**

Did you know that canaries are able to grow new brain cells? *(Anyone for a ‘bird- brain’ transplant now?)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 109..... Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii?****1024. A Golden Sneeze**

In the Middle Ages, pepper was used for bartering, often being more costly and stable in value than gold. *(Pepper is to food as gold is to ladies.)*

**1025. Musical Cactus**

The hedgehog cactus of Mexico is pleated like an accordion so that it can expand with water in preparation for periods of drought. *(Fast, fast, sloooooow)*

**1026. Hump This**

The Bactrian camel is the only land-based mammal that can survive on salt water. *(Salt that away in your memory of useful trivia.)*

**1027. Inbred**

The Bombyx mori, a silkworm moth, has been so cultivated by humans that it can no longer fly and needs human care to survive. *(Humans cultivating insects!)*

**1028. A Woman's Secret**

In the late 1700s, aristocratic women secretly hid small portions of tissue to be used as toilet paper in a fan. This fan was referred to as ‘Madame’s Double Utility Fan’, and its handle contained a compartment that held about 150 sheets of bath tissue, cut to conform to the fan’s shape. *(Did the Boy Scouts get their motto, ‘Be Prepared’ from these ladies?)*



### 1029. Michael-Cola

In March, 1986, pop star Michael Jackson received the biggest commercial sponsorship deal in history up to that time from Pepsi-Cola. He was paid \$15 million to appear in two TV commercials, and Pepsi also agreed to sponsor his first solo tour. Also, a 1984 Pepsi sponsorship of \$7 million was split among the other Jackson brothers. *(Would they now?)*

#### QUESTION TIME:

What is the hardest substance in the human body?

Answer: Page 48

### 1030. Passionate Energy

Scientists have determined that a passionate kiss burns 6.4 calories per minute. *(But can you keep it going long enough to be useful as an exercise programme?)*

### 1031. Reaching For The Sun

New York City has the most skyscrapers of any city in the world with 140. Chicago is a distant second at 68. The term 'skyscraper' technically describes all habitable buildings with a height of more than 500 feet (152 m). *(What goes up must one day come down.)*

### 1032. The Last Frontier

Scientists discover approximately 7,000 to 10,000 new insect species every year – and it is believed that there are between 1 million and 10 million species yet unfound. *(How do they know if they haven't found them?)*

### 1033. Sensitive Cheeks

A human can detect the wing of a bee falling on our cheek from a height of one centimetre. *(Certainly can when the bee is attached!)*

### 1034. Much Loved

The name of the popular tropical houseplant, the 'philodendron', comes from the Greek word 'philodendros' meaning 'loving trees'. *(Grow well with a bit of love!)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

**A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

Is it legal for a man to marry his widow's sister?

Answer: Page 43

### **1035. Thirsty**

A loss of 20 percent of the body's water results in certain and painful death. Ordinarily the body cannot go more than a week and a half without water; the longest recorded time anyone has gone without water is eleven days. (*'Man does not live by bread alone' – needs water too!*)

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 110.... Why are there flotation devices under plane seats instead of parachutes?**

### **1036. Loudmouths!**

Some crickets burrow megaphone-like tunnels that help transport the sound of their chirps as far as 2,000 feet (600m) away. (*Technology enhanced insects!*)

### **1037. Spider Repellent**

Spiders never spin webs in structures made of chestnut wood. For this reason many European stately homes were built with chestnut beams – for ease of cleaning! (*The first spider spray?*)

### **1038. Stoned**

In ancient Egypt, when merchants left the country on a business trip they carried small stone models of themselves. If they died while abroad, these figurines were sent back to Egypt for proxy burial. (*Hearts of stone?*)

### **1039. Opposites Attract**

A Swiss study found that a majority of women subconsciously choose mates with a body odour that differs from their own natural scents. As a result, this ensures better immune protection for their children. 'Longevity' magazine reports that the genes that fight disease-provoking substances also influence body odour. (*Choose the right mate quicker at the gym!*)

### **1040. 'Hand-y'**

A cluster or bunch of bananas is called a hand while the individual bananas are called fingers. (*Handy knowledge this!*)

**QUESTION TIME:**

Do centipedes really have 100 legs?

Answer: Page 48

**1041. Rare**

A 'bibliophile' is one who collects rare books. A 'bibliopole' is a seller of rare books. (*A rare breed?*)

**1042. Living Caves**

According to experts, large caves tend to 'breathe'. They inhale and exhale great quantities of air when the barometric pressure on the surface changes, and so air rushes in or out seeking equilibrium. (*Takes your breath away!*)

**1043. A Peach of a Basket**

Basketball got its name from the half-bushel peach baskets used as targets by the game's originator, James A. Naismith, in 1891. (*He surely wasn't a basket case!*)

**1044. Whose Idea Was This!**

The world's first parking meter was installed in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, during 1935. (*Metre by meter they have taken over the world!*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 111..... Why are cigarettes sold in gas stations when smoking is prohibited there?**

**1045. Many Roomed**

The majestic Habsburg' sSchounbraun Palace in Vienna has 1,441 rooms, of which 40 are opened to public tours. At age six, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart performed for the royals in this palace. (*Able to get well away if you have an argument with your spouse!*)

**1046. Pink Elephants**

In regions of India where the soil is red, elephants can take on a permanent pink tinge because they regularly spray dust over their bodies to protect themselves against insects. (*And if the soil is white...?*)

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

PASS

MEAL

**A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

Answer: Page 43

#### **1047. A Cool Cave**

Jesus Christ, son of Mary, was most likely to have been born in a cave. Caves were used to keep animals in because of the intense heat. The carpenters of Jesus day were basically stone cutters, as wood wasn't used nearly as much as it is today. (*Jesus is the foundation stone.*)

#### **1048. Green for Go – and Come**

A green flash is sometimes seen just as the sun sets or rises. This occurs because green light is bent most strongly by the atmosphere. So green is seen both before other colours at sunrise, and after the other colours have vanished at sunset. (*The other colours are green with envy.*)

#### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 112..... Why are they called stairs inside but steps outside?**

#### **1049. Small Beginnings**

The seed of the redwood tree are so small that 123,000 of them weigh scarcely a pound. (440gms) (*From an ounce of seed, a mighty forest grows.*)

#### **1050. Money or the Match**

In an effort to sell more licensed apparel, US minor-league baseball teams were changing their names so often that the sport' s governing body now limits franchises to team name changes every three years. (*Wouldn't know which team you were playing for.*)

#### **1051. Orks**

In the Mork and Mindy series, the capital city of Mork' s home planetOrk, was Kork. (*Did Mindy come from Indy? Race the 500?*)

#### **1052. Going Back**

The song "Back in the U.S.S.R." (1968) was originally written for model Twiggy to record on her album, but the Beatles decided to keep it and use the song themselves. (*They soon 'twigged' that it was too good for Twiggy!*)

#### **1053. Bred to Race**

The breed of the Thoroughbred horse is only about 300 years old, although horse racing has been popular in England since Roman times,

and can be traced back to Central Asia among prehistoric nomads. (*Man will race anything – and everything!*)

**MISCELLANEOUS ‘MIND-A-CISE’**  
IMAGINATION

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

Answer: Page 43

**1054. Deadly - To Insects**

Scientists have identified more than 300 viruses able to bring fatal diseases to insects. The organisms are believed to be entirely different than those that cause disease in humans, so are harmless to man. (*Is ‘Fly Spray’ amongst them?*)

**1055. Born Big-Headed**

A newborn baby's head accounts for approximately one-quarter of its entire weight. (*Big-headed adults are really babies, then?*)

**1056. Making the Point**

The beautiful Poinsettia Plant is named after a 19th-century US Ambassador to Mexico, Joel R. Poinsett, who first brought the plant into America. (*Now his name is immortalised round the world but no one – except you of course – really knows who he was.*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 113.... Do you need a silencer if you are going to shoot a mime?**

**1057. Low Fat Spuds**

One has to eat 11 pounds (5kg) of potatoes to put on 1 pound (.5kg) of weight—a potato has no more calories than an apple. (*Chips must be health food then! Sadly - no!*)

**1058. Built in Perambulator**

Some female cockroaches incubate their eggs in their bodies until they are ready to hatch. These babies will stay with their mothers for a day or two after they are born. (*An egg-ceptionally egg-citing egg-sperience!*)

**1059. Busy Bugs**

A full eighty percent of the world's food crops are pollinated by insects. (*Which they then proceed to feast upon!*)

### 1060. Too True

In ancient Rome, it was regarded as a sign of leadership to be born with a crooked nose. *(So that's why we have crooked leaders today – disguised with straight noses though!)*

#### QUESTION TIME:

Is there violence in Grimm's fairy tales?

Answer: Page 48

### 1061. Ne'er the Twain Shall Meet

According to a survey, women prefer blue bedrooms to other colours, while men are happier with white bedrooms. *(Are there more white, or more blue, bedrooms?)*

### 1062. Bend Your Knees

To save money on your food bill, look downwards. Less costly items are most often found on bottom shelves, while the more expensive ones are placed at eye level. *(‘Super’ to know how the ‘market’ lies!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 114..... Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp which no decent human being would eat?**

### 1063. Complete

A collector who attempts to collect an example of every item in a particular field is called a ‘completist’. *(Another name for a hoarder?)*

### 1064. When is Fog, Fog?

According to international definition, fog occurs when visibility is 600 feet (200m) or less. Visibility in mist on the other hand, may extend up to 3,000 feet (1000m). *(The mist missed being a fog by a mystical margin.)*

#### MISCELLANEOUS ‘MIND-A-CISE’

#### A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

Divide 30 by  $\frac{1}{2}$  and add 10. What is the answer?

Answer: Page 43

### 1065. Ups and Downs

In golf, a ‘Dolly Parton’ is a putt on an especially hilly green. It’s also known as a roller coaster. *(Can’t imagine why!)*

### **1066. That's Hot!**

The highest man-made temperature – 70 million degrees Celsius – was generated at Princeton University in a fusion power experiment in 1978. *(How did they contain it?)*

### **1067. Future Planning**

President George Washington oversaw construction of the White House, but never lived there. It remained for the second U.S. president, John Adams, elected in 1796, to first occupy it. Yet his term was nearly over by the time he moved in, and only six rooms had been completed. *(Bet they weren't out on the street though!)*

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 115..... How does the guy who drives the snowplough get to work in the mornings?**

### **1068. Insect Killer**

It is estimated that a single toad may catch and eat as many as 10,000 insects over the course of a summer. *(Maybe we should keep some inside too?)*

### **1069. Inbuilt Redundancy**

The male 'house wren' builds several nests as part of his courtship ritual. Once the nests are completed, his potential bride looks them over, and selects one as her preferred choice for the laying of her eggs. *(What happens to the rest?)*

### **1070. Freezing Scared**

Lobsters are scared of octopuses. The sight of one makes a lobster freeze. *(Pre-frozen Lobster?)*

### **1071. No Spots**

The carotenoids in eggs may reduce the risk of cataracts and age-related muscular degeneration. *(Spotless on the outside, at least!)*

### **1072. 'Protest – entism'**

In 1782, the Continental Congress authorised Robert Aitken to print the first Bible in English in the US, an act of defiance of the crown. Prior to the Revolutionary War, the crown did not allow English Bibles to be printed outside the United Kingdom. Fewer than 12 Aitken Bibles known to exist, compared with 48 known Gutenberg Bibles, making the

American Scriptures rarer even than the world' s first printed Bible.  
(*Robert's righteous religious rebellion.*)

### 1073. 'Maysquash'!

The 'Mayflower', which carried the first settlers from Europe to America, was a tiny ship. Not much larger than a modern tennis court, it held 102 people. (*All travelled Economy Class?*)

#### QUESTION TIME:

What is the real name of the painting now known as the "Mona Lisa"?

Answer: Page 48

### 1074. My Sort of Dog

In the 1950s, TV and film star collie Lassie's salary was \$5,000 per week.  
(*What did she get given for dinner?*)

### 1075. Once Upon a Time

In bygone days, hotel clerks distributed bathroom tissue, much like the distribution of writing paper is often done now. (*Did they keep a count?*)

### 1076. Common Corn

The most mentioned crop in the Bible is 'corn'. (*A staple then, a staple now. Did they have corn fed beef?*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 116..... If a '7-11' is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, why are there locks on the doors?**

### 1077. Hot Hop

Sixty-two degrees Fahrenheit (16.6667 degrees centigrade – approximately!) is the minimum temperature required for a grasshopper to be able to hop. (*Hops till the temperature drops.*)

### 1078. Two True

Most of us have two true vocal chords. We also have two false vocal chords, which have no direct role in producing sound. (*Are double-minded people, more accurately, double voiced?*)

#### MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'

#### A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

If there are 3 apples and you take away 2, how many do you have?

Answer: Page 43



### **1079. Inflation**

In 1915, the average annual family income in the United States was \$687 a year. *(Still greater than many people elsewhere experience today.)*

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 117..... If you' re in a vehicle going the speed of light, what happens when you turn on the headlights?**

### **1080. All Inclusive**

'The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog' is commonly believed to be the only English sentence devised to include all the letters of the alphabet. However, typesetters and designers employ a shorter version. 'Pack my box with five dozen liquor jugs.' *(Seems a lot shorter but is only 3 letters different in length.)*

### **1081. How Very Odd**

Centipedes, members of the class Chilopoda family, always have an uneven number of pairs of walking legs, varying from 15 to more than 171 pairs. The common house centipedes 'Scutigera coleoptrato', has 15 pairs of legs. *(Putting their best foot forward?)*

### **1082. A Lack of Charm**

Birth-control campaigns in Egypt in the late 1970s failed when village women ended up wearing the pills in lockets, as talismans. *(Now - where do babies come from?)*

### **1083. Red For Purity**

In ancient times, the traditional colour of bridal gowns was red. The wife of Napoleon III broke with tradition and wore a white gown. Then, copycat brides began wearing white gowns (that were worn only once) as a symbol of their wealth. (Roses are red, violets are blue, Napoleon's wife went white, so we did too.)

### **1084. A 'Filthy Liver'**

According to Aristotle, the liver served as the body' s seat of emotions. He also thought that wind direction determined whether a baby would be a boy or a girl. *(Which did you 'wind' up with?)*

### **1085. A Fishy Story**

The custom of serving a slice of lemon with fish dates back to the Middle Ages. It was believed that if a person accidentally swallowed a fish bone, the lemon juice would dissolve it. *(That idea truly was 'a lemon'!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

What does the name 'Jolly Roger' come from?

Answer: Page 48

**1086. The Opposite Nod**

In Albania, nodding the head means 'no' and shaking the head means 'yes'. *(Pays to develop a stiff neck when in Albania!)*

**1087. Lost Heritage**

According to one particular study, plant and animal species are becoming extinct at the rate of 17 per hour. *(Can we stop the clock?)*

**1088. All The Eights**

In golf, a 'snowman' is a score of 8 for a hole or 88 for a round. *(Even a snowman is a better golfer than me, then!)*

**1089. Modern Alchemy**

Gold salts are sometimes injected into muscles to relieve arthritis. *(Truly a 'golden girl'?)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 118.... Why do they put Braille dots on the keypad of the drive-up ATM?**

**1090. So Practical**

Roman statues were made with detachable heads, so one head could be removed and replaced by another. (Gives 'off with his head' an added dimension.)

**1091. 'Hippety Hop'**

Rabbits never walk or trot, but always hop or leap. *(Would win at 'hop scotch' then?)*

**1092. Non Jumping Jupiter**

On the planet Jupiter, your weight would be nearly three times greater than it is on Earth. *(It's already too much – so I'll stay home, thanks.)*

**1093. Right Brained, Left Handed**

The son of a lowly bookie, Peter O' Toole attended a Catholic school where the nuns beat him to correct his left-handedness. *(Helped him develop the 'tools' of his future profession.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 119..... Why isn' t 'palindrome' spelled the same way backwards?**

**1094. Lonely 'Q'**

'Q' is the only letter in the alphabet that does not appear in the name of any state of the United States. *(But we could easily fix that... Arquansas, Aquizona, Caquifornia...)*

**1095. Collective Fantasy**

According to Professor David Saunders of the Psychology Department of the University of Chicago, abnormally large numbers of UFO sightings occur every 61 months, usually at distances from 1,500 to 2,000 miles apart. *(Eyes light up, as big as 'saucers'!)*

**1096. Snails Pace**

Snails sleep a lot. In addition to several months of winter hibernation, they crawl into their shells to get out of the hot sun, which dries them, or heavy rain, which waterlogs them. Desert snails may even doze for three or four years. *(Become shell-shocked?)*

**1097. Don't Look Please**

If you are a 'scoptophobic', you have an intense fear of being seen. *(I see!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

What or who is the Cardinal Bird named after?

Answer: Page 48

**1098. Super Cells**

The cells making up the antlers of a moose are the fastest growing animal cells in nature. *(If I'm not 'moose-taken'!)*

### **1099. Getting Nearer**

Barnard' s star is approaching the Sun at a speed of 87 miles/second. By the year 11,800AD, it will be our closest neighbour. *(Still leaves plenty of time yet to plan a welcoming party.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 120.....** Why is it that when you transport something by car, it' s called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it' s called cargo?

### **1100. Rearranged**

Cicadas have their hearing organs in their stomachs, at the base of the abdomen. Crickets have their hearing organs in their knees, or, more precisely, in the oval slit of their forelegs. *(Crickets rubbing their knees together with a deafening noise.)*

### **1101. Scurrilous**

Captain Cook lost 41 of his 98-men crew to scurvy, caused by a lack of vitamin C, during his first voyage to the South Pacific in 1768. By 1795 however, the importance of eating citrus was realised, and lemon juice was issued on all British Navy ships. *(The sailors were sour about this!)*

### **1102. A Little Friendly**

American inns during the Revolutionary War era were neither lush nor comfortable. An innkeeper would think nothing of requesting a guest to share his bed with a stranger when accommodation became scarce. *(Getting to know each other – quickly!)*

### **1103. Starting Young**

According to researchers at the University of Texas, babies like pretty faces better than plain ones. *(Yet they still smile for me – mostly!)*

### **1104. Make Some Toffee**

Toffee is simply made by boiling together brown sugar, butter, and vinegar. *(A classic case of the whole being better than the parts.)*

### **1105. Environmentally Friendly**

Aluminium, glass, and paper are the three materials most easily recycled. *(And amongst the most used.)*

### 1106. Bouncy Sheep

Because wool has such outstanding elastic recovery, 150 yards (135m) of wool yarn are used in an official baseball. (*Sounds like they're 'spinning a long woolly yarn', here.*)

### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

A farmer has 17 sheep and all but 9 die. How many are left?

Answer: Page 43

### 1107. Busy Bees

Honey is used both as a centre for golf balls and in antifreeze mixtures. (*Why a 'sweet sound' is made when a golf ball is hit well?*)

### 1108. Not American Enough

Shangri-La, the presidential hideaway near Thurmont, Maryland, was renamed Camp David, in honour of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's father and grandson on May 22, 1953. (*Hardly roughing it in the outback though!*)

### 1109. A 'Cruisey' Life

The female lion does more than 90 percent of the hunting, while the male is either afraid to risk his life, or simply prefers to rest. (*Okay, we all know that women do all the work!*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 121..... You know that little indestructible black box that is used on planes, why can't they make the whole plane out of the same substance?**

### 1110. Like Me!

Earth is putting on weight day by day as meteors and microscopic space dust falls from space. (*So when will it fall out of the sky?*)

### **QUESTION TIME:**

What is a "red dog"?

Answer: Page 48

### 1111. Start on a High

New York City's Empire State Building is considered by many to be the most romantic place to be married. Each Valentine's Day, couples joined

in matrimony on the 80th floor of the Building, so automatically become members of the Empire State Building Wedding Club. This entitles them to free admission to the observatories on their anniversary, Valentine's Day. In February 2000 there were 15 Valentine's Day weddings planned - fourteen marriages and one renewal of vows. Interested couples must write to the building's owners and explain why they want to get married here. Couples are chosen on the basis of originality, uniqueness, and style. *(Do they do divorces in the basement?)*

### **1112. Compatible**

The relationship of a godparent to the real parent of a child is called 'compaternity'. *(For eternity?)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 122..... Why is it that when you' re driving and looking for an address, you turn down the volume on the radio?**

### **1113. Light Airs**

At the height of a hundred miles (160km), air is only a billionth as dense as it is on Earth' s surface. Even so, the total amount of air that is higher than the hundred-mile (160km) level still comes to 6 million tons. *(How do you weigh air?)*

### **1114. Never on a Saturday**

Although most weddings now take place on a Saturday, it was considered unlucky in the past. Fridays were also considered unlucky for marriage ceremonies, particularly Friday the 13th. *(Maybe we should change back again.)*

### **1115. Splitting Hairs**

The shortest verse in the modern, New International Version, (NIV) Bible is not "Jesus wept" in John 11:35, but "He said" from Job 3:2. *(Some things change, others remain eternal.)*

### **1116. Internal Compass**

Both pigeons and hummingbirds have tiny magnetic particles in their heads that respond to the Earth' s magnetic fields and are used for navigation. *(You may know how to get there but you first have to know where to go!)*

### 1117. Limited Blackouts

Because of the speed at which Earth moves around the Sun, it is impossible for a solar eclipse to last more than 7 minutes and 58 seconds. (*The 'Son' will not be denied!*)

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**  
CON TRACT

A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!

Answer: Page 43

### 1118. Rapid Growth

From only 3 million in AD 1500, Evangelical Christians have grown to 648 million worldwide, 54% being Non-Whites. The country with the fastest Christian expansion ever is China, now at 10,000 new converts every day. (*Same message, new hope.*)

### 1119. New Name

Chicago, Illinois in the US, was originally named Fort Dearborn, Indian Territory. (*What happened to the Indians?*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 123..... If you have your finger touching the rearview mirror that says – 'objects in mirror are closer than they appear', how can that be possible?**

### 1120. Natural Birth Control

A recent U.S. study reports that there are fewer births 9 months after a heat wave. The study found that an increase of 12 degrees Celsius (approximately 21.6 degrees Fahrenheit) in summer temperatures reduces births the following spring up to 6 percent. Researchers at the Kinsey Institute for Sex Research at Indiana University, concluded that high temperatures could reduce people's sense of well-being, which could result in a reduction in sexual interest. Another study found lower sperm counts and higher rates of miscarriage during hot weather. (*Or maybe it is just too hot!*)

### 1121. De-Skinned

If the skin of a 150-pound (68kg) person were spread out flat, it would cover approximately 20 square feet (2sq. m). (*There is more to us than we think!*)

### 1122. Bitter at First

The earliest bars of chocolate were made of bittersweet chocolate. Milk chocolate was first introduced in 1875 when Henry Nestle, a maker of evaporated milk and Daniel Peter, a chocolate maker, got together and invented milk chocolate, which today is preferred by 80% of the world' s population. *(Much enjoyed in copious quantities!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

Is May Day a pagan holiday or a worker' s holiday?

Answer: Page 48

**1123. Hung Up**

A fireplace is called a 'mantelpiece' because, at one time, people hung their coats (or 'mantles') over the fireplace to dry them. *(If I am 'hung out to dry', am I a human mantelpiece?)*

**1124. Plentiful**

Aluminium forms one-twelfth of the Earth' s crust*(How come it took so long to discover and use?)*

**1125. Keeping Kissing**

The story of Don Juan has been told over 35 times in the movies. But the 1926 version, starring John Barrymore holds a place in movie history, for Don Juan (Barrymore) plants 191 kisses on various females during the course of the film, an average of one every 53 seconds. *( 'Hot lips' or 'sore lips'?)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 124.... Why is it so hard to remember how to spell MNEMONIC?**

**1126. A Love Affair**

In 1900, there were but 8,000 cars in the United States, but by 1919, it had multiplied to 6 million. *(Re-cars-t society!)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

**A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

How many animals of each sex did Moses take into the Ark?

Answer: Page 43

**1127. Write it Down**

In 1995, each American used an annual average of 731pounds (332kg) of paper, more than double the amount used in the 1980s. Contrary to



predictions that computers would soon displace paper, consumption is growing. (*Paper remains the victor in the 'Paper Wars'*)

**1128. Persistence Pays**

It may take a chicken longer than two days to break out of its shell. (*Often takes humans longer! Some of us never come out!*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 125..... If someone invented instant water, what would they mix it with?**

**1129. Cut Off**

In ancient China, the crimes for abduction, armed robbery, treason, and adultery were punished by castration. (*So there was no shortage of Eunuchs.*)

**1130. 'Over-stated'**

On a clear day, you can see five states from the top of the Empire State Building in New York City: New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. (*But are they looking back?*)

**1131. Pill For Pigeons**

In Budapest, they control the pigeon population by mixing birth control chemicals with the birdseed. (*Do they still get 'Hungary'?*)

**1132. Educated?**

Less than 50 percent of American adults understand that Earth orbits the Sun yearly, according to a basic science survey. (*Does it?*)

**1133. Flying Low**

At the outbreak of World War I, the American air force comprised only fifty men. (*Now 50 men per aircraft?*)

**QUESTION TIME:**

Why do mockingbirds mimic other birds?

Answer: Page 48

**1134. Not a Nut**

The cashew is actually the seed of a fruit called a 'cashew apple' that grows in tropical regions. After harvesting, the cashew apple keeps for only 24 hours before the soft fruit deteriorates. The cashew apple is not

commercially important since it spoils quickly, but local people love it. To harvest the nut, the ripe apple is allowed to fall to the ground. The apple and nut are then separated. *(A cash-ew crop.)*

### **1135. Ancient Weather Forecasting**

According to ancient Chinese legend, the appearance of the Hyades group of stars in the sky means rain. Interestingly, Roman and Greek legends say the same thing. *(Could it more accurate than current methods?)*

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 126..... Why is it called a TV 'set' when you only get one?**

### **1136. Sterile**

Because total absence of life on the moon had been satisfactorily determined, NASA didn't bother to quarantine the Apollo 14 astronauts on their return to earth after the third moon mission. *(Let them loose to catch earth bugs!)*

### **1137. A Ladies Gathering**

Some lady beetle, ladybug, or ladybird colonies have been reported to contain as many as 40 million bugs. *(Are there male ladybugs? Must suffer an inferiority complex!)*

### **1138. Name Change**

Chief Sitting Bull was originally named 'Jumping Badger.' Among some American Indian tribes, it was customary to give new-born males temporary names. The names were changed later, as the boys developed character and showed courage in manhood. *(Was he badgered about sitting once too often?)*

### **1139. Lasting Damage**

A simple, moderately severe sunburn damages blood vessels to such an extent that it takes four to fifteen months for them to return to their normal condition. *(What about multiple doses?)*

### **1140. A Great Way to Go**

If you are afraid that you might die laughing—you are suffering from cherophobia. *(Too many take this too seriously and have almost no chance of dying in this way!)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'****A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

An assistant in a butcher's shop is 173cm tall. What does he weigh?

Answer: Page 43

**1141. Have a Heart**

The early Indians of the south-western United States only ate the organs of the animals they hunted for food, leaving the muscles for predatory animals. Their meat-eating habits were changed by European influences. (*'Brain and kidney' has now become 'steak and kidney'.*)

**1142. 'Absolutely Swimming!'**

A girl or woman swimmer can be called a 'naiad.' (*"We will now have the Naiads 100 metres freestyle," doesn't sound the same!*)

**1143. Depends Upon How You look at It**

98.7% of the world's population has access to scripture in 6,700 languages leaving 78 million in 6,800 languages with no access at all. (*The truth of statistics! Nearly all or less than half?*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 127..... Why does your nose run and your feet smell?****1144. A Dinky Diamond!**

The Taylor-Burton diamond is a dazzling 69.42-carat pear-shaped diamond that Cartier bought at an auction. Screen star Richard Burton bought the rare stone the very next day for his wife, Elizabeth Taylor, an avid collector of diamond jewellery. (*Their ensuing marriage break-up only serves to prove that 'diamonds aren't forever'.*)

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'****A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

Wafibit

Answer: Page 43

**1145. Insidious**

The profile of the average computer virus writer is aged 14-24, talented, bright, and driven by a rebellious, adolescent need to call attention to himself. (*'It's an ill wind....' for it does keep Norton and McAfee in business!*)

**1146. Too Polite**

In a recent 5-year period, 24 residents of Tokyo died while bowing to other people. *(Too strenuous an exercise! That's our excuse!)*

**1147. Stickability**

A 4-inch-long (10cm) abalone can grip a rock with a force of 400 pounds (182kg). Two grown men are incapable of prying it up. *(You wouldn't want to be eaten either!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 128..... Why does an alarm clock 'go off' when it begins ringing?****1148. Rambling Rose**

The world's largest rosebush is located in Tombstone, Arizona, US. Planted as a cutting from another rosebush in the late 18th century, its trunk is nearly 2 metres (6 ft) around. In full bloom it carries more than 200,000 blossoms - and its branches spread out 2 metres (6ft) thick over an area under which more than 150 people can be seated comfortably. *(How many thorns?)*

**1149. Palatial**

Originally built as a palace, the Louvre was made into a museum after the French Revolution. *(The monarchy was now a relic, their 'play palace' displayed.)*

**1150. A Little Wet!**

A hurricane that hit Puerto Rico in 1928 dropped 30 inches (66cm) of rain over the island. The deluge was estimated to weigh 2,800,000,000 tons. *(Water, water everywhere, far too much to drink.)*

**1151. Lightening Fast**

Light takes one-tenth of a second to travel from New York to London, about a second and a half to come here from the moon, 8 minutes to reach the Earth from the Sun, and 4.3 years to arrive from the nearest star. *(‘Let there be light’ – and there was - from far away!)*

**1152. A Rabbit Named Peter**

Beatrix Potter created the first of her legendary 'Peter Rabbit' children's stories in 1902. *(Many happy kids ever since.)*

### 1153. Now You See Them, Now You Don't!

There are thousands of varieties of shrimp, most are so tiny that they are more likely to be eaten by whales than people. People round the world, however, eat several hundred types. *(Most shrimps are indeed 'shrimps'!)*

#### QUESTION TIME:

What and when is Universal Children' s Day?

Answer: Page 48

### 1154. Well Ahead of His Time

Aristarchus, a Greek astronomer living about 200BC, reportedly was the first person to declare that the Earth revolved around the sun. His theory was disregarded for many hundreds of years. *(A bright idea that took a long time to see the light of day!)*

### 1155. Magnetic Attraction

Besides Earth, only Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are known to have magnetic fields. *(Poles apart?)*

### 1156. Transparent Spiders?

Spiders have transparent blood. *(Always wondered why they seemed bloodless when squashed!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 129..... If pro is the opposite of con, is progress the opposite of congress?**

### 1157. Oh, Cologne!

Cologne, the mildly perfumed toilet water also known as eau de Cologne, has been made in Cologne, West Germany since 1709. *(The first bottled water?)*

### 1158. Sex by Stress

A survey conducted at Iowa State College in 1969 suggests that a parent' s stress at the time on conception plays a major role in determining a baby' s sex. As expected, the child tends to be of the same sex as the parent who is under less stress. *(Shouldn't we all be boys then? Okay – sorry!)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

**A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

### 1159. Chewing Right

If you are right-handed, you will tend to chew your food on the right side of the mouth. If you are left-handed, you will tend to chew your food on the left. (*You 'chew-se'!*)

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 130..... Why does 'cleave' mean both split apart and stick together?**

### 1160. A Fortuitous Error

Ovaltine, the drink was from milk, malt, egg and cocoa, was developed in 1904 in Berne, Switzerland. Originally named Ovomaltine, a clerical error changed it when the manufacturer registered the name. (*The recipe has never changed though.*)

### 1161. Signature

'The Pieta' is the only sculpture on which Michelangelo is believed to have carved his name. (*He didn't need to be so modest – was just the best!*)

### 1162. Now That's Powerful!

If all the Earth's atmosphere was moving at the speed of a light breeze, its total energy would be equal to that generated by a large hydroelectric dam operating continuously for 7,000 years. (*If only it was a breeze to harness it!*)

### 1163. Not What is Seems

The television show Seinfeld was set in New York City. However, the exterior that was used for Jerry Seinfeld's apartment house is actually located in Los Angeles, California. (*Is the New York weather that bad?*)

### 1164. Cold Hot

The rare metal gallium melts at 86 degrees Fahrenheit (30C). It is safe to touch, so if you hold a piece in your hand and wait, it will melt. (*Makes you look real hot stuff!*)

### 1165. A Hard Weekend

According to suicide statistics, Monday is the favoured day for self-destruction. (*The death of dreams.*)

**QUESTION TIME:**

What do you call a group of turtles? .

Answer: Page 48

**1166. Hungry**

A baby 'gray whale' drinks enough milk to fill more than 2,000 bottles a day. (*Should have strong bones with all that calcium!*)

**1167. Chill Out**

To assure full flavour, you need to chill wine appropriately. Observe the 20-minute rule. Pull whites out of the refrigerator 20 minutes before serving, but put reds in 20 minutes before serving. (*Treatment by colour. Is this PC?*)

**1168. Arty**

In a study, there was found to be more than 100 art galleries in Scottsdale, Arizona, which exceeded the number in either Los Angeles or San Francisco. (*Perfect painter's paradise?*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 131..... Why is it, whether you sit up or sit down, the result is the same?**

**1169. A Clean Cloud?**

A large cumulonimbus cloud can hold enough water for 500,000 baths. Most of the water droplets in a cloud re-evaporate and never reach the ground, only one-fifth actually falling as rain. (*Saving some for next time.*)

**1170. Mighty 'Ant'!**

An ant can lift 50 times its own weight, equivalent to a human being pulling a 10-ton trailer. (*Just as well they stay small!*)

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

**A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

How many 25c stamps are there in a dozen?

Answer: Page 43

**1171. Tooth Transplant**

Before all-porcelain false teeth were perfected in the mid-19th century, dentures were commonly made with teeth pulled from the mouths of dead soldiers following a battle. Teeth extracted from U.S. Civil War soldier cadavers were shipped to England by the barrel load to dentists there. *(Literally, 'giving it teeth'!)*

### **1172. Stoned Soup!**

On the Italian Riviera in Viareggio, there is a culinary tradition that good soup must always contain one stone from the sea. This stems from the days when an Italian fisherman's catch was scooped up in nets, so fish and stones frequently ended up together in the same cooking pot. *(Was inherited from the Flintstones really!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 132..... Why are people who ride motorcycles called bikers and people who ride bikes called cyclists?**

### **1173. A Real Population Explosion!**

Assuming that all the offspring survived, 190,000,000,000,000,000,000 flies could be produced in four months by the offspring of a single pair of flies. *(What do flies think of Fly Spray? Inhumane chemical warfare?)*

### **1174. New North Star**

By 14000AD, the new North Star will be Vega. *(We're unlikely to be round to see if the scientists are right with this prediction.)*

### **1175. Termites Love Forever**

Termite queens are fertilized regularly by the same mate for life, unlike bee and ant queens, whose male partners die after the first and only mating. *(The temerity to 'bee' an ant male!)*

### **1176. Upsizing**

Columbus had three ships on his first American exploration. He set sail on a Friday. On his second expedition, seventeen ships were under his command. *(Seventeen Sails in the Sunset.)*

### **1177. Short and Shortest**

The shortest man in the Bible was Bilbad in Job 8:1. The second shortest man was Amia, found in Nehemiah 1:1. *(Did they wear platform shoes?)*



**QUESTION TIME:**

What is a 'Limey'?

Answer: Page 48

**1178. Drink More Water**

If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water. For when a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off. *(Drink or die!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 133..... If you keep trying to prove Murphy' s Law, will something keep going wrong?****1179. And We Drink It!**

Vinegar was the strongest acid known to the ancients. *(Dissolves our stomachs?)*

**1180. Good Things Take Time**

The average wedding feast in Yemen lasts 21 days. *(But who pays the bills?)*

**1181. Can You Believe It!**

The biography of Thomas Crapper, the British sanitary engineer who in 1878 invented the modern flush toilet, was called 'Flushed with Pride: The Story of Thomas Crapper.' Others however, say it was invented by Sir John Harington, who is believed to have installed his invention for Queen Elizabeth I at her palace during the 1590' s*(Thank you very much to whoever it was that invented it!)*

**1182. Poles Apart**

If the Earth' s axis was not tilted, there would be 12-hour days everywhere, and no seasons. At the poles, the sun would always be on the horizon. *(The ultimate in boring political correctness!)*

**1183. Aeroplane Cowboys**

In the film industry, a 'chute cowboy' is a slang expression for the experienced parachutists that either perform or assist with stunts involving parachutes. *(What goes up, must come down – slowly!)*

**1184. Just Peanuts**

The Jif plant in Lexington, Kentucky, is reportedly the largest peanut butter factory in the world. *(Not just 'peanuts' in size though!)*

### **1185. Bottle ????**

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration statistics, two out of five women in America dye their hair. *(But no-ones meant to know this!)*

### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A RIDDLE FOR YOU!

What has a horn and drives?

Answer: Page 43

### **1186. Big Bertha**

The world's largest mammal, the 'blue whale', weighs 50 tons at birth. Fully grown, it weighs as much as 150 tons. *(How many women would like to give birth to a baby one-third its adult weight?)*

### **1187. Half the Market**

Only men were allowed to eat at the first self-service restaurant, the Exchange Buffet in New York, opened in 1885. Customers ate standing up. *(Did women do the cooking?)*

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 134..... Why does flammable and inflammable mean the same thing?**

### **1188. Are You Average?**

According to Hallmark Cards, the average American receives eight birthday cards annually. *(Mine seem to come more frequently now!)*

### **1189. Getting the Wind Up!**

To produce as much electricity as a nuclear power station, the turbines for a wind farm would need to occupy an area of approximately 140 square miles *(362.598 square kilometres!)*. *(Not forgetting the wind too, of course.)*

### **1190. Try it!**

Beetles taste like apples, wasps like pine nuts, and white worms like fried pork rinds. *(So I am told!)*

### **1191. Loud Sound**

A hippopotamus' scream has been recorded at 115 decibels - louder than a jet airliner at takeoff. *(And can run nearly as fast too!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

Why is the Dead Sea so salty?

Answer: Page 48

**1192. Bees Beware**

'Cerophacy' is the eating of wax. Some birds, such as the honey guides of Africa and Asia, eat bees wax persistently. *(Maybe wax lyrical in song after a feed?)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 135..... How can someone 'draw a blank'?**

**1193. Fishy?**

The word salmonella, referring to bacteria that enter a person's digestive tract in contaminated food and causing food poisoning, has nothing to do with fish. Rather, it was named after U.S. pathologist Daniel E. Salmon. *(He may not wish to be remembered for this!)*

**1194. That's Real Acceleration**

Comets speed up as they approach the Sun – sometimes reaching speeds of over a million miles (1,600,000km) per hour. Far away from the Sun, their speeds drop, perhaps down to as little as 700 miles (1100km) per hour. *(Do they have heavenly 'drag races' with each other?)*

**1195. Fly Away**

The average airspeed of the common housefly is 4.5 miles (7km) per hour; getting there by beating its wings about 20,000 times per minute. *(Car designers could do well to copy their technology so as to engines rev higher.)*

**1196. Self Interest**

Court ladies of Henry VIII's reign tinted their hair orange with the spice saffron until the king forbade it. He feared a saffron shortage would result from the fashion statement, and that it might reach his own dining table. *(Stomach before beauty!)*

**MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

**A WORD PUZZLE FOR YOU!**

Joan is aged 10 and her mother is 31. They can both remember when Joan's mum was 4 times as old as Joan. How long ago was that?

Answer: Page 43

### **1197. Not the Same**

A woman's heart beats faster than a man's. Any arthritic pains she may suffer from will almost always disappear as soon as she becomes pregnant. (*Didn't think men had a heart?*)

### **1198. Sad But True**

Humanities most destructive disease is malaria. More than 1.5 million people die from malaria every year. (*Yet it is preventable – at a cost, and with a will.*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 136..... Shouldn't there be a shorter word for "monosyllabic"?**

### **1199. Choose Tails**

If you toss a penny 10,000 times, it will not be heads 5,000 times, but more like 4,950. The heads picture weighs more, so it tends to end up on the bottom more often. (*A case of the 'tail before the head'.*)

### **1200. Getting in First**

President John F. Kennedy commissioned Pierre Salinger to buy and stockpile 1,500 Havana cigars on the eve of signing the Cuban trade embargo. (*Fortunately, that was all that went up in smoke!*)

### **1201. A Mirror Image**

Baseball is the only major sport that appears backwards when looked at in a mirror. (*So can you find out the result before the match?*)

### **1202. A Long, Bumpy Ride**

The first automobile to cross the United States took 52 days in 1903 to travel from San Francisco to New York. (*Could they ever have imagined what they had started?*)

### **1203. Not In Texas!**

The largest movie theatre in the world is not in Texas, but rather is the Radio City Music Hall in New York City. Opening in December, 1932, it originally had 5,945 seats. (*So many could watch Hollywood's American*

*dreams - all at once.)*

#### **1204. There's Got to be an Easy Way**

According to the U.S. government, people have tried more than 28,000 different ways to lose weight. *(People haven't yet accepted that all you need to do is stop eating and start exercising. We're all the same!)*

#### **QUESTION TIME:**

Why do fawns have spots?

Answer: Page 48

#### **1205. Far Sighted**

A bird sees everything at once in total focus. Whereas the human eye is globular and must adjust to varying distances, the bird's eye is flat and so can take in everything at once in a single glance. *(So there really is a 'birds-eye view'.)*

#### **1206. A Long Term Investment**

Vintage port takes forty years to reach maturity. *(Quicker than me!)*

#### **1207. Money Mouse**

According to one source, Americans buy about 5 million things that are shaped like Mickey Mouse, or have a picture of Mickey Mouse on them, every day! *(Yet most people don't like mice.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 137.... Why is the word "abbreviate" so long?**

#### **1208. Burnt Gas**

About 110,000 million tons of carbon dioxide enter the atmosphere each year as the result of burning fossil fuels. Removing this amount of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere requires a forested area the size of Australia. *(Australia isn't too much helping either – lot's of desert!)*

#### **MISCELLANEOUS 'MIND-A-CISE'**

A RIDDLE FOR YOU!

What makes a tree noisy?

Answer: Page 43

#### **1209. Make Up Your Mind Please**

Biologists have discovered that cockroaches can change course as many as 25 times in one second, making them the most nimble animals known. *(Don't know which way to turn! Many human cockroaches too!)*

### **1210. History Repeating Itself**

Despite predictions of collapse of religion, long-term trends indicate that Christians and other religions in AD 2200, are likely to encompass over 87% of the world's population. *(Mankind's inborn motivation.)*

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 138..... Why doesn't 'onomatopoeia' sound like what it is?**

### **1211. Not Loved**

Elton John's first record, 'I've Been Loving You' was released by Philips Records in England in 1968. Philips, not realising the potential of the soon-to-be superstar, released him in 1969, just before he teamed up with lyricist Bernie Taupin. *(The song was a prophetic end to what could have been such a beautiful – and profitable – relationship!)*

### **1212. Wet Sweat**

There are approximately 250,000 sweat glands in your feet and they sweat as much as 8 ounces (240mls) of moisture per day. *(Walking on water?)*

### **1213. A 'Weather Eye' in the Sky**

On February 17, 1959, Vanguard II became the first satellite to send weather information back to Earth. *(Because we couldn't get it right down here?)*

### **PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 139..... Why do tourists go to the tops of tall buildings and then put money into telescopes so they can see things on the ground close-up?**

### **1214. Ant Stitch**

Doctors in ancient India used insect mandibles instead of stitches to bind the two sides of a cut together. The head of a large ant would be removed and its pincers brought together through the patient's flesh. *(Stitched 'ant by ant!')*

### **1215. Pass the Salt**

In ancient China, people committed suicide by eating a pound (440gms) of salt. *(Must have been really determined about it!)*

**MISCELLANEOUS ‘MIND-A-CISE’**

**A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!**

David and Paul were playing marbles. David said, “If I win seven of your marbles, I’ll have twice as many as you. Paul replied, “That’s true. But if I win 7 of your marbles I’ll have just as many as you.” How many marbles did each have?

Answer: Page 43

**1216. Snore More**

According to a 1999 survey conducted by the National Sleep Foundation, amongst those who snore, 19 percent snore so loudly that they can be heard through a closed door. *(Of course, none of us snore, do we?)*

**1217. Go Gold**

In medieval Europe, alchemists mixed powdered gold into drinks to ‘comfort sore limbs’, one of the earliest references to arthritis. *(Setting the scene for expensive drugs to become the norm.)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 140..... Why is there only ONE Monopolies Commission?**

**1218. Spell It Please**

A 45-letter word connoting a lung disease, pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis, is the longest word in Webster’s Third New International Dictionary. The longest word in the Oxford English Dictionary means the act of estimating as worthless – floccipaucinihilipilification, which has a mere 29 letters. *(Easier to learn English than American?)*

**1219. Abundant**

About 5.6 percent of the Earth’s crust is composed of iron. *(Ironical really! Don’t know why though – but it must be - somehow!)*

**1220. Go Babe – And He Did!**

Baseball legend Babe Ruth led the American League in home runs an incredible 12 times. *(How come he was still a ‘Babe’ after all that time?)*

**1221. First Flight**

The first commercial passenger aeroplane began flying in 1914. The first commercial passenger aeroplane with a bathroom began flying in 1919. *(Nature rules the airways too!)*

**QUESTION TIME:**

What is the fastest time someone has climbed 102 flights of stairs?

Answer: Page 48

**1222. Not in Egypt**

The largest pyramid in the world is not in Egypt but in Cholulu de Rivadahia, Mexico. It is 177 feet (55m) tall and covers 25 acres (11 hectares), being built sometime between 6 and 12 AD. *(Well, Mexico is near to Texas, isn't it?)*

**1223. Ashamed**

Alcoholics are twice as likely to confess a drinking problem to a computer than to a doctor, say researchers in Wisconsin, US. *(Can't lie to a machine!)*

**1224. You Big Rat!**

The world's largest rodent is the 'Capybara'. It is an Amazon water hog that looks like a guinea pig, and can weigh more than 100 pounds (44kg). *(A gentle giant – really!)*

**1225. A New Taste**

The first chocolate chip cookie was developed in the kitchen of a Whitman, Massachusetts, country inn in 1937. Simple experiments led to a recipe combining bits of chocolate candy with shortbread type, cookie dough. *(The world hasn't been the same since!)*

**1226. Male Loyalty**

The male fox mates for life. If the female dies, he remains single for the rest of his days. However, if the male dies, the female will hook up with a new mate. *(It would take a brave man to comment on this! ..... No David!)*

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 141..... How can there be "self help GROUPS"?**

**1227. Not Just Us**



Pigs, walruses, and light-coloured horses can also be sunburned. (*Black and brown people too!*)

**QUESTION TIME:**

When did Mother's Day first come into being?

Answer: Page 48

**1228. No Bugs Please**

If you are 'mysophobic', you have an intense fear of infection. (*Would you keep a spotless house?*)

**1229. Keeping Fit**

A United Parcel Service delivery person typically makes up to 300 pickups or deliveries a day. That compares to someone doing 600 sets of step aerobics a day. (*They should be paying the Company to work there!*)

**1230. Try It**

Crushed cockroaches can be applied to a stinging wound to help relieve the pain. (*Good for us, not so good for the cockroach – which is doubly good for us!*)

**PALPABLY PUZZLING PROBLEM No. 142..... Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks?**

**1231. Which Way to Spin?**

Hurricanes, cyclones, and typhoons spin counter-clockwise north of the equator, and clockwise south of the equator. This is known as the 'Coriolis Effect'. (*Similar to water down the plug hole.*)

**QUESTION TIME:**

Can your eyes pop out when you sneeze?

Answer: Page 48

**1232. Getting Up a Sweat**

There are round about 2 million sweat glands in the average human body. The average adult loses 540 calories with every litre of sweat. Men too, sweat about 40% more than women. (*But women still use more deodorant!*)

## **MISCELLANEOUS ‘MIND-A-CISE’ ANSWERS**

- Page 1    Downtown  
3    Stay back. You are too close.  
5    The ring fell into a can of dry, ground coffee!  
7    Spreadsheet  
9    Only 10 Times!  
11    Foursome  
13    Too soon to tell.  
15    It gives a little wave.  
16    A person after my own heart.  
18    Friend in need.  
20    Forgive and forget.  
22    Foreign object.  
24    Mixed messages.

- 27 Backchat
- 29 Repeat performance.
- 31 Getting back to basics.
- 33 Answer: Because we sing ' hymns' , not ' hers' ! (It' s a joke, not theology!)
- 35 Too funny for words.
- 37 Sit down and shut up.
- 39 Easy on the eye.
- 41 The scar in Jesus' side as well as the nail-print scars in each of his hands.
- 43 12! For each and every month has at least 28 days in it.
- 46 Tea for two.
- 48 One. We are only born once!
- 49 Forty Winks.
- 52 Just for once.
- 55 She counted the apricot pits. (Stones in NZ!)
- 57 Oil floats in vinegar. All you have to do is tilt the bottle. To pour vinegar, turn the bottle upside down and by pulling off the cork a little and you can let the desired amount of vinegar out.
- 59 Nice guys finish last. (Not true but still a good puzzle!)
- 60 A City: PARIS
- 62 Life after death.
- 64 Gambling with your life.
- 68 An outside chance.
- 69 A bad spell of weather.
- 71 World Series.
- 73 Cut loose
- 75 Three-ringed circus.
- 77 Head
- 78 Cut 4 apples into 3 pieces each, and 3 apples into 4 pieces each. Distribute a  $\frac{1}{3}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  piece to each person.
- 80 Hole in One. Much easier than scoring one!
- 82 190. In each column, divide the top number by 4 to get the bottom number. Then add 5 to the sum of the top and bottom numbers to get the middle number.
- 85 The letter "e", the most common letter in the English language, does not appear a single time in this long paragraph.
- 86 Yesterday, today and tomorrow.
- 88 Charcoal
- 90 You are too close.

- 92 Freeze them first. Take them out of the jugs and put the ice in the barrel. You will be able to tell which water came from which jug.
- 95 Long Underwear
- 96 The woman was a photographer. She shot a picture of her husband, developed it, and hung it up to dry.
- 98 Dog Pound.
- 100 Right between the eyes.
- 102 Friday
- 105 Realist (real in a ' list' )
- 107 Faulty logic.
- 109 For once on time.
- 111 A face in the crowd.
- 113 Midge is a small child and can reach up only as high as the sixth-floor button.
- 115 Booked up.
- 116 The third. Lions that haven' t eaten in three years are dead.
- 118 I' m between jobs.
- 121 Singing in the rain.
- 123 A little misunderstanding between friends.
- 125 Triathlon
- 127 Flip over backwards.
- 129 A coffin!
- 131 A bit under dressed.
- 133 Searching high and low.
- 136 Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
- 138 Big Fuss
- 140 The numbers are in alphabetical order.
- 142 The other end of the rope isn' t tied to anything!
- 145 One was born on December 31 at 11:59 p.m. and the other January 1 at 12:00 a.m.
- 147 An afterthought.
- 149 Sally was blind... she was reading a book by Braille.
152. Be back before long.
154. Long story made short.
156. "I' m in the money."
159. Mother-in-law.
161. Taxable income
163. Understand
165. A bird in hand equals two in the bush.

- 167. No. For the man is dead!
- 169. Passover Meal.
- 170. Imagination.
- 172. 70.
- 174. 2.
- 176. Put a sock in it.
- 178. 9.
- 180. Breach of Contract. (Broken Contract.)
- 182. None. Noah built the Ark, not Moses!
- 184. Meat!
- 185. Lie in wait.
- 187. Many happy returns.
- 189. 12.
- 191. A car.
- 193. 3 years ago.
- 195. Its bark.
- 196. David had 49, Paul 35.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Page 2 QUESTION: If you cut an earthworm in half, will it grow into two new worms?**

ANSWER: This widely held idea is largely a myth. While it is true that earthworms can regenerate, when you cut one in half, both parts don't regenerate into fully developed worms. Only the front end of the worm, containing the 'brain' (cerebral ganglion) has a chance of growing new segments. (*2 into 1 doesn't go, 1 into 2 doesn't grow!*)

**Page 4 QUESTION: How did trivia (such as this), get its name?**

ANSWER: It is a merging of the Latin words ' tri' (three) and ' via' (road). To educate the public, news and information was posted on boards at crossroads (where three roads met) and so the word 'trivialis' was applied to the snippets of un-related information. The word trivial is derived from this 'Trivia' as a word on its own dates to about 1920(*Trivial by name, triffling by nature!*)

**Page 6 QUESTION: From where does the saying 'Hobson' s Choice' originate?**

ANSWER: Hobson' s Choice doesn' t simply mean a difficult choice. It means no choice at all, rather like having to choose between the devil and the deep blue sea. It originated from Thomas Hobson, a 16th-century stable-keeper, and a paid-up member of the amalgamated union of the bloody-minded. He only hired out his horses on a strict rotation system. Customers couldn' t choose a horse for themselves. You got the one nearest the stable door or none! (*What other choice did Hobson have?*)

**Page 8 QUESTION: Is it true that hair and nails continue to grow after death?**

ANSWER: No, they only seem to. What really happens is that the body dries out after death and the skin recedes from the hair and nails, making it appear as if they are longer. In fact, even though hair is not technically 'living', hair and nail cells still need to be nourished by blood in order to grow. *(They're bloodthirsty?)*

**Page 10 QUESTION: What is an 'inclined elevator'?**

ANSWER: Quite logically, 'Inclined Elevator' was another term used at the turn of the twentieth century for what we now call an escalator. The first one was installed at Harrods department store in London and was scary enough that store personnel served brandy to customers who felt faint while riding it. *(Most today feel faint at Harrods prices!)*

**Page 12 QUESTION: What is a Welsh rabbit?**

ANSWER: Welsh rabbit (also called Welsh rarebit) isn't an animal at all. It's melted cheese on toast or crackers. It was called this so peasants could imagine themselves eating real rabbit -- or at least make fun of the fact that they couldn't afford it. The name originated in an era when only the Welsh nobility could hunt rabbits. The poor peasants had to melt cheese on toast and simply call it 'rabbit'. *(Unable to acquire the habit of eating rabbit.)*

**Page 14 QUESTION: Where did the term 'private eye' originate?**

ANSWER: We get 'private eye' from the famous logo of the Pinkerton Detective Agency -a wide-open eye. The company, founded in the 1800s, had as its motto: 'We never sleep'. *(So can specialise in finding those who sleep together illicitly.)*

**Page 17 QUESTION: Who wrote the first detective novel?**

ANSWER: Edgar Allan Poe, best known for his tales of horror, is credited with being the 'father' of the marvellous mystery genre. Auguste C. Dupin, his super-intelligent and super-logical detective, first appeared in the 1841 story, 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue'. *(But can a detective be defective?)*

**Page 19 QUESTION: Why do pigs like to wallow in mud?**

ANSWER: It' s not because they' re dirty animals or like being dirty. Pigs don' t perspire and wallowing in mud simply helps them to cool off(*Do mud baths improve their complexions too?*)

**Page 21 QUESTION: What is the only bone in the body that does not connect to other bones?**

ANSWER: The hyoid bone, in the throat, is the only bone in the human body that does not connect to other bones. Its particular job is to support the tongue and its muscles. (*Gets a greater workout from one sex than the other! See No. 780!*)

**Page 23 QUESTION: Is there really such a thing as a flea circus?**

ANSWER: Yes, flea circuses first appeared in Europe in the 1820s and featured such spectacular diversions as the re-enactment of Napoleon' s defeat at Waterloo. They – but not their fleas - died out sometime in the middle of the last century. Trainers use the fleas' natural responses to stimuli to encourage them to jump and move around and even pull props. Of course, the performers are tiny, so a magnifying glass is necessary for a good view. (*'Flea bitten' trainers?*)

**Page 25 QUESTION: Do sword swallows really swallow the sword?**

ANSWER: It' s not a trick: they really do swallow the sword. It' s not easy though. Sword swallows must relax the throat muscles and keep them completely relaxed while the sword is inside. The swords are dull, but without a steady hand – or sword - they can do damage to the throat, oesophagus, or stomach. (*Wouldn't want to sneeze half way!*)

**Page 28 QUESTION: In terms of chemical composition, what substance does human blood most closely resemble?**

ANSWER: The substance chemically closest to blood is seawater. In fact, the saline solution which is used in intravenous injections, 'normal saline', is 0.9% salt to water, the same salinity as seawater. It' s also the salinity of amniotic fluid, the liquid that surrounded all of us in utero, before we were born. Of course, seawater contains lots of other 'trace minerals',



which are mostly also present in blood. Yes, human plasma closely resembles seawater. *(So sailors really do have the blood of the sea coursing through their veins?)*

**Page 30 QUESTION: Which Roman emperor succumbed to smallpox?**

ANSWER: Emperor Marcus Aurelius succumbed to the 'Plague of Antonine', a smallpox epidemic that killed something between 3.5 and 7 million people in the Roman Empire in 180 AD. *(A 'Big' man, but small to the pox!)*

**Page 31 QUESTION: How long was the world' s longest prayer meeting?**

ANSWER: How long does prayer meeting last in your church? Do the 'fidgits' set in after ten or twenty minutes? Let's say the average prayer meeting is an hour. But the world' s longest Prayer Meeting? Multiply an hour by 24; multiply that by 365; and then multiply that by 100! That tallies up to 876,000 hours. The longest prayer meeting in the world actually lasted even longer than that! It began on August 27, 1727, in Herrnhut, Germany, when Moravians under Count von Zinzendorf commenced an around-the-clock prayer chain that lasted more than one hundred years! *(Generations of prayer warriors involved?)*

**Page 34 QUESTION: Is it true that it takes more muscles to frown than it does to smile?**

ANSWER: Yes. Seventeen muscles to smile and 43 to frown is an oft-repeated figure, especially all over the Internet (and, yes, at university-related sites too) as well as in the popular press. But it' s nowhere to be found in any text devoted to anatomy (especially of the head), surgery (esp. maxillofacial or reconstructive), neurology, or the analysis of human facial expressions.

In fact, Paul Ekman -- an authority on human facial expression tells me that he has no idea where this notion originated. It takes as few as two muscles to produce a universally recognisable smile and as few as three to produce a frown. There is simply no confirmation of the saying 'it takes

17 muscles to smile and 43 to frown' in any medical text. (*'Two smile or not three frown!' With apologies to the Bard.*)

**Page 36 QUESTION: Why do scientists describe cancer cells as 'immortal'?**

ANSWER: Normal cells divide a limited amount of times (usually no more than 50-60 times) before they die. Cancer cells, however, proliferate indefinitely in culture. A cancer cell will go on and on doubling, one cell becoming two, then four, then eight, etc.... Normal cells, when placed in a tissue culture dish, proliferate until a single layer of cells just touching each other covers the surface of the dish. Mitosis (cell replication) then stops. Cancer cells, on the other hand, show no such 'contact inhibition'. They continue to divide, piling up into actual mounds. It is this that makes cancer cells so damaging to an organism. (*Too much of a bad thing!*)

**Page 37 QUESTION: What bird migrates from the Arctic to the Antarctic each year?**

ANSWER: The Arctic Tern. This travelling bird flies nearly 22,000 miles (35,000km) each year in its migration (roughly the circumference of the Earth), making it the animal with the greatest migratory range. Takes six months to fly each way. It migrates to live! It lives to migrate! (*Gets there, then 'terns' round and goes back!*)

**Page 40 QUESTION: What controversy involving Pluto occurred in 1999?**

ANSWER: In January 1999, misleading reports appeared in the media that suggested Pluto was about to lose its status as a planet and be reclassified as a minor planet or even an asteroid. The furore was caused by a suggestion to include Pluto in a specialised listing of 'Trans-Neptunian Objects', a group of smaller objects that have been discovered in the outer solar system beyond Neptune's orbit. These objects are similar to Pluto, though drastically smaller. Astronomers did not intend to imply that Pluto was not a planet by suggesting its inclusion on the list, but the assumption that Pluto was being 'demoted' caused an uproar anyway and the International Astronomical Union had to issue a statement confirming that Pluto remained our ninth planet. (*Mickey and Donald were so pleased not to lose their good friend!*)

**Page 42 QUESTION: Where and when was the first underground train line opened?**

ANSWER: The City and South London Railway opened the world's first deep-level electric railway on December 18th, 1890, running from King William Street in the City of London under the River Thames to Stockwell. *(Does the underground ever run overground?)*

**Page 44 QUESTION: Is it true that turtles don't age?**

ANSWER: It is strange, but true. After reaching maturity, a turtle's body doesn't continue to age biologically. They manifest what is known as 'negligible senescence', that is they increase in chronological age without exhibiting increased mortality. To put it simply: they continue to grow and reproduce after reaching maturity, but show no evidence of 'senescence', a fancy word for 'aging'. Turtles do die, of course. Eventually, they'll succumb to disease, injury, or predators - but there have been reports of turtles living for more than 100 to 200 years! *(Need all this extra time to get places.)*

**Page 45 QUESTION: Are fish more abundant in cold ocean water or warm water?**

ANSWER: Most people would guess that ocean life is more abundant in warm water. They'd be wrong. All kinds of marine life - plant and animal - are more abundant in colder waters. Many of the best fishing grounds are found in the coldest places. Why? Cold water holds more dissolved gases, such as oxygen and carbon dioxide, which marine plants need to photosynthesize. The more plant food you have, the more fish and sea mammals you'll see. Antarctic waters are simply teeming with microscopic plankton that attracts whales and fish. *(Do fish feel the cold?)*

**Page 47 QUESTION: Are there really such things as elephant graveyards?**

ANSWER: Elephants do not really have 'graveyards,' but field workers and other people occasionally encounter several unexplained elephant skeletons in one location. Once, people believed these places were elephant graveyards. These people speculated that elephants could

sense when they were going to die and took themselves to graveyards just before their deaths.

Another, more probable explanation sees the 'graveyards' as a result of the elephant's teeth. Elephants wear out their molars from eating coarse vegetation. And, after an elephant has worn out six sets of molars, no more molars grow in to replace the old ones. As the last set of molars wears down to nubs, old elephants frequently retreat to swamps to fend off starvation by eating soft water plants. Eventually, these animals do die, though, often while they are in the water. Their bodies sink below the water and remain there for years. Later, if the swamp dries out, the bones of several old elephants may be found in the newly exposed land. (*Death comes to all – turtles, elephants and us!*)

**Page 50 QUESTION: What infamous Countess was a mass murderer?**

ANSWER: Countess Elizabeth Bathory of Hungary, known as the 'Blood Countess', is reputed to have killed hundreds of young girls as a sadistic pastime. Elizabeth was able to kill the girls, mostly peasants from the surrounding countryside with impunity for many years, because of her noble station. Legends say she believed that by bathing in her victim's blood, she would stay young forever. There is, however, no real evidence that she did this. Eventually, her crimes reached such a magnitude that her "cousin" Count Thurzo, ordered by the King and Church officials to act, saw to it that Elizabeth was walled into her castle to live out her final days in isolation. Her accomplices, mostly servants, were executed. Some scholars speculate that Bram Stoker, author of *Dracula*, based his legendary vampire in part on Elizabeth (as well as another sadistic killer - Vlad the Impaler). (*An actual 'bloodbath'!*)

**Page 51 QUESTION: Is it true that the yo-yo was based on a weapon?**

ANSWER: Yes. American Donald Duncan thought of the toy after watching a Philippine yo-yo in action. It was made of large wood disks and twine and used to hunt animals. The hunter would hurl it at his prey and the twine would catch the animal by its legs and so throw it to the ground. The name 'yo-yo,' was a word from Tagalog, an Indonesian language used in the Philippines. Duncan made his yo-yo smaller, but

kept the name. This wasn't really the first yo-yo toy, though. Kids in China played with similar toys way back as far back as 1,000 BC. *(Small things amuse small minds – and smaller minds notice them!)*

**Page 53 QUESTION: When did 'Superman' first appear in print?**

ANSWER: Superman dates back to June 1938, when he appeared in Action Comics No. 1. Batman arrived on the scene one year later in Detective Comics No. 27, appearing May 1939. *(But they haven't died though!)*

**Page 54 QUESTION: Who drew the original Mickey Mouse in his first short cartoon?**

ANSWER: Not Walt Disney, as is commonly believed. All of the sketching and animation was done by Ub Iwerks, Disney's chief animator in the early days of Disney Studios. Walt Disney had largely abandoned drawing animated characters to concentrate on the commercial side of business. However Walt did come up with the idea for Mickey and established his personality. He also supplied the voice. *(And banked the money!)*

**Page 56 QUESTION: What do cats, camels, and giraffes have in common?**

ANSWER: Cats, like camels and giraffes, walk by moving their front and hind legs on one side, then the front and hind legs on the other side. When most other animals move, the front leg on one side and the hind leg on the other move together. *(Having only two legs makes decision making so much easier.)*

**Page 58 QUESTION: How can birds sit on electric wires without being injured?**

ANSWER: It's simple. In order to be electrocuted, the bird would have to touch two wires simultaneously or one hot wire and the ground at the same time. One wire won't do it *(You got it? The logic, not the wire.)*

**Page 61 QUESTION: What happened to Pontius Pilate after he sentenced Christ to be crucified?**

ANSWER: As could be expected, things went rapidly downhill from there. Pilate ended up killing himself in 36 AD after Caligula ordered him to come to Rome to explain his actions in the massacre of some Samaritans. It is unclear whether Caligula ordered the suicide or Pilate simply feared harsh punishment. (*An inevitable judgement.*)

**Page 63 QUESTION: When was the first animal cloned?**

ANSWER: Surprisingly, as far back as 1952, when scientists successfully cloned tadpoles. They were drawing on research that went back to 1938, when a German scientist developed a theory on how to clone vertebrates by nuclear transfer. (*But did they develop into frogs?*)

**Page 65 QUESTION: How far can a kangaroo jump?**

ANSWER: A large kangaroo can clear more than thirty feet (9m) in one jump. (*Gets there quickly 'in leaps and bounds'.*)

**Page 66 QUESTION: What was the first toy ever advertised on television?**

ANSWER: Mr. Potato Head was the first toy advertised on television. Now, of course, kids are inundated with ads and have to have the 'hot' toy of the moment right away! Mr. Potato Head, by the way, was originally sold (in 1952) without the plastic potato body. The whimsical accessory parts, like the nose and eyes, were to be inserted into a REAL potato. Eventually, that was considered too dangerous, as the parts had to be sharp to pierce a real potato (*And, of course, real potatoes rot.*)

**Page 67 QUESTION: How does a frog cope with freezing temperatures?**

ANSWER: Frogs have several strategies for surviving winter, depending on the species. Some hibernate, slowing down their body's metabolism and 'sleeping' away the winter. Some aquatic hibernating frogs can even hibernate underwater! Terrestrial frogs usually hibernate on land. To avoid freezing to death, frogs have another trick: antifreeze. The frog may become frozen, but it doesn't die. It appears dead, but the high levels of glucose in its vital organs prevent complete freezing. It will stop breathing

and its heart will even stop beating, but when temperatures rise, its organs will start up again. *(Now why can't I do that?)*

**Page 70 QUESTION: How long can honey be stored and still safely eaten?**

ANSWER: Apparently, honey can last forever, if stored well. The ancient Egyptians left honey, among other assorted luxuries, in burial chambers to make the dead happy. Some of it, unearthed in modern times, is still edible! *(Though one wonders how they determine this. Are archaeologists eating the evidence?)*

**Page 72 QUESTION: What is the sleeping sickness?**

ANSWER: Sleeping sickness, or encephalitis lethargica, was a strange disease that appeared in Europe suddenly in 1915. By 1918, the disease, which took many forms, had spread throughout the world. In some cases, victims fell into a coma and never woke up. Others died from days and days of NOT being able to sleep at all. The epidemic, which is estimated to have affected five million people, vanished mysteriously in 1927. Survivors didn't fare well. The long-term effects of the sleeping sickness, which had developed into a form of Parkinson's disease, had turned many patients into motionless 'statues'. In March 1969, neurologist Oliver Sacks began to prescribe L-dopa, a drug used to treat Parkinson's disease, to sleeping sickness patients. The effect was extraordinary. Many began to 'wake up' and were suddenly, after decades of not moving, able to walk and talk and think. Some patients believed they were still in the 1920s! Sadly though, many patients on L-dopa began to suffer from involuntary muscle movements, bizarre motions and notions, and other serious symptoms. *(Maybe we all would if we woke up 40 years in the future!)*

**Page 74 QUESTION: What is a group of flamingos called?**

ANSWER: A pat. *(Got that down pat!)*

**Page 76 QUESTION: How many sweat glands do we have in our body?**

ANSWER: About five million. Most are in the palms of your hands, the

soles of your feet, and your armpits. *(Work up a sweat thinking about it!)*

**Page 79 QUESTION: What percentage of a watermelon is water?**

ANSWER: A watermelon is 92 percent water. Strawberries are approximately 99% water! *(Both mouth-watering treats!)*

**Page 81 QUESTION: Who invented Khaki military uniforms?**

ANSWER: The light-yellowish brown cloth, used generally for military uniforms, gets its name from the Persian word 'khak', meaning 'dust' or 'ashes'. The word 'khaki' can be used to refer to the colour, the cloth, or the garment made from the cloth. Lt. Harry Burnett of the Queen's Own Corp of Guides developed the cloth in 1846. The goal was to produce a mud-coloured uniform that would camouflage English soldiers attempting to hide in dusty areas. (To help stop soldiers prematurely returning to 'ashes to ashes and dust to dust'.)

**Page 83 QUESTION: Why do we call twins who are attached to each other physically, 'Siamese twins'?**

ANSWER: We call physically-attached twins 'Siamese twins' because of a famous pair of twins in the 1800s who were actually from Siam. Chang and Eng, brothers attached at the chest, were brought to the US by famous circus promoter P.T. Barnum. They eventually married Sarah and Adelaide, unattached sisters, and had 22 children between them. They died in 1874, within hours of each other. If they had lived in the twenty-first century instead of the nineteenth, they most likely would have been surgically separated. *(Would they have been happier though?)*

**Page 84 QUESTION: Is it possible for twins to have different fathers?**

ANSWER: Yes. There have been several documented cases of women giving birth to twins who had different fathers, including cases where the children were of different races. To do so, the mother had to have conceived both children in close proximity. There has also been one recent case where a mother gave birth to unrelated 'twins'. In that instance, the mother underwent in vitro fertilisation and had her own child and the embryo of another couple accidentally implanted in her.



*(Possible, but not the way God planned it.)*

**Page 87 QUESTION: How do black and white stripes camouflage zebras?**

ANSWER: It doesn't seem to make sense. For there isn't any black and white shrubbery in Africa for zebras to hide in! So how does being striped help them to avoid being someone else's dinner? The answer is in what scientists call 'disruptive coloration'. The alternating stripes break up and obscure the outline of the zebra, making it difficult for predators to focus on the animal, particularly when many zebras are running together at once. Instead of a solid shape, the predator sees a jumble of apparently unrelated forms. Some experts think the stripes may serve another purpose - avoiding the tsetse fly. These biting flies prefer to snack on large, dark, moving animals. The zebra's stripes may well make it difficult for the biting bugs to find a single dark region to alight upon. *(What about the 'Stars and Stripes'?)*

**Page 89 QUESTION: What is an egg tooth?**

ANSWER: Many snakes and other reptiles have an 'egg tooth' on their snouts to help them break out of their leathery shells. The tooth slits through the shell when it's time for them to hatch, then falls off shortly after hatching. *(An 'eggcellent' idea!)*

**Page 91 QUESTION: Where are all the baby pigeons?**

ANSWER: You see pigeons on every sidewalk in the city. But where are their babies? The answer lies in the way pigeons hide their nests. They may be city-dwellers now, but way back, were cliff-dwellers. They still like to build their nests up high on modern cliffs - atop tall buildings or high window ledges or even stuck inside a bridge somewhere. Pigeons are dedicated parents. They tend to lay only two eggs at a time, then spoil the baby pigeons so much that the babies are nearly adult-sized and plump by the time they leave the nest. *(Does plumpness make them 'pigeon toed?')*

**Page 93 QUESTION: What's the difference between a turtle and a tortoise?**

ANSWER: A tortoise is a terrestrial turtle, one that lives entirely on land. Other turtles are amphibious, living on both land and water. *(Has nobody taught the tortoise to swim?)*

**Page 95 QUESTION: What is the connection of May Day to Robin Hood?**

ANSWER: The legendary Robin Hood is said to have died on May Day. *(So he 'may' be well remembered!)*

**Page 97 QUESTION: Where did the expression 'red herring' originate?**

ANSWER: A 'red herring' is a diversionary tactic - something that draws attention away from the central issue. The term originated from the use of smoked herring (which is reddish brown and extremely strong-smelling) to distract hunting dogs from following a trail. In the seventeenth century, smoked herring was also used as a lure to train dogs to follow a scent. And, of course, it was also used by criminals to divert bloodhounds from the trail. *(Still is!)*

**Page 99 QUESTION: What creature has infrared receptors to help it catch prey in total darkness?**

ANSWER: Snakes! Certain snakes, including Pythons and Boa Constrictors, have pits along their lips that are actually infrared heat receptors. These receptors can help a snake locate prey even in total darkness. *(I pray not to be the prey! What am I worried about? New Zealand is about the only country that doesn't have snakes!)*

**Page 101 QUESTION: What is the lowest place on Earth?**

ANSWER: The Dead Sea, located near some of Israel's most famous historical sites, is the lowest place on Earth. It lies further below sea level than any other place in the world. *(The only place you can float below sea level?)*

**Page 103 QUESTION: Are pigeons and doves of the same family?**

ANSWER: Yes, they're in the same family. But pigeons are the poor relations. They are pretty much looked down upon as city annoyances. But doves have become recognised as symbols of peace, and in Christianity, the Holy Spirit. The birds are so closely related, though, that some companies offering to release doves at a wedding are really using pigeons. The pigeon and dove family Columbidae consists of 309 species ranging from the sparrow-sized ground-dove, to turkey-sized crowned pigeons. *(Is that deception the reason why marriages aren't peaceful?)*

**Page 104 QUESTION: Why do some animals have eyes that glow in the dark?**

ANSWER: Taking a flashlight outside at night to look for your cat, you might have been greeted with the eerie glow of two eyes that appear to be floating free of the cat. What makes cat eyes, and those of some other animals, glow in the dark? Many nocturnal animals (those that hunt at night) have a mirror like layer called the 'tapetum' behind the cells of the retina. This reflective surface helps the animal to gather more light so that it can clearly see, even in very low levels of illumination. Animals that have this ability include rabbits, deer, cats, raccoons, wolves, and even bullfrogs. Animals' eyes glow different colours, too, depending on the type of animal and the pigment in the animal's photoreceptors. Some shine red or green, while others are yellow, gold or white. *(Glow worms too.)*

**Page 106 QUESTION: What is the underlying meaning of the number '7' in the Bible?**

ANSWER: Completion, Perfection, and Maturity *(How did I get to my eighth birthday then?)*

**Page 108 QUESTION: Which three of the United States are not states? Why?**

ANSWER: Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Virginia are not states. They are all commonwealths. *(Must be common, not stately?)*

**Page 110 QUESTION: Why isn't Puerto Rico on the list of countries?**

ANSWER: Puerto Rico is not a nation because it is a commonwealth associated with the United States. Technically it's an American territory,

not an independent nation. (*Suffer split personalities?*)

**Page 112 QUESTION: What invention has resulted in less sleep times for humans?**

ANSWER: Electric lights! Americans, on average, now sleep 1 1/2 hours less each day than before they came along. (*Is TV helping redress the balance?*)

**Page 114 QUESTION: Why do we 'bless' somebody after they sneeze?**

ANSWER: Sneezing has long been regarded as a dangerous thing. The ancient Greeks feared that a sneeze could accidentally dispel the soul. People tried hard to hold back their sneezes and one that happened anyway was greeted with chants to return good fortune. The Romans, on the other hand, felt a sneeze was the body's attempt to dispel sinister spirits that could cause illness. Holding back a sneeze made you vulnerable to sickness. Still, benedictions were in order. A person who sneezed was congratulated and one about to sneeze was urged on with 'Good luck to you!' The Christian expression 'God bless you', was begun by Papal Fiat in the sixth century, issued by Pope Gregory the Great in response to a deadly plague sweeping through Italy. Sneezing was one of the symptoms of the plague. Pope Gregory urged healthy people to pray for the sick and he told them to say 'God bless you' when someone sneezed. If a person sneezed and had no one around to bless him, he was instructed to call directly on God saying, 'God help me!' (*I receive plenty of blessings – from others as I sneeze often, and from God without the need for a special reason.*)

**Page 117 QUESTION: Who were the Buccaneers?**

ANSWER: Today, 'buccaneer' is simply another word for pirate. Buccaneers started out as hunters on the islands we now know as Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Their name came from the French word 'boucan' (meaning barbecue), as they liked to barbecue their meat on grills. The Buccaneers were driven out by the Spanish in the sixteenth century and to get revenge they teamed up with other persecuted peoples, such as escaped slaves and deserters, and began attacking Spanish ships, particularly those bringing goods to the Spanish American

colonies. By the seventeenth century, the word 'buccaneer' was used to describe pirates and privateers based in the West Indies. (*Do 'buccaneer businessmen' have West Indian Tax Havens?*)

**Page 119 QUESTION: Is it true that August stole a day from February?**

ANSWER: Yes. Under the Julian calendar, February had 29 days and the other months alternated evenly between 30 and 31 days. Because July had 31 days, the month following it was supposed to have 30 days. But that was the month that Augustus had brought Egypt under control and entered the city in triumph and he had to have it. He couldn't, of course, be duly honored with a LESSER month, one with fewer days. So to make his month as long as Julius' month, they had to steal a day from February (making it just 28) and add it to August (making it 31). (They also messed with September and the remaining months, in order to avoid three months in a row with 31 days.) (*The Emperors thought they ruled time too!*)

**Page 120 QUESTIONS:**

- 1. What is the youngest book in the Old Testament?**
- 2. What is the oldest book of the New Testament?**

ANSWERS: 1. The book of Malachi, written about 400 B.C.  
2. Probably the book of James, written as early as A.D.45. (*400 years of silence until God revealed himself personally through Jesus.*)

**Page 122 QUESTION: What did Chester Greenwood invent in 1873?**

ANSWER: Chester Greenwood invented the earmuffs in 1878. He lived in Farmington Maine, USA and every year they hold a parade and winter carnival called 'Chester Greenwood Day'. Everyone shows off his or her varied and colourful (and often silly) earmuffs. (*Can make as much noise as they wish without suffering hearing loss!*)

**Page 124 QUESTION: Is it possible that a caterpillar could have more than 1,000 muscles?**

ANSWER: Yes, it certainly is! In fact a caterpillar has over 2,000 muscles

to control the movement of its long body and many legs. *(No wonder they move slowly! A wonder they move at all!)*

**Page 126 QUESTION: Who invented Aspirin?**

ANSWER: Aspirin wasn't really invented, but discovered. Scientists in 1829 discovered that a compound called Salicin in Willows relieved pain. But they weren't really the first to understand that Hippocrates, who lived sometime between 460 BC and 377 BC, wrote about the use of powder made from the bark and leaves of a willow tree to treat headaches, fever, and pain. *(Cheaper but enough work to bring on a headache!)*

**Page 128 QUESTION: What percentage of its body weight can a pelican consume in a single meal?**

ANSWER: The pelican can consume 66% of its body weight in a meal. *(Might well struggle to fly straight afterwards though!)*

**Page 130 QUESTION: Throughout the years, many Popes have been assassinated or have been the targets of assassinations. Who was the first Pope to be murdered? John Paul II, Leo X, John V, John VIII or Luke IV.**

ANSWER: John VIII (died 882) was the first Pope to be murdered. He was poisoned and then clubbed to death. *(Double jeopardy?)*

**PAGE 132 QUESTIONS: a. What exactly defines a planet?  
b. Which is the only planet to have an orbit that crosses that of another planet?**

ANSWERS: a. There is actually no scientific law defining a planet, but generally the planet must directly orbit a star, be small enough that it has not undergone internal nuclear fusion (i.e. is not a star or star like object), and must be big enough that its self-gravity gives the general shape of a sphere.

b. Pluto, usually the farthest planet from the sun in our solar system, crosses Neptune's orbit. Pluto is a tiny planet, smaller than Earth's moon, and its elliptical orbit takes 248 years and carries it as close as 2.8 billion miles (4.5 billion km) from the sun and as far as 4.6 billion miles (7.4

billion km) away from the sun. In 1979, Pluto crossed Neptune' s orbit on its way closer to the sun, making Neptune the farthest planet for most of the 1980' s. Pluto recrossed Neptune' s orbit again in 1999 as it headed away from the sun and once again became the most distant planet. *(Bye bye 'til next time.)*

**Page 134 QUESTION: When did camouflage become standard military practice?**

ANSWER: The military practice of camouflage became standard practice in World War I, when uniforms, helmets, and equipment were covered in the colours of leaves and brush to hide them from aeroplanes. *(Then the bombs got bigger!)*

**Page 135 QUESTION: Which Shakespearean play is the only one that has a dog in its cast?**

ANSWER: The dog' s name is Crab, appearing in 'The Two Gentlemen of Verona'. *(To nip its fellow actors?)*

**Page 137 QUESTION: What is an 'interrobang'?**

ANSWER: For a short time in 1967, the American Typewriters Association made a new punctuation mark that was a combination of the question mark and an exclamation point called an interrobang. It was rarely used and hasn' t been seen since *(Why not?!)*

**Page 139 QUESTION: Do penguins live at the North Pole?**

ANSWER: Afraid not. All penguins live in the Southern Hemisphere. The Galapagos penguin is the only penguin that sometimes may stray slightly north of the equator. You' ll find them all in the Antarctic, but not the Arctic. *(Easier to swim down than up?)*

**Page 141 QUESTION: Does your skin shrink in water?**

ANSWER: If you spend time in water, you' ll notice that the skin on your hands and feet appears to shrivel. But that' s not because the skin is shrinking, rather that the skin is expanding from the absorption of water. The skin on our hands and feet is thicker, so when these areas of thicker

skin become saturated, they expand. Because of their denseness, wrinkles appear and the skin becomes whiter with the increased water content. The thinner skin elsewhere in our body has more room to absorb water, so wrinkles take longer to appear. Surprisingly, skin does not wrinkle from seawater, seawater being so similar to the fluids in our body. *(If we dry out can we get rid of ageing lines too?)*

**Page 143 QUESTION: What literary sisters used male names when they published their novels?**

ANSWER: The Bronte sisters - Charlotte, Emily, and Anne - used male pseudonyms Currer Bell, Ellis Bell, and Acton Bell starting with the same letters. It was normal in earlier time periods for female writers to adopt male names in order to be published. *(Their writings certainly 'rang a bell' with their readers!)*

**Page 144 QUESTION: Which American first lady carried a gun in her purse?**

ANSWER: First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, was advised by the Secret Service to carry a pistol with her. The sombre advice followed a large number of letters threatening her life after her husband, Franklin D. Roosevelt, took office. *(Some things don't change!)*

**Page 146 QUESTION: When Sesame Street's Big Bird has a birthday, he luckily always remains the same age. How old is he?**

ANSWER: 6 years old. *(Lucky bird!)*

**Page 148 QUESTION: Is a raven and a crow the same bird?**

ANSWER: A raven is a type of large crow, with a distinctive croaking call. Therefore all ravens are crows, but not all crows are ravens. *(Ravens crow about this!)*

**Page 150 QUESTION: How old are 'prefab' (prefabricated) houses?**

ANSWER: Quite old! Going back as far as the beginning of the nineteenth century, a prefabricated house was sent to Hawaii by religious Bostonians wanting to help missionaries living there. *(No fabrication!)*



**Page 151 QUESTION: Which country has the lowest crime rate in the world? Is it Japan, Singapore, New Zealand or Canada?**

ANSWER: Togo. At 11 reported crimes annually, per 100,000 population. *(All will now want 'to go' to Togo.)*

**Page 153 QUESTION: What happens to butterflies if their body temperature goes below 86 degrees Fahrenheit (30C)?**

ANSWER: They are unable to fly. *(As temperatures cool, do they get 'the butterflies'?)*

**Page 155 QUESTION: Thomas Edison did not invent, as many people believe, but improved upon electric lights. But which of these were Edison inventions? The phonograph, the motion picture camera, the mimeograph machine, the electric vote recorder, the dictating machine, and wax paper?**

ANSWER: They all were! His mind was so inventive that he applied for a new patent approximately every fortnight! *(Edison's endless energy.)*

**Page 157 QUESTION: The strongest muscle in our body is found in our leg, arm, hand or head?**

ANSWER: In the Head! Yes, the strongest, and also most troublesome, muscle in the body is the tongue! (James 3:1-12) *(Words fail me!)*

**Page 158 QUESTION: What do selenologists study? Butterflies, traffic density, the moon, vibrations or indigenous cultures?**

ANSWER: The moon. *(They lay claim to having met ' the man in the moon' and try to tell us that it isn' t made of cheese!)*

**Page 160 QUESTION: Sharks and Rays are the only animals known to man that cannot get this disease. What is it?**

ANSWER: Cancer. Scientists believe this is related to the fact that they have no bone, only cartilage. *(How about boneless humans? Are we part way there with spineless ones?)*

**Page 162 QUESTION: King Edward II of England (1324) decreed the standard measurement of the 'inch' to be equal to what?**

ANSWER: Three barleycorns laid end to end. (*Measurement didn't get any easier after that – until metrics.*)

**Page 164 QUESTION: Which 'King' in a pack of cards doesn't have a moustache?**

ANSWER: The King of Hearts. (*Wins hearts without it?*)

**Page 166 QUESTION: What is the hardest substance in the human body?**

ANSWER: Tooth enamel. (*But not tough enough to beat sugar!*)

**Page 168 QUESTION: Do centipedes really have 100 legs?**

ANSWER: No. Until recently, no centipede was found that did not have an odd number of leg pairs. Usually the number varies from 15 to 191 pairs, all odd. No one knows why. However, Chris Kettle, a doctoral student in ecology, recently found a centipede with 48 pairs of legs, an even number. The remarkable discovery was presented to the International Congress of Myriapodology in Poland and featured in the science journal Trends in Genetics. He suspects a genetic mutation is responsible for the even number of leg pairs.

**Page 171 QUESTION: Is there violence in Grimm's fairy tales?**

ANSWER: More than a little! You may recall that doves peck the eyes out of Cinderella's stepsisters, that Snow White's step mother arranges a 'hit' on her young stepdaughter, and that Sleeping Beauty's suitors bled to death on the hedge surrounding her castle. And that's just some! Grimm's fairy tales are full of infanticide, murder, mutilation, cannibalism, and incest. But they're also rich with heroism and adventure and generally end with the bad guys getting their just desserts. (*PC lovers beware!*)

**Page 173 QUESTION: What is the real name of the painting now known as the ‘Mona Lisa’?**

ANSWER: The real name of Leonardo Da Vinci's hugely famous painting is ‘La Gioconda’. It is supposed to be the portrait of the wife of a middle-class Florentine merchant named Francesco del Giocondo, but a number of other alternatives have also been suggested. (*Will always be Mona to me.*)

**Page 175 QUESTION: What does the name ‘Jolly Roger’ come from?**

ANSWER: Each pirate captain had a different ‘Jolly Roger’ flag, but they tended to depict symbols of death and destruction, including the classic "skull and crossbones." The flags likely were intended to terrify the crews of potential targets. The oft-used black and white Jolly Roger was probably scary enough. But the red Jolly Roger was much more terrifying, as it meant that the pirates would show no mercy in battle. And where did the name come from? ‘Jolly Roger’ is thought to have originated from a nickname for the devil, ‘Old Roger.’ But it may also have come from the French word for ‘pretty red’ – ‘Jolie Rouge’. (*Not so jolly for the pirates victims!*)

**Page 177 QUESTION: What or who is the Cardinal Bird named after?**

ANSWER: The bright red bird, much beloved in the United States, owes its name to the equally bright red-robed officials of the Catholic Church. The Catholic Cardinals got their name from the adjective ‘cardinal’ which means ‘important’ or ‘that on which something depends,’ from the Latin ‘cardo,’ or ‘hinge.’ They started wearing these distinctive red robes in the thirteenth century, not to be self important, but when Pope Innocent IV proposed they wear red cloaks and red hats as a symbol of their willingness to shed blood for their faith. (*Would they – and we - still?*)

**Page 179 QUESTION: What is a ‘red dog’?**

ANSWER: It all depends! If you're talking about American football, a ‘red dog’ is an old term for a gridiron play in which defensive players rush the quarterback for a quick tackle. (Called a ‘blitz’ today.) In finance, ‘red dog’ was a nineteenth-century term for a kind of bank note stamped with red

ink. At cards, a 'red dog' is a game in which each player holds five cards and bets that he holds the higher card than the top card remaining on the deck. Finally, 'red dog' or 'red dog flour' refers to the lowest grade of flour in milling, which is generally used to feed farm animals. *(Black, brown and white dogs now feel quite left out!)*

**Page 181 QUESTION: Is May Day a pagan holiday or a worker' s holiday?**

ANSWER: It is both. For May Day began as an ancient celebration of the return of the sun after a long, hard winter. It was also called 'Beltane,' meaning 'bright fire' by the Anglo-Saxons and Celts ('Bel' was a Celtic god of the sun). So May Day symbolised a return to life after a season of cold and was celebrated with a joyous festival and included dancing around the May Pole. *(Not much work is done on May Day!)*

**Page 183 QUESTION: Why do mockingbirds mimic other birds?**

ANSWER: To attract the opposite sex! The female likes to hear a wide repertoire of up to 30 songs at a time. But she's not fooled by them, for they are sufficiently different from the originals for her to know that they are coming from her suitor. *(That's not mocking his talent either.)*

**Page 186 QUESTION: What and when is Universal Children' s Day?**

ANSWER: Every day! But International Children' s Day, November 20, is celebrated as the international day for children. The United Nations General Assembly recommended in 1954 that all countries institute a Universal Children' s Day. The holiday is to be observed as a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children and of activity promoting the welfare of children around the globe. The particular day arose as November 20 was the day on which the Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, in 1959, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in 1989. *(Adults rights don't seem to feature.)*

**Page 188 QUESTION: What do you call a group of turtles?**

ANSWER: Often called a 'herd', but the correct collective term is a 'bale' of turtles. *(Turtles are very particular about this!)*

**Page 190 QUESTION: What is a 'Limey'?**

ANSWER: Webster's Dictionary defines 'Limey' as 'slang for a British sailor, so-named because of the enforced consumption of lime juice in the navy to combat the scourge of scurvy.' Scurvy was a disease caused by deficiency of vitamin C, characterised by spongy and bleeding gums, bleeding under the skin, and extreme weakness. It wasn't until the eighteenth century that Dr. James Lind figured out that scurvy wasn't caused by what sailors ate, but by what they didn't! Fresh fruits and vegetables. Dr. Lind studied sailors with scurvy - so weak they could barely stand up and near death's door as far as one could tell and how they would remarkably recover in a few days by eating citrus fruits which are full of Vitamin C, as we now know. (*'Cor blimey, it's a 'limey'.*)

**Page 192 ANSWER: Why is the Dead Sea so salty?**

ANSWER: It's just like the bigger oceans. Water from rivers and streams feeds into it but no water drains out of it. The only way water can leave is through evaporation. And as the water evaporates, the salt is left behind. (*'Sink or swim' doesn't apply here – for you can't sink and it is difficult to swim in because of the buoyancy.*)

**Page 194 QUESTION: Why do fawns have spots?**

ANSWER: Fawns are wobbly-legged and vulnerable to predators. Their spots help them out a bit by making them less visible. Because they often hunt in dim light, predators have specialised eyes that are sensitive to motion, but poor at distinguishing colours, details, and shapes. So a spotted fawn sitting quietly in the leaves is virtually invisible to the eyes of potential attackers. Fortunately, fawns know instinctively to stay still when danger lurks nearby. Fawns are further protected by their almost complete lack of odour as during the first two weeks of their lives, they're scentless. When they grow up, they no longer need their spots. As adults, they instead rely upon their speed and acute senses to avoid attack. (*Why do teenagers have spots?*)

**Page 197 QUESTION: What is the fastest time someone has climbed 102 flights of stairs?**

ANSWER: The fastest time, at least in 1999, is 10 minutes, 15 seconds. The person who made that record was participating in a contest sponsored by the Empire State Building. He had to climb up a total of 1,860 steps to make it from street level to the 102nd floor. The average person climbing one stair every 2 seconds would take 1 hour and 2 minutes! *(Maybe you could try beating this record?)*

**Page 198 QUESTION: When did Mother' s Day first come into being?**

ANSWER: Mother' s Day was first suggested by Julia WardHowe, a Woman's Suffrage leader, and also author of 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic,' in 1872. She envisioned it as a day to celebrate peace and wanted it to be June 2. In 1907, West Virginian Anna Jarvis began serious campaigning for a 'Mother' s Day' to be held the second Sunday in May. Woodrow Wilson approved this as a national holiday in 1915 in the US and since then it has spread around the world. *(What mother doesn't want peace?)*

**Page 199 QUESTION: Can your eyes pop out when you sneeze?**

ANSWER: It's simply not possible. For you can't keep your eyes open during a sneeze. The reflex to close them is too great. *(Try it out for yourself! You can have one of my sneezes, for I have plenty to share.)*

## THE FINAL, NOT SO TRIVIAL, WORD.....

I trust you have both enjoyed and absorbed the *wisdom*? of this world, having worked your way through the previous 229 pages of sometimes cryptic combinations of the wonderful Roman Alphabet, perfectly designed for Latin, but painfully adapted to the more complex English language we have inherited from our forefathers. As you have done so, you will inevitably also have got to learn a little more about me, David John Tait, of Napier, New Zealand. Born.... No that's still my secret! But you can probably work it out, close enough!

Like all of us, I am simply an extraordinary, ordinary person with strengths and failings, as indeed we all are. For no two of us are alike which makes us extraordinary, yet whether we admit it or not, we all have the need to be loved and accepted as being worthwhile people, which in itself makes us all very ordinary and alike.

We can seek recognition, love and understanding through the myriad of alternatives that the world constantly barrages us with, through the all-pervasive advertising avalanche, or more simply, through family and friends, if we are fortunate enough to have them.

As you have read through these paper pages, I hope, indeed expect, that you will have picked up the that I am also a member of a larger family, one that has up to a billion members on earth right now, plus countless others throughout history. And we are all related to the one man, Jesus. Not through genealogical birth, for He had no wife or children, but through a spiritual rebirth, available to all of us who simply request it of Him. His fellowship is waiting for us all, those fortunate enough to live in a loving human family and those too, who are friendless and purposeless in life.

We don't have to be perfect, for none of us are, but simply available. As followers of Jesus, we aren't perfect either, as many of you may have experienced through Christians you have met or seen. But we do have the hope and confidence that one-day we will be, and so will live with our Jesus in paradise forever.

Many people have the idea that Christians are all very serious and don't have any fun! I hope that reading this book has removed that misconception! For when I asked Jesus into my life, I found a release, a freedom and enjoyment of living, far greater than anything I had ever experienced previously. Sure, I still have my problems - you may well have picked up on some of them. But I have a friend, guide and counsellor who helps me through each and every day.

Now I am blessed to travel the world and share what He done for me and for you, and to have fun and huge satisfaction in doing it! I can now be a 'minister' yet write trivia and joke, as well as deeper spiritual books! My God is so big! If you would like to know more about Him I would love to help you. Feel free to contact me by email, david@wwj.org.nz any time. Or else ask another Christian. Tell them a brother told you to! May God bless you and you bless God!