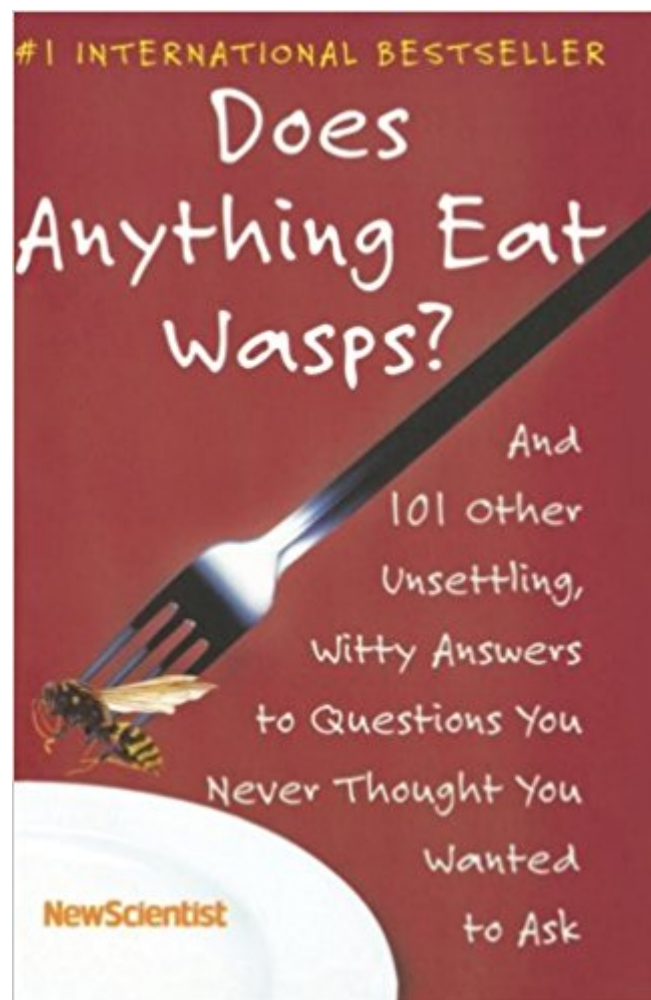




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# Does Anything Eat Wasps?: And 101 Other Unsettling, Witty Answers To Questions You Never Thought You Wanted To Ask



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## Synopsis

How fat do you have to be to become bulletproof? Why do people have eyebrows? Why do pineapples have spines? How much does a head weigh? What affects the color of earwax? How quickly could I turn into a fossil? Have you ever thought up a question so completely off-the-wall, so seemingly ridiculous, that you couldn't even find the courage to ask it? Maybe at the sports bar you were transported by the beauty of your beer to wonder, "How long could I live on beer alone?" Or, cycling through the park, you mused, "Did nature invent any wheels?" Or looking up at the night sky, you had a moment of angst, "What would happen if the moon suddenly disappeared -- if it were vaporized or stolen by aliens?" Full of fun factlets, *Does Anything Eat Wasps?* is a runaway bestseller around the world. It celebrates the weird and wacky questions -- some trivial, some baffling, all unique -- and their multiple answers culled from "The Last Word," a long-running column in the internationally popular science magazine, *New Scientist*. Tackling the imponderables of everyday life, sparkling with humor, and bursting with delightful erudition, *Does Anything Eat Wasps?* is irresistibly entertaining and utterly engrossing. So, go on. Put away your lab coat and your pencil -- science is fun again.

## Book Information

Paperback: 211 pages

Publisher: Atria Books (April 5, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743297261

ISBN-13: 978-0743297264

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,450,192 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in *Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Science & Scientists* #1702 in *Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Trivia* #134621 in *Books > Science & Math*

## Customer Reviews

*New Scientist* is a science magazine for everyone, young and old, amateur and professional. With a circulation approaching 160,000 and a worldwide readership of more than half a million, it is among the most popular of all popular science magazines.

The book is pretty good at going into the scientific details which explain questions people ask, however, I really can't say I was that interested in wanting to know the details for many of the questions. But, some were interesting, like: 1. Why do darker alcoholic drinks produce worse hangovers? Because of the methanol they contain, as opposed to lighter drinks' ethanol. 2. Why do people have eyebrows? Besides diverting sweat droplets, perhaps mostly to express emotions - like telegraphing friendly intentions for survival. 3. How fat would you have to be, to be bulletproof? Although the human body could never be totally bulletproof because of certain tissues and appendages, about 24 inches of flesh would protect against a 9-mm handgun. 4. How can a person reduce cellulite? By reduction in calories and exercise, that's it. 5. Does beheading (like with a guillotine) hurt? Yes, a few seconds. 6. Is green potato skin toxic? Although the color is harmless, chlorophyll, it is a warning of a toxic level of solanine. A lethal dose for a 160 lb. person would be about five pounds of such potatoes. 7. Does anything eat wasps? Yes, what doesn't, is a better question. Frogs, goldfish and spiders do. 8. Does pickling cause vegetables to lose nutrition? Not much. 9. Why do incandescent lightbulbs turn grayish over time? Evaporation of tungsten from the filament. 10. Why does sea look blue? Seawater absorbs all wavelengths of light except blue, which is scattered. 11. Can two galaxies collide? Although space is expanding, galaxies have their own trajectories which are pulled about by the gravity of other galaxies, and therefore, can collide. 12. Why is it colder at the South Pole? Because of the high mountains. 13. Since wheels are so efficient in getting around, why didn't they evolve in nature? Although bacteria have flagellum and there exist tumbleweeds in nature, for humans - every part is either connected to or communicates with other parts, so wheels would cause all kinds of entanglements. However, with humans, evolution has allowed them to make wheels. So, for me, the book does make for a fun read, as long as I skimmed over several of the questions and their answers.

I found this book, like I did to the others in this set of books, highly enjoyable and I recommend it to those who love facts and finding answers to strange questions in life. Do you know if anything eats wasps? I do and you can too if you buy this book. :)

I bought this as a present for a friend, he was delighted with it. A great present for a guy (or anyone) who likes interesting and curious facts.

I had high expectations when buying this book and was let down a bit. This book covers a wide range of topics some interesting and some down right boring. Some of the explanations are too

scientific for me and i am a science guy. This book is based on people sending in questions and readers answering them. The answers are usually complex and require a science experiment to prove or disprove.

I might have been interested in about 3% of this book. Just flipped through the rest and was bored by the first couple sentences. It's heavy on Science speak too. Not even very good bathroom reading. If you like dry science, this is for you

Well this is indeed interesting. You will leave with more tidbits of knowledge to amaze your friends. But I was expecting a little more. It did not take me very long at all to read everything of interest in this book. IT is more of a novelty gift of coffee table book, not for educational or literary pursuits.

I love learning about everything and anything and this book has so much to offer for someone like me. It's Terrific!!!

Strange little book. Something to pick up as you wish. Learn something new everyday...

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