

What is the upper shell of a turtle called?

This was a quiz question well over a year ago. I knew the answer. But I didn't know how I knew the answer.

And in a strange way I was more troubled by the fact that I knew it but didn't know how I knew it, than I would have been if I didn't know it. Does that make sense?



You see, if I had left the answer blank, I would have been told the correct answer when it was marked. I would have got one point less in the quiz. I very much doubt whether that would have made much of a difference in my life. I probably would not have remembered the correct answer. And probably would never need to think about it again. After all it's not something that tends to crop up in every day conversation is it?

But several times I have tried to work out where and how I would have learned the answer. It's the knowing but yet not knowing that drives it forward. That's probably true of most great discoveries. The quest for finding out more is often driven by the dissatisfaction with what we know. We are an investigative species. We have a thirst for knowledge. We want to know.

I may have known the answer from something I read when we were on holiday in Xante. Loggerhead Sea Turtles come ashore and lay their eggs on the sandy beaches. The scientific name for a sea turtle is *Caretta Caretta*. Perhaps that might have given me a clue. Maybe I read it somewhere on one of those information boards you tend to get at such places. Cheryl often thinks I read them too much. Who knows?

Maybe it was something that David Attenborough said on Blue Planet. I never cease to be amazed at the wonders of this world. I never cease to be amazed at the knowledge that David Attenborough has. And I suppose I will never cease to be amazed by the fact that someone who knows and sees so much of the wonderful world around us cannot see the evidence for a Creator God. For me, evolution never really answers the questions. But sadly, for others including David Attenborough, it seems to stop people searching for the truth. Which is a great shame. Because don't you think that if people really did carry on searching, then finding the correct answers really would change their lives?

The answer to my first question by the way is "Carapace". The answer to my last one is up to you to discover.

Pastor Chris Ricketts.