

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. Name one Canadian province that is also an island.

Answer: Newfoundland or Prince Edward Island. The official name of the province of Newfoundland is Newfoundland and Labrador.

2. What is the proper name for a young goose?

Answer: Gosling. A male goose is called a gander.

3. Tess Trueheart is the wife of what comic strip character?

Answer: Dick Tracy. The character was first introduced when she was kidnapped following the robbery and shooting of her father, Emil Trueheart.

4. What does it mean if a cocktail is served “neat”?

Answer: It is served without ice or a mixer. It is a straight pour of liquor into a glass.

5. What was the nickname of the Chicago gangster George Nelson?

Answer: Baby Face. The FBI killed the notorious bank robber and murderer in 1934. He was 25 years old at the time of his death.

6. What New York Yankee was the first baseball player to have his number retired?

Answer: Lou Gehrig. He wore the number 4 on his jersey. It was retired in July of 1939 following Gehrig’s early retirement from baseball because he suffered from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).



7. What is it called when the horseshoe falls completely around the stake in the game of horseshoes?

Answer: Ringer. A ringer is scored as three points.

8. What instrument is used in submarines to view objects at the surface of the water?

Answer: Periscope. When the periscope is not in use, it retracts into the submarine.

9. Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is set in what Italian city?

Answer: Verona. The city receives many love letters addressed to Juliet on Valentine's Day each year.

10. What actor plays Sundance in *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*?

Answer: Robert Redford. Paul Newman plays Butch Cassidy. Redford is also the founder of the largest independent film festival, the Sundance Film Festival.



11. What is the name of the farmer in *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*: Mr. McGregor or Mr. McDonald?

Answer: Mr. McGregor. In the Beatrix Potter story, Peter Rabbit disobeys his mother and sneaks into Mr. McGregor's garden.

12. What is the name of the system of safe passages that allowed American slaves to escape to freedom in the northern U.S. and in Canada?

Answer: The Underground Railroad. There were also routes that led to Mexico or overseas.

13. What is the more common name for the olfactory organ?

Answer: Nose. Olfaction or olfactory perception is the sense of smell.

14. Who composed the song "There's No Business Like Show Business" and "Alexander's Ragtime Band"?

Answer: Irving Berlin. In 1911, "Alexander's Ragtime Band" became his first international hit.



15. *Spam* is a combination of what two words?

Answer: *Spiced ham*. Spam was first sold in 1937. This canned meat product has become a pop-culture phenomenon.

16. Who is the Greek god of the sea?

Answer: Poseidon. The Roman god of the sea is Neptune.

17. What does the Spanish phrase *Que será, será* mean?

Answer: "Whatever will be, will be." This phrase has become a proverb in English. It is also the title of a song made famous by Doris Day in 1956. It was introduced in the Hitchcock film *The Man Who Knew Too Much*.

18. In what famous novel does the line “Call me Ishmael” appear?

Answer: *Moby-Dick*. It is the first line in the Herman Melville novel. Ishmael is the narrator of the story.

19. In what century did Canada become a country?

Answer: 19th century. Canada became a country on July 1, 1867.

20. What is the largest fruit crop on Earth? **Hint:** Concord is a variety of this fruit.

Answer: Grapes. Bananas are the second largest.



21. How many limbs does a squid have: 8 or 10?

Answer: 10. A squid has 8 arms and 2 longer tentacles.

22. Who was born first: Leif Erikson or Erik the Red?

Answer: Erik the Red. Erik the Red was the father of Leif Erikson. Both men were explorers.

23. Brussels is the capital city of what country?

Answer: Belgium. Brussels is also the largest city in Belgium.

24. What kind of animal is the cartoon character Chilly Willy?

Answer: Penguin. Chilly Willy was the second-most popular cartoon character from the Walter Lantz studio. Woody Woodpecker was the most popular Lantz studio character.

25. What is the name of Tom Sawyer’s aunt in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*?

Answer: Aunt Polly. The Mark Twain novel was published in 1876.



26. Marsupials have what special characteristic?

Answer: The young are carried in the mother’s pouch. The kangaroo, koala, and Tasmanian devil are all marsupials.

27. How many items are in four dozen?

Answer: 48. There are 12 in one dozen.

28. In what decade did Jesse Owens win four gold medals in the Summer Olympics?

Answer: 1930s. The 1936 Summer Olympics took place in Berlin, Germany.

29. Which scientist was awarded the Nobel Prize in two different scientific fields?

Answer: Marie Curie. Marie Curie won the 1903 Nobel Prize in Physics (shared with Pierre Curie and Henri Becquerel) for research on radiation, and the 1911 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discovering the elements polonium and radium. She remains the only person to win Nobel Prizes in two different sciences.

30. What is the capital of Saskatchewan?

Answer: Regina. It is also the second-largest city in the province. Saskatoon is the largest city in Saskatchewan.



Dick Tracy and Tess Trueheart



George Nelson



Robert Redford



Irving Berlin



Grapes



Tom Sawyer and Aunt Polly

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(Questions Only)

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