

2001: A Space Odyssey

Short Answer.

1. The movie opens up with a scene with some apes around a water hole. Why do the apes make loud noise and pound their chest?
2. Cite an example of this kind of behavior in present-day humans.
3. What do the apes discover near the water hole one day?
4. What two non-physical characteristics separate man from other species?
 - a)
 - b)
5. What is the only species to wage war on itself besides homo sapiens?
6. What is the significance of the pounding the skeleton with the bone? Hint: The answer is *not* weapons.
7. What do the rotating space station and the bone tossed into the air by the ape have in common?
8. What do the letters HAL in HAL-9000 reference?
9. Why did HAL pick the antenna part to fail?
10. Why does Kubrick use the music the Blue Danube Waltz by Richard Struass?
11. Putting astronauts in a state of “suspended animation” (in the deep freeze) makes sense because of conservation of resources. However, why were the astronauts put into this state several months *before* their launch?
12. Why was the discovery of the obelisk on the moon kept secret?
13. Why did the space ship (shuttle) from earth dock in the center of the space station?

14. Why was the space station round and *rotating*?

15. What causes the loud hissing and breathing sounds heard by the astronauts?

Extra for Experts (can be found on the internet)

16. The space station currently being built by the US and other countries in space is *not* round and *not* rotating. Why?

17. What president kicked off our space program in his inaugural speech in 1960?

18. What is the historical significance of the 741 chip?

19. What year was the VCR invented?

20. What year was the CD invented?

21. What is Moore's Law?

22. What does "nano" mean?

23. What year was Apple Computer formed?

24. What year was the Mac first introduced by one of the most famous commercials in Super Bowl history?

Free Response. Would the discovery of intelligent life forms (i.e., life forms that are far more intelligent than man) elsewhere in the universe alter or change your belief systems (religion)? Why or why not?

2001: A Space Odyssey

This movie came out in 1968 about the same time as the first lunar landing by American astronaut _____. This movie is based on the novel by the same name authored by _____. Although the movie was popular and won an academy award for special effects, it was not widely understood and to a large extent was under-appreciated at the time. The _____ war was raging in Southeast Asia and there were civil rights protests in the streets. President _____, who officially kicked off our space program during his inaugural speech in 1960, was assassinated in November, 1963 as was his brother, Bobby Kennedy in June, 1968. _____, a lifelong, successful, and powerful politician from Texas took over as president in 1963 following Kennedy's assassination and was a powerful ally of the space program. To this day, the command center is located in _____. There were race riots in the streets, particularly in Detroit in 1967 where over _____ people were arrested and _____ buildings burned down to the ground. Martin Luther King was assassinated in April, _____, only further showing that these were difficult and troubling times.

What differentiates man from other primates?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

What is the only species that wages war on its own kind other than ants?

What is the significance of the ape pounding the skeleton with the bone?

How does the scene by the water hole that depict the ape(s) exerting dominance by jumping up and down and making loud noises relate to present-day mankind?

Why did Stanley Kubrick (director of the film) use the Blue Danube Waltz (by Richard Strauss)? What did it symbolize?

Why is the space station rotating?

What keeps it rotating?

How are the hallways of the space station different than those here on earth?

As the spaceship approaches the space station for landing, what is the relative (rotational) velocity?

What present-day space vehicle does the rocket from earth going that docks at the space station look similar to?

On the way to the moon, the space (flight) attendant appears to walk in a circle upside down. How do you suppose Kubrick, achieved this special effect?

Why is the breathing and hissing sound so loud in the movie?

Does HAL think he's alive?

How does HAL view humans?

What does EVA stand for?

Extra for Smart Kids. What do you think the number 9000 in HAL-9000 represents? Why?