Have you ever wondered if animals pass gas? If so, you're not alone.

It sounds like the sort of question Bart Simpson might have asked in science class. However, real-life scientists are now taking to Twitter to provide answers. So far, they've created a hashtag, "#DoesItFart," and a Google spreadsheet. It details the flatulence habits of more than 60 animals.

Twitter is a website that lets people post short messages. Users can add hashtags at the ends of their posts. Hashtags are words that link posts to popular ideas.

So, which animals are behind the stinkers? Many, it turns out. Bats fart, according to David Bennett, a researcher at Queen Mary University of London. The bigger they are, the harder they honk.

Rats, zebras and bearded dragons are also among those creatures that pass gas. Birds, on the other hand, do not seem to have a physical need to do so, but they could let one rip, in theory. What about life forms such as oysters, mussels and crabs? Sadly, they are whoopee-impaired.

**Science Of Flatulence Not Just Potty Humor**

The science of flatulence is not just about potty humor. Cattle gas, for example, adds to methane that contributes to climate change. Flatulence is also a hot topic among certain young crowds. Scientists want to encourage interest in science, and this is one way.

"Does it fart?" is one of kids' favorite questions to ask scientists, said Dani Rabaiotti of the Zoological Society of London. The "#DoesItFart" adventure started when her teenage brother asked if snakes fart. Rabaiotti knew from her own work that the wild dogs of Africa definitely pass gas. She also knew about the gassy seals on the Atlantic Ocean island of South Georgia. She wasn't sure about snakes, so she consulted snake expert David Steen.

The short answer is yes, says Steen. He is a scientist at Auburn University. Snakes sometimes release poop and scent to defend themselves, and this often comes with fart noises, he said.

Steen said this is far from the first time he's gotten this question. It seems to be a favorite of the preteen crowd, he said.

"It is always fun to see what captures people's attention," he said. "It is at least an opportunity to engage with a larger audience and bring new folks into the conversation."

**What Food Animals Eat And How They Use It Is Important**

It's more than just fun. "Just because it's flatulence doesn't mean it's inherently silly," said Adriana Lowe. She is a scientist at the University of Kent in the United Kingdom. What animals eat and how they use food are important and fascinating fields of study, she said. "Gas is just a part of that."

Lowe studies chimpanzees in Uganda's Budongo forest. The chimps' gas appears to change with their food. "Fruit is tootier than leaves, and figs seem to be the worst offenders," she said.

Sometimes farts have even aided in her study. "Several times I have been with one or two chimps and not been aware others are nearby until the farts start," says Lowe. "Some of them have that very long, air-being-released-from-a-balloon quality, which is handy because it gives you a bit longer to pinpoint where it's coming from."

**Silent But Deadly**

Most animals that pass gas have soft behinds, but millipedes have hard openings. They probably silence their toots, said Angie Macias. She is a student at West Virginia University. Studies have shown that millipedes make quite a bit of methane, and that gas has only one place to go, out the back.

"I would say that millipede toots are probably very smelly, and definitely flammable," says Macias.

In other words, they are silent but possibly deadly.

"#DoesItFart" is the latest in a series of hashtags created by scientists and snickered at by the public. Some are longer-running, single-scientist efforts. Michelle LaRue, of the University of Minnesota, holds a game in which she posts pictures of cats big and small and asks followers to guess whether the animal is a "#CougarOrNot." Kaeli Swift, a Ph.D. student at the University of Washington, orchestrates a game called "#CrowOrNo." Both games are harder than they might sound.

"When scientists can present these seemingly silly facts, it invites people to be part of what we know and to find out what we don't, which enables us to show how science works," said Cassandra Raby. She is a scientist with the Zoological Society of London. She says that baboons can drop some bombs. Females can be the worst, by the way.

1. ANCHOR 1: **WHAT THE TEXT SAYS**

**Which sentence from the article BEST supports the idea that studying animal farts can help scientists understand the environment?**

**A**

Rats, zebras and bearded dragons are also among those creatures that pass gas.

**B**

Cattle gas, for example, adds to methane that contributes to climate change.

**C**

What animals eat and how they use food are important and fascinating fields of study, she said.

**D**

"#DoesItFart" is the latest in a series of hashtags created by scientists and snickered at by the public.

1. NCHOR 1: **WHAT THE TEXT SAYS**

**Which sentence from the section "Silent But Deadly" BEST explains what scientists are doing to tell people about animal farts?**

**A**

Most animals that pass gas have soft behinds, but millipedes have hard openings.

**B**

Studies have shown that millipedes make quite a bit of methane, and that gas has only one place to go, out the back.

**C**

"I would say that millipede toots are probably very smelly, and definitely flammable," says Macias.

**D**

"#DoesItFart" is the latest in a series of hashtags created by scientists and snickered at by the public.

1. ANCHOR 5: **TEXT STRUCTURE**

**Which section of the article highlights the idea that some sea life CANNOT pass gas?**

**A**

Introduction [paragraphs 1-5]

**B**

"Science Of Flatulence Not Just Potty Humor"

**C**

"What Food Animals Eat And How They Use It Is Important"

**D**

"Silent But Deadly"

1. ANCHOR 5: **TEXT STRUCTURE**

**Fill in the blank in the sentence below.**

**Overall, the article is organized around ........**

**A**

telling a series of jokes about animal farts.

**B**

describing the problems with animal farts and several solutions.

**C**

asking and answering questions about animal farts.

**D**

different scientists' work who are studying animal farts.