



Science Newsletter



January 2023— Spring

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How many bones are in the human body? (answer at the bottom of the next page)

SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

Follow the links to read about the latest science news:

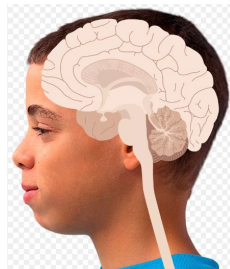
[Find out how Burmese pythons swallow their prey...](#)

[NASA: How to build a settlement on the moon](#)

[Here's why trees are real-life superheroes](#)

SCIENCE FACTS— DID YOU KNOW THAT....

- The human brain is over three times as big as the brain of other mammals that are of similar body size.
- Your brain has around 100 billion nerve cells.
- An adult human is thought to contain around 7 Octillion atoms!!
- Your brain is more powerful, more complex and more clever than any computer ever built.
- An adult brain weighs 1361 grams.
- The brain cannot feel pain.



SCIENCE SELFIES

Over the next few weeks, please take a photo of you using science or investigating science at home.. It could be: recreating an investigation that you have done in school; using a new science related gift; investigating what happened to something over a period of time to food; trying out this month's Crystal Snowflake activity; planting seeds; making slime; looking at the effects of exercise on your body; baking... use your imagination!

Be creative— we can't wait to see them! **We would like you to take a photograph and then, in one sentence, explain how it is science!** We will be displaying all of your entries in school. **Send them to Mrs Smith on Class Dojo or send a paper copy back into school.**



SCIENCE ACTIVITY— CRYSTAL SNOWFLAKES

Make your own snowflake! These make great tree decorations, whilst learning about how snowflakes form!

You will need:

- A jar
- Pipe cleaners
- String
- Pencil
- Sugar

Method:

1. Make a simple snowflake using the pipe cleaners, leaving one 'branch' slightly longer.
2. Make a loop using the string and bend the end of the longer pipe cleaner through the loop.
3. Put the pencil through the loop and suspend the snowflake in the jar, with the pencil resting on top, this ensures the snowflake doesn't touch the bottom or side of the jar.
4. Make a mark on the jar so you know how much solution you will need to add to the jar to cover the snowflake.
5. ***Adult needed* Add 3 cups of boiling water to a jug** and add 3 tablespoons of sugar for each cup of water, stirring between each tablespoon.
6. Remove the snowflake, add the solution to the jar, then reinsert the snowflake.
7. Leave the jar for a few days.
8. Remove the Snowflake from the jar and leave it to dry on a paper towel.



The Science Bit:

The crystals form by something called 'nucleation', the sugar molecules stick to the pipe cleaners and, as more molecules stick, crystals start to form.

Answer to the question of the month

Human adults have 206 bones. However, when they are babies they have **about 300**. These eventually fuse (grow together) to form the 206 bones that adults have.