

Podcast: What If World

Episode: 074: [What if there was no moon?](#)

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Transcription by Keffy

Lyrics: What if kittens played the glockenspiel? And what if unicorns were real?
What if you could fly or travel back in time? We welcome you to What If
World. What If World. This is What If World.

Mr. Eric: Hey there folks, and welcome back to What If World, the show where
your questions and ideas inspire off-the-cuff stories. I'm Mr. Eric, your
host, and today I'm joined by two of my favorite podcasters, Lindsay and
Marshall from Tumble Science Podcast for Kids!

Marshall: Hello!

Lindsay: Hello!

Mr. Eric: Do you prefer just Tumble?

Lindsay: Yeah, we do, it doesn't—

Marshall: Eh, Tumble Science Podcast for Kids [crosstalk]

Lindsay: It works because people know how to find it.

Mr. Eric: There you go.

Marshall: Yeah.

Mr. Eric: So I'm just being descriptive and thorough.

Lindsay: Yeah.

Mr. Eric: Because I really want people to know about your show. I love it, and
they're going to tell us all about Tumble at the end of the show. However,
we should probably just get right into our question, right?

Marshall: Yeah.

Lindsay: Yeah.

Marshall: Let's do it!

Mr. Eric: Cool. Well, we have a question from Andrew.

Andrew: Hi, my name is Andrew and I'm eight years old, and I live in—I used to live in Germany but now I live in Virginia. My question was what would happen if there was no moon?

Mr. Eric: Andrew, that is such an awesome question for science and for What If World, right? Andrew, we want to give you a What If story, and then you're going to be able to go to Tumble and listen to a scientific explanation, with their own awesome charm when you go over to Tumble. But why don't we get right into that story, huh?

Lindsay: Yes.

Marshall: Yes, that sounds amazing.

Mr. Eric: What if there was no moon.

[Rising harp scale]

Mr. Eric: Once upon a time, there was a dad who loved listening to science podcasts, and his favorite was Tumble. He had just finished listening to an episode over his morning coffee, about there being no more moon.

Dad: That was quite the episode, wouldn't you say, Morshworf, Lorndsey?

Morshworf: Why yes, Dad. That was quite the episode.

Lorndsay: I thought it was quite interesting.

Dad: I think it would be pretty great, not having a moon. They're saying the days would be shorter, that means less work for me, right?

Morshworf: That means less work for everyone!

Both kids: No moon!

Lorndsay: No homework!

Morshworf: Boo, moon!

Dad: No more of those surfers riding their tides, shouting "Cowabunga!" and whatnot. Hey, why don't we just tell this moon to am scray. What do you say, Morshworf, Lorndsay?

Both kids: Yeah!

Dad: Hey moon, you get out of here!

Lorndsay: Go on, moon! No one wants you here.

Dad: I've got a moon for you.

Lorndsay: We don't need your light bright.

Mr. Eric: Now, Morshworf and Lorndsay didn't really expect for anything to happen when they taunted the moon, but they were surprised to see it suddenly slip out of orbit. It was one of those days where the morning moon was just ever so slightly shining in the sky and it got farther and farther away until they couldn't see it anymore.

Morshworf: Huh. That was surprisingly effective.

Mr. Eric: Just then, Lonrdsay and Morshworf's mom walked right in to get them ready for school.

Mom: All right, kids. It's time to go to school.

Dad: Honey, I'm not sure if we all need to head to school anymore. Have you noticed there's no moon? That kind of changes the whole structure of the day, right?

Mom: Oh my God. The stay-at-home astronomer. I am shocked, surprised, and somewhat interested and curious about what's happening right now.

Dad: Oh yeah? Well...

Mom: How did this happen? Did you guys see anything? I was getting dressed.

Dad: It was Morshworf's idea!

Mom: Morshworf, what did you do?

Morshworf: We sorta yelled at the moon and called it bad names.

Mom: What? You really need to be getting to school, moon or no moon.

Morshworf: But... but Mom—

Mom: No buts.

Morshworf: But...

Mom: No. Go to school, learn some things. Come back home later.

Dad: Okay, but if the day is only going to be six hours long, that means dinner's in two hours! So we'll all be home soon, right?

Morshworf: Oh, well, I guess that's okay.

Mom: I better get cooking and looking through my telescope. I'm a stay at home astronomer, if you all didn't know.

Mr. Eric: So the kids begrudgingly headed off to school and let their mom keep studying astronomy and figure out what was going on with the moon. When they got there, their principal was quite upset with them.

Principal: Lorndsay and Morshworf, I am very disappointed with you! This is your fifth time late to school, today!

Lorndsay: It wasn't our fault!

Morshworf: Yeah, it wasn't our fault!

Principal: I don't care. I don't want to hear any more excuses.

Mr. Eric: The kids noticed it was already getting so cold out, even though it was supposed to be the middle of the day and springtime.

Principal: Looks like we might have a snow day, children. Better go home.

Mr. Eric: And just like that, the kids were headed home from school. Meanwhile, their dad was just getting to his job after tons of morning traffic.

Dad: Oh, hi boss. Sorry I'm late.

Boss: You have already missed half the day! How are you supposed to get any work done.

Dad: It's just... the days are a lot shorter now, with no moon. But that didn't change the amount of traffic, so...

Boss: It doesn't change the amount of work you have to do, either.

Dad: I'll... do better next time?

Boss: Well, if you want to get home before the day is over, you'll have to leave now.

Dad: First you were mad at me for not getting to work on time and now you're telling me to go home early?

Boss: It's just... it's just rational.

Dad: Okay, see ya!

Mr. Eric: The kids were rushing home but the sky kept getting darker and the world kept getting colder! There were owls out hooting at roosters.

Owls: [Hooting]

Rooster: Cock-a-doodle...night?

Owl: No, it's night! It's night! Hoo! Hoo hoo!

Rooster: It's still day, right? It's only been three hours!

Owl: It's my turn to be noisy, it's dark! Hoo hoo!

Mr. Eric: Surfers were sitting on boards that wouldn't move in the ocean because there were no waves.

Surfer 1: Bro, what's wrong with this ocean, bro?

Surfer 2: I dunno. Maybe we should just sit on our boards for another hour. Like a wave'll show up or something.

Surfer 1: Oh, maybe if we wait, ya. Totally.

Surfer 2: But like, my tootsies are totally frozen.

Surfer 1: I think we should just stay waiting for some waves and maybe it'll warm up.

Mr. Eric: And the kids ran by a werewolf looking up at the night sky in utter confusion.

Werewolf: Aw awrooo? Rooo? Where... where's the moon? How'm I gonna get back to human form?

Were Cantaloupe: At least you weren't a were cantaloupe, just stuck here like a big old melon.

Were Dung Beetle: You know who's really at the bottom of the totem pole here, is... is the were dung beetle. I've been stuck in dung beetle form for far too long.

Werewolf: I guess we've all learned a lot about what it means to be a were species, tonight.

Were Dung Beetle: The grass is always less dungy in someone else's yard.

Were Sloth: [Slowly] Is there any room for a were sloth?

Mr. Eric: Just then, the dad sped by the were sloth in his car!

Were Sloth: Whoa. So fast.

Dad: Kids, you shouldn't be hanging out by all these were creatures, we need to get home and solve this problem... with science.

Morshworf: Yeah Dad, science can solve anything.

Lorndsay: I believe in science, for sure.

Dad: Well, you don't have to believe in science, it's objective.

Lorndsay: I... I agree with that.

Morshworf: True.

Lorndsay: Yeah.

Morshworf: So I don't believe in it.

Lorndsay: What?

Dad: Wait a second...

Morshworf: Okay, I do.

Mr. Eric: Morshworf, Lorndsay, and their dad got home and rushed up to their mom who was sitting at her giant telescope.

Dad: Honey, I-I think getting rid of the moon might have been a bad idea.

Mom: It's not the first bad idea you've ever had, Morshworf's Dad.

Dad: Hey, I have a name.

Mom: What is it?

Dad: It's... it's Dad Jr.

Mom: I know, it was very thoughtful of your dad to name you after himself.

Dad: Good old Dad Sr.

Mom: All right, Dad Jr. Fortunately, I know just how to fix this problem.

Dad: I had an idea, too. I put Lorndsay on my shoulders and she'd reach up and give the moon a hug, maybe. Was that your idea?

Mom: I mean, it... there's some magical words that go along with that hug.

Dad: Uh...

Morshworf: Magical words like, "Please?"

Mom: It's one of those.

Morshworf: Thank you.

Mom: Uh, keep going.

Morshworf: It was very nice of you to have me over.

Dad: I know a fancy word: supercilious!

All: No.

Morshworf: Smorgasbord.

Dad: You're not being fancy enough. You should hold up your pinkie finger as you say it.

Morshworf: Oh, okay. Pinkie up, pinkie up.

Lorndsay: We just have to say that we're sorry!

Dad: Oooh.

Morshworf: Oh, yeah, that's obvious.

Dad: All right, kids. Climb up on my shoulders. Let's go out and shout it to the moon tops.

Morshworf: Okay, ready?

Lorndsay: All right.

Morshworf: One, two...

Both: Three. Sorry! So sorry!

All: Sorry!

Lorndsay: Come back, moon!

All: Come back, moon!

Dad: Come back, moon!

Morshworf: We still think you're stupid, but we want to see you.

Dad: No, that's not...

Lorndsay: Morshworf!

Dad: This is a genuine apology.

Morshworf: I didn't mean that!

Lorndsay: What Morshworf meant to say is we're all sorry. We think you're really important and we really need you to have life on earth.

Mr. Eric: And in that dark sky suddenly shown a bright, big, full moon.

Were Sloth: Oh, I can stop being the were sloth now.

Dad: Well, have you kids learned a lesson?

Morshworf: Yeah, don't be mean to people.

Lorndsay: Don't be mean to the moon, either.

Morshworf: Especially not the moon because it might end all life on earth.

Mom: What we've really learned today is that science can solve all of our problems, and so can apologizing.

Dad: Yeah, I think the world needs a lot more nice scientists. Don't you?

Morshworf: Yeah.

Lorndsay: Yeah, like Mom...

Dad: Mm-hmm.

Lorndsay: Junior.

Were Sloth: And maybe another were sloth. It's sad being the only one.

Lorndsay: Did this were sloth follow us home? I felt like it was moving really slow.

Dad: I was driving so fast.

Lorndsay: Maybe it's a magical were sloth that just teleported to our house?

Were Sloth: I teleport slowly, so it takes a minute.

All: [Laugh]

Mr. Eric: And as the kids cracked open their science books, the were sloth very slowly teleported away. The end.

[Falling harp scale]

Mr. Eric: Wow! Lindsay, Marshall, that was so much fun!

Marshall: It really—

Lindsay: Super fun.

Marshall: It really was fun.

Mr. Eric: I just wanted more were creatures. I could have had twice as many were creatures.

Marshall: Yeah, the were ostrich didn't make it.

Lindsay: Yeah, for any species you can imagine, there is a were species. A were version of it.

Mr. Eric: Yep.

Marshall: Just keep going with it. Were Drosophila fruit fly.

All: [Laugh]

Lindsay: A were pika.

Mr. Eric: It's so great to have people who know a lot about science on our show because I feel like I learned something. And Lindsay and Marshall, do you want to tell us a little more about Tumble?

Lindsay: Sure. We are a science podcast that takes questions from kids and we find scientists to answer them with a story of science discovery. So what that means is that they explain not just what they know but how they know what they know, and it's a lot of fun. Marshall? Morshworf?

Marshall: Morshworf? That's what I'm answering to from now on. We've done shows about sea stars and how they stick onto rocks. Our latest episode that we have out is about pikas, which is a mountain, herbivorous mammal that is extremely cute.

Lindsay: Yeah, and we have episodes about black holes...

Marshall: Dinosaur poop.

Lindsay: How plants talk to each other. How the brain works. Just a ton of cool science topics on anything that you might be interested in.

Mr. Eric: It makes me want to be more informed, productive, and socially responsible member of society.

Marshall: That's such a nice thing to say.

Lindsay: Yeah, we're glad that we can inspire you.

Mr. Eric: Well, I was glad. I've been looking forward to us being able to team up for ages, so this is super awesome.

And I wanted to say thank you to Andrew for your awesome question and one more, last, big thanks to Lindsay and Marshall for coming on the show.

Marshall: Thank you for having us.

Lindsay: Yeah, thank you so much, this was so much fun.

Mr. Eric: I'd like to thank Karen Marshall O'Keeffe, my editor and producer, Jason O'Keefe for our artwork, Craig Martinson for our theme song, and all of you budding young astronomers at home who know how lucky we are that there's any life at all on earth! So I hope you go out and enjoy yours today, or tomorrow, if it's bed time.

Until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme plays.]