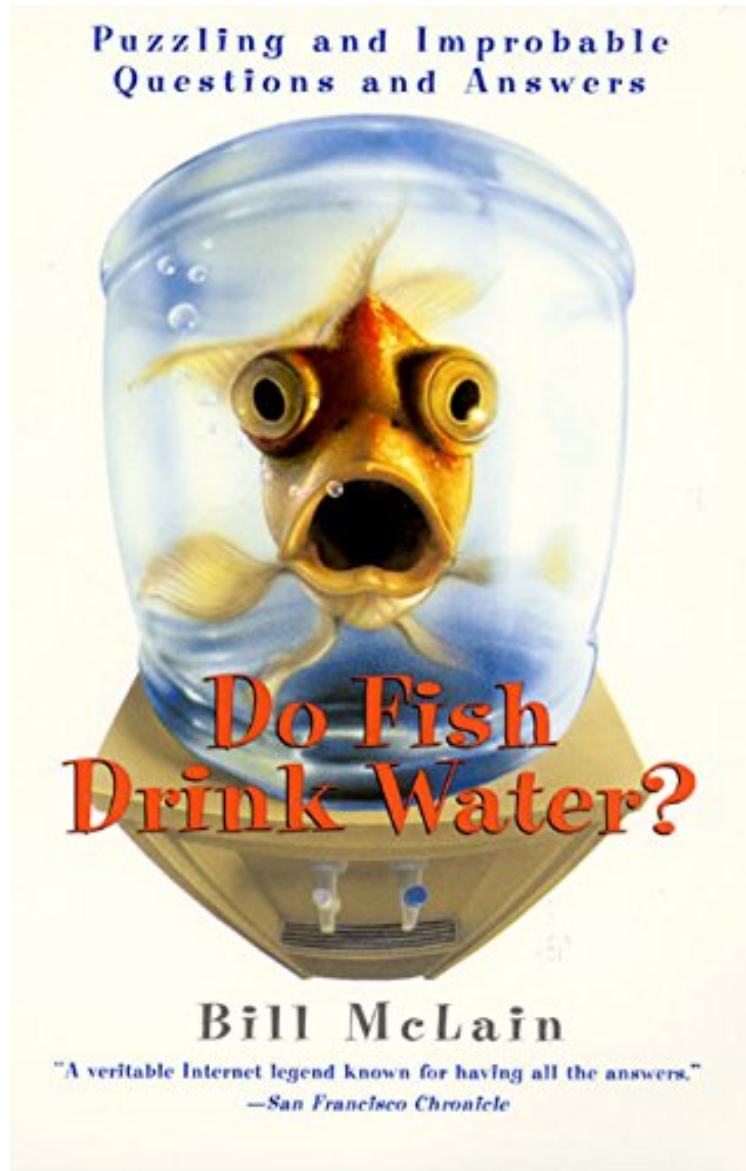


(Library ebook) Do Fish Drink Water?: Puzzling and Improbable Questions and Answers

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

Bill McLain

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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:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lots of stuff you never knew you needed to know--fun to read. By Steven M. Bohne This book was fun to read, and brought me some knowledge that I didn't know before. One or two reviewers said they thought some of the information was erroneous. Who's to say? If you ask people in Jackson, Michigan, they'll tell you that their town is the birthplace of the Republican Party (and a ton Republicans live there!). However, most historians agree the birthplace is Ripon, Wisconsin (and I'll bet a lot of Republicans live there, too. So, it is common to have differing opinions on such items. If I was writing a book or my doctoral thesis, I'd probably check a couple of additional sources. I was doing neither, so the book was an enjoyable read... enjoy! This would be a great Summer read for your kids as well. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Facts and stories written in a conversational manner By Melissa If you like trivia, well this book is a little gem. The author meanders from one story to the other. Chapters are somewhat topical. This book reads like a conversation. It's how people jump from one subject to another in a discussion. There are chapters about sports and animals and clothing and even zeppelins which I found to be one of the most fascinating subjects in the book (who knew Lakenhurst, NJ was connected to two big disasters). There are ironies and factoids contained in this book along with a couple of personal stories from the author. I enjoyed learning a little bit about a lot. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not for me By Ellie This book just didn't do it for me - I couldn't even finish. The writing style is choppy and the sentences read as if they would be appropriate for a lower grade level. If that doesn't bother you, maybe you'd find the content interesting. I, however, couldn't get past the style and gave up.

Is 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 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. From Kirkus s A 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. "The legions who have dropped him a line have dubbed McLain...Prophet, Answer Dude, Webmeister, Guru of Locating' Unusual Informtion."--"San Jose Mercury News"A veritable Internet legend known for having all the answers."--"San Francisco Chronicle"A fun, fact-filled snack for the terminally informed." -- "Kirkus s"Fascinating...often hilarious." -- "Library Journal