



# The Importance of Wondering

By Ed Meyer

Infants and toddlers spend a lot of their time wondering.

“What is that noise?”

“What is that smell?”

“Is that coming from me?”

“Who is this person?”

“Am I safe?”

“Why can everyone else move around and I can only just lie here; why am I so different?”

Although many of us are very busy, it is a good idea to reserve part of your day for wondering. Daydreaming. Wandering around your mind palace. Trying to figure out who you are and what you want to do with your time on the planet Earth.

Unfortunately, school-aged children are investing less and less time wondering. In school, students are supposed to pay attention to the teacher. This might be good for learning but paying attention to what someone else is saying will not develop an individual’s critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

A major part of critical thinking and problem solving is wondering.

“I wonder why this process used.”

“I wonder why we don’t do it like this.”

“I wonder what other paths there are to the solution.”

“I wonder what would happen if we did this.”

“I wonder why this person is behaving like this.”

“I wonder why this person thinks this is a good idea.”

“I wonder what I can do to accomplish my goals.”

Here is a poem about wondering by Richard Feynman, a Nobel Prize winning physicist.

I wonder why. I wonder why.  
 I wonder why I wonder.  
 I wonder *why* I wonder why  
 I wonder why I wonder!

Often, wondering starts when you have nothing to do. Perhaps you are waiting in the doctor’s office or on a long plane or bus ride.

These days, however, the opportunities to wonder deeply for a long time are reduced because of the access to smart phones.

Many young people don’t take advantage of the opportunity to wonder because any time that they are free to wonder is often used by mindlessly scrolling social media sites to watch content that don’t inspire wonder.

To develop the ability to wonder, look for opportunities to do so and inspire others to do the same. Wondering is especially important for young people, as they are the future and we need people wondering about the future.

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## Answers to: Some Opportunities to Get Smart!

The answer to the first question is 19 cents.

The answer to the second question is 7,412,080,755,407,364.

The answer to the third question is 17.







**CLUES**

A. Father's partner	<u>78</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>48</u>		
B. Concoct	<u>99</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>88</u>		
C. You can peel it off a beer bottle	<u>126</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>114</u>			
D. Member of a board	<u>2</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>142</u>	
E. Planet's path	<u>127</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>7</u>			
F. Specialized segment of the market	<u>91</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>121</u>			
G. Shortcoming	<u>46</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>115</u>	<u>125</u>		
H. Word before angle, whale, or wing	<u>55</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>93</u>			
I. Invade in an unwelcome manner	<u>1</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>107</u>		
J. Intellectual	<u>17</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>122</u>	
K. Mastercard competitor	<u>130</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>66</u>
L. English, Blueberry, or Banana Nut	<u>41</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>5</u>		
M. The body's main artery	<u>110</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>133</u>			
N. Upper designation for Carolina and Dakota	<u>119</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>94</u>			
O. Item in a bucket from the Colonel	<u>63</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>12</u>			
P. Advocating an aggressive foreign policy	<u>64</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>109</u>	
Q. A long, long time	<u>123</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>51</u>				
R. Deliver medication	<u>26</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>82</u>		
S. Slipknot	<u>77</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>141</u>			
T. Switch from one option to the other	<u>111</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>104</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>79</u>		
U. First guess for the cost of a repair or remodel	<u>20</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>65</u>
V. Share someone's content on social media	<u>134</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>16</u>		
W. Like some causes	<u>27</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>32</u>			
X. The alcohol in beer, wine, and spirits	<u>40</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>136</u>	
Y. Physically fit	<u>29</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>57</u>			

