



H O R I Z O N

HIGH SCHOOL
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The winner of Horizon Writing Contest

Fascinating Facts from Biology

Why must I learn Math

Why Do we study Physics?

Hoan Kiem Lake

Hà Nội có Hồ Gươm

Nước xanh như pha mực

Bên hồ ngọn tháp bút

Viết thơ lên trời cao ”.





International
Bilingual

HORIZON SCHOOL

The Winner of the Horizon Writing Contest



Nguyen Tien Quang

FASCINATING FACTS FROM BIOLOGY

If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months, and 6 days, you would have produced enough sound energy to heat up one cup of coffee.

Banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour.

On average, people fear spiders more than they do death.

The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.

A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.

The ant can lift 50 times its own weight; can pull 30 times its own weight, and always falls over on its right side when intoxicated.

Polar bears are left handed.

The flea can jump 350 times its body length. That's like a human jumping the length of a football field.

A cockroach will live 9 days without its head before it starves to death.

Butterflies taste with their feet.

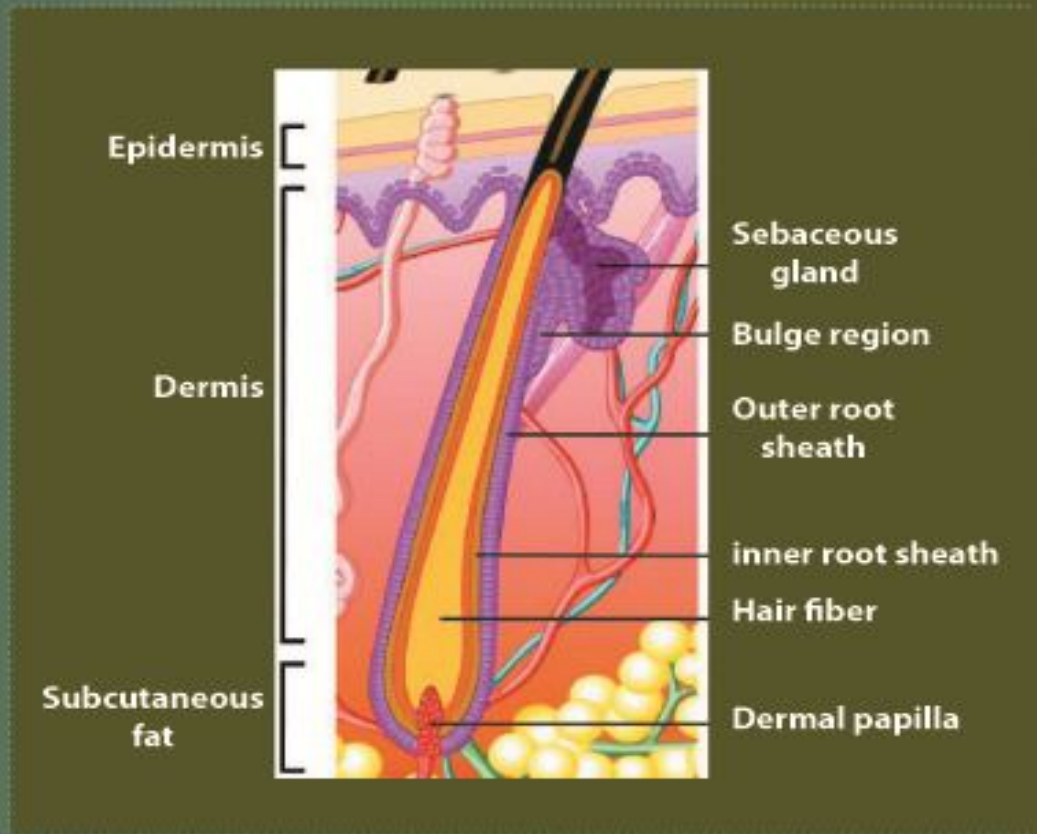
Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Starfish don't have brains.

It takes your food seven seconds to get from your mouth to your stomach.

One human hair can support 6.6 pounds.



Human thighbones are stronger than concrete.

A woman's heart beats faster than a man's.

There are about one trillion bacteria on each of your feet.

Women blink twice as often as men.

The average person's skin weighs twice as much as the brain.

Your body uses 300 muscles to balance itself when you are standing still.

If saliva cannot dissolve something, you cannot taste it.



Why Must I Learn Math

Which professions use math?

A small list of professions that are math intensive includes:

- ✓ Accountants
- ✓ Architects
- ✓ Biologists
- ✓ Chemists*
- ✓ Computer Programmers
- ✓ Engineers (Chemical, Civil, Electrical, Industrial, Material)
- ✓ Lawyers
- ✓ Managers
- ✓ Medical Doctors
- ✓ Meteorologists
- ✓ Military Personnel
- ✓ Nurses
- ✓ Technicians
- ✓ Tradesmen



Can I get a good job without learning a lot of math?

In all honesty, in physical or manual labor not much math is needed. Manual labor includes jobs like cleaners, construction workers, etc. However, manual workers are being replaced by machinery and robotics. Even when those jobs are available, the pay is usually not high. In order to gain successful employment, technical skills must be learned. Someone has to fix all of those machines and robots.

What are employers looking for?

Employers are looking for three basic traits. They want their employees to be able to reason, work with technical equipment and communicate well with other employees. It is clear that math deals with developing reason and working with technical equipment. It is not so clear how math affects communication. Successfully using math can improve the ability to speak and write more clearly. Language, at least the type needed for work, tends to be extremely structured and

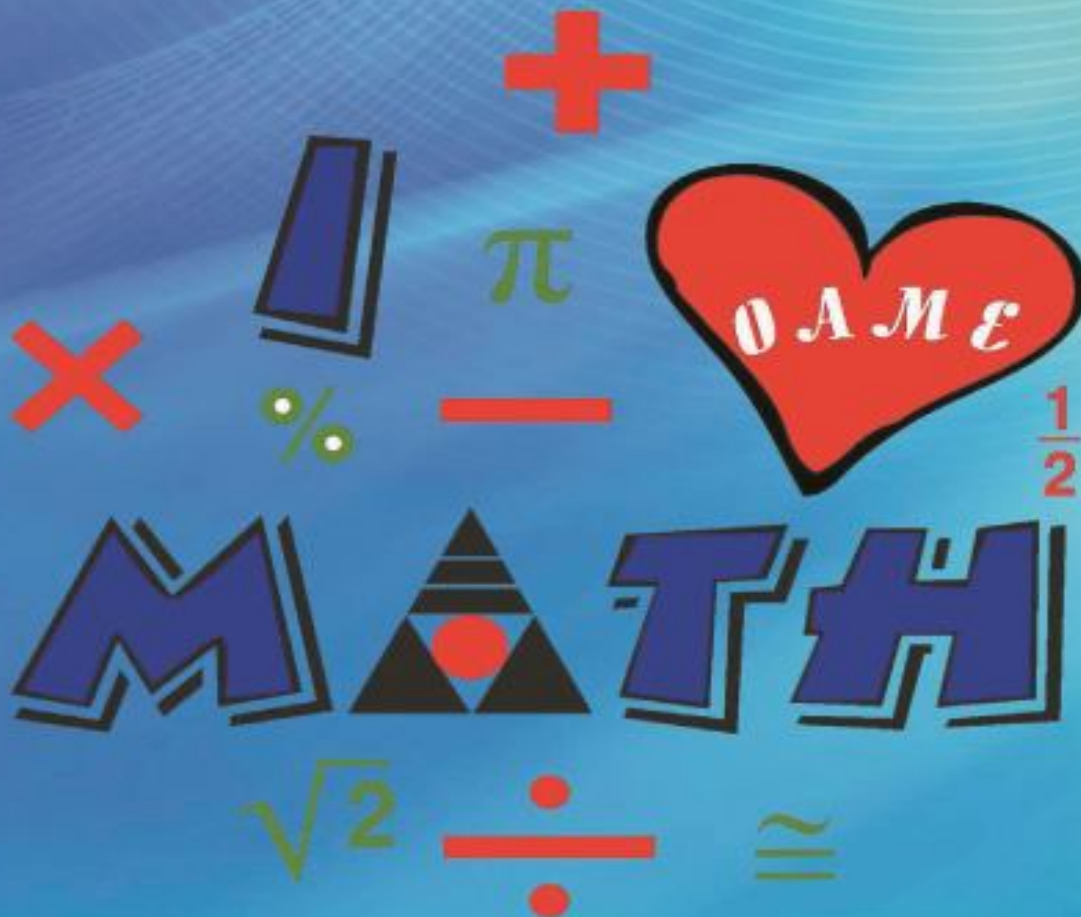
mathematical ability helps deal with that structure.

After high school, what do I do to learn more mathematics?

Basically, there are four avenues of education to pursue: universities, trade schools, or the military. Universities prepare students for highly professional careers. Math is typically a strong component of their curricula due to the extreme technical nature of these professions.

Trade schools teach students the science of automotive maintenance, carpentry, computer repair, heating and air-conditioning, plumbing, ... Math related skills are integrated throughout each program.

Even the military puts their people through school after basic training. These military schools are akin to trade schools. On the other hand, military officers, even though they must already have bachelor degrees, are put through further schooling after basic training.



WHY DO WE STUDY PHYSICS?

There are two types of people in the world. Those who are pursuing a career in the physics, the reason isn't needed to be answered for them. If you're one of the people who takes Physics, and then no explanation is required. Chances are that you already have at least some of the Scientific Skills necessary to pursue such a career, and the whole point of study is to gain the skills which they don't have yet. However, for those who are not pursuing a career in the physics, it can frequently feel as if physics lesson is a waste of your time.

Let me help you to remember why we should study this subject.

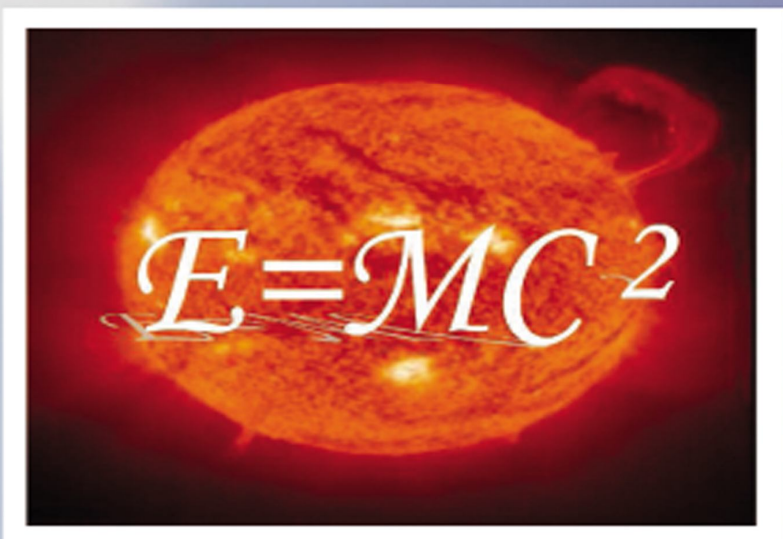
Physics is to understand the way things work in the world we live in. There are simple examples to be sure that you get the principles so that you can apply them correctly to real



If your dream aspirations are to flip burgers at KFC then perhaps there is not much point in it. However, if you went to design the equipment to make the burgers, the building that houses the KFC, or the systems that communicate order, the cash register, or the furniture and machines that make all, then you really do need study science. In short, this approach emphasizes the idea that science is the most fundamental of life.

I recently read a book which echoed my thoughts. Marvin Chester states in his *Primer of Quantum Mechanics* "For what purpose, dear reader, do you study physics?" How to use it technologically? Physics can be put it use, so you can art and music. But that's not why you study them. It isn't their social relevance that attracts you the most precious things in life are the irrelevant ones. It is a meager life, indeed, that is consumed only by the relevant, by the problems of mere survival.

You study physics because you find it fascinating. You find poetry in conceptual structures. You find it romantic to understand the working of nature. You study physics to acquire an intimacy with nature's way." Finally, knowing physics will makes you a well rounded and curious person. Curiosity makes life interesting.



*Those who know nothing of foreign languages,
knows nothing of their own.*

Goethe



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