

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 Reproduction Zone started quietly but picked up after a few days, with more questions and interesting live chats. The students seemed to pick up on the different research areas of the scientists.

Number of page views in the 3 weeks surrounding the event

Zone page	Page views
Total zone	13,341
ASK page	776
CHAT page	1,232
VOTE page	625
Michelle Taylor	494
Jennie Douthwaite	354
Emmanuel Amabebe	536
Chris Whittle	638
Alberto Lapedriza	526

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	344	372	6,697
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	65%	83%	-
Questions asked	694	963	17,337
Questions approved	193	309	5,558
Answers given	409	533	9,597
Comments	70	73	1,306
Votes	181	276	4,962
Live chats	10	13	240
Lines of live chat	3,673	4,735	85,225
Schools	7	8	138

Popular topics

Birth was a major theme in the live chats, with students asking when the scientists believe life begins. Students were also interested in fertility, asking why IVF is expensive and how the cost could be reduced, as well as how it could be made safer. The students were keen to find out from scientist Chris why diabetes makes babies bigger. On a stranger note, some students wanted to know what would happen if humans were able to crossbreed with animals.

In the questions students were also keen to find out about birth and babies, along with contraception and menstruation. Questions often related to the scientists' research, for example asking Alberto about zebrafish.

Sample questions

[What is a test tube baby?](#)

[Why can't there be conjoined twins that are different sexes?](#)

[Has it been proven that premature babies that survive catch up to what a normal 9 month baby does and within what time scale?](#)

[Why is it a problem that babies are bigger?](#)

[How are babies born?](#)

[Why do men have nipples?](#)

[Do you have a favourite zebrafish?](#)

[Would it be possible to pigment my skin so I look like a zebra?](#)

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)

animal₁₄ animal testing₄ baby₁₄ biology₃ birth₁₃ blood₃
career₁₄ country₃ diabetes₅ dinosaur₂ education₈ environment₂
ethic₃ evolution₃ experiment₉ extinction₂ favourite₈ film₃ food₃
gender₃ genetic₄ hobby₃ human₅ IAS₅ impact₄ insect₃
inspiration₁₂ invention₃ medicine₄ money₃ personal₁₈ premature₃ premature
birth₃ related₂ reproduction₁₂ research₃₃ school₄ science₁₀ scientist₁₅ size₃
subject₃ time₅ water₂ work₁₂ zebra fish₁₀

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



Examples of good engagement

The scientists were able to use humour to engage well with students, as can be seen from the zebra skin question above, and the following dialogues:

moaty: Have you eaten placenta and what does it look like?

chriswhittle: I couldn't even bring myself to eat a placenta! It is like a big flat disk that is very blood covered and tough. A bit like an uncooked steak!

chriswhittle: You can get placenta face cream incidentally!

meerapatel: If you were an artist or designer, what would you go into? Model making? Animator? Freelance artist? Placenta sketcher?

chriswhittle: Probably not placenta sketcher - they aren't that pretty! I would have like to have gone into graphic design

Scientist winner: Chris Whittle

Chris's plans for the prize money: *"I want to make awareness of pregnancy and maternal research much more public and this is why I am looking forward to making the short film about our work public for both the patients and students alike."* [Read Chris's thank you message here.](#)



Student winner: skywombat2000

For asking lots of good questions, **skywombat2000** 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...

"I have learnt a lot from you answering our questions!! Yey!!!!!!" – izzywizytizzy11, student

"Thank you guys! It was great to chat with you!" – Alberto Lapedriza, scientist

"Thank you all you scientists you have inspired me a lot!" – spoderman1, student

"There were some excellent questions presented to me during the two weeks of the contest and many of them were probably not of the standard I would have been able to construct at the age of some of the questioners! This makes me incredibly positive about the next generation of scientists, and the young people in this competition" – Chris Whittle, scientist

"we hve learned so mucgh thank you <3" – mazzasayshowjumper, student

"this is very interesting stuff. I love it" – cyrus, student