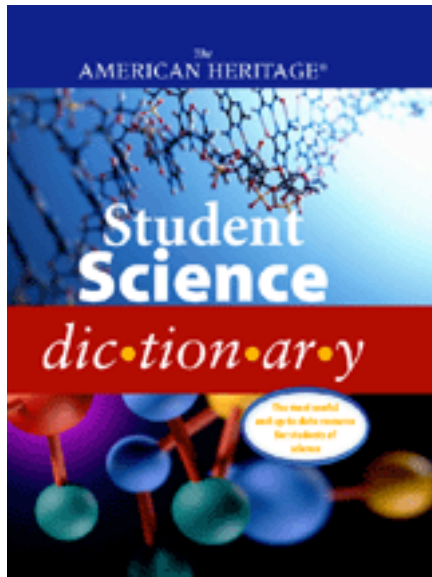


Science Quiz



The American Heritage® Student Science Dictionary

by Editors of The American Heritage Dictionaries

***The American Heritage® Student Science Dictionary* Editors Have Devised A Fun and Informative Test of Science Literacy**

With science literacy in the United States on the slide, the editors of *The American Heritage® Student Science Dictionary* have developed a science quiz to help students and their parents evaluate how science savvy they are. In sixteen short multiple-choice questions, kids and adults can test themselves — and one another.

"We hope that students, their parents, and teachers will sit down and take the quiz together," says *The American Heritage® Student Science Dictionary* project editor Vali Tamm. "We couldn't cover all areas of science in such a short quiz, but hope this test will motivate students and adults to improve their knowledge of science, and help them develop the skills for finding the answers they might not know."

1. Cell division involving reproductive cells is called

- A. mitosis
- B. meiosis
- C. fission
- D. budding

2. The protein responsible for the red color of the blood is

- A. globulin
- B. amylase
- C. histidine
- D. hemoglobin

3. Which of these structures is not made of keratin?

- A. hair
- B. a goat's horns
- C. a crab shell
- D. fingernails

4. A typical plant cell contains all of the following except

- A. a cell wall
- B. a large central vacuole
- C. chloroplasts
- D. centrioles

5. The portion of the vertebrate brain that controls voluntary movement is known as

- A. the cerebrum
- B. the midbrain
- C. the thalamus
- D. the cerebellum

6. A cactus's spines are

- A. wood
- B. leaves
- C. stem
- D. parasites

7. The difference between an object's mass and its weight is that

- A. an object's mass is lighter than its weight
- B. an object's mass has more energy than its weight
- C. an object's mass is easier to accelerate than its weight
- D. an object's mass is independent of gravity

8. A pit viper is so called because

- A. it loves to sleep in pits
- B. it has a hollow beneath its chin, where it conceals its fangs
- C. it has a heat-sensing hole beneath each eye
- D. it eats the pits of fruit

9. If you had an ovipositor you would be

- A. a female insect
- B. a male insect
- C. an electric eel
- D. a sheep

10. The discoverer of the principle of buoyancy was

- A. Sir Francis Crick
- B. Sir Francis Chichester
- C. Sir Francis Bacon
- D. Archimedes

11. What do bacteria lack that almost all other cells have?

- A. an electric current
- B. a cell nucleus
- C. DNA
- D. amino acids

12. Which of the following is not true about quasars?

- A. they are among the most distant celestial objects known, and some are more than ten billion light-years away
- B. many astronomers believe that the source of a quasar's energy is a huge black hole rotating at the center of a young galaxy
- C. the light they emit appears blue because of the Doppler effect, showing that the universe is contracting
- D. one of these objects can be a trillion times brighter than the sun

13. What causes a black hole to form?

- A. a star the size of the sun consumes all the fuel in its core and burns out
- B. the fabric of space-time rips, opening a portal to another dimension
- C. two stars collide in a giant explosion known as a supernova
- D. a large star's core collapses to become so dense that its gravitational pull keeps light from escaping

14. Which of the following is NOT measured in degrees?

- A. the latitude or longitude of the Earth's surface
- B. the depth of water in the ocean
- C. temperature
- D. an angle or an arc of a circle

15. The basic unit of mass in the metric system is the

- A. watt
- B. meter
- C. liter
- D. kilogram

16. How did Galen come up with his theories about the structure and functions of the human body?

- A. by dissecting the human body
- B. by dissecting animals
- C. he read a lot of encyclopedias about it
- D. they came to him in a dream

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