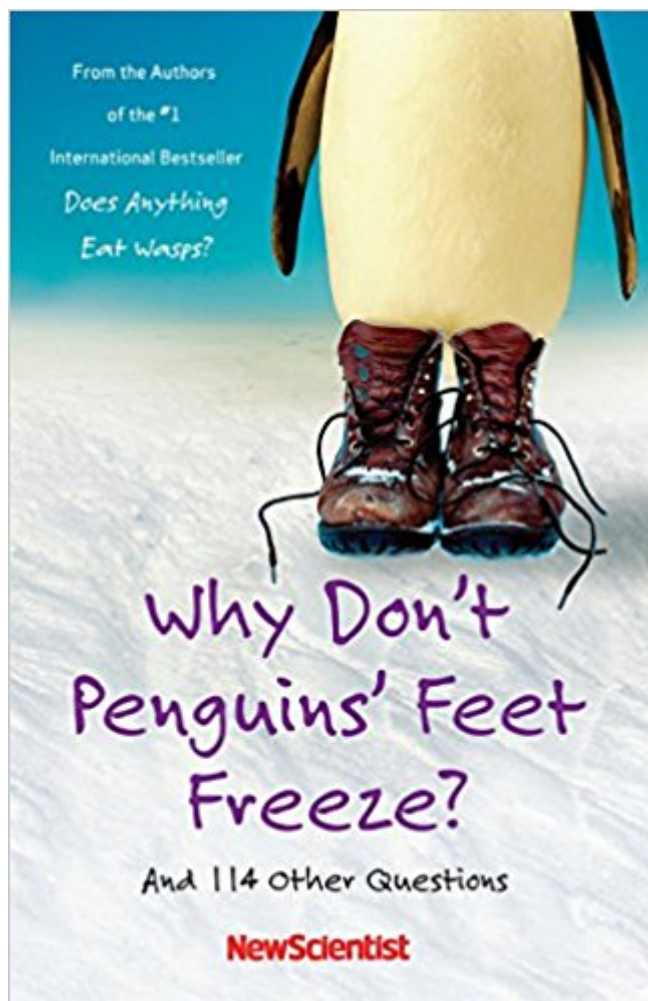


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Why Don't Penguins' Feet Freeze?: And 114 Other Questions



Synopsis

What time is it at the North Pole? What's the chemical formula for a human being? Why do boomerangs come back? Why do flying fish fly? Do the living really outnumber the dead? Why does lightning fork? Why does the end of a whip crack? Everyone has at one time or another thought up odd questions like these, questions that are strange, intriguing, maybe even impossible to answer. Making your morning omelet, perhaps you've wondered why most eggs are egg shaped. Or maybe, the last time you walked on the beach, you felt compelled to ask why the sea is salty. Watching Polly sit on her perch, have you ever marveled at how she stays there -- even when she's asleep? Well, the readers of New Scientist's wildly popular, long-running column "The Last Word" thought of these questions, too, and weren't afraid to ask them. Why Don't Penguins' Feet Freeze? is a brilliant collection of questions and answers for everyone who enjoyed the international, runaway bestseller Does Anything Eat Wasps? Guaranteed to amaze, inform, and delight with topics such as the human body, plants and animals, weird weather, and our wacky world, it'll stump you, enlighten you, entertain and amuse you.

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Customer Reviews

A sequel of sorts to the bestselling Does Anything Eat Wasps?, this compilation of readers' questions and answers published in "The Last Word" column of New Scientist Magazine prove there really is no such thing as a stupid question: reader questions "Why is nasal mucus often green?"

The latest collection of "Last Words" columns from New Scientist magazine, in which experts in

various fields responds to readers' questions, is entertaining and enlightening. Sorted into several categories--"Our Bodies," "Weird Weather," etc.--the questions deal mainly with everyday matters. Why do we sneeze when we emerge from the shade into the light? (Theories vary.) Why do our knuckles make that sound when we crack them? (Bubbles of nitrogen gas popping in the joints.) Why do we cry when we slice an onion? (Amino acids are released into the air, acting as an irritant.) We learn a lot of interesting stuff, and it's surprising how many common questions have no definitive answer: for example, hot water either does or does not freeze faster than cold water, depending on whom you listen to. Trivia nuts, especially fans of the earlier book *Does Anything Eat Wasps?* (2006), not to mention David Feldman's long-running *Imponderables* series, will eat this one up.

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A fun read for the knowledge and comprehension based crowd. Some of those overlooked questions... answered. Please sir, may I have another book?

A pure delight

fun book

the book is one of those that answers some of life's little questions that sometimes gets overlooked. My boy loved it, with me reading some of the factoids for him before bed. Like Karl Kruzelinski's books, they're fun as well as informative. a good read for young and old

It's a book, what does one say about a product like this. I wanted one and I now have it

This is a great addition to New Scientist's set of scientific inquiry books. Full of answers to questions I've posed to myself while bored and some I wasn't creative enough to think of alone, I thoroughly enjoyed reading a few entries in the book each night before going to bed. The editors have done a good job of parsing through the debate surrounding some questions and provide mostly fair and complete answers. There is a thread of humor throughout the book that can almost go unnoticed, but you're bound to find yourself smiling sometimes whether you know it or not. I recommend this book to anyone with a sense of humor and inquiring mind.

Fantastic book. Great for Grand Kids. Kids always have questions and now they have answers!

Who says Grandparents can't stay in their kids lives?

The 'New Scientist' is a weekly magazine, first published in 1956, that covers the recent happenings in the scientific world. In 1994, the magazine launched a new column called "The Last Word" in which its driven by its readers - not all of whom are geeks in white coats. Here, they could not only pose a science-related question, but also provide the answers. In 2005, a selection of the questions asked and answered were gathered together for "Does Anything Eat Wasps ?" - a book that elbowed its way to the upper ends of the UK's bestseller's list. Unsurprisingly, with a great deal of material still available, New Scientist decided to follow it up with "Why Don't Penguin's Feet Freeze ?". The book is divided into chapters, depending on the focus of the questions selected - our bodies, plants and animals, and weird weather for example. While the book is informative, it is equally as likely to raise a smile - the overall tone is not that of a difficult, highbrow scientific paper. Some of the questions that are dealt with include : "Why do birds never fall off their perches when sleeping ?", "Fish don't fart, why is this ?", "Why doesn't superglue stick to the inside of the tube ?", "What time is it at the North Pole ?" and - from a nine year old boy - "Is it a coincidence that a human finger fits exactly into a human nostril ?" An enjoyable and informative book - it's one I tend to dip into once in a while, rather than reading it from cover to cover.

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