

Fermi Questions Key

5 points for correct ans, 3 for off by 1, 1 for off by 2 (must show some work/explanation)

	Answer
1. Distance from Earth to Proxima Centauri, in meters 4 LY = 4×10^{16} m	16
2. Number of atoms in average adult human body 60 kg / (.012 kg/mol C) * 6.02×10^{23} atom/mol = 3×10^{27}	27
3. Number of golf balls that can fit inside the Earth. Vol golf ball = 40 cm^3; Earth's radius = 6×10^6 m	25
4. Number of trees on Earth. Nature's article says so	9
5. Number of humans that have ever lived Estimate using birth/death rates, combined with current population	11
6. Number of seconds your mom has lived 86400 s/day * 365 day * 50 yrs	9
7. Number of gas molecules you have breathed in your life 86400 s/day * 365 day * 15 yrs * .500 L/breath * 1 breath/3 seconds	30
8. GDP of entire world in GDP US is at around 20 trillion and is $\frac{1}{4}$ of world GDP	14
9. How many red blood cells are needed to blanket the surface area of a ping pong ball? Estimate using ping pong ball radius and red blood cell radius	8
10. How many board game dice would fit in Lake Superior? Lake superior volume = 2900 mi^3 and dice have around 2 cm height	18
11. What is the diameter of a 22 caliber bullet divided by the length of an average red ant? Bullet and ant have approximately equal length	0
12. What is 4^{35} ? $2^{10} = 10^3$, so $2^{70} = 10^{21}$	21
13. How many more times more expensive is a functional fifteen-year-old car than a toothpick? Toothpick = \$.03, Car = \$3,000	5
14. How many birch pollen grains would weigh as much as a US dollar coin? Dollar coin = 8 g, Pollen = 8 ng	9
15. How many red blood cells would fill the Indian Ocean? Indian Ocean volume = $3 \times 10^{20} \text{ m}^3$ and RBC volume = $9 \times 10^{-14} \text{ m}^3$	33
16. How many single Carbon-Carbon bonds would span the entire diameter of Jupiter? C-C = 154 pm, Jupiter's diameter = 142,984 km	18
17. What is the volume of the Milky Way, in cubic meters? 6.65×10^{60}	60

18. How many fleas laid head-to-tail would equal the circumference of the Large Hadron Collider? LHC = 27 km, flea = 1.5 mm	6
19. How many times longer is the depth of the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench than the height of the Niagara Falls? Niagara = 52 m, Mariana = 10.9 km	2
20. How many blue whales lined head-to-tail would equal the diameter of the moon? Diameter of moon = 3480 km, Blue whale = 30 m	5