



**The New York Times Second Book of Science  
Questions and Answers: 225 New, Unusual,  
Intriguing, and Just Plain Bizarre Inquiries Into  
Everyday Scientific Mysteries**

*C. Claiborne Ray*

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# The New York Times Second Book of Science Questions and Answers: 225 New, Unusual, Intriguing, and Just Plain Bizarre Inquiries Into Everyday Scientific Mysteries

C. Claiborne Ray

## The New York Times Second Book of Science Questions and Answers: 225 New, Unusual, Intriguing, and Just Plain Bizarre Inquiries Into Everyday Scientific Mysteries C. Claiborne Ray

What would kill you if you fell into a black hole? Once people finally get to Mars, how will they get back? What makes the holes in Swiss cheese? Are there any carnivorous plants that are harmful to humans? Are there really caterpillars that scream to protect themselves? How do birds have sexual intercourse? Why don't woodpeckers damage their brains? What is the function of ear wax? Why don't you sneeze when you're asleep? Do germs have germs? What is considered evidence for extra-terrestrial intelligence?

Every week, C. Claiborne Ray answers questions like these from the readers of the *New York Times* Science section who, as this delightful second volume demonstrates, never seem to run out of things to ask about. Here, Ray gives us 225 of the most interesting answers she has gleaned from scientists in every discipline, satisfying our desire to understand some of the strangest, most curious mysteries of the natural world. Victoria Roberts's charmingly wacky drawings add to the fun.

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