

Who, What, How, Where, When



WHAT IS SPIEGELEISEN?



WHO WAS HUMBOLDT?



WHAT IS A SOVIET?

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THOMAS A. EDISON is getting to be a regular sphinx—the Greek kind, not the Egyptian. Nobody, it appears, has yet discovered the purpose of the Egyptian sphinx. But the sphinx of Thebes, in Beotia, according to the legend, was wont to propose a riddle to all passers-by and to destroy them if they failed to answer. Still, Mr. Edison isn't just like this Greek sphinx. To be sure, he's been asking puzzling questions of all who read, but instead of destroying anybody he gives jobs to those who answer—provided they are college graduates.

And Mr. Edison and the sphinx are different in another way; the sphinx asked this easy question: "What creature walks in the morning upon four feet, at noon upon two and at evening on three?" That's easy compared with some of Mr. Edison's questions in his second questionnaire. Here are two questions, for example:

"You have only \$10 in the world, and are playing poker with a man you have never seen before. On the first deal he holds a pat hand. You have three eights after the draw. There is 50 cents in the pot. He bets a quarter. What are you going to do, and why?"

"What is spiegeleisen?"

"Now, it's easy to give an exact answer to the second, because the substance mentioned is white cast-iron containing manganese. But what's the answer to the first question? Is there any answer that can be upheld as better than any other answer? Probably four poker players would give as many answers.

The New York Tribune answers the poker question and says the reply "is probably as good as any to be found anywhere. It is one of the few questions to which expert knowledge was applied. The answer represents the refined judgment of the foremost poker players of the Tribune's staff. Here's the answer:

"If we had only \$10 in the world, Mr. Edison would never catch us in a poker game, even with our own blood relatives. Assuming that the question is not to be answered this way, it seems obvious that no poker player in such a position should pay a quarter to call a pat hand with only 50 cents in the pot. We would remark casually 'I believe you, brother,' and wait to see what the next deal would bring forth."

Well, the question now is how much do the foremost poker players of the Tribune's staff know about poker?

The Tribune, however, appears to be more successful in answering questions that can be answered. A good many inquisitive persons, including a considerable part of its staff, devoted hours of valuable time to answering the 150 questions in the second questionnaire, though it is specifically stated that no guarantee goes with the answers. Here are some of the other questions, together with the Tribune's informative and otherwise interesting answers:

Q. Suppose a certain low form of animal brought forth a single offspring once each hour and that the offspring reproduced at the same rate as the parent, starting as soon as it was one hour old, how long would it take to get four in the fourth generation—i. e., four great-grandchildren of the parent? (The parent counts as the first generation and the first offspring comes at the end of the first hour. All the animals live.) A.—Four hours. Page Mrs. Sanger.

Q.—Why should one masticate their food properly? A.—The process of mastication is an aid to digestion, but it may be suggested to Mr. Edison that if "one" attempts mastication of "their" food the damage which is done to the Book of Elementary Grammar is even more serious than the damage done to the stomach when one neglects to masticate his food properly.

Q.—How was the planet Neptune discovered and by whom? A.—Neptune was discovered through its action upon the planet Uranus, before it had been actually observed. Sir William Herschel turned the trick.

Q.—Why did Mme. Curie lately come to America? A.—To receive a gift of \$100,000 worth of radium from her American admirers.

Q.—Francis, marks, thalers are worth only a fraction of their former value in terms of United States money. Is this an advantage to this country? A.—Yes and no. It's a great arrangement for Americans who are buying things from Europe, but it hurts export trade.

Q.—How come he ain't seen you was not home? Write this in correct English. A.—How did it happen that he failed to see that you were not home?

Q.—You are a salesman making every effort to get an order from a big manufacturer who is married to an unusually jealous wife. One evening you see this prospective customer dining in a restaurant with a chorus girl. What would you do? A.—Nothing.

Q.—Name two of the principal salt-producing localities of the United States? A.—New York, Michigan.

Q.—Do you know approximately what a membership in the New York stock exchange costs? A.—\$100,000.

Q.—Who discovered the radium ray? A.—The Curies, of Paris, in 1898. Professor Becquerel discovered the rays of uranium salts in 1896.

Q.—Where is the Alhambra? A.—Granada, Spain.

Q.—Who wrote the story "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"? A.—Edgar Allan Poe.

Q.—In what mountains 600 miles from New York are there some 2,000 Indians? A.—The Adirondacks, where the five tribes of the Iroquois live.

Q.—What is black ink made of? A.—Ferrous sulphate and nutgalls, combined with gum and water.

Q.—Name the capital of Peru. A.—Lima.

Q.—Who built the first steamboat? A.—John Fitch.

Q.—Where do we get most of our asbestos? A.—Quebec.

Q.—What materials are used on the sides of boxes containing safety matches, by means of which the matches are ignited? A.—Phosphorus and sand. The match heads contain chlorate of potash.

Q.—Name the elements of which our atmosphere is composed. A.—Oxygen, nitrogen, argon, krypton, helium, neon, xenon.

Q.—Who invented the telescope? A.—Hans Lippershey, a Dutch spectacle-maker, in 1608.

Q.—What breed of cow is the greatest milk-producer? A.—Holstein.

Q.—What liquid is used in fire extinguishers for putting out gasoline fires? A.—Carbon dioxide.

Q.—Name two northern states that grow large quantities of tobacco. A.—Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

Q.—Who was Kit Carson? A.—Hunter and guide. Served under Fremont.

Q.—Is the president of the United States elected

by popular vote? A.—No, he is chosen by the electoral college.

Q.—Of what use is a swimming bladder in fishes? A.—Enables them to maintain equilibrium.

Q.—What is liquid air? How is it made? A.—Atmosphere reduced from its natural gaseous state to a liquid condition. It is made by forcing compressed air into a triple copper coil and reducing the surrounding temperature to the point of liquefaction.

Q.—What is a loadstone? A.—Magnetic iron ore; magnetite.

Q.—What is the lowest form of life? A.—The one-celled amoeba.

Q.—State briefly the necessary requirements for a manufacturing executive? A.—A thorough knowledge of his product, a complete acquaintance with the market for his product and for the raw materials of which it is made; ability to direct his employees to efficient effort, and to make rapid and accurate judgment in emergency.

Q.—What is an antiseptic? Name four commonly used. A.—An agency which destroys the microorganisms of disease; carbolic acid, chlorinated lime, corrosive sublimate, mercuric chloride.

Q.—On what part of the western hemisphere did Columbus land? A.—San Salvador, or Watling Island, off the coast of Cuba.

Q.—What is 212 degrees Fahrenheit on the centigrade scale? A.—100 degrees.

Q.—How did the name America originate? A.—From Americus Vesputius, an Italian explorer.

Q.—Who wrote the following books: "Vanity Fair," "Pickwick Papers," "Huckleberry Finn," "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse"? A.—William Makepeace Thackeray, Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, Vicente Blasco Ibanez.

Q.—What three letters occur most frequently in the English language? A.—E, t and a.

Q.—What is a Soviet? A.—A labor organization holding political administrative powers.

Q.—Who are the Igorotes? A.—According to the Encyclopedia Britannica the correct spelling, Mr. Edison, is Igorotes. They are negroid inhabitants of the Philippine Islands, who originally were immigrants from Malaysia.

Q.—What was the spark that started the World war in 1914? A.—The assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, at Sarajevo, Serbia.

Q.—Can you name four localities where civilization existed in 3000 B. C.? A.—China, Crete, Egypt and Mesopotamia.

Q.—What is a shooting star? A.—A small meteor, caused by a conglomeration of meteoric matter coming into contact with the earth's atmosphere.

Q.—Why is it necessary to rotate crops? A.—To avoid extracting from the soil the elements necessary to the growth of any single crop.

Q.—Who was Humboldt? A.—A celebrated German scientist, naturalist and author.

Q.—A man goes to a lake with a three-gallon and a five-gallon measure. How could he measure out exactly four gallons (using no marks on the can)? A.—Fill the three-gallon can. Empty the three-gallon can into the five-gallon can. Fill the three-gallon can again. Fill the five-gallon can from the three-gallon can. One gallon is left in the three-gallon can. Empty the five-gallon can. Pour the contents of the three-gallon can into the five-gallon can. Fill the three-gallon can again, and pour the contents into the five-gallon can. This gives you four gallons in the five-gallon can.

Q.—Why is it necessary for us to breathe? A.—In order to supply oxygen to the blood.

Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

MARY GRAHAM BONNER

ANIMAL PARK

"They think they're important, and they think correctly," said the Lion.

"Yes," said the Leopard, "that is right."

"What are you talking about now?" asked the Hyena.

"Well," said the Lion, "they have an announcement. An announcement is like a notice, you know. And this one is about us. They're letting the people know when we're fed so they can come and see us. They're telling the visitors that the Lions and the Tigers and the Leopards, and the Hyenas, the Chimpanzees and some of the rest of us are all fed in our house, the Lion House, named in honor of us, at half-past one each day. That is our breakfast, dinner and supper combined—which means that it is our breakfast, dinner and supper all in one.

"They also say that the Tigers and ourselves are not fed on Sunday, for it is good for our health not to be fed each day, or rather to have one day in the week when we give—or the keepers give—our tummies a rest. The other animals are fed here at the same time on Sundays.

"Then they say that the Bears and the Sea-Lions have breakfast at eight in the morning and dinner at three in



"The Children Have Pretty Stripes."

the afternoon. It is said that the Monkeys have breakfast at nine-thirty, for they do not care to breakfast too early in the morning. They have their dinner at three in the afternoon, too. The Wolves have one meal a day at quarter after one, which is their dinner, while the Birds are fed at half-past two in the afternoon, though of course they get little odd meals all the time. It is true," the Lion continued, "that most of us get those, too, and the Birds always have water to drink, and so it is.

"But still people do not speak of their little odd meals but only of their main meals, and so I have done the same, and these main meals are the ones they've invited the visitors to come and see us eat. Well, I think it is pretty fine. It shows that we're of great importance."

"No one goes to see people eat. They couldn't gather a crowd about them. It is the animals that the people come to see.

"Yes, it is our meal time they come to see. Ah, how interesting that is to think that the people come to see us eat, and yet they couldn't get us to go and see them eat even if we were free. And they couldn't even get each other to view such a performance, I'm sure."

So the Lion talked.

In another part of the Animal Park Mrs. Hippopotamus was talking to her young son.

"You were a fine swimmer from the moment you were born, and you're going to be generous with your portions as we all are. By that I mean that you, too, will have a great huge mouth and great, enormous feet, and a mighty body. There won't be anything small and mean about you. You'll be generous in your size. And that is the proper spirit, the proper spirit, indeed."

In yet another part of the Animal Park the African Elephant was talking to the Indian Elephant.

"It's mostly a matter of ears," the African Elephant said. "My ears are much larger than yours and I am larger, too, but you're more usual. By that I mean to say that there seem to be more of you about in parks and circuses."

"I'm glad of it," said the Indian Elephant, "for I am quite sociable by nature."

"The Tapirs, too, were talking. They are strange looking, but perhaps they look more like seals than any other creatures. 'The children have pretty stripes when they're born, which they lose before they're grown-up Tapirs,' they said. But then they talked no more, for there was beginning to be a slight rainstorm and they wanted to enjoy the fun of it.

Following Orders.

Going into his stable one day, a Rogers Park man found his little son, with a slate and pencil in his hand, astride one of the horses.

"Why, Eddie," he exclaimed, "what in the world are you doing?"

"Writing a composition," replied little Eddie.

"Well, why don't you write it in the library?" asked his father.

"Because," answered Eddie, "the teacher told us to write a composition on a horse."

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