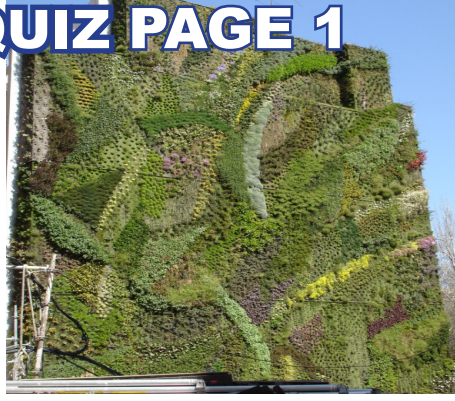


DISCOVERIES QUIZ PAGE 1



Do you know of any new discoveries or inventions? See if you can answer these questions from current news.

1 How have stem cell researchers restored sight to nearly blind people?

- A by removing their eyelids
B by placing stem cells in eyelashes
C by placing stem cells in contact lenses
D by bleaching the iris

2 What kind of new vehicle is ideal for large and small cargo loads?

- A a vehicle that changes shape depending on the cargo
B a vehicle made from stretchy material
C a vehicle that holds various container sizes using lasers

3 Who can benefit from a new drug that takes the thrill out of illicit activities?

- A drug and alcohol addicts
B drug and alcohol addicts and kleptomaniacs
C reckless drivers
D shopping addicts

4 Where can a garden grow now without any soil?

- A vertically, on walls
B on clothing
C in outer space
D on skin

5 Why would a computerised kitchen cutting board be useful?

- A to provide self cleaning and self repair of knife marks
B to monitor cooking times and convert measurements
C to communicate with local farmers' markets, share recipes and follow diet plans
D to watch television while preparing food

6 Where are new foam cars available and especially beneficial for the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists that swarm the roads?

- A USA
B India
C Mexico
D Thailand

7 What are newly invented unbreakable sunglasses made of?

- A plant based plastics
B surgical steel and metal injection
C bone
D aloe vera gel



DISCOVERIES QUIZ PAGE 2

Teacher's notes: Total pages 2 / student pages 1 / week of 08.06.09 / intermediate+ (B1+)

ANSWERS: 1C 2A 3B 4A 5C 6D 7B

Cut up and share out the information among the students. They should read them and report back to the rest of the class and then check their quiz answers.

1 Researchers have restored sight in patients suffering eye damage using a groundbreaking technique where contact lenses are cultured with stem cells. Stem cells from the eye cornea stick to contact lenses. Employing three patients who were blind in one eye, the researchers obtained stem cells from their healthy eyes and cultured them in extended wear contact lenses. The surfaces of the patients' eye corneas were cleaned and the contact lenses inserted. Within 10 to 14 days the stem cells began to recolonize and repair the cornea. Of the three patients, two were legally blind but can now read the big letters on an eye chart, while the third, who could previously read the top few rows of the chart, is now able to pass the vision test for a driver's license.

2 To tackle inner city deliveries this innovative, battery powered, transforming cargo vehicle can be configured into track, wheelbase and load carrying variations. It features a Compact Mode, Narrow Mode and Pick-up Truck Mode. The Compact Mode sees the Pick-up section flushed to the back of the cabin. It's an ideal situation for small deliveries. The Narrow mode gives reduced width and higher maneuverability and as the name suggests, the Pick-up Truck Mode allows you to carry larger payloads.

3 Scientists have discovered that a drug which is used to treat drug and alcohol addiction can help kleptomaniacs from stealing. The drug, naltrexone, works by removing the thrill that the shoplifter experiences when stealing. This considerably reduces the compulsion to steal.

4 After many years of research and testing around the world, Patrick Blanc has created, developed and copyrighted the Vertical Garden, an amazing way to build vertical gardens without any soil. These vertical gardens are self-sustained. With little maintenance they grow and the owner is carefree, because the whole system takes care of itself. At the same time, these wonderful vegetal wonders are a smart way to have thermal and sound isolation. Blanc, a botanist and landscaping and gardening expert, chooses carefully the vegetal species utilized in each one of his projects, according to the local species.

5 Another new invention is an intelligent cutting board with an integrated computer and scale. The device can connect with local farmers and farmers' markets to help you procure the seasonal produce. The Smartchef can even help you share recipes and formulate diet plans. The unit is made up of a bamboo surfaced cutting board element containing the SmartChef's computing and food scanning hardware, while a portable touch-screen tablet provides a kitchen-safe interface that can travel throughout the kitchen and home.

6 A new three-wheel, two-seater car weighs only 300-odd pounds and uses a super-lightweight reinforced foam for 90 percent of the bodywork. It gets well over 100mpg from its 110cc engine, it's light enough to lift by hand, and the foam shell has huge safety benefits, both for the occupants and for the legions of pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists that swarm the roads of Thailand. Oh, and it floats. The Spira is an economical, fuel-friendly way to increase safety.

7 The Fisk sunglasses have a number of innovative elements. First, they have a completely adjustable nose bridge. Second, the hinge is made of surgical stainless steel and built with a metal injection molding process which makes it essentially unbreakable.
