

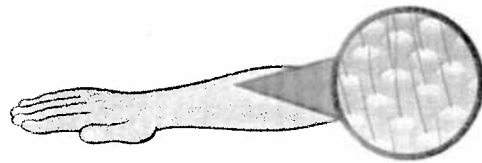
What Are Goose Bumps?

Have you ever noticed a strange pattern of tiny bumps that appears on your skin when you're cold? Whether you call them "goose bumps," "goose pimples," or "gooseflesh," they're all the same thing. So why did we name them after a goose?

During **medieval** times, geese were an important source of income to farmers. People used their soft feathers to stuff pillows, mattresses, and comforters. The feathers were used to make **quill** pens and toys. They were even used to decorate clothing. Geese were usually plucked many times each year, leaving their skin bare until more feathers grew in. When the geese had their feathers, their muscles could force the feathers to stand out, creating a warm, fluffy covering. Geese don't fluff out their feathers **intentionally**; instead, it happens **involuntarily**. As soon as a goose breathes in cold air, its muscles contract, forcing bumps to appear on its skin. This causes the feathers to stand out in a way that traps the goose's body heat and keeps the goose warm.

What happened after a goose's feathers had been plucked? Exactly the same thing! The goose's skin automatically reacted to the **sensation** of cold, whether feathers were present or not. Without feathers to hide the results, the goose bumps were clearly visible.

People get goose bumps in much the same way that geese do. Our goose bumps can be caused by feeling cold, excited, or fearful, although we don't get goose bumps every time we have these feelings. Once the feelings start, the nervous system sends a message from the brain to the skin. This reaction is involuntary with people, just as it is with geese. Small bumps rise on the skin, and the hair in each bump stands up. Often, human hair is so fine that we don't even notice the hair standing up. We just see the goose bumps!



Next time you get goose bumps, you'll know the story behind their unusual name!

MONDAY

Use the words from the passage to fill in the blanks.

intentionally

involuntarily

medieval

quill

sensation

- The _____ period, or Middle Ages, lasted from about the year 500 to the year 1500.
- I didn't mean to, but I screamed _____ when they surprised me.
- Long ago, a pen would be made from the _____ of a feather.
- He said it was an accident, but I knew he had done it _____.
- The chili pepper left a burning _____ on my tongue.

TUESDAY

Write a new caption for the picture in the passage.

WEDNESDAY

Choose the correct answer.

- Which of these events happens first to cause goose bumps?
Ⓐ Feathers stand up. Ⓒ Feathers trap body heat.
Ⓑ Cold air is breathed in. Ⓓ Bumps form on the skin.
- According to the article, medieval farmers made income from geese by _____.
Ⓐ selling their feathers Ⓒ selling their meat
Ⓑ selling their eggs Ⓓ selling quill pens and toys
- Which of these was not a use of goose feathers in medieval times?
Ⓐ stuffing pillows and mattresses Ⓒ making medicines
Ⓑ making pens Ⓓ decorating clothing

THURSDAY

Write the letter of each cause next to its matching effect.

Causes

- A A goose's feathers stand out and trap heat.
- B Farmers could sell goose feathers for income.
- C A goose breathes in cold air.
- D A plucked goose has no feathers.

Effects

- _____ Muscles in the goose's skin contract.
- _____ Trapped heat keeps the goose warm.
- _____ The goose bumps on its skin can be seen.
- _____ Farmers plucked their geese often.

FRIDAY

Write a summary explaining how goose bumps got their name.
