



July 2026

Our Asian Vacation

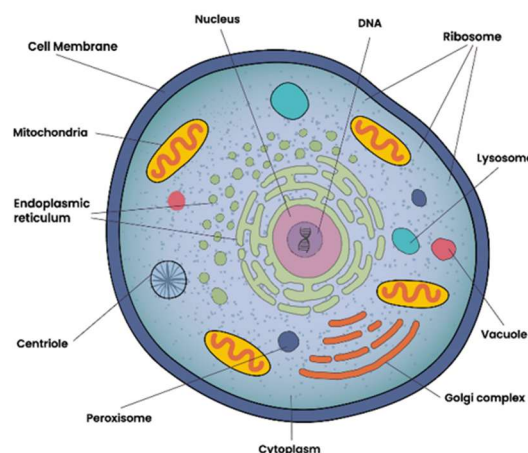
by Ronav and Meera

Hello! My name is Ronav Keswani, and over the summer, I went to two countries, Japan and India. Throughout this article, I'll be reflecting on my travels. I had a great time in India! During my time in India, I visited Manohar Restaurant with my cousin and family where we had a meal together. We ate a variety of foods, including dosa, idli, chutney, sambar, and kulfi falooda for dessert 😊. The dosa was thin and crispy, while the idli had a softer texture. The chutney and sambar added different flavors to the meal, with the sambar being warm and spiced the dish to go well with the other foods. For dessert, my cousin and I had kulfi falooda, which had a rich and creamy kulfi base combined with sweet falooda noodles and other toppings. I also tried different mithais, or traditional Indian yummy sweets, including gulab jamun, mango chocolate, and jalebi. Each sweet had its own flavor and texture, from the soft and syrupy gulab jamun to the smooth and creamy mango chocolate and the crispy, chewy jalebi. The shops in India were super cheap! A chips packet there cost about ₹10, which is only about 9¢! For the rest of the trip, I rode on a motorbike, but chilled at my cousin's house for the most part 😊. India was fun... but so was Japan! I had a great time in Japan! In Japan, my sister and I spent most of our 500¥ that we got each day. What my sister did not know was that I had been saving up to get chopsticks- specifically, a pair with the Lunar Cycle imprinted on them, painted green, glittered in dark green, and made to be featuring a machine-assisted handcrafted version of your Japanese name. But since there wasn't an exact translation, my name is Ronabu Kesuwani in Japanese, and is also how it is written on the chopsticks. The chopsticks themselves cost 2460¥! And the cheapness in India made up for the expenses in Japan so I have no more complaints : > . (My sister wrote 2200¥ in her article but 2460 is correct.) 2460¥ is about (≈) \$15.80.

continued on page 2

Aaron's Question Column

CELL STRUCTURE



The anatomy of a human cell

*Clockwise from top left: Nucleus, DNA, Ribosome, Lysosome, Vacuole, Golgi complex, Cytoplasm, Peroxisome, Centriole, Endoplasmic reticulum, Mitochondria, Cell Membrane

Question: I recently read that many biologists believe that invasive bacteria contributed to forming some types of organelles in our human cells. Is this a widely held belief among scientists? Can you tell us more about the theory and its implications?

-Jerry

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): I remember learning about this theory in my 9th grade Biology Honors course and 10th grade AP Biology course. This theory is known as the Endosymbiotic theory and states that some of the internal organelles inside of cells, specifically the Mitochondria and Chloroplasts (only found in plants) were originally independent bacteria that were absorbed billions of years ago into other bacteria, forming a symbiotic (mutually beneficial) relationship.

continued on page 4

Solution to Last Month's Quiz

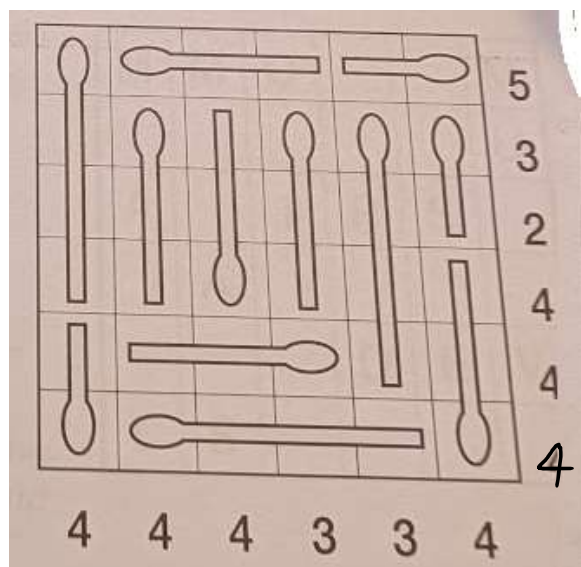
A SemiQUIncentennial QUIZ

1776 Declaration of Independence Signed (D)
1801 Start of the first Barbary War (G)
1826 Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died July 4th (K)
1851 The New York Times founded by Raymond and Jones (J)
1876 Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone (B)
1901 New York is 1st state to require automobile license plates (E)
1926 NBC founded by RCA, GE, and Westinghouse (I)
1951 The 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ratified (H)
1976 Apple Computer founded by Jobs, Wozniak, and Wayne (C)
2001 September 11th terrorist attack on the U.S. (F)
2026 100th anniversary of the establishment of U.S. Route 66 (A)

This Month's Quiz

Match Play

(from the Mensa Puzzle-a-Day Calendar)



The grid contains unburnt matches of different sizes. You may burn any amount of each match or leave the match unburnt. You “burn” a match by shading segments from the head (rounded end) to the tail, without skipping segments. The numbers outside the grid indicate the number of burnt segments in the corresponding row or column. Can you shade in the burnt segments to “match” the numbers?

Our Asian Vacation – cont. from page 1

Whatever, I wanted the pair of chopsticks, so too bad. The next thing I'd like to be sharing is my time in the CUPNOODLES MUSEUM, in which I had the opportunity to make my own cup noodles! First, I got to draw a design on the cup; which was a lot of fun! I drew the chopsticks and wrote my own name in Japanese (Still Ronabu Kesuwani). I also drew a bowl of ramen, and wrote 'Cupnoodles Museum' down in a bold font.

Next, we chose our seasonings, our Cupnoodles noodle base, and mixed it all in. I can't remember what exactly I chose for my toppings. However, I am quite sure that the base was made of Curry. After packaging it, which took like thirty minutes, we went onto the next activity. Before we started making the noodles, everyone was split into teams of two. I was the only person who was by myself, which I was fine with. To make the noodles, I had to put the dough through the machine 12 times in total. For the first 10 times, I turned and folded the dough each time before putting it back through. It was interesting to see how the dough slowly changed as I repeated the process, eventually becoming the noodles that would be used for my Cupnoodles. For the last two times, the chefs helped me put the noodles through the machine because those were the steps where the noodles were actually cut into their final shape. With their help, I was able to finish the noodle-making process and see how the dough transformed into the noodles used for Cupnoodles. I also went to a place called **TeamLabs Planet**, which was soooooo cool! I was surrounded with colorful lights, moving patterns, and interactive displays that responded to my movements. Exploring the different rooms was exciting because each one offered something new and unexpected, like a pool where projectors projected interactive fish along the waters, which sped up when I tried to chase them! The stick figure area at TeamLabs was one of the most playful and interesting parts of the experience. I could draw my own creations and watch them come to life inside the digital world. Some of the special pens created some cool, and some boring effects, such as watering digital plants or placing editable trampolines that shook and interacted with the environment. The flower room was one of the most breathtaking parts of TeamLabs. As I entered, there were thousands of hanging flowers floating above and *concluded on page 3*

Our Asian Vacation – cont. from page 2

around me. The orchids moved slowly up and down. They seemed to respond to the people in the room, opening space as visitors walked through and then lowering back down. I also visited my friend Atsuto, who moved to Japan, which was a lot of fun. The final thing that I would like to talk about is the the CATCAFE in Japan, in which I spent 300¥ on cat food, but fed a cat who I called Mr. Skinny, because he had little fur and big whiskers. I played with the cats, and gave rewards of food to those that made the parkour jumps!

This trip gave me many great memories I will always look back on.

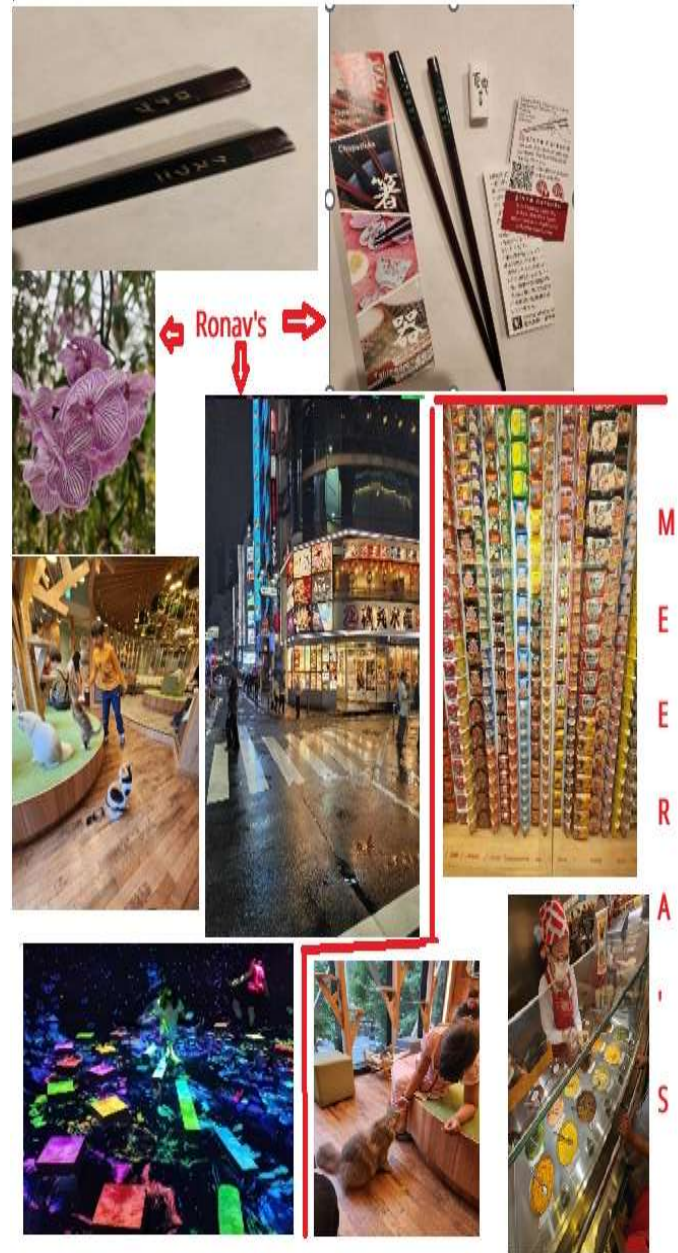
Hi, My name is Meera Keswani and I would like to tell you about the fun things I did in the summer. I went to Japan and India but I am not going to be able to tell you all about it. 1st I went to the Cup Noodle Museum and 1st I colored a cup and I drew a bear. Next I went to the next stage where we were supposed to make Ramen out of scratch. My brother and I had Yen[Japanese Currency]. He spent 2200 Yen on [Engraved Chop Sticks].

Also we went to a train museum with my brother's friend Atsuto. It was so much fun. We had freshly squeezed orange juice there from a vending machine. I also got some corn dog, curry and pudding. I am going to talk about the past and future of trains. There were trains from 1980's which run on coal. Now we have new trains, future trains. They looked like, bird's beak, because it makes them go faster. The wind pushes on the side so it can go faster. So people invented the new trains, it looked like a long line and no coal, a beak/shoe shaped front.

Now I will tell you about Cat Cafe. There was a place where you could play with cats while you could have a drink. I got apple tea. There were a bunch of cats. 2 were super skinny and whenever they heard a wrapper opened, they would immediately come and stare at you. The cat food was 200yen. One cat was in a ball.

So now I want to talk about the food, it was amazing. First we had a lot of Sushi and my brother ate Sashimi. We also went to a place where we can cook our own food on a fire. We also ate at a place where we got 1 hour to eat and we got a hot pot and also I made my cotton candy myself.

THANK YOU FOR READING ABOUT MY SUMMER. I WILL NOW SHOW YOU SOME PICTURES.



For better resolution, these photos are also posted on the website.

Aaron's Answers continued from pg. 1

What evidence do we have of this idea? We have a few fairly concrete observations that justify this theory. First, both mitochondria and chloroplasts contain their own circular DNA, distinct from the cell nuclear DNA and structurally identical to bacterial genomes. These organelles synthesize their own proteins using 70S ribosomes, which are the specific size found in prokaryotes and are enclosed by a double membrane system reflecting the initial engulfment event. They also replicate independently through binary fission, which directly mirrors bacterial reproduction. Beyond these historical markers, scientists recently identified an ongoing example of primary endosymbiosis in the marine alga *Braarudosphaera bigelowii*, which hosts a nitrogen-fixing organelle called a nitroplast. Derived from an engulfed cyanobacterium, this entity imports host proteins, synchronizes its division with the cell and demonstrates that endosymbiotic integration continues to shape cellular evolution, even today.

This theory is definitely widely-held among scientists. Given the evidence behind the theory, most scientists consider the endosymbiotic origin of mitochondria and chloroplasts to be a fact of evolutionary biology. The combination of genetic, structural and reproductive similarities to modern prokaryotes makes it the most logical explanation for how complex eukaryotic cells first evolved. Modern discoveries like the nitroplast only solidify this consensus, proving that symbiotic merging remains a primary driver of biological innovation and will for a long time.

Target Date for YOUR Contributions to the next BI:

August 23, 2026

Please reach us with your articles, news, photos, CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or questions for Aaron at

344 Bowfin, (650 572-9153) or email us at our email address EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM **or**

by adding a NOTE on our website:

BOWFININQUIRER.COM

Please RSVP

Bowfin Street

Pizza/Potluck Party

When:

Saturday, September 19th

Noon – 2 PM (approximately)

Where: 344 Bowfin Street – Backyard

Please contact us at editor@bowfininquirer.com if you and/or members of your family will be able to attend. We'll be placing an order with Round Table in late August and it will be helpful to "sense" how many neighbors will be attending (and what your preferred toppings are!)