

Page of "Whys"?

An answer to all the "embarrassing" questions
children ask



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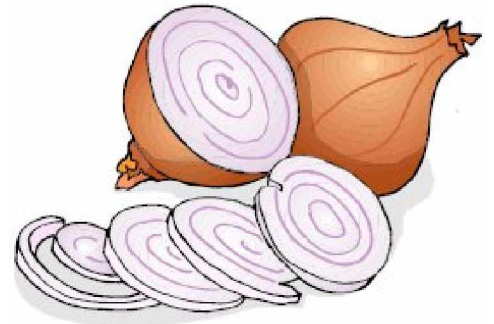
An answer to all the "embarrassing" questions children ask

f Why do plants always grow upwards?

f How do chicken put shells around their eggs?

f Why do onions make us cry?

When onions are cut, they release a chemical substance which has a very strong irritating power. When this comes into contact with our eyes, they immediately start to water, because tears are a defense and are used to dilute the acid released by the onions.



f Is it true that sowing must always be done when there is a full moon?

Ancient Romans strongly believed in the influence of the moon on agricultural phases and still today many farmers follow the movements of the moon when they sow and cultivate plants. However, studies carried out by experts have shown that the moon doesn't have an effect on agriculture.



f When Mummy makes bread, why does bread expand?

When Mummy makes bread, pasta or cakes, she uses water, flour, salt and, at the end, she adds yeast, which contains some organisms which ferment and consume the sugar and amid in the flour. In addition, when these organisms reproduce, they release a gas called carbon dioxide, which causes the bread to expand.



f Why is grass green?

All plants contain a substance called pigments. In grass, for example, there is chlorophyll which, thanks to the light of the sun, transforms the carbon dioxide of the air and the hydrogen in the water into "food" for itself. It is thanks to chlorophyll that grass becomes green.

f Why does bread become hard?

Bread is made out of flour, water, salt and yeast. Despite the heat which the oven releases when it is cooking, when it comes out of the oven, it still has some particles of water which give fresh bread its elasticity. Slowly, however, the particles of water evaporate, and this makes bread turn hard.

f Why do snails leave a trail behind them?

Snails are molluscs with an elongated limp body; their feet aren't clearly separated from their bodies, to the point that they appear to creep along the ground rather than walk. To keep their bodies moist, snails secretes multicoloured and viscous mucus that enables them to climb up surfaces with any inclination.



f Why do fish have "spines" and other animals don't?

If we mean a cat or a bird when we talk of "animals", then it is just a matter of what words we use. The spines (or fishbone) are really just the bones of fish. In water, fish don't need big and hard bones to stand up on two feet, as we do who live on the earth. However, big fish do have big spines which are like bones. Biologists can explain how during man's evolution our bones (we are animals too!) originated from fishbone.



f Why do flowers have a scent?

Flowers, like other parts of the plant, produce very complex chemical substances, called essential oils. These are found inside the petals or nectar of flowers. The main reason for their presence is to attract pollinating insects, but in some cases they are needed to protect plants from parasites or to form a veil of water vapour around the plant to protect it from losing too much water.

f Do fish drink water?

Most species of fish let water in through their mouths and then extract the oxygen through their gills. Salt-water fish need to drink continually to compensate for the loss of water which occurs through their skin and gills. Fresh water fish, on the other hand, don't lose much liquid precisely because the water they live in isn't very salty.



f Why do bees make honey?

Bees focus on gathering nectar and pollen only during the last period of their lives. A harvester bee brings back little balls of pollen, ½ cm wide, to its beehive. Nectar is placed in the mouths of younger bees, which lick it to make the water evaporate and to transform it. It is then deposited in cells; after having lost a lot of its water, it becomes very thick honey. This will then be nourishment for larvae, the Queen Bee and the drones - the Queen's husbands.

f Why are ants prudent?



Ants are insects which live in huge, well-organised, communities. Each ant has a specific mission: harvesters gather lots of seeds during the summer, which will be eaten in periods of great aridity and scarcity. The "intelligent" forms of behaviour are instinctive actions animals have and which are the result of fighting for survival..



f Are artichokes flowers?

Yes, in fact if they were left to grow, without cutting them, they would become big flowers. But the fruit of artichokes is an excellent food with many good qualities, both for the liver's functions and for the cure and beauty of the skin.

f What is royal jelly?

Royal jelly is the "food" of the Queen Bee. It is made by bees, and is an excellent revitaliser.

f Why do some animals hibernate in winter?

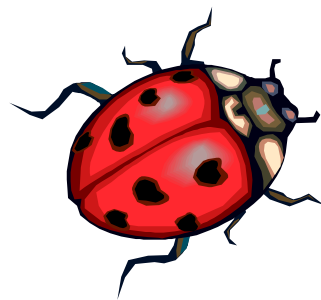
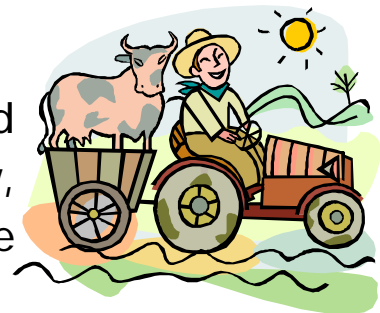
The word "lethargy" comes from Greek and means "state of torpor, similar to a deep sleep". Some animals fall into a state of lethargy in order to survive the cold temperatures of the winter. In fact, they fall into a state of hibernation, when they spend very little energy and use the body fat they accumulated during summer.

The funniest answers given by children



- White sheep make milk, but black sheep don't do anything.

- Farmers get up early in the morning and are happy, go to work and are happy, come back home when it is dark and are still happy.



- Ladybirds are very useful insects for agriculture because they bring good luck.

- Cotton grows on sheep.
- A chicken has many thighs.