Why do things fall down?

Drop a pencil. Toss a ball into the air. Jump off the bottom step of a staircase. In every case, the same thing happens: down you go.

This invisible force that pulls objects towards the ground is called **gravity**, and although we cannot see it, gravity controls almost everything around us. Without it, the world would be a very strange — and rather dangerous — place.

Gravity is created by objects with mass. The bigger and heavier something is, the stronger its gravitational pull. Earth is enormous, so its gravity is powerful enough to keep people, buildings, oceans, and even the air itself held tightly in place. This is why you do not float away while brushing your teeth.

Long ago, people did not understand why objects fell. Then, in the seventeenth century, a scientist named Isaac Newton began to wonder about the same question. According to legend, Newton watched an apple fall from a tree and realised that the same force pulling the apple down was also holding the Moon in orbit around Earth. Gravity, he discovered, does not just affect apples — it governs planets, stars, and entire galaxies.

Gravity is also what gives objects weight. On Earth, you have weight because gravity is pulling you downwards. On the Moon, where gravity is much weaker, you would weigh far less and could leap high into the air with ease. Astronauts aboard the International Space Station appear to float, not because gravity disappears, but because they are constantly falling around Earth, never quite reaching the ground.

Now imagine a world without gravity.

People would drift uncontrollably into the sky. Water would form floating blobs instead of rivers and seas. Buildings would crumble as nothing held them firmly in place. Even something as simple as walking would become impossible. Life on Earth depends on gravity far more than we usually realise.

Yet gravity is not always gentle. It causes landslides, falling rocks, and powerful waves. It pulls meteors towards Earth and keeps enormous stars from flying apart. Gravity can be helpful, harmful, and fascinating all at once.

So the next time something slips from your hand and hits the floor, remember: it is not clumsiness or bad luck. It is the quiet, constant pull of gravity — the force that keeps the universe from drifting into chaos.

Comprehension Questions

1. What is gravity described as in the text?
A) A chemical reaction
B) A type of magnet
C) A visible energy
D) An invisible force

2. Why does Earth have strong gravity?
A) Because it has air
B) Because it has a large mass
C) Because it spins quickly
D) Because it is close to the Sun

3. What idea did Isaac Newton develop after observing a falling apple?
A) That gravity affects both objects and planets
B) That apples are heavy
C) That trees cause gravity
D) That gravity only affects Earth

4. Why do astronauts appear to float in space?
A) They are weightless by choice
B) There is no gravity in space
C) They are far from Earth
D) They are constantly falling around Earth

5. What would happen to water without gravity?
A) It would freeze instantly
B) It would fall faster
C) It would disappear
D) It would float in blobs

6. Which example shows gravity can be dangerous?
A) Holding oceans together
B) Causing landslides
C) Keeping the air in place
D) Allowing people to walk

7. What does the text suggest about gravity's role in daily life?
A) It is mostly harmful
B) It only affects scientists
C) It is rarely important
D) It is often unnoticed but essential

8. Which word best describes gravity's influence in the universe?
A) Weak
B) Limited

C) Occasional
D) Constant

9. Why would walking be impossible without gravity?
A) Muscles would stop working
B) Shoes would not work
C) People would float instead of staying on the ground
D) The ground would disappear

10. What is the main purpose of the text?
A) To describe scientific experiments
B) To warn about space travel
C) To explain gravity in an engaging way
D) To tell a historical story

Answers

1. **D**
2. **B**
3. **A**
4. **D**
5. **D**
6. **B**
7. **D**
8. **D**
9. **C**
10. **C**