

Best regards,
Editorial Staff

Would You Rather

Riti Gudoor

There are lots of games in the world, like Scrabble, Twister, and Monopoly. But all of those would be hard to play via a newspaper. So I've picked a relatively simple game. If you haven't played the game before, you just choose one of the options. If you haven't guessed the game, it's Would You Rather (It says it in the title!). Some days it will be easier to choose, some harder. If you would like to see how much percentage voted for each choice, make sure to submit your answer in the Google form below and wait for the percentages to come out next issue! This month's question is: **Would you rather have infinite time or infinite money?** Time is rare, but money is fun! The choice is up to you. Then we'll announce the percentages in the next issue.

*Infinite
time or
Money?*

Would You Rather Poll

How Much Does the US Spend on Christmas

Saeed Kadam



Christmas has always been a special time of year. A time that you spend with your closest friends and family. A time when you buy gifts for your loved ones. But have you ever thought about how much everyone is spending during this season?

In 2019 the US spent \$716.7 billion during the Christmas season which was a 3.6% increase from the previous year. Even though Covid was in full swing it didn't stop anyone from keeping the Christmas spirit alive. Christmas sales increased by \$66.7 billion in 2020 which was shocking.

Then in 2021 the number rose 13.5% coming to a total of \$889.3 billion. Surprisingly, even after we were locked in and told to stay home or be extremely careful going out, the number spent on Christmas increased more than ever. Looking back in 2008 or 2009, the number was only around \$501 - \$502.7 billion.

For more information, read here! <https://explodingtopics.com/blog/christmas-spending-stats>



Inventions and innovations

Thomas Raymond

Have you ever heard someone say when you think of an idea, “keep dreaming”, or “dream on”, which technically is supposed to be an insult? Well, keep dreaming. “If you set your mind to it, you can accomplish anything.”- Marty McFly, *Back to the Future*. This is true, take a look at some people who have made things that seem right out of your wildest dreams, or maybe even impossible, but always remember, “Never stop dreaming, and you can do anything.”

The “Firefly Lamp” is a light that is a plant that glows in the dark. This is how it works: you take the thing that makes fireflies glow, and put it into plants, which replace electricity, which is made from fossil fuels, and releases carbon dioxide—a common greenhouse gas. Another cool invention would be a tank of algae that still does the same thing as plants, photosynthesis. The only difference is that it can grow where trees and other plants cannot.

I have some cool invention ideas that you might like. First is a type of shoe that can survive in extreme hot or cold conditions, possibly even on the surface of Mercury. This is how it works: there are two tanks of hot and cold air and water in the shoes. When you step on a hot surface, the cold air and water will release, defeating the hot air long enough so the heat doesn’t melt through your shoes. It will go back to normal after you stop because it sucks the water and cold air back into the shoe. When you step on a cold surface, it releases somewhat hot air and then sucks it back in after you step.

Have you ever wondered, “Why do people spend so much time cleaning windows on tall buildings with a rag?” Introducing the Broom Brush! It is a scissor lift with 2 large brushes that store soap and disinfectant inside and can turn up to 90 degrees. I also have an exciting innovation that can reduce carbon dioxide in the air. Picture this: 2 large tubes have a sensor. When there is carbon dioxide near, the sensor makes the engine move the fan, which sucks in the carbon dioxide. At the bottom are dozens of plants so that the plants can purify the greenhouse gas. There is also a large tube that either stores water, hot air, or cold air. When you press a button, the air releases at the same temperature as the habitat originally should be. Always remember, “Never stop dreaming, and you can do anything.”



Strange Animals

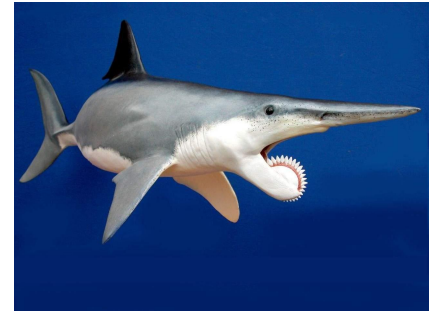
By Thomas Raymond

What's your favorite animal? A majestic lion? A graceful pony? Why not say something more interesting? In this article, you will explore many different types of wacky animals, some of which are extinct—which you'll probably be glad don't exist—wild animal hybrids, and dazzling beasts that live in the ocean's depths.



<https://www.sciencephoto.com/media/1161016/view/platybelodon-prehistoric-elephant-relative-illustra>

The buzzsaw shark went extinct about 225 million years ago. This giant mainly fed on prehistoric celeshopods - ancestors of the modern squid and octopus. This is one apex predator you never want to come across while taking a swim, good thing it's extinct! These creatures of nightmares thrived in the oceans that once covered eastern Idaho, or where Idaho is today.



<https://www.geologyin.com/2020/11/helicoprion-spiral-mouthed-killer>



The Cameroceras mainly fed on Sea Scorpions and fish. These giants were nearly 20 ft. long and went extinct around 400 million years ago. They snatched their prey quickly with their nightmare-like tentacles. This mega squid lived in North America, Europe, and Asia.

<https://kpopgmh.wordpress.com/2018/09/14/cameroceras/>

Spinosaurus was a dinosaur that went extinct about 93 million years ago. This giant dino mainly ate fish, but its jaw was so powerful it could eat entire sharks! The spinosaurus is a scary semi-aquatic monster who also lived in water and in the Sahara region of where Northern Africa is now.



<https://www.sci.news/paleontology/spinosaurus-aegyptiacus-aquatic-lifestyle-08875.htm>



<https://a-z-animals.com/animals/terror-bird/>

The terror bird was a jumbo-dino that went extinct about 2.5 million years ago. These beasts are about 10 feet tall and normally fed on small rodents, mammals, and reptiles. These monsters lived in Argentina.

Airplane of the Month

By: Michael Wood

Fairchild A-10 Thunderbolt “Warthog”

Engines- 2x General Electric TF34

Year of Entry- 1975

User(s)- America

Armament- GAU-8 Avenger 30mm Gatling Gun

Dimensions- Span; 57.5 ft. Length;
53 ft. Height; 14 ft.

Speed- 518 mph

Range- 800 miles

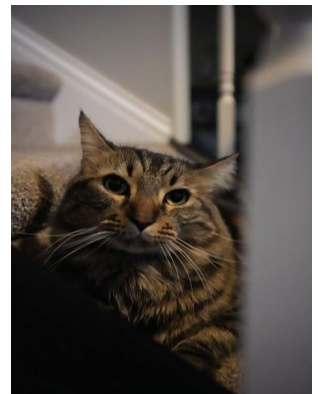


<https://www.extremetech.com/extreme/222536-us-air-force-to-keep-the-ugly-dreadfully-and-uniquely-capable-a-10-in-the-air-through-2022>

The A-10 Thunderbolt is a powerhouse of the US Air Force (USAF). When it originally came into service, many officials rejected the design. However, it has managed to stay in service, and participated in the Desert Storm in 1991 and the war in Afghanistan. The A-10's powerful weapons and blinding speed make it a prominent close-supported aircraft.

Winter Photos

Raaya Trehan, Phoebe Bowen and Neela Binder



Milo

Zoyadeep Brar

I watched cars pass by the window of my dad's truck and sighed, we were driving to deliver packages *again*. The truck is for his job as an Amazon delivery driver and he is always delivering packages somewhere in his huge blue truck. It gets repaired only when necessary by the corrupt and usually makes lots of strange noises, but it drives and it's the only car my dad has so I don't complain.

Normally my dad would leave me with our neighbor Ms. Fazzle, a cranky old woman who agreed to keep me in her house after school for 3-5 hours. She even said she'd do it for free if I helped with her chores, which considering how long I stayed there was a great deal but still, I hated it. Unfortunately, my dad couldn't afford to pay for a babysitter so I was stuck with her.

Recently Ms. Fazzle took a vacation to Hawaii for a week so I had to go with my dad till he found another arrangement until she came back. I wished my dad would just let me stay at home by myself, I was 13 years old, and plenty of other kids my age stayed home alone. Or maybe I could even stay at a friend's house. I had mentioned these ideas to my dad many times but he always found some reason to say no.

I flipped the page in my sketchbook and sighed. The face of my old cat Mr. Snizzleface stared up at me. He had died 3 years ago and I had not been allowed to get another pet since. I loved sketching and Mr. Snizzleface had been one of my favorite subjects.



Suddenly, my dad slammed the brakes and my pencil whipped out my hand onto the floor. I looked around to see the cause of the commotion and planted my eyes on a car crash that happened in front of us. It was a bad one too, one of the cars had flipped upside down on top of the hill and the other was smashed flat. As I looked around I heard shouting and someone screaming to everyone that there were no survivors. I shuddered, my mom had died in a car crash and they always bring back the bad memories.

I leaned down to pick up my pencil. As I did my ear brushed against the thin steel wall separating the front and back of the truck. I heard a loud noise so deafening I nearly screamed, pulling back and rubbing my ear. By now we had passed the car crash and had reached another house.

Looking around, I saw that my dad was still walking to the house to give the box and I quickly jumped out of the truck. I picked up a huge stick and slowly crept to the back of the huge vehicle, holding my breath. Slowly, I creaked open the truck door and quickly jumped away, raising the stick. I waited, but nothing happened. Slowly, I lowered the stick and got into the trunk, and looked around. I let out a shaky breath and got ready to go further into the truck. I was more of the jumpy type. As I went deeper into the truck I felt something brush my ankle. I jumped, screamed, and swiveled around. Then I felt something jump onto me and I screamed again, flailing my arms around trying to keep my balance. Then I saw my 'attacker' and laughed. A small black and white *cat* had launched itself onto me. I laughed and pet it behind the ears. I wondered what it was doing here.

Milo

Zoyadeep Brar

Eventually, I convinced my dad to let me take it home and named him Milo. As I sat on the couch with Milo on my lap watching the news I saw they were reporting the car crash incident. I turned the volume up and leaned forward with great interest. The reporter was saying that there were no survivors except for a black and white spotted cat. The reporter was saying that the cat now had no living owner and that if anyone saw it they should call the owner's sister, Maria. I quickly typed the number into my phone and hit the call button. As I waited I petted Milo and worried that I wouldn't be able to keep him. Then Maria picked up the phone.

"Hello, this is Maria speaking. Who are you, I don't recognize your number." stated the voice on the other end of the crackly phone call.

"Hi, umm my name is uh Darek," I stuttered.

"Well, hello Darek, why are you calling?" she questioned, a bit impatient.

"Ummmm... I found your cat and I want to keep please?" I said quickly, holding my breath.

"My what?" she asked.

Slowing down, I replied, "Me and my dad passed a car crash on Route 81 and a cat climbed into our truck. I'm sorry I didn't know it was yours. I thought it was a stray and I brought him home. Then I saw the news. I am sorry but could I *please* keep him?"

She thought for a little bit then answered slowly, "Well I do think he likes you if you managed to bring him home... and I don't have the money to keep him anyways..."

"YES!!!!" I shouted.

"But you have to promise to keep him safe and healthy," she scolded.

I promised and hung up the phone jumping with joy. I raced to tell my dad the happy news. Sadly, my dad was a bit more hesitant.

"I don't know if we can afford to keep another cat..." He said.

"PLEASE, Dad!!!! I promise to take care of him and feed him?" I said in a questioning manner.

After much pleading and begging my dad *finally* agreed to let me keep Milo.

Be sure to
look out
for our
next
issue!

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