UPSIDE-DOWN RHINO EXPERIMENT WINS IG NOBEL PRIZE

Everyone is familiar with the Nobel Prizes, which are awarded for physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, and peace. These are given to those who have contributed "the greatest benefit to humankind". However, fewer people are aware of the Ig Nobel Prize. This is bestowed to "honor achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think". One of this year's Ig Nobel awards has been given to scientists who experimented on the effects on rhinoceroses of hanging them upside down. The rhino study won the award for transportation research. Researchers from Cornell University were trying to ascertain the healthiest way to relocate the animals by helicopter.

The Ig Nobel prizes are organized by the science humor magazine Annals of Improbable Research. Wikipedia says: "The Ig Nobel Prize is a satirical prize awarded annually since 1991 to celebrate ten unusual or trivial achievements in scientific research." It added: "The name of the award is a pun on the Nobel Prize, which it parodies, and on the word ignoble (not noble)." Other recipients of this year's award studied the bacteria in chewing gum stuck to pavements, conducted tests on forms of cat communication, and carried out research on whether humans evolved to grow beards to protect themselves from punches to the face. All award winners receive a now-defunct Zimbabwean $10 trillion note.

1. What is the main purpose of the Ig Nobel Prize? Answer:

A. To honor scientists for groundbreaking research in physics and chemistry
B. To award achievements that make people laugh and then think
C. To give financial rewards to medical researchers
D. To celebrate Nobel laureates in literature

2. Why did the rhinoceros study win an Ig Nobel Prize for transportation research? Answer:

A. It discovered a new species of rhino
B. It solved the rhino extinction problem
C. It studied how to relocate rhinos safely by helicopter
D. It developed a new form of rhino medicine

3. What is the meaning of "ignoble" as used in the context of the prize? Answer:

A. Not honorable or trivial
B. Funny and entertaining
C. Expensive or valuable
D. Scientific and precise

4. Which of the following topics was NOT mentioned as part of this year's Ig Nobel awards? Answer:

A. Studying bacteria in chewing gum on pavements
B. Researching whether beards protect from punches
C. Investigating forms of cat communication
D. Inventing a faster helicopter for animal transportation

5. What do winners of the Ig Nobel Prize receive? Answer:

A. A gold medal and a cash prize of $1,000
B. A certificate signed by the Nobel committee
C. A now-defunct Zimbabwean $10 trillion note
D. A free subscription to Annals of Improbable Research

6. Why might the Ig Nobel Prize be considered "satirical"? Answer:

A. It mocks serious scientific research by highlighting trivial or unusual studies
B. It is awarded only to scientists who fail in their experiments
C. It gives large cash prizes instead of recognition
D. It only honors literature and art achievements

7. What can be inferred about the rhinoceros experiment? Answer:

A. It was intended to entertain the public rather than produce useful results
B. It had practical applications for safely transporting large animals
C. It was criticized for being entirely meaningless
D. It involved inventing a new kind of helicopter

8. How does the Ig Nobel Prize differ from the Nobel Prize in purpose? Answer:

A. It rewards achievements in finance rather than science
B. It emphasizes humor and curiosity in research rather than traditional impact
C. It focuses only on literature and peace efforts
D. It requires winners to publish in the Annals of Improbable Research

9. Why do you think the winners receive a Zimbabwean $10 trillion note? Answer:

A. Because it has a very high monetary value
B. To encourage serious scientific research
C. As a humorous gesture highlighting the satirical nature of the award
D. Because the prize is sponsored by the Zimbabwean government

10. Which statement best describes the overall tone of the passage? Answer:

A. Serious and formal, focusing on major scientific achievements
B. Light-hearted and informative, highlighting unusual science humor
C. Critical of all scientific experiments
D. Technical and focused on helicopter engineering

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