Name: _____ Date: _____

The 10 weirdest jobs you've never heard of

THINK your job is boring? Well, it probably is compared to some of these odd professions.

A. Pet Food Tester

Yes, it's a thing, and yes it's totally gross. But as the owner of pet food company *Huds and Toke*, Mark Gooley, says, "If you wouldn't put it in your mouth, don't you dare expect your dog to eat it."Mr. Gooley eats dog food for a living. He eats everything from doggie treats and chewy bones to liver mixture. "I'm looking for palatability. I want it to be soft in the mouth and I want it to be an enjoyable experience for the dog," he said. "The dog might not be able to tell me 'that tastes terrible', so I have to taste it," he said. And if it doesn't pass the taste test, it's back to the drawing board.

B. Fountain Pen Doctor

Don't you just hate it when your fountain pen breaks? It's the worst. Luckily there's a man whose sole job it is to fix fountain pens. Richard Binder, 59, of Richard Binder Fountain Pens in Nashua, New Hampshire, has been "pen doctoring full-time" since leaving his software engineer job in 2002. He receives broken pens from everywhere - Argentina, Japan, South Africa. He often has 600 pens waiting to be fixed at any one time. "More than half of my work, really, is nib work," Binder told Fortune. "The heart of a fountain pen is the nib, the point through which the ink flows. If the nib is no good, it doesn't matter how fancy the rest of it is, it's not a good pen. Nibs can be scratchy if they're worn or misaligned. People often want them adjusted for more or less ink flow, or customised for calligraphy. "My gross income is less than when I was a software engineer, but I'm happier.

C. Gumologist

A lot of hard work goes into creating the perfect piece of chewy. Just ask Jesse Kiefer, who works as a Gumologist for Cadbury Schweppes."A piece of gum weighs just one to seven grams, but it's packed with a lot of different technology," he told Fortune. "It has to deliver a burst of flavour, a lot of sweetness, and a lot of tartness if it's a fruit gum. "Our team figures out how to combine all those. "Some days, I don't blow any bubbles. Other days I have to blow a lot. It depends on what stage we are in the project." Kiefer has to get the flavour just right, which isn't easy with some combos like strawberry and lime - which he says don't complement each other that well. Kiefer started out as a chemical engineer and was working mainly with detergent and soaps. "But with gum there's just so many flavours! I find the job very stimulating. I've had only one cavity since I started here."

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D. IMAX Screen Cleaner

Those giant cinema screens are total germ-bait. It's a business model just waiting to happen. And Michael Quaranto, of Houston's 1570 Cinema Services, capitalised on it big time. The airline pilot got together with his best mate, Andrew Brown, and on their 14 days off a month, they travel around the country and clean IMAX screens. "Theatres that carry concessions often have Gummi bears or soda thrown at the screen. We also find spit wads," Quaranto told Fortune. "The biggest problem is that they get dusty. The most dust we've ever seen was a quarter-inch thick. "We usually have to empty the vacuum cleaner at least two or three times during the process. We're covered in dust by the end of the night".

E. Snake Milker

Snake venom is powerful material. It can be turned into drugs to treat all kinds of conditions, including a poisonous snake bite. However, some brave soul needs to collect that venom by hand. They gently expose the snake's fang and squeeze out the deadly juices. "The only difference between me and any other company in the world that produces something is that the means of production here can kill you...and wants to," Alabama snake milker Ken Darnell told NPR.

Read the text and match the questions (1–10) with people (A–E).

Which person…

1. Started business with a lifetime friend? _____
2. Earns less money than before with his new profession? _____
3. Adapts certain items for them to suit his customer's needs better? _____
4. Is in touch with people from different nationalities? _____
5. Has a job that contributes to improving human's health? _____
6. Has to try the flavor of different kinds of food? _____
7. Is usually untidy when he finishes working? _____
8. Has to look for the perfect combination of flavors? _____
9. Changed jobs because the new one had lots of interesting possibilities? _____
10. Restarts his production process when the results are not satisfying? _____

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