

Random Trivia

This activity includes 30 questions on a variety of topics. The questions are accompanied by the answers and additional information for discussion.

There are several activity possibilities:

- For a group activity, read and discuss the trivia questions and answers. Also print the [picture pages](#) to pass around during the activity.
- For independent activities, print and distribute fill-in-the-blank copies of the [questions without the answers](#). Also available are the [questions with the answers](#).
- Post one or more of the trivia questions on your bulletin board every day or so throughout the month using this [special sign](#).



Trivia Questions and Answers

1. How many players take part in a traditional game of cribbage?

Answer: Two. Less traditional versions of the game are played with three or more players.

2. What female tennis player won six Wimbledon singles titles six years in a row?

Answer: Martina Navratilova. Navratilova beat Steffi Graf on July 4, 1987, to set the record, which has held up to this day. It was her eighth Wimbledon singles victory.

3. What television show stars Jerry Mathers as Theodore Cleaver?

Answer: *Leave It to Beaver*. Beaver is the nickname of Theodore Cleaver. Barbara Billingsley and Hugh Beaumont play Beaver's parents in the popular sitcom.

4. What is the most common eye color in humans?

Answer: Brown. The least common are green, violet, and auburn.

5. What musical instrument did Fats Waller play?

Answer: Piano. The jazz pianist laid the groundwork for modern jazz piano in the 1920s and 1930s.

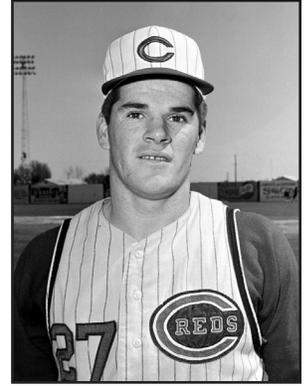
6. What sport uses the terms *hook*, *turkey*, and *kingpin*?

Answer: Bowling. A hook is a bowling ball that breaks to the left or right. When a player bowls three strikes in a row, it is called a turkey. The kingpin is the name for the headpin.



7. What professional sport did Pete Rose play?

Answer: Baseball. Pete Rose was placed on Major League Baseball's permanently ineligible list in 1989 after an investigation concluded he had bet on baseball games.



8. What is the first day of Lent called?

Answer: Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday always falls 46 days before Easter (40 days of Lent plus six Sundays).

9. What order of animals are the rhinoceros, elephant, and aardvark?

Answer: Pachyderms. A hippopotamus is also a pachyderm. One characteristic of a pachyderm is thick skin.

10. In what province is Calgary?

Answer: Alberta. Calgary is the largest city in Alberta. The 1988 Winter Olympic Games were held there.

11. What is the oldest swimming stroke?

Answer: The breaststroke. According to many sources, people have been using the breaststroke since the 16th century.

12. How does the moon affect the ocean?

Answer: It affects the tides of the ocean. The moon's gravity pulls powerfully on both sides of the ocean. The rotation of Earth and the moon's gravitational pull cause tides to change.

13. In what city in the Netherlands was Anne Frank's hiding place?

Answer: Amsterdam. Anne and her family hid in a secret annex in her father's workplace. Following their discovery in 1944, they were transported to the concentration camps. The father was the only survivor.

14. Who wrote *Rip Van Winkle*?

Answer: Washington Irving. It was a short story published in 1819. The story is set in the Catskill Mountains in New York.



15. What is the square root of 100?

Answer: 10. Numbers like 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, 81, and 100 are called perfect squares because their square roots are whole numbers.

16. What types of food are beefsteak, heirloom, and Roma?

Answer: Tomatoes. Its use as food originated in Mexico. Following the Spanish colonization of the Americas, tomatoes became popular worldwide.

17. What world capital city comes first alphabetically? (**Hint:** It is the capital of the United Arab Emirates.)

Answer: Abu Dhabi. Not only is it the capital but it is also the second-largest city in the United Arab Emirates.

18. What was the name of Oliver Hardy's partner?

Answer: Stan Laurel. Laurel and Hardy first teamed up in 1927. They made more than 100 films together.



19. What was Mary Poppins' occupation?

Answer: Nanny. P.L. Travers authored the *Mary Poppins* children's books. The musical was based on the first book of the series.

20. According to the George M. Cohan song, what is a "grand old name"?

Answer: Mary. The song "Mary's a Grand Old Name" first appeared in Cohan's *Forty-Five Minutes from Broadway* musical in 1906.

21. In what decade did Man o' War retire from horse racing: the 1920s or 1930s?

Answer: 1920s. His final race took place in Windsor, Ontario. The racehorse won 20 out of 21 races during his two-year career.

22. In the nursery rhyme, why are Jack and Jill walking up the hill?

Answer: To fetch a pail of water. The nursery rhyme was first published in the 18th century.

23. What is the highest-ranking suit in the game of bridge?

Answer: Spades. The ranking order (highest to lowest) is spades, hearts, diamonds, and clubs.

24. What do you call the sovereign's representative in the provinces?

Answer: Lieutenant-governor. They are called commissioners in the territories.

25. What is tofu made from?

Answer: Soybeans. They are legumes and are high in protein. They originated in East Asia.



26. What is the name of the sea that lies between Israel and Jordan?

Answer: The Dead Sea. It is the lowest-elevation body of water in the world and one of the saltiest.

27. How many lines does a limerick have?

Answer: Five. Edward Lear popularized the limerick in the mid-1800s. He wrote more than 200 of them during that time.

28. Which occurred first: the Stone Age or the Bronze Age?

Answer: The Stone Age. The Stone Age was the first of the three stages of the prehistoric period. Stone was widely used to make tools during this era. The Bronze Age and the Iron Age followed the Stone Age.

29. What actress starred in *Bringing Up Baby* and *The Philadelphia Story*?

Answer: Katharine Hepburn. She was a leading lady for more than 50 years, earning four Academy Awards for Best Actress. No actor or actress has surpassed her record.

30. By what nickname is T.E. Lawrence known?

Answer: Lawrence of Arabia. The film *Lawrence of Arabia* was based on his role as liaison during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign, and the Arab Revolt against Turkish rule during World War I.



Cribbage



Leave It to Beaver



Pete Rose



Washington Irving



Stan Laurel



Soybeans

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(Questions Only)

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