

What did carnivores / herbivores eat after they got off the ark?



Renjith Vijay

211 Views

Before coming to the question of how they survived, the more obvious question is whether all of these species got into the ark. If you can believe that a polar bear and a penguin can travel through adverse climatic conditions where they would normally not survive and finally board Noah's ark, science is already sitting outside the ark.

Next question is how Noah ensured that only one male and female of each species entered his ark. What did he say to the second pair of tigers that came to the ark? If he said "no vacancy" and they obeyed, it shouldn't be difficult to believe that the pair that got inside obeyed Noah's command not to eat other species and may be survived on water. After all, it was flood time and there was plenty of water available.

If you think the second pair of tigers disobeyed Noah, then you can assume to have any number of species inside the ark with the final outcome being at least one pair each survived when they got out of the ark.

Written 21 May

Why is it that the same racers always win in Formula 1?



Renjith Vijay

147 Views

Let me assume that the definition of "total nobody" is somebody who is already on the F1 grid with almost zero chance of winning a race, typically running in the low points positions or out of points.

Different F1 cars are not equal. There are teams with budgets and then there are teams with BUDGET. Typically, teams like Mercedes, Ferrari, Red Bull, McLaren etc have a huge R&D budget that helps them hire the best talent and invest in technology that smaller teams can only dream of. Due to this, these teams have a much faster development pace and hence they always come out on top.

Due to the high spending, most of these team bosses are accountable to their investors and hence most of them opt for the option of getting the already proven drivers. So a nobody never usually makes it to a top seat and hence it is unlikely that they can win when there are other faster cars that can zoom past them. However, some conditions like rain tend to even out the field a bit and some of these drivers in smaller teams get a level playing field.

That said, there are a few exceptions in recent times where some very unexpected drivers won races. First was in 2008 Italian Grand Prix where a newbie driver named Sebastian Vettel won the rain-affected race. It is a different matter that Vettel went on to become a 4-time World Champion but in 2008, he was a nobody. Similar situation happened again in 2012 Spanish Grand Prix when Pastor Maldonado won for Williams.

Perhaps the only instance in recent times where an rookie F1 driver got a car that is capable of a race win under normal circumstance was the McLaren seat for Lewis Hamilton in 2007. He proved himself that year by almost winning the championship. However, Hamilton was not a nobody for McLaren since they were sponsoring him through all the junior categories where he had proved himself.

Written 27 May

Can a middle-class Indian hope to be an F1 driver?



Renjith Vijay

80 Views

It really depends on the parents of this middle class Indian. Most of the successful F1 drivers started driving go-karts at an age where a middle class Indian is likely to be still riding a tricycle. However, it doesn't mean that these drivers come from wealthy families. It is just that their parents were passionate about racing and started nurturing the kid's talents from a very early age making a lot of sacrifices. Again, some of these things are priced through the roof in India citing niche clientele so that an average family cannot afford it.

Given the very low number of avenues for growing through the different junior categories within India, it wouldn't be easy without sponsorships and relocation to the cities where there is infrastructure to support regular practice. This is not something that is easy for an average middle class family.

After all these hurdles, may be 5% would be successful enough to support their livelihood through racing. For others, they would need to fall back on some alternate route for livelihood, which would again be not so easy for a child/man from an average middle class family who had to balance motor racing along with studies for a good part of his student life.

Written 27 May

Will a desert cooler cool faster with hot water?



Renjith Vijay

133 Views

Making the evaporation faster is not going to improve the cooling efficiency. The principle of evaporative cooler is that the water droplets expelled from the cooler use the heat from the surrounding air to evaporate, which brings down the temperature of the ambient air. Here, the evaporation is not bringing down the room temperature; heat transfer from air to water droplet is. When you put hot water in the cooler, these droplets require much lower amount of heat from the air to evaporate since they are already at a higher temperature. Hence the air will not get rid of its heat as efficiently as in the case of cold water.

Written 27 May