



Brain teasers

1. What is the oldest living organism?
2. What is put on the table and cut, but never eaten?
3. How much dirt is in a hole 4 feet deep and 24 inches across?
4. The 22nd and 24th Presidents of the USA have the same mother and the same father, yet they are not brothers. How can this be?
5. Round as an apple
Deep as a cup
Yet all the king's horses can't pull me up.
What am I?
6. Three wise men wanted to find out who was the wisest. So they invited the grand master, who took them into a dark room and said: "I will paint on each one of you a red or a blue dot on your forehead. When you walk out and you see at least one red dot, raise your hand. The one who says what color the dot is on his own forehead first, wins." Then he painted only red dots on each one of them. When they went out, everybody had their hands up and after a while wisest one of them said: "I have a red dot on my head." How could he be so sure?
7. A microbiologist owns a beautiful pear tree. He supplies the fruit to a nearby grocery store. The store owner has called the farmer to see how much fruit is available for him to purchase. The farmer knows that the main trunk has 24 branches. Each branch has exactly 12 boughs and each bough has exactly 6 twigs. Since each twig bears one piece of fruit, how many plums will the farmer be able to deliver?
8. Two convicts are locked in a cell. There is an unbarred window high up in the cell. No matter if they stand on the bed or one on top of the other they can't reach the window to escape. They then decide to tunnel out. However, they give up with the tunneling because

it will take too long. Finally one of the convicts figures out how to escape from the cell. What is his plan?

Scroll down to see answers on second page below. . .

Solutions

1. That would be the bacterial spore. There are claims of spores from amber being revived after 40 million years, and spores from salt deposits in New Mexico being revived after 240 million years.

2. A deck of cards

3. None. Holes are empty and have no dirt in them.

4. Grover Cleveland served two non-consecutive terms as president. One beginning in 1885 and one in 1893.

5. A well

6. The wisest one must have thought like this:

I see all hands up and I see two red dots, so I can have either a blue or a red dot on my forehead. If I had a blue dot, the other two guys would see all hands up and they would see one red and one blue dot. If this were the case, then they would know that they had to have a red dot on their foreheads for all three hands to go up. However, they were both silent (and they are wise), therefore I could only have a red dot on my forehead.

7. None. Pear trees do not bear plums.

8. They dig the tunnel and pile up the dirt next to the window, and then climb out.