

Blood Zone, June 2013



This report has been compiled by the I'm a Scientist team as a summary, containing moderator observations and our web data, to provide some meaningful information on the zone.

The Blood Zone started off slowly but gradually became busier throughout the event. However, with only one scientist taking part in the live chats, not all questions were answered. The one scientist who did take part was very comfortable and in good humour about handling the chats by himself.

Number of page views in the 3 weeks surrounding the event

Zone page	Page views
Total zone	19,406
ASK page	1,741
CHAT page	2,723
VOTE page	1,073
Sadaf Saad Anjum	648
Katie Greenhalgh	889
Cheyenne Box	589
Andrew Swale	1,255
Aikaterini Tsaousi	471

Key figures from I'm a Scientist June 2013 for the zone, the average of all 18 zones, and the whole event

	Zone	Zones average	Whole event
Registered students	399	372	6,697
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	86%	83%	-
Questions asked	881	963	17,337
Questions approved	300	309	5,558
Answers given	269	533	9,597
Comments	45	73	1,306
Votes	244	276	4,962
Live chats	14	13	240
Lines of live chat	4,297	4,735	85,225
Schools	6	8	138

Popular topics

There were lots of questions regarding the difference between blood types and the effects of being given the 'wrong blood'. Cannibalism also came up a few times.

lottieeeee: What would happen if you were given a blood transfusion of a different type of blood (a, o, ab

andrewswale: if given the wrong blood type your immune system would recognise this as foreign and attack those cells - this is what happens with organ transplant rejection

lottieeeee: surely if this happened then the blood cells would fight each other till there were little left and surely this would be dangerous?

andrewswale: it is dangerous that's why you wouldn't give someone the wrong blood type

Due to Andrew's work, students were also keen to know how he detected bacterial infections in faeces, and whether or not he was embarrassed to talk about his work.

caspiam: Why are you so interested in poop in science?

andrewswale: my uncle had c diff in hospital which made me interested in it

In the questions students were keen to know why the scientists had selected their areas of research, and how their work would affect the rest of society, e.g. 'why did you choose this job?' There were many questions on the creation of blood, blood clots and the nature of various cardiovascular diseases such as aneurysms, then towards the end there was an influx of 'twins' questions.

Sample questions

[Do different blood types make you more vulnerable to different diseases?](#)

[Have you looked at the reasons why the blood clots and is there a way to prevent it?](#)

[Why do some animals have blue blood? And are there any other unnatural colours of blood?](#)

[If a person is injured, how much blood do he have to lose before he die?](#)

[Are some people more susceptible to aneurysms?](#)

[Is it true that your emotional characteristics differ depending on our blood types?](#)

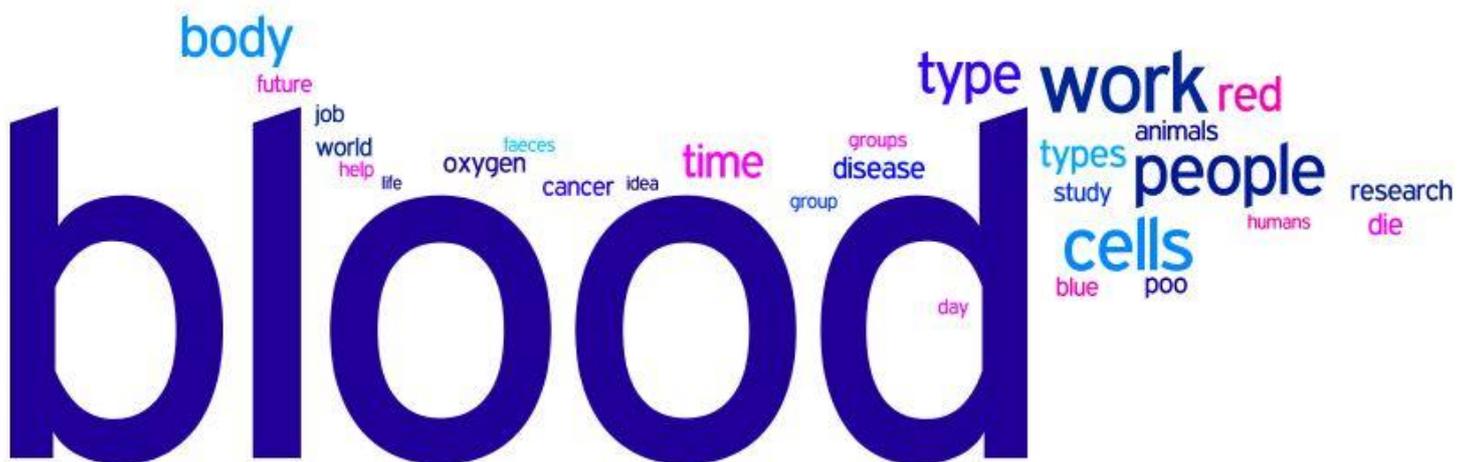
[Who named blood blood and why?](#)

[If you eat yourself, would you become twice as big, or cease to exist as matter?](#)

Keywords of questions asked in the zone (the size of the word represents its popularity; the number indicates the number of times it was tagged as a keyword)

[animal](#)₁₆ [big bang](#)₃ [blood](#)₁₈ [blood group](#)₂ [blood type](#)₁₁
[body](#)₃₀ [cancer](#)₅ [career](#)₃ [cell](#)₅ [death](#)₄ [disease](#)₆ [drugs](#)₂ [earth](#)₆
[education](#)₄ [energy](#)₃ [environment](#)₃ [ethics](#)₂ [evolution](#)₅ [experiment](#)₅ [fact-or-fiction](#)₃ [favourite](#)₃ [future](#)₄ [gene](#)₆ [history](#)₅ [how science](#)
[works](#)₄ [job](#)₂ [medicine](#)₂₁ [microorganism](#)₂ [muscle](#)₂ [neuroscience](#)₉
[nutrition](#)₈ [personal](#)₅ [philosophy](#)₃ [plant](#)₄ [preference](#)₇
[reproduction](#)₃ [research](#)₇ [routine](#)₃ [science](#)₃ [social](#)₃ [space](#)₄ [subject](#)₂ [twin](#)₄ [work](#)₁₇

Keywords from live chats in the zone (the size of the word represents its popularity)



Examples of good engagement

In one chat there was a long back and forth discussion between scientist Andrew and a student who showed great interest:

paigeandindiaxoxo: How is blood made?

andrewswale: blood is made through a process known as haematopoeisis - we start off with

haematopoetic stem cells which differentiate to become the different blood cellular components. this process is happening constantly to replenish our blood and involves the bone marrow

paigeandindiaxoxo: What roles do white blood cells play in disease?

andrewswale: they are responsible for fighting infection

paigeandindiaxoxo: Thanks, where are white blood cells? Are they all over our bodies?

andrewswale: the white blood cells are circulating in our blood so yes - they are present all over. they are also found in the lymphatic system

paigeandindiaxoxo: what is the lymphatic system?

andrewswale: the lymphatic system makes up the circulatory system with the blood. it carries 'lymph' fluid

paigeandindiaxoxo: What are more important; white or red blood cells?

andrewswale: that is a tough question as both are very important. i guess if we didnt have any oxygen to breathe then we couldnt survive so id say red, however if we had no immune system we also wouldnt survive, so white

A scientist from a different zone popped in to help out with one answer:

[‘Could two planets ever swap places \(or at least move place a lot\)?’](#)

Scientist winner: Andrew Swale

Andrew’s plans for the prize money: “The prize money will be donated to the Liverpool World Museum: I used to love going to this museum when I was younger. The aim is for them to use the donation for a science-based workshop for kids.” [Read Andrew’s thank you message here.](#)



Andrew was so committed to the event he even took part in a few of the final live chats while on holiday in Tunisia!

Student winner: paigeandindiaxoxo

For interaction and interest in live chats, **paigeandindiaxoxo** will receive a £20 WH Smith voucher and a certificate.

Feedback

We’re still collecting feedback from teachers, students and scientists but here are a few of the comments made during the event...

“Thank you for your time I really appreciate you answer my questions” – simplytxo, student

“thanks buddy. i hope to be like you in the future” – doctordetta, student

“The quality of the questions the students posed was superb and I was really impressed. Ranging from the philosophical to the downright bizarre” – Andrew Swale, scientist

“thank you we learnt a lot” – patrycjasiwek, student

“thank you for chatting with our class this afternoon; we were really excited :D” – fredrick22, student