

## Curiosity

*Curiosity is the impulse to find out about the world we are in. A curious person may be curious about just one thing—how long does a top spin? what really happens when a seed germinates? who wrote The Story of O? Or the curious person may want to explore persistently after getting an initial answer. What kind of top spins longest? What is the connection between the kind of material of a top, and the time span of its spin?*

### Examples

1 Infants are as curious as their condition permits. A month old baby will lie on his back closely watching the movements of colorful plastic butterflies attached to his crib. His eyes will shift with the movements, on occasions he will smile while he is watching. If you put your finger in his hand, he will squeeze it, then if you remove the finger and quickly replace it, he will squeeze again, curious to know that the experience can be repeated.

2 A scholar is often curious to know more about his or her chosen field of research. He will write a dissertation on Goethe's theory of colors, say, and when he has finished he will realize many ways in which he could enrich his discussion. He may look into the physics of color, the research communities of Goethe's time, and the state of their knowledge about color theory, or he may simply want to rethink the way he has evaluated his topic. He is curious to improve the work he has done, by deepening and extending it. If he is a born scholar he will continue his inquiries, which stem from studying Goethe's color theory, to the end of his life.