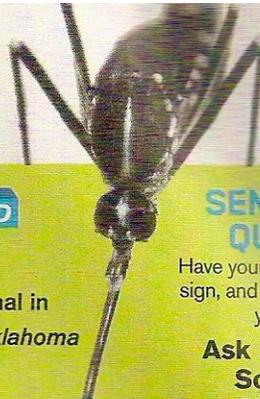


**ASK SCIENCE WORLD**

**YOU ASKED:**  
Why do your hands get wrinkly when you go swimming? —*Itzel, Illinois*

**WE ANSWERED!**  
When you take a dip in a pool, the water temporarily washes away the oily substance, called *sebum*, that protects your skin. When skin lacks this coating, water is absorbed into dead cells on the *epidermis*—the outermost layer of skin. These cells swell, as they expand with water. But since they are connected in spots to the living tissue below, the skin on the surface wrinkles. Hands and feet contain the greatest number of dead cells, so they wrinkle more than the rest of your body.

Researchers now think that constriction of blood vessels may also contribute to the wrinkling process. Ready to test the theory? Summer is near—so dive in!



**R BRAIN**

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**ASK SCIENCE WORLD**

**YOU ASKED:**  
“What is the deadliest animal in the world?” —*Corionna, Oklahoma*

**WE ANSWERED!**  
If ferocious lions topped your list for the deadliest mammal, guess again—it’s the elephant. This usually docile creature will trample or attack with its tusks when angry or threatened. In the sea, it isn’t the shark you should fear most. The box jellyfish has enough toxins to kill 60 humans! But the deadliest animal on the planet is actually a tiny insect. “Disease-carrying mosquitoes are responsible for well over a million deaths worldwide each year,” says Joseph Conlon of the American Mosquito Control Association.

**SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS!**  
Have your parent or guardian fill in, sign, and mail this form along with your question to:

**Ask Science World  
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557 Broadway  
New York, NY 10012**

I hereby consent to Scholastic’s publication of my child’s biographical information with my child’s science question.

STUDENT’S NAME AND AGE

ADULT SIGNATURE

ADDRESS (CITY, STATE, ZIP)

PHONE NUMBER