

INCREDIVILLE: KNOW WHAT? WE'RE ALL INCREDIBLE!

怪奇事物所：你知道嗎？其實我們都很怪！

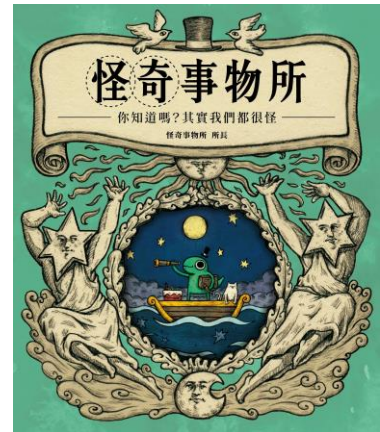
Did you know that alligators stand up under water, and the universe is the color of a latte? The creators of the popular Facebook page Incredville bring you a world of strange questions and even more fantastic answers.

Do you ever find yourself thinking up random, seemingly unanswerable questions that only a total weirdo could come up with? Fear for your sanity no longer: not only does everyone do it, but some – like the curiosity junkies at Incredville – even do it for a living!

In *Incredville*, the creators of the ever-popular Facebook page present eighty of their strangest and most surprising factoids, complete with full-color illustrations. Did you know that alligators stand up under water, polar bears aren't really white, you can't see a rainbow at noon, and dinosaurs had dandruff? The *Incredville* detectives have gone everywhere in search of the world's most mind-blowing, seemingly counterintuitive information to satisfy every corner of your curiosity.

Director Incredville 怪奇事物所所長

Incredville was founded in July 2017, when Vincent, JiaJia, and InHaw began to carry out the orders of the Director. Vincent keeps his eyes on where the Director goes and what he does; JiaJia uses her brush to depict what he has seen, and InHaw translates his experiences into language humans can understand.



Category: Comics

Publisher: China Times

Date: 10/2018

Rights contact:

booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com

Pages: 192

Material: Sample

Rights sold: Simplified Chinese

INCREDIVILLE: KNOW WHAT? WE'RE ALL INCREDIBLE!

By Director Incrediville

Translated by Mary King Bradley

CONTENTS

Foreword

Incrediville Classified Files

Part 1: Your incredibleness compels me

01. The ocean and sky aren't blue
02. You can't see a rainbow at noon
03. The color of the universe is on the warm side
04. Greek statues weren't so spartan
05. Egypt had some incredible gods
06. New Zealand has "sheep support" people
07. In Morocco, a liver (not a heart) means love
08. Egypt loved cats and lost a war
09. You can hear singing on Mars
10. Tragedy is a crying sheep
11. Muscles were mice
12. The treadmill was torture
13. Attending school was relaxation
14. The Basque language stumped the Devil
15. It rains when a fox gets married

Part 2: Your incredibleness has me on the edge of my seat

01. Going number one takes only 21 seconds
02. The slow-motion world of small animals
03. A cat's meow puts humans on the leash for a lifetime
04. Don't trust a dog's confession
05. Cats' eyes used to be clocks
06. Cats and dogs hate vacuum cleaners
07. Bees get drunk
08. Bees' sex life is a bomb

09. Whale songs
10. Elephant tracks
11. An elephant's jump
12. Australian creatures that kill humans
13. Australian bird arsonists
14. New Zealand's unwelcome snakes
15. Echidnae line up to court their mates
16. In hot pursuit of a mate
17. Sharks can sleep upside down
18. Zebras don't like to sleep alone
19. Why hermit crabs steal their houses
20. Why squirrels bury their treasure
21. When in Rome...
22. Divorce in the Middle Ages
23. Bloodletting in the Middle Ages
24. Being a tree in the Middle Ages
25. Suing a pig in the Middle Ages

Part 3: Your incredibleness wrecks me

01. Crocodiles could walk upright
02. Mandarin ducks don't have soulmates
03. Killer whales don't kill people
04. Pigs are skinnier than you are
05. Polar bears aren't white
06. Velociraptors were small
07. Goldfish have excellent memories
08. Dinosaurs were smart
09. The dinosaur with dandruff
10. A husky's liver is toxic
11. Hamsters love to run
12. Dolphins do drugs
13. Crows can hold a grudge
14. Don't shake hands with an octopus
15. Ladies, don't date a killer whale
16. Beavers can be crushed to death by trees
17. Cockroaches can be turned into zombies
18. Ostriches do a courtship dance
19. African wild dogs vote
20. Honey badgers aren't afraid of snake bites
21. Ancient penguins got really tall

22. The very rare purple flag
23. Extreme freestyle
24. The peach you can't grow from a seed
25. A dreamlike blue rose

Part 4: I bow before your incredibleness

01. The 150-friend maximum
02. Fat's longest lifespan is 23 years
03. Loneliness makes you cold
04. Heartache hurts
05. Silence is embarrassing
06. Synesthesia makes life colorful
07. Power corrupts
08. The harm in being curious
09. A gene makes you sleep less
10. Hunger makes you smart
11. Your brain causes breakups
12. People always feel good about themselves
13. Your friends' genes will be a lot like yours
14. The spark at human conception
15. Humans are made of stardust

Afterword

References



Did you know?
The ocean and sky aren't really blue!

Your incredibleness
compels me
The Ocean and Sky Are Not Blue

The ocean's color is actually the result of refracted sunlight reflecting off its surface. Water molecules easily absorb the longer wavelengths of red and orange light while reflecting the shorter wavelengths of green, indigo, and violet. This makes the ocean look blue.

A similar principle accounts for the color of the sky. When the short wavelengths of green, blue, and indigo light bump into particles in the atmosphere (like dust or water droplets), there is a stronger scattering effect compared to red, orange, and yellow light, which can penetrate the particles more directly. This scattering effect is what makes the sky look blue.

Some might want to know what happened to the violet. Where did it go? Because human eyes aren't as sensitive to violet light, which lies at the far edge of the visible spectrum, the human brain often ignores it. Put another way, "blue" is actually just our impression of the sky and the ocean's color, selected after the fact.

Color is like any other preconception: it helps us develop intuition and grasp ideas, but it also lumps together and strips away parts of reality because people's understanding of the world often doesn't go any deeper.

Preconception, generalization, form, convention – these linguistic calcifications will obstruct you again and again as you deepen your understanding of the world. But they won't stop you completely if you keep asking why. And as you move forward, I think you will agree with me: our world is always fascinating.

* Molecules in the atmosphere treat light differently based on wavelength, filtering out unlike colors. This is called "Rayleigh scattering" (after a scientist named Rayleigh).





Did you know?
You can't see rainbows at noon!

Your incredulness
compels me
You Can't See a Rainbow at Noon

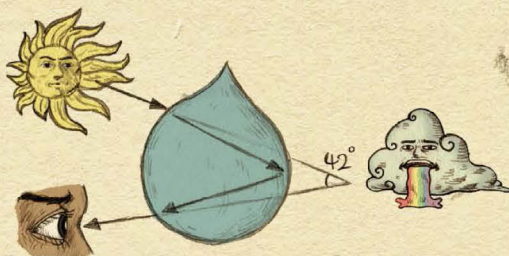
When light passes through water droplets in the air, refraction and reflection separate it into seven colors, which return to us at an angle of 42 degrees.

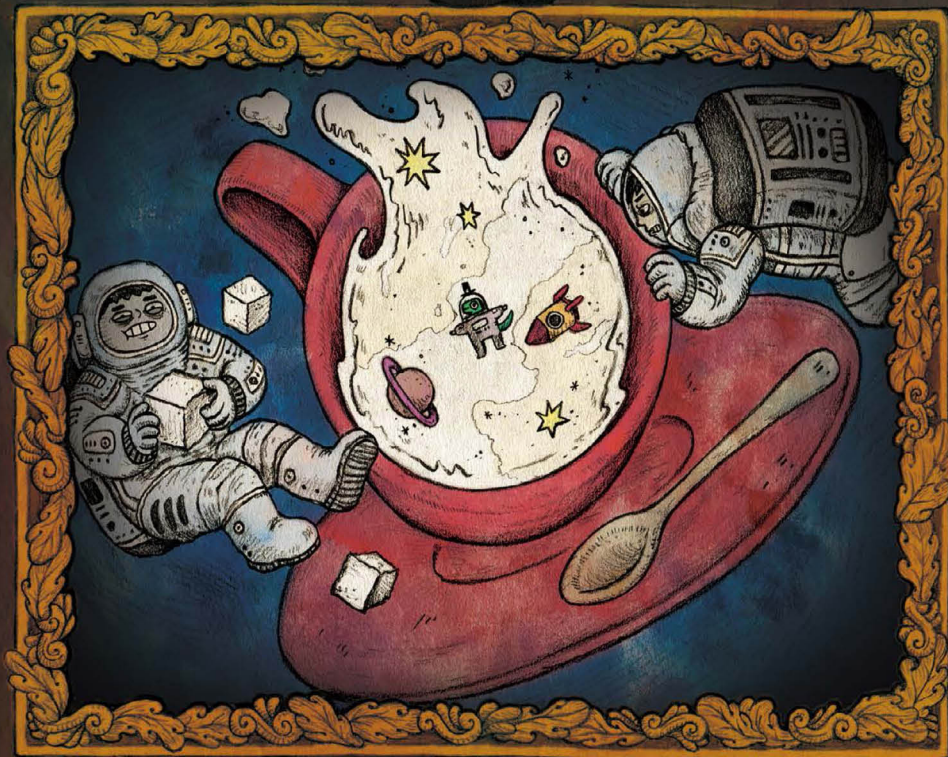
This is what causes rainbows.

Because a rainbow is always light refracted from the sun at a 42-degree angle, it's below the horizon when the sun is positioned more than 42 degrees above the horizon. You can't see it.

So when the sun is directly overhead, you won't ever see that apparently nonexistent noontime rainbow unless you are standing on a mountaintop or sitting on an airplane looking down. In other words, the rainbow doesn't disappear; it just requires a different vantage point depending on the sun's angle.

This makes me think rainbows are like an ideal, a value, or a belief. They can hinder you at different stages of life and bury you in mediocrity. But when the sun emerges from the clouds after a torrential downpour and you find a new point of equilibrium at a different altitude, you'll find the rainbow for sure.





Did you know?

The universe is the color of a latte!

Your incredibleness
compels me

The Color of the Universe
Is on the Warm Side

In a study analyzing the spectra of stars, astronomers found that when all stellar light in the galaxy is averaged, the resulting color – what you might call “the color of the universe” – is beige.

The research team held an internal vote to choose a name for the universe’s color. The results were (in order): Cappuccino Cosmico, Big Bang Beige, and Cosmic Latte.

Even though Cappuccino Cosmico received the most votes, the scientist who sent out the call for suggestions preferred the name with latte in it. He thought people would associate latte with milk, and so the name would serve as a reference to our own galaxy – the Milky Way. In the end, the vote was set aside, and Cosmic Latte was used to describe the color of the universe.

What a pity this Incrediville director wasn’t in charge. I would have camped in line overnight for the name “Cosmic Iced Milk Tea!”

* Initial results suggested the color was similar to the blue of a turquoise gemstone. After correcting flaws in their calculations, however, the researchers arrived at “Cosmic Latte” beige.

