



SCIENTIST GUIDE 2020

2020 THEME: DNA

THE FLAME CHALLENGE: WELCOME

Dear Scientists,

Thank you for your interest in participating in The Flame Challenge!

As a curious 11-year-old, Alan Alda asked his teacher, "What is a flame?" She replied: "It's oxidation." Alda went on to win fame as an actor and writer, became an advocate for clear communication of science, and helped create the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University. He never stopped being curious, and he never forgot how disappointing and confusing that teacher's answer was.

Now, you can enter an international science contest to help 11-year-olds around the world to understand complex scientific topics. You'll be challenged to present your entry in a way that students can understand and enjoy. By doing this, you are empowering today's youth develop a better relationship with science, inspiring them to learn and be curious.

THE FLAME CHALLENGE: HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY

The aim of this contest is to encourage scientists to communicate complex material in a clear, vivid and engaging way. Entries will be screened for accuracy by our panel of scientist screeners. Entries that meet requirements for scientific accuracy are then judged by 11-year-olds.

THE RULES

1. Answer the question in a way an 11-year-old will find instructive, interesting and even fun. Contest entries must be scientifically accurate.
2. Submit your answer by 5 pm (PDT) on March 20, 2020.
3. The contest is open only to scientists. For this contest, we define a scientist as someone who has, or is in the process of getting, a degree in a science, who is employed doing scientific work or research, or who is retired from doing scientific work.
4. Entries must be submitted in both written and video formats.
5. Written entries must be no longer than 300 words; Videos must be no longer than 5 minutes.
6. Answers must be in English.
7. Entries must be the original work of the team submitting them. Teams may include no more than 4 scientists.

THE FLAME CHALLENGE: PAST CHALLENGE WINNERS

[2017: What is climate?](#) ↗

[2016: What is sound?](#) ↗

[2015: What is sleep?](#) ↗

[2014: What is color?](#) ↗

[2013: What is time?](#) ↗

[2012: What is a flame?](#) ↗

THE FLAME CHALLENGE: WEBSITE

You can find more information about the challenge (including videos from 11 year old judges) on the [Alda/Kavli Flame Challenge Website](#) ↗.

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