10 Dinner-Table Questions

Ages 6–8

Read a question. Everyone writes or says a guess. Who was closest?

1. **Why do cats purr?** My guess: _____
2. **Do fish sleep?** My guess: _____
3. **Why are flamingos pink?** My guess: _____
4. **Why does the Moon change shape?** My guess: _____
5. **Why do stars twinkle?** My guess: _____
6. **Why do we yawn?** My guess: _____
7. **Why do we get goosebumps?** My guess: _____
8. **Why is the sea salty?** My guess: _____
9. **Why is the sky blue?** My guess: _____
10. **Why do leaves change color in fall?** My guess: _____

10 Dinner-Table Questions: answers

Ages 6–8

For grown-ups: the answers, and the page we checked each one against.

1. **Why do cats purr?**
   Cats purr with muscles in their throat. Many purr when petted or fed.
   Source: Scientific American: Why do cats purr?

2. **Do fish sleep?**
   Fish don't sleep the way we do. But most fish do rest.
   Source: NOAA Ocean Service: Do fish sleep?

3. **Why are flamingos pink?**
   Flamingos turn pink from their food! They eat algae and tiny brine shrimp.
   Source: Smithsonian's National Zoo: Why are flamingos pink?

4. **Why does the Moon change shape?**
   The Moon doesn't really change shape. The Sun always lights up half of it.
   Source: NASA Space Place: Moon phases

5. **Why do stars twinkle?**
   Stars don't really blink. Their light passes through moving air around Earth.
   Source: NASA Science: Why have a telescope in space?

6. **Why do we yawn?**
   Nobody knows for sure! Scientists have a few good ideas.
   Source: Ask A Biologist, Arizona State University: Why do we yawn?

7. **Why do we get goosebumps?**
   Each hair on your skin has a tiny muscle. When you're cold, those muscles squeeze.
   Source: Ask Dr. Universe, Washington State University: Why do we get goosebumps?

8. **Why is the sea salty?**
   Rain slowly wears away tiny bits of rock. Rivers carry those bits to the sea.
   Source: NOAA Ocean Service: Why is the ocean salty?

9. **Why is the sky blue?**
   Sunlight has all the colors mixed together. The air bounces the light around.
   Source: NASA Space Place: Why is the sky blue?

10. **Why do leaves change color in fall?**
    Leaves are green because of something called chlorophyll. In fall, the days get shorter and cooler.
    Source: University of Wisconsin–Madison Extension: Leaf color change in autumn