

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. What type of food are focaccia, challah, and brioche?

Answer: Bread. Brioche and challah are similar, but brioche is dairy-based, while challah relies on eggs, oil, sugar, and/or honey.

2. What TV show of the 1950s stars Jackie Gleason as Ralph Kramden, a New York City bus driver?

Answer: *The Honeymooners*. The show inspired the four main characters of another popular sitcom—*The Flintstones*.

3. What was the name of Roy Rogers' famous horse?

Answer: Trigger. Trigger was a golden palomino stallion known as “the smartest horse in the movies.”

4. What is the longest river in the world?

Answer: The Nile. It flows through 11 countries in northeast Africa.

5. In golf terms, what is a *bogey*?

Answer: One over par. Another golf term is *birdie*, which is one under par.

6. In what mountain range is Mount Everest located?

Answer: The Himalayas. Mount Everest lies on the border between Nepal and Tibet.

7. What is the most common surname in the world: Wang, Smith, or Hernández?

Answer: Wang. This surname means “king” and is particularly common in mainland China.



8. What is the boiling point of water on the Fahrenheit scale?

Answer: 212 degrees. In Celsius, this measure is 100 degrees.

9. What currency is used in Japan?

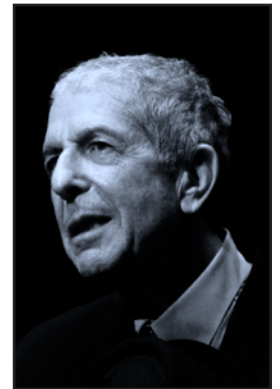
Answer: The yen. The yen is one of the world's most traded currencies, alongside the U.S. dollar and the euro.

10. What important document, signed in 1783, ended the American Revolution?

Answer: The Treaty of Paris. The agreement granted the United States independence as well as some western territories.

11. What musical Canadian is famous for songs like "Hallelujah" and "Take This Waltz"?

Answer: Leonard Cohen. Cohen was born in 1934 in a suburb of Montreal and loved poetry and music from an early age.



12. In music, what does the term *adagio* mean?

Answer: "Slow." The Italian term can refer to a full piece or a section of a larger composition.

13. What province, known as the "seabird capital of North America," became part of Canada in March 1949: Nunavut, Saskatchewan, or Newfoundland?

Answer: Newfoundland. Now called Newfoundland and Labrador, it became the 10th province of the Dominion of Canada.

14. How long is a standard marathon?

Answer: 26.2 miles (42.16 kilometers). The official length was established in the 20th century and was inspired by an ancient Greek messenger's long-distance run after the battle of Marathon.

15. Sir Howard Florey, Ernst Boris Chain, and Sir Alexander Fleming were jointly awarded a Nobel Prize in 1945 for their work with what antibiotic?

Answer: Penicillin. Australian scientist Sir Howard Florey helped develop methods for manufacturing penicillin that are still widely used today.

16. What is the capital city of Michigan?

Answer: Lansing. The city was originally called Michigan, Michigan, but it was quickly changed due to confusion.

17. What art supply brand first began selling crayons in 1903?

Answer: Crayola. The brand was founded by Alice and Edwin Binney, who derived the name from words meaning "chalk" and "oily."



18. What author published his novel *East of Eden* in 1952?

Answer: John Steinbeck. The story is a retelling of the biblical Cain and Abel tale and is set in the Salinas Valley in California.

19. In what year did women in the United States win the right to vote?

Answer: 1920. The 19th Amendment was ratified on August 18 of that year.

20. Which English king signed the Magna Carta in 1215: King John, King Edward, or King Charles?

Answer: King John. The document addressed several principles of liberty and justice, which later inspired colonists in the Americas.

21. What is the lightest element?

Answer: Hydrogen. It is also the most abundant element in the universe.

22. First introduced in 1961, what is the name of Barbie's boyfriend?

Answer: Ken. He debuted at the American International Toy Fair on March 11, 1961. He was 12 inches tall and wore red swim trunks and sandals.

23. What is the loudest animal on Earth: the bulldog bat, the sperm whale, or howler monkeys?

Answer: The sperm whale. They can generate sounds over 233 decibels, far over the safe limit for human hearing.

24. In educational testing, what did the letters *SAT* originally stand for?

Answer: The Scholastic Aptitude Test. This was later changed to the Scholastic Assessment Test. It does not stand for anything today, and *SAT* is simply the name of the test.

25. What is the largest organ in the human body, making up about 15 percent of its total weight?

Answer: The skin. Skin serves many purposes, including temperature regulation.

26. What group became America's first Black military airmen in the 1940s?

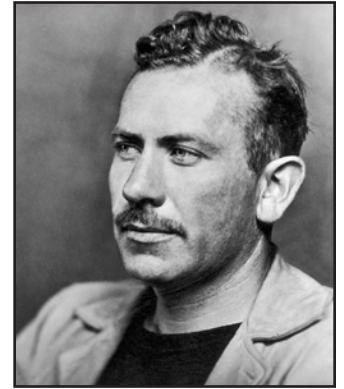
Answer: The Tuskegee Airmen. Between 1941 and 1946, around 1,000 pilots trained at Tuskegee.

27. What does the phrase "If wishes were horses, beggars would ride" mean?

Answer: Everyone would have what they want if simply wishing for something worked. The phrase is derived from a nursery rhyme that dates back to the 16th century.

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Answer: *Top Gun*. "Take My Breath Away" won the Academy Award for Best Original Song in 1987 and plays a memorable role in the film.



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Answer: 27. Although the sun is not solid like Earth, the swirling ball of gas and plasma still rotates around its axis.

30. What board game includes the characters Mrs. Peacock, Colonel Mustard, and Professor Plum?

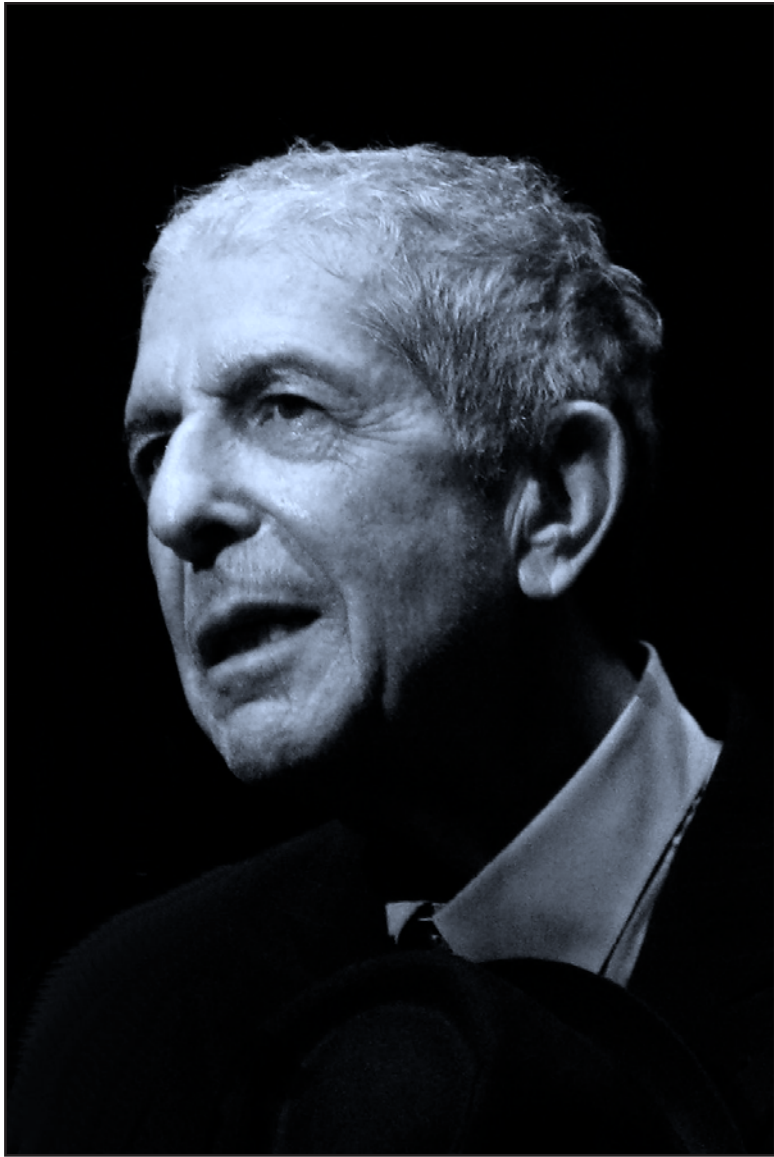
Answer: Clue. The game was inspired by English country estate murder mystery parties.



Challah Bread



Trigger



Leonard Cohen



Lansing, Michigan



John Steinbeck



Sperm Whale

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(Questions Only)

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