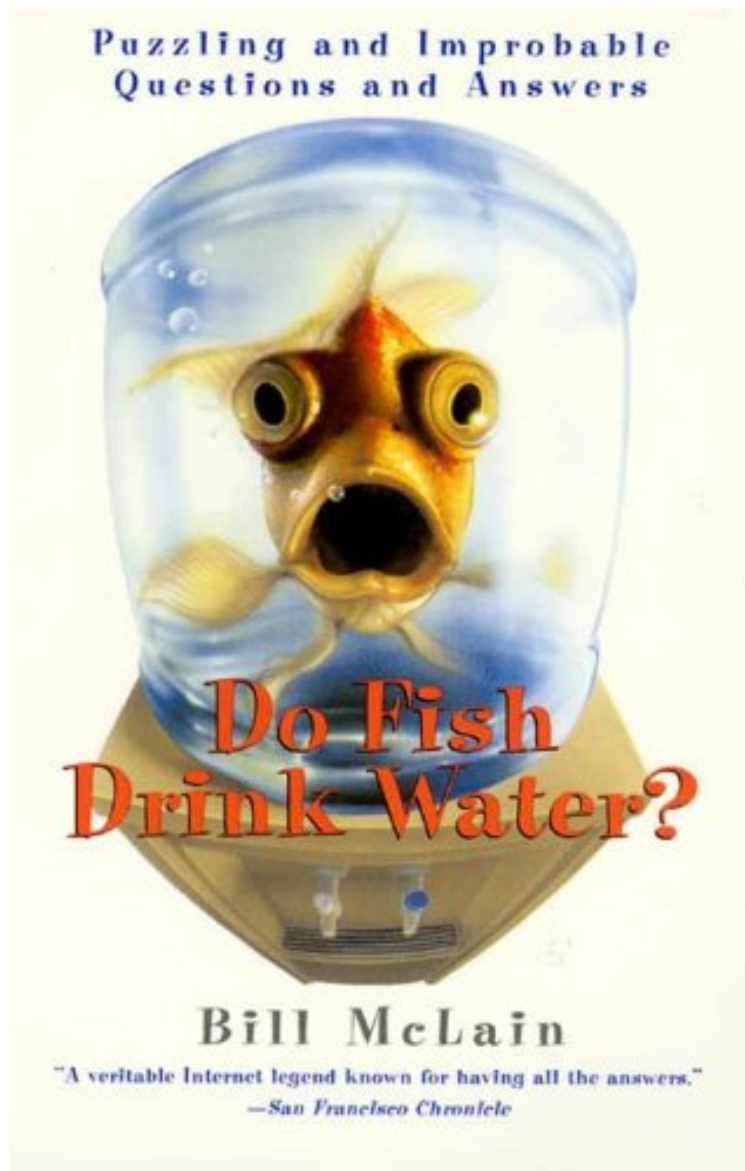


(Free download) Do Fish Drink Water?: Puzzling And Improbable Questions And Answers

Do Fish Drink Water?: Puzzling And Improbable Questions And Answers

Von Bill McLain

ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

Produktinformation -Verkaufsrang: #1666240 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2010-10-12Erscheinungsdatum: 2010-10-12File Name: B003YCOOGM | File size: 64.Mb

Von Bill McLain : Do Fish Drink Water?: Puzzling And Improbable Questions And Answers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Do Fish Drink Water?: Puzzling And Improbable Questions And Answers:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Pleasing eclectic mixVon Dennis LittrellWhat sets Bill McLain's book apart from other miscellaneous sound bytes of knowledge books is (a) it's the latest (b) the Q A's were inspired by actual questions and answers from McLain's website, and (c) the organization, which allows McLain to elaborate and provide website addresses for additional information.McLain's light-hearted, semi-corny style is also a plus, although the cutesy parenthetical asides after each question (e.g., "Where did the idea for underwear come from? (Not from Jockeys.)") sometimes miss the mark. There is also a Western bias in the text; for example the section on religion doesn't get east of Mecca, and even the section entitled "World" is almost exclusively concerned with sites Western. The information however, as far as I can tell, is textbook accurate with one puzzling exception. On page 219 McLain speculates about a planet revolving around Alpha Centauri. He writes: "Although the planet's terrain would probably be similar to earth's continents, islands, and oceans, the planet would be different in most other ways." He adds that "Temperatures would be much higher than those on earth and could be lethal to humans trying to live in the tropical regions. Life would prefer the cooler highlands." Amazing. How would or could he know this! More likely, if the descriptions of actual extra solar planets are to be believed, a planet revolving around Alpha Centauri (at least any one that we could become aware of) would be a gas giant like Jupiter or Saturn, and any talk of "tropical regions" or "cooler highlands" just so much terra-centered silliness.Some of my favorite bits of knowledge found here: the amount of gold in Fort Knox; a rather thorough answer to whether water drains clockwise or counter-clockwise depending on hemisphere; why Eskimos don't die of scurvy; and what's the world's faster roller coaster. This is a nice entertainment and an easy read.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Information Overdose!Von Joanne SkrabolyI really enjoyed this book, but I made the mistake of trying to read it all in one sitting - it's a bit like eating too much ice cream (now I don't want anymore).I really like McLain's style of writing and what I *really* liked was that he didn't stop at just answering the question - he gave you more information if you wanted it (which of course I did) and related details that might not be obvious to the layman reader. It's a truly compulsive read and it doesn't matter where your interest lies.A great coffee-table conversation starter, this book keeps on giving - do yourself a favor and grab a copy: it's great.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An entertaining and enjoyable excursion...Von Ein Kunde"Do Fish Drink Water?" is an entertaining journey through the world of questions, answers, and popular beliefs. Bill McLain, webmaster at Xerox PARC, provides some of the most unusual questions he has received about every topic imaginable, from the Wizard of OZ to the Coriolis effect and the green flash. He presents questions on history, science, folklore, and general trivia, with complete answers and entertaining facts. As an added benefit, the author also demonstrates how to find answers to those improbable questions. The reader can read a little, or a lot, although reading a little is like eating one potato chip. It's hard to stop at just one.An ideal book for the inquisitive, McLain acts as a guide through a labrynth of seemingly unanswerable queries. The result is an entertaining and enjoyable excursion through fact and fiction. This is an ideal gift, especially for yourself.

KurzbeschreibungIs it true that elephants are afraid of mice?How much gold does the United States store in Fort Knox?Why do I get a headache when I eat ice cream too fast?How did the "seventh inning stretch" originate?As the official webmaster for Xerox, Bill McLain was surprised by the kinds of questions he was receiving, like whether people born blind can see in their dreams and why rabbits are associated with Easter. McLain began to answer each and every question--attracting national attention from MSNBC, CNN, and People--and the result, collected in Do Fish Drink Water?, is a surprising, funny, and informative collection of facts. McLain's answers can often be as wild as the questions and prompt entertaining anecdotes about where he found them. McLain explains how magnets are made, what caused the Great Depression of 1922, and even explains why cats purr. Also included is an extensive list of websites where he conducts research, offering an informative guide to making the most of the Internet.From Kirkus sA fun, fact-filled snack for the terminally informed. Who would ask or answer a question like, "Do people who were born blind ever dream?" The answer is, a Webmaster at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center. And yes, blind people hear and feel in their dreams. In 20 chapters like Food, Music, Finance, Words, and including Odds and Ends and Off the Wall, McLain provides intriguing questions and answers along with subsections like Did You Know?, Factoids, and references to Web sites and Internet resources for further information (including Santas e-mail address). The many diverse facts are enlivened by the authors wit, so that the Sports question "What is the difference between billiards, snooker, and pool?" is followed by the parenthetic "Are you waiting for a cue?" Many of the Ripleys-type facts intend to astound more than stump, such as the printing of a \$100,000 bill and the existence of a 12,000- year-old shrub. Other information challenges us to know why "Geronimo" is yelled before leaping (the chief escaped the cavalry with a daring jump) or why our keyboards are designed as they are (the T and H keys require different fingers to keep typewriters from jamming). Most of the challenges challenge, but we knew that green mailboxes aren't for mailing. At least half of the book, however, is stuff we didn't want to know, such as that a Johnny Carson joke began a toilet-paper shortage, that there's a name on the US map 49 letters long, and that the nation's favorite pizza topping is pepperoni. If

going to the beach this August and being out of touch with our information overload makes you feel like a fish out of water, then this is the book to take along. -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. From Library Journal Xerox web master McLain has compiled a fascinating, often hilarious list of questions submitted by the public to the Xerox web site and their supposed answers. The questions are divided into 20 categories, ranging from "Animal Kingdom" ("On a turkey, what is the name of that red thing that hangs down over the beak?") to "World" ("What are the seven wonders of the natural world?") to "Off the Wall" ("How long would it take to vacuum the state of Ohio?"). In addition to responding to these queries, McLain provides, at the end of each section, a list of between three and ten web sites that he recommends for further research. The "United States" section, for example, lists web sites for zip codes, the CIA, and the FBI as well as an online phone directory; the "Sports" section supplies URLs for the National Football League, major league baseball, and the 2000 Sydney Olympics. In the last few pages, McLain also lists major web search engines and offers a few general tips. With the exception of the suggested web sites, this title is similar to David Feldman's "Imponderables" series. Unfortunately, like the books in Feldman's series, this volume also suffers from a reliability problem: although McLain's answers sound authoritative, he only infrequently provides their original source. (And a surprisingly large number of answers in each section cannot be found using the web sites McLain recommends.) While this book is entertaining and makes for enjoyable browsing, it is not an appropriate choice for most reference collections. Recommended only for larger public libraries with a demand for humorous trivia books. A Leah J. Sparks, Bowie P.L., MD Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.