Why Questions for Kids

Guess first. Then check page 3.



Max: Look up! There is no paint up there, but the sky is blue. Why?

1. My guess: _____



Rita: It is the same Sun all year, but winter is cold and summer is hot. Why do we have seasons?

2. My guess: _____



Toby: Last week the Moon was a thin smile. Tonight it is a big round plate. Why does the Moon change shape?

3. My guess: _____



Leo: The big tree in the park was green all summer. Now it is yellow and orange. Why?

4. My guess: _____



Sherlock: The pond is fresh water, but the ocean tastes salty. Why is the sea salty?

5. My guess: _____

Five more, detective

Write *a* guess before you look.



Max: I saw the flash first and heard the boom later. Why does thunder come after lightning?

6. My guess: _____



Rita: It rained, then the Sun came out, and there it was: a rainbow! Why do rainbows appear?

7. My guess: _____



Toby: Every fall, many birds fly far away for the winter. Why do birds migrate?

8. My guess: _____



Leo: There is an ice cube floating in my iced tea. Why does ice float?

9. My guess: _____



Sherlock: An owl can look behind itself without moving its feet. How? Why can an owl turn its head so far?

10. My guess: _____

Answers

1. Air scatters short blue light all around the sky more than the other colors, so blue reaches your eyes from everywhere.

2. Earth is tilted, so different parts of it get the Sun's direct rays at different times of the year. It is the tilt, not the distance.

3. The Moon looks different because the Sun always lights half of it, and we see more or less of the lit half as the Moon goes around Earth.

4. Green comes from chlorophyll. In fall it breaks down, and the yellow and orange colors that were hidden under the green show up.

5. Rain is slightly acidic, so it wears away rocks on land. Rivers carry the salts it frees into the sea.

6. Light travels much faster than sound, so you see the flash first and hear the boom later.

7. Sunlight bends going into a raindrop, bounces off the back, and bends again going out. Each color bends a different amount, so they spread apart.

8. Many birds migrate so they can keep finding enough food.

9. Ice is less dense than liquid water, because of the way its molecules are arranged in ice. Less dense things float, so ice floats.

10. An owl can turn its head about 270 degrees, which is not all the way around. Its eyes are fixed in their sockets, so it turns its head to look.