

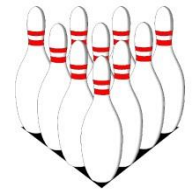
A Colorful Trivia Quiz from Wiser Now:

Why Is *That* the Color?

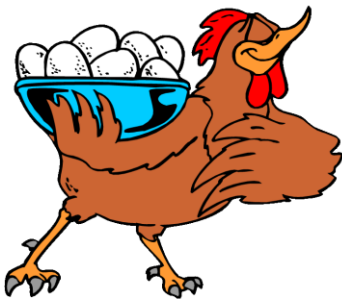
Why are some things the color they are? Perhaps you know. Try this quiz.

1. Are “limelight” and “green room” related? ____
 - a. Only in that they are both associated with the theatre
 - b. Yes, actors who had been in the harsh greenish lights of the theatre retired into the calming walls of a softer green painted room.
2. How did orange coffee pots in restaurants come to be associated with decaf coffee? ____
 - a. Because orange is an “alerting” color that makes the difference between pots obvious
 - b. Because orange is the brand color of Sanka, a decaffeinated coffee whose sales department supplied the pots free to restaurants who bought their coffee

3. Why aren't there purple Christmas tree lights? ____
 - a. Because purple is one of the least popular colors
 - b. Because purple lights would emit only a dim glow



4. Why are there two red stripes around the thin tops of bowling pins? ____
 - a. It identifies the bowling pin brand as the popular AMF.
 - b. It just looks better.



5. Why do some chickens lay brown eggs instead of white ones? ____
 - a. It depends on the breed.
 - b. It depends on the feed.

6. Why is sea water blue and tap water clear? ____
 - a. Sea water is reflecting the sky.
 - b. A glass of tap water would need to be about 10 feet (3.05 meters) deep to show blue.

7. Why are flamingos pink? ____
 - a. It's in their genes.
 - b. It's in their diet.



8. Why are traffic signals arranged with red on top, green on the bottom and yellow in between? ____

- a. To help the colorblind
- b. Because it matches the order of the colors in a rainbow



9. Why are so many American barns painted red? ____

- a. So cows can easily find their way home
- b. Perhaps because red paint (made with rust) was inexpensive in the mid-1800s.

10. Is there a land animal the color of purple grape juice? ____

- a. Yes, the South African blesbok, an antelope whose fur has a purple sheen
- b. Only in your imagination

Information came from:

- *Are Lobsters Ambidextrous?* by David Feldman
- *Do Fish Drink Water?* By Bill McLain
- *What in the Word?* By Charles Harrington Elster
- *What Makes Flamingos Pink?* By Bill McLain
- *Why Do Clocks Run Clockwise?* By David Feldman

Answers:

1. a 2. b 3. b 4. b 5. a 6. b 7. b 8. a 9. b 10.a

Notes:

1. The “green room” as a place where actors rest before they go on stage or between scenes has been in use since the late 1600s, and the room was presumably originally painted a restful green. A “lime light” was a form of stage lighting, invented about 1825, that directed an oxygen-hydrogen flame onto a piece of lime (the calcium mineral, not the fruit) which then gave off an intense white light. Brighter than other artificial light sources then available, it was especially useful for directing a beam to spotlight the principal players – putting them “in the limelight.” Sources: Elster and <http://wordoriginsorg.yuku.com/topic/2112>

2. Sanka was first developed in Europe and derives its name from the French phrase “sans caffeine.”

3. Even popular blue lights can’t compare in brightness to red and yellow lights.

5. The color of the egg yolk is affected by their feed.

6. Other colors are the result of various types of crud – algae, plankton, debris, pollutants.

9. Scandinavian settlers also liked the brick-like look which had a connotation of wealth.

10. And pink walrus exist, too. They turn pink when warm – having a hot flash maybe?