MENSA INTERNATIONAL

AUGUST 2019

ISSUE NO. 079

MENSA WORLD JOURNAL

congratulations to the newly-elected executive committee!

meet our new chairman, Bjorn Liljeqvist on p03

CONTENTS

from the editor...

Hello, All,

Welcome and congratulations to the newly-elected Executive Committee (ExComm):
*Chairman - **Bjorn Liljeqvist***
*Dir. of Admin - **Isabella Holz***
*Dir. of Devel't - **Bibiana Balanyi***
*Treasurer - **Rudi Challupner***

*The new Director of Smaller National Mensas (DSNM) - **Mark Dettinger** - also joins the Executive Committee. This position was voted on by the International Board of Directors (IBD).*

Our new Chair's first column is on p03, while news of a brilliant young cellist is on p08. Learn how to meditate away your 'monkey minds' on p06, and if you're interested in etymology, have a look at p09 and the 'philo-miso' love-hate relationship.

Supplementally... is on p10 and Therese's Teasers are on p12 as usual.

Happy reading!
Kate

Alterations in hippocampal structural connections differentiate between responders of ECT

A new study in people with major depression reports that electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) induces changes in the fibers connecting the hippocampus to brain regions involved in mood and emotion. Only patients who responded to the treatment showed these changes, and those who had the greatest changes in hippocampal pathways also showed the largest improvements in mood.

The study, conducted by researchers at University of California, Los Angeles, was published in *Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging.*

The findings reveal that ECT causes subtle changes in the structural integrity of the fiber paths, which can affect how well information is transferred between brain regions. "The nature of these changes suggests plasticity in the brain's structural connections contribute to successful therapeutic response," said senior author Katherine Narr, PhD.

"ECT is highly effective for treating patients with severe depression who have not benefited from standard antidepressant treatments. However, researchers are still trying to understand how and why ECT works to improve depressive symptoms," said Dr. Narr.

So Dr. Narr and colleagues conducted brain scans of the hippocampus -- the brain region most affected by depression -- in people with the disorder before and after ECT, and assessed the participants' changes in mood. Because the changes in structural integrity of the hippocampal pathways were only observed in patients who responded to ECT, the findings suggest that ECT produces its therapeutic effects in the brain by improving this structural integrity.

"These data add to the growing evidence that response to ECT is associated with changes in brain structure, in this case anatomical measures of white matter, in individuals undergoing this treatment for major depression," said Cameron Carter, MD, Editor of Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging.

Hippocampal structural connectivity before ECT was not related to treatment response, meaning that the measures can't be used to predict how a patient will respond to ECT. Despite that, the connection between the structural changes induced by ECT and therapeutic response suggests that changes of hippocampal structural connectivity could be used during the development of new treatments to test how well they might work.

Science Daily, https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/01/190116090715.htm

from the Excomm...

words of thanks from our new Chairman

Dear Mensa members,

I'm honoured and grateful to serve as Chairman for the next two years. I'll do my best to further Mensa's goals, in the interest of all members.

One may ask how I can say that, since obviously not all members share the same interests. But in a larger sense we all do: we are all in Mensa hoping to get something meaningful out of it. For some it's intellectual stimulation, for others it's friendship; many of us are motivated by the work to support gifted children. And so on. Typically it's a little bit of all. A core function of Mensa is to allow members to find and engage with one another so that they can cultivate whatever they have in mind. Or, as the case may be, in heart. If the new executive committee can make this easier, it will be a very good thing.

Good things happen when members meet. In fact, that's how I joined Mensa, through a chance encounter that I will never forget. I was fifteen years old when my Mensa story began, in the early nineties, when one day we had a most eccentric substitute arts teacher in school. I would later learn that he was a board member of Mensa Sweden, at the time a small group of barely 200 members. Still, I knew about Mensa from a popular science magazine I used to read as a young boy. The teacher, a brilliant Hungarian named Jola Sigmond, and I started talking after class; it was the most exhilarating conversation I had ever experienced. All and everything mixed and intertwined in a multidimensional communion of thought at 300 verbal km per hour. Intellectual resonance, that feeling you get when someone responds and elaborates at a similar pace to yourself, so that harmony ensues. No jokes falling flat on the ground, no awkward silence. Hours later, the joint exploration of idea space had filled me with a thrilling realisation that something important had happened to me. I need more of this, I thought to myself, so I took the supervised test and became a Mensa member. I would very soon become a volunteer, and one thing led to another and here I am, wondering what on Earth just happened, 28 years later. Mensa has given me much to be grateful for, but Jola I thank for making me join in the first place.

I have more people I want to thank, for more recent contributions. First of these is Bibiána Balanyi for her service to Mensa as chair for the past four years. It is Bibiána we have to thank for, among other things, getting our brand new website at mensa.org. Bibiána will continue to serve Mensa in her new-old role as Director of Development, a position we both have held in the past.

I also want to thank Nick Sanford, Dan Burg and Rudi Challupner for their services as, respectively, Treasurer and Directors of Administration and Development during the past two years. In the case of Rudi, congratulations are also in order as he again assumes office, as Treasurer a second time.

Congratulations as well to Mark Dettinger, re-elected as Director of Smaller National Mensas, and last but not least, to our new Director of Administration, Isabella Holz. We have a strong team in place and I look forward to working with them.

But there's more: a big thanks to the election committee and all the candidates and every member who voted. Every election is a lesson in democracy, and without candidates and voters there can be no election.

Thank you for reading.

Björn Liljeqvist
Chairman, Mensa International
chairman-mil@mensa.org

what's on...

MENSA AT CAMBRIDGE UK | 05 - 08 SEPTEMBER

MENSA INDIA AGM INDIA | 08 SEPTEMBER

IBD MEETING (KUALA LUMPUR) MALAYSIA | 10 - 13 OCTOBER

AUSTRALIAN MENSA CONFERENCE (AMC) (ADELAIDE) | 1 - 3 NOVEMBER

The Other America

john blinke

Sixteenth century European explorers and settlers never saw a pristine wilderness in the Americas. The indigenous peoples who preceded them did, thousands of years ago. But they did not leave it that way. According to the book "1491" by Charles C. Mann, the park-like coastline that greeted the Pilgrims in the seventeenth century had been purposefully created by Native Americans. See "Feel the Burn" below.

Further inland, artificial earth mounds rose above the flat woodlands. Some of these pre-dated the Egyptian pyramids. The biggest, Monk's Mound near Collinsville, Illinois, had about the same footprint as the great Pyramid at Giza, but was only a hundred feet tall. It was made of pounded earth and clay instead of stone. Native people didn't have draft animals, steel shovels, or metal containers to haul soil in, so the work load was enormous.

Why go to all the trouble of building mounds? I can come up with several possible reasons. First, local inhabitants told Hernando de Soto that mounds were burial places for local nobles. Maybe that is what they believed. And some burials did take place over time. But de Soto was there in about 1540, long after the civilization had peaked. So his information probably does not represent the original purpose. Second, raised platforms could make it possible to see enemies coming across the forested land: when you are in the woods at ground level, you only see the nearest trees. Get above the trees, and you can see a very long way. Third, the work would keep inhabitants busy when they were not hunting or farming: Idle people have always meant trouble. Keeping them occupied on a long project would be a good way to maintain law and order. Fourth: shamans could have used mounds to get closer to the heavens. This idea is supported by the fact that there were fairly large wooden buildings on top of many mounds. The buildings could have been temples.

John Blinke

Global Warming Threatens Humanity

Chris Warren is a retired senior research officer from the Australian Public Service, who joined Mensa in Canberra in 1976. Below, he responds in part to an article published in the June, 2019 MWJ.

I would like to plead for higher standards in our consideration of climate change including better use of the available science.

Scientists have sophisticated techniques to both monitor current environmental trends and to delve into the past. We know that infrared radiation does not transmit through the atmosphere as easily as does the Sun's original radiation due to carbon dioxide (CO_2) and water vapour.

Throughout evolution, atmospheric absorption of infrared produced a beneficial natural temperature balance within which humans prospered. The issue for Mensa now is whether future humanity is jeopardised by our ongoing interference in this natural balance.

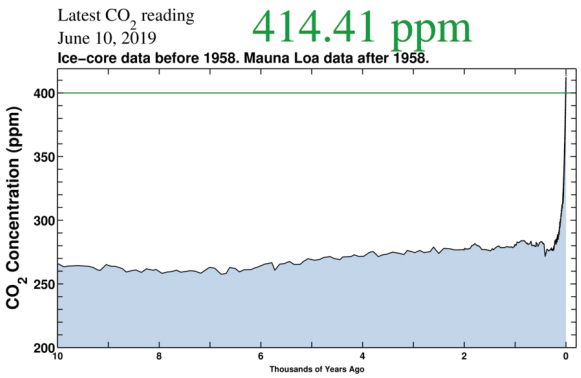
In an article in the *Mensa World Journal* June 2019, a member claimed that the United Nations fiddled with data and that those concerned over carbon emissions were engaging in "risible nonsense" or propagating a "hoax". It was also claimed that the Earth was cooling and that CO_2 is merely a trace gas. Within British Mensa publications, governments acting on climate change have been tagged "idiot Western governments". Such claims are false at every point.

Of course global temperatures change naturally but only over tens of thousands of years and in these cases temperature moves first and CO_2 follows - some hundreds of years later. Natural temperature changes are caused by variations in the Earth's relationship to the Sun based on Milankovitch Cycles. This does not apply today.

Our changes are far more rapid. Today's temperature rise and associated increase in CO_2 occur at the same time and at rates with no precedent in the past, no matter how far back you go.

The natural level is under 270 ppm. At 414 ppm, CO_2 has now reached levels that have never existed previously except long before the evolution of the Neanderthals. Modern humans evolved in Africa around 200,000 years ago and could never withstand the Earthly temperature conditions of eons before. These conditions will return if too much CO_2 is reintroduced into our atmosphere.

The recent skyrocketing in CO_2 is a purely unnatural event and, if it continues upwards and towards 540 ppm, will represent a doubling of the natural level. At the present rate of CO_2 increase (see graph below), this point is around 50 years away. From then on, unless some new technology emerges, we risk returning the environment to conditions within which warm- blooded animals such as ourselves will not survive.



Contrary to the claim in the *Mensa World Journal*, we know the Earth is not cooling and anyone can verify this by simply entering "Global temperature trend" into any internet search engine – case closed. It is true that the upper stratosphere is cooling, but this is only because heat is trapped below. Such upper cooling proves the Earth is warming.

If humanity had not interfered, then

(continued on p11)

Meditating Away Our Genius Monkey Minds

by Jeffery Alan Ford

My monkey mind would never shut up!

"Monkey mind" is a Buddhist term that's used to describe an untrained, undisciplined mind that is perpetually producing a steady stream of thoughts, questions, worries and/or just plain nonsense that keeps us distracted from anything of greater importance.

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that people with higher IQs disproportionately find it much more difficult to quickly fall asleep at night. That's when our highly developed, intellectual monkey minds kick into high gear with such random thoughts and questions as, "Aha! That's why I walked into the kitchen this morning!" "Does anyone realize that the movie Idiocracy was actually made about people like them … or, does the Dunning-Kruger Effect mercifully safeguard them from the truth?" And the question that keeps me up at night, "What were the first seven words of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* again?"

Everybody experiences monkey mind - it's nothing to be ashamed of. That said, it's time that we all say an overdue farewell to our wildly rambunctious primate friend and we can easily do that through the simple use of mindfulness meditation where everything begins with the breath.

Meditation involves breathing but it's not about breathing – it's about becoming fully aware, alive and whole again – just like we were when we were pure, newborn babies.

The mindfulness form of meditation that I practice does not involve emptying the mind … it's all about stilling the mind and enjoying the crystal clear awareness that comes from silencing our internal monologue and just experiencing what's happening in our immediate inner and outer world without the intrusion of any thoughts or judgments. When a stray thought does enter the mind, it isn't judged – it's simply experienced and allowed to float on by.

Have you ever noticed how babies are able to pay full attention to any new objects that enter their world? They want to touch them and see how they feel. They like to put things in their mouth and see how they taste. Babies also shake things and bang them against their cribs or the floor and hear what they sound like.

We can all learn from babies' innate desire to become fully aware of whatever enters their world. Their minds are a fresh slate without the limitations of any learned languages, or any preconceived, prejudicial notions of what each item or person should mean to them.

It doesn't matter how much of a genius you might be, we can all learn a great deal from the tiniest, most innocent, and in some ways, wisest among us.

Simply meditate, observe, become more childlike, and say goodbye to your unrestrained monkey mind!

Jeffery is a member of Mensa, TED Speaker and the World Genius Directory 2016 Genius of the Year - USA

How to Enhance or Suppress Memories

What if scientists could manipulate your brain so that a traumatic memory lost its emotional power over your psyche? Steve Ramirez, a Boston University neuroscientist fascinated by memory, believes that a small structure in the brain could hold the keys to future therapeutic techniques for treating depression, anxiety, and PTSD, someday allowing clinicians to enhance positive memories or suppress negative ones.

Inside our brains, a cashew-shaped structure called the hippocampus stores the sensory and emotional information that makes up memories, whether they be positive or negative ones. No two memories are exactly alike, and likewise, each memory we have is stored inside a unique combination of brain cells that contain all the environmental and emotional information associated with that memory. The hippocampus itself, although small, comprises many different subregions all working in tandem to recall the elements of a specific memory.

Now, in a new paper in *Current Biology*, Ramirez and a team of collaborators have shown just how pliable memory is if you know which regions of the hippocampus to stimulate -- which could someday enable personalized treatment for people haunted by particularly troubling memories.

"Many psychiatric disorders, especially PTSD, are based on the idea that after there's a really traumatic experience, the person isn't able to move on because they recall their fear over and over again," says Briana Chen, first author of the paper, who is currently a graduate researcher studying depression at Columbia University.

In their study, Chen and Ramirez, the paper's senior author, show how traumatic memories - such as those at the root of disorders like PTSD - can become so emotionally loaded. By artificially activating memory cells in the bottom part of the brain's hippocampus, negative memories can become even more debilitating. In contrast, stimulating memory cells in the top part of the hippocampus can strip bad memories of their emotional oomph, making them less traumatic to remember.

Well, at least if you're a mouse.

Using a technique called optogenetics, Chen and Ramirez mapped out which cells in the hippocampus were being activated when male mice made new memories of positive, neutral, and negative experiences. A positive experience, for example, could be exposure to a female mouse. In contrast, a negative experience could be receiving a startling but mild electrical zap to the feet. Then, identifying which cells were part of the memory-making process (which they did with the help of a glowing green protein designed to literally light up when cells are activated), they were able to artificially trigger those specific memories again later, using laser light to activate the memory cells.

Their studies reveal just how different the roles of the top and bottom parts of the hippocampus are. Activating the top of the hippocampus seems to function like effective exposure therapy, deadening the trauma of reliving bad memories. But activating the bottom part of the hippocampus can impart lasting fear and anxiety-related behavioral changes, hinting that this part of the brain could be overactive when memories become so emotionally charged that they are debilitating.

That distinction, Ramirez says, is critical. He says that it suggests suppressing overactivity in the bottom part of the hippocampus could potentially be used to treat PTSD and anxiety disorders. It could also be the key to enhancing cognitive skills.

Extracted from Science Daily online, May 23, 2019

Brilliant Young Cellist...

Jivan Xander Ramesh is a ten-year-old cellist – at five, he was Carnegie Hall's youngest-ever string performer. In April, the New York Philharmonic performed a composition of his at Lincoln Center. Jivan joined the musicians on his cello. Below, Jivan shares with us his *Musical Thoughts.*

Music is a foundation of my life. It is a source of safety, calmness, serenity, joy, and exhilaration. I can't remember a time when I wasn't playing or composing music. I started playing the cello before I was three years old and started composing before I was four. Because music has always been part of my life, many of my most important memories are entwined with music.

A few years ago, my parents and I drove to Florida on a family vacation. We love wildlife, so we went to Crystal River, where manatees gather in the winter. I cautiously stepped into the ice-cold water with our party to search for manatees. I am always humming, so of course I was humming as I swam around. Suddenly, I felt a nudge on my leg. I turned around, and a young manatee had come right up and was nuzzling me. Then another one came, and then another. Soon I was surrounded by young manatees. Everyone in our group was amazed – the manatees were attracted by my humming! Even now when I go back to Crystal River, people know the story of the boy who called the manatees by humming.

Another animal and music memory I always think of involves my black cockapoo, Sirius. He was a wonderful dog and my big brother. We met on the first day I came home as a baby. Sirius's superpower was that he was a cello dog. Whenever I played the cello, he sat with me to listen. He even nudged me and barked at me when I played badly. Nothing could prevent Sirius from coming to listen to me play. He would refuse walks, treats, and food and would come and sit with me when I played. Sadly, as Sirius grew old, he lost his hearing. But even when he couldn't hear, he came and sat with me when I played and followed the vibrations. Sirius's faithfulness and love of my cello helped me practice and love music. It's wonderful when you are playing and there is someone there who truly loves you. I miss him very much, and I still think of him when I play the cello.

A final memory, which is both sad and yet hopeful, happened about a year ago. I was very close to my grandmother, and we used to speak daily. Then suddenly we learned she had suffered a massive stroke. We drove back to Canada to see her at the hospital. She could not talk or respond, and we thought she couldn't understand a word we said. Because my grandmother loved hearing me play cello, I decided to play for her in the hospital room. To our amazement, she responded to the music. There were tears in her eyes, and she started trying to talk to us. We spoke to her, and she understood and answered our questions by pointing at a Yes or No that we wrote on a piece of paper. The nurses and families of the other patients on the floor also came to hear me play. They told me that the music was helpful and asked me to play in the hospital each day I was visiting. I learned that when I played music, I could touch people and help them get better.

Music is a type of universal communication. You don't need to speak the same language or even be able to speak to be moved by music. You don't even need to be a human! Music transcends.

Reprinted from *Mensa Bulletin*, June 2019, Editor Chip Taulbee

words...

Black Dog

The term, 'Black dog', meaning an expression of depression, dates from the 1700s, but long before that, Horace, the Roman poet, noted that to see a black dog, especially with pups, was a premonition of bad luck. In the Middle Ages, too, it was believed that the devil disguised himself as a black dog which is the form he assumed in Goethe's ***Faust***.

Dr. Samuel Johnson (1709-84), English lexicographer, was known for his metaphorical use of the 'black dog' in describing his melancholia: "The Black Dog I hope always to resist, and in time to drive, though I am deprived of almost those that used to help me", and in 1826, Lockhart talks of "A great relief from the Black Dog which would have worried me at home" in Memoirs of the Life of Sir Walter Scott..."

'Black dog' owes much of its popularity to Winston Churchill. However, Andrew Roberts, a historian of the wartime leader, claims that Churchill did not suffer from depression and his reference to the "black dog" has been misinterpreted for decades. Roberts says the phrase "black dog" had a different meaning at the beginning of the 20th century.

Philo-miso, a love-hate relationship...

We all know that in the western world these days, especially in the United States and Australia, a smoker is not only considered to be indulging in a habit that is detrimental to one's health, but also a person to be scorned, derided, looked down upon and made a downright pariah of. But did you know that this is nothing new, that in 1604, James 1 wrote a scathing indictment of the habit in ***A Counterblaste to Tobacco?*** He described it as: "A custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black, stinking fume thereof, nearest resembling the horrible Stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless." It's just as well the Greeks gave us a good word for James and his followers: misocapnist - hater of tobacco smoke - but bad luck for James that he turned many of his subjects into misobasalists (haters of kings).

They must have been great haters, those ancient Greeks. Miso (or mis if preceding a vowel) is the combination of misein (to hate) and misos (hatred) and has produced misanthropy (hater of humankind), misandry (hatred of males), misogamy (hatred of marriage) and misoxeny (hatred of strangers).

But lest you think that all was gloomy in the lexicons of old Athens, the Greeks were also keen on philo- (loving) words, giving us philocyny (love of dogs), philopogony (love of beards) and philogyny (love of women).

Try your hand at these three:

i) Is misology a hatred of: reasoning or knowledge, prevailing winds, or insects?

ii) is a dendrophile a lover of: teeth, trees, or carvings?

iii) is an ailurophile a person who loves scepticism, cats, or flies?

(*Answers below*)

Kate Nacard

Answers:

i) hatred of reasoning or knowledge

ii) trees

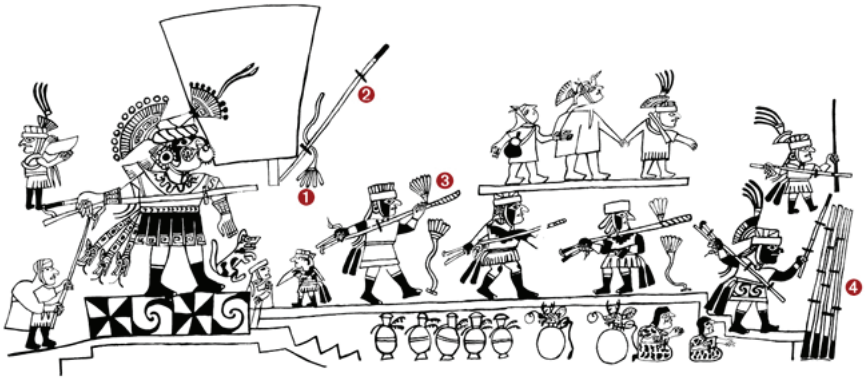
iii) cats

supplementally...

by john blinke

Feel the Burn
ScienceDaily, May 21, 2019.
"Eastern Forests Shaped More by Native Americans' Burning than by Climate Change."
The North American forest we see today is not much like the one the first European settlers encountered. According to research done by scientists from Penn State, native Americans burned the forest regularly to shape it for their needs. Getting rid of the forest canopy allowed them to plant nut trees and maize where those crops would not grow naturally. And the absence of dense tree cover allows grass to grow — feeding the deer and bison they liked to hunt. Modern people have noticed that wild areas are changing. Indeed, the land is reverting to normal. But climate change was not the major cause of the change in plant life. It seems that differing cultivation practices are more important in the eastern US than the rising temperature. The western part of the country is a different story. Rising temperatures there are making the usual dryness even worse.

Fun and Games.
Archaeology, May/June 2019.
"Bringing Back Moche Badminton".
It's like badminton played with spears. Ancient wall paintings at some Moche sites in Peru show an unlikely game in great detail. A thing resembling a badminton shuttlecock is attached to a spear shaft with a long coiled string. When the spear is thrown, the string unwinds, releasing the feathered shuttlecock high in the air. Then, other men use spear throwers (atlatls) to try and hit the shuttlecock in mid flight. This sounds too difficult to be a real sport, but scientists from University of Colorado Boulder decided to try it. They enlisted helpers from the World Atlatl Association to make the sporting implements needed. Their verdict: Not only is it possible — it is a heck of a lot of fun! Although, it was probably a solemn contest of some kind in Moche times. See it for yourself by searching for Moche Badminton.



Bringing back Moche Badminton

Old China
Archaeology, May/June 2019, pp. 34 - 37. "China's Hidden city."
There is something mysterious going on in China. Rather, there was something mysterious 4,000 years ago. At a time when most structures were built of pounded earth, a city called Shimao had some stone fortifications. A 230 foot tall hill at the city center was carved into something resembling an earthwork stepped pyramid. The gate to the city could only be approached by a serpentine avenue overlooked by 25-foot tall stone towers. Researchers found pits containing a hundred skulls of young women. And jade artifacts were embedded in the walls. These may have been intended as magical protection for the settlement. The discovery of places like Shimeo suggests that Chinese civilization arose in widely separated nuclei of culture and eventually merged into larger political units.

John Blinke

(Continued from p05)

the Earth may well be entering a new ice age now. This path is no longer available.

It is very easy to explore the correlation between the Earth's orbit and global temperatures by searching on the internet. This is useful: https://tinyurl.com/milankovitch2019

We know CO_2 is not a trace gas in the atmosphere because it has been measured at 0.04% and rising. This is still very small but, if it could be concentrated in a single layer, it would be at least 14 inches thick. The impact of this was demonstated by the BBC in its *Earth: The Climate Wars*, a program well worth watching. (See: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1BZeSbtyaA.)

At this stage, with so much science available, most argumentation should be over but our politicians are failing. Despite all the international meetings and political spin, the amount of CO_2 continues to rise as ever.

Are we, as a generation, threatening the rights of all humanity? Will our grandchildren have the right to also enjoy their grandchildren? How can we prevent CO_2 rising towards 1000 ppm?

Chris Warren
cwarren.london@gmail.com

Log into the International website at www.mensa.org for details of national events

Writing for the MWJ

The *Mensa World Journal* is your magazine and it would be wonderful if you were to share your thoughts with the rest of the Mensa world. By and large, most of the articles are written by Mensans - for Mensans - and the opportunity is there for you to be one of these authors.

Topics can cover reports of Mensa events you've attended, your achievements, unusual hobbies and interests, or your successes.

Please limit your article length to 600 words and send it to the Editor, Kate Nacard: mwjeditor@mensa.org. Please also include your National Mensa and your membership number.

OFFICER DIRECTORY

Chair: Mr Bjorn Ljeqvist chairman-mil@mensa.org
Director Admin: Ms Isabella Holz admin-mil@mensa.org
Director Development: Ms Bibiana Balanyi development-mil@mensa.org
Treasurer: Mr Rudi Challupner treasurer-mil@mensa.org
Dir. Smaller National Mensas: Mr Mark Dettinger dsnm-mil@mensa.org
Hon. President: Dr Abbie Salny, 407 Breckenridge, Wayne NJ 07470 USA Tel: +1 973 305 0055
SIGHTCoordinator: Mr Henkhenk Broekhuizen SIGHT@mensa.org
SIG Co-Coordinators: Ms Barbara Kryvko and Mr Henri Buccine-Schraeder sigs@mensa.org
Ombudsman: Mr Martyn Davies ombudsman@mensa.org
Executive Director: Mr Michael Feenan, Slate Barn, Church Lane, Caythorpe, Lincolnshire NG32 3EL, UK
Tel/Fax+44(0)1400272 675 mensainternational@mensa.org

Editorial Staff

Editor: Ms Kate Nacard 407/23 Corunna Rd, Stanmore NSW 2048 Australia mwjeditor@mensa.org T: +61 402152858
Science: Mr John Blinke Johnb44221@cs.com
Books: Mr Hal Swindall mwjreviews@gmail.com
Puzzles: Ms Therese Moodie-Bloom tmb@ozemail.com.au

THERESE'S TEASERS

MENSA MINI IQ CHALLENGE

If you would like to discuss answers directly with MENSA, you can email Therese at therese@mensa.org.au

1. Read forwards, I can mean PORTENT. Read backwards, I can spell the NAME OF A FAMOUS FISH. What word am I?

---

2. Decipher the word in the box to see which common Australian creature it contains.

a DER

---

3. Put a word meaning ERA in front of a word meaning LIST to find a word meaning SCHEDULE.

---

4. Find a word for each pair of words below, which can be added to the end of the first word, and also to the beginning of the second word, to make two new words.

FORE		**MATE**
LI		**ME**
OUT		**FARE**

Now read down the centre boxes to find what sportsman John, the ladies' man, likes to do.

---

5. Which letter should come next to continue the pattern?

U	**O**	**J**	**F**	**?**

6.

7	1	1	5
9	3	1	5
6	0	1	5
8	1	?	5

---

7. Two words in each group of three can be joined together and have their letters rearranged to form a word that can mean the remaining word. Eg CALM – DIN – OUR makes CLAMOUR, a synonym for DIN. The words are in no particular order.

a) HEAT – RATION – AID

b) ON – CAR – WAG

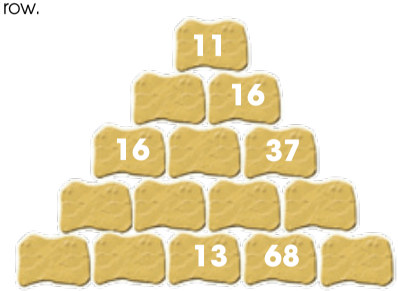
c) CURE – RATE – ANIMAL

d) PILL – LET – BAT

e) BALL – VOTE – TO

---

8. The number on each stone represents the difference between the numbers in the two stones on which it sits. Can you work out the five two-digit numbers on the bottom stones? Each of the digits 0-9 is used once only in the bottom row.



---

9. Unscramble the following words to find the odd one out.

MOYGREET GLABEAR
GOYLOGE METRICHAIT

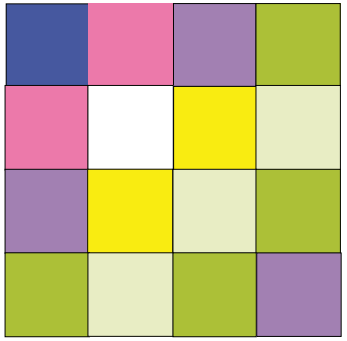
---

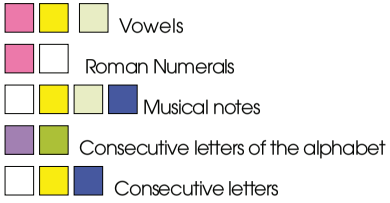
10. Which popular actor can be named by using the eight letters below?

MONK'S HAT

---

11. Each colour represents a different letter. Use the clues below to fill in the blanks to form a wordsquare. The square will have four proper words reading across and the same four words down.





---

12. What is the longest word you can make using the letters of CONVERSATION no more than once each?

---

13. Which four-letter word can be put in front of each of the following to make five new words?

LAND DROPS CONE APPLE WOOD

---

14. All of the letters of the alphabet are in the grid below, except for Q. What is the longest word you can spell by moving from square to touching square, either up, down, sideways or diagonally? Each square may be entered once only.

B	**F**	**U**	**X**	**Y**
P	**J**	**M**	**S**	**O**
I	**C**	**G**	**L**	**W**
N	**Z**	**H**	**A**	**D**
T	**E**	**R**	**V**	**K**

---

15. Jane 'recycles' candles. She melts five candle stubs together to mould one 'new' candle. How many extra candles will she get from a box of 125?

SCORECARD: SCORE 1 POINT FOR EACH CORRECT ANSWER

14 – 15	**Genius material**
11 – 13	**Excellent lateral thinker**
7 – 10	**Very good**
4 – 6	**Good**
0 – 3	**Bad hair day**

YOUR SCORE

1. Omen (Nemo). **2.** A radbuck (spider). **3.** Time-table. **4.** Play the field. **5.** C. **6.** 2 (Column A – B – C = D). **7.** a) Radiation (heat) b) Wagon (car) c) Creature (animal) d) Tablet (pill) e) Ballot (vote). **8.** 29 47 13 68 50. **9.** Geology. (Others are branches of mathematics: Geometry, Algebra, Arithmetic). **10.** Tom Hanks. **11.** FIST IDEA SEAT TATS. **12.** Conservation. **13.** Pine. **14.** Intervals (9 letters). **15.** 31 (25 from the first lot, another 5 from that 25, and a final 1 from that 5.)