

Random Trivia

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

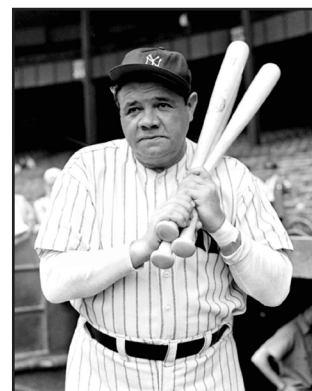
There are several activity possibilities:

- 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 do mambo, conga, and samba have in common?
Answer: They are dances, and each has five letters. Other dances with five letters include tango, polka, and waltz.
2. Which Canadian built one of Canada's most famous breweries: John Molson or Eberhard Anheuser?
Answer: John Molson. John Molson founded the Molson Brewing Company of Canada.
3. What actress played Dolly in the 1969 movie musical *Hello, Dolly*?
Answer: Barbra Streisand. Walter Matthau was her co-star. Gene Kelly was the director.
4. What country borders Peru and Panama?
Answer: Colombia. It is in northwestern South America.
5. Which continent has the highest mountain: Asia or Europe?
Answer: Asia. Mount Everest is located on the border of Nepal and Tibet in Asia.
6. Who was the first baseball player to hit 50 home runs in a season?
Answer: Babe Ruth. He did this for the first time in 1920 and then again in 1921, 1927, and 1928.
7. What children's game that uses a small red ball has origins in ancient Greece?
Answer: Jacks. Jacks were originally called *knucklebones*. The game was played with the ankle bones of sheep. Some sources say it was played during the time of the Trojan War.



8. What are eyeglasses with two distinct optical powers called?

Answer: Bifocals. They are prescribed for people who are farsighted, or not able to see objects up close.

9. In what state is the home of Dorothy Gale in *The Wizard of Oz*?

Answer: Kansas. In both the film and book, Dorothy lives with her Aunt Em and Uncle Henry on a farm in Kansas.

10. What was the name of the dog in *Peter Pan*?

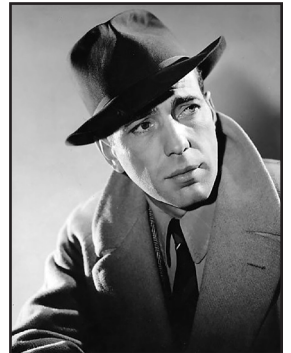
Answer: Nana. She was a Newfoundland dog.

11. A human brain has how many cerebral hemispheres?

Answer: Two. The brain is divided into the right and left hemispheres. Each hemisphere controls specific functions.

12. What actor played Sam Spade in *The Maltese Falcon*?

Answer: Humphrey Bogart. The film is based on the Dashiell Hammett book of the same name. It was nominated for three Academy Awards but did not win.



13. What ocean is the smallest ocean in the world?

Answer: The Arctic Ocean. The Pacific Ocean is the largest.

14. What actor is famous for playing the role of Andy Hardy?

Answer: Mickey Rooney. The actor began his career at the very young age of seven. His first role was playing Mickey McGuire in a series of silent short films.



15. What does the Latin phrase *carpe noctem* mean?

Answer: Seize the night. *Carpe diem* means “seize the day.”

16. What habit was banned on most airline flights beginning in 1987?

Answer: Smoking. Offenders may face a fine of up to \$10,000.

17. What mostly nocturnal bird of prey can turn its head almost all the way around?

Answer: The owl. They can turn their heads 270 degrees. A unique bone structure and a highly developed vascular system enable the owl to do this.

18. In which province is Cavendish, the setting for the *Anne of Green Gables* book: Prince Edward Island or Nova Scotia?

Answer: Prince Edward Island. Canadian author Lucy Maud Montgomery wrote the novel.

19. What is the name of the literary character who asks for more gruel in a Charles Dickens novel?

Answer: Oliver Twist. The 1838 book *Oliver Twist* is about an orphan and his many adventures in the slums of London.



20. What three-letter word is the name of the cooking vessel used in preparing Chinese food?

Answer: Wok. They are very versatile. They can be used for stir-frying, steaming, and poaching.

21. Which humanitarian was born first: Mother Teresa or Jane Addams?

Answer: Jane Addams. Addams was born in 1860 and later founded Hull House, a settlement house in Chicago. Mother Teresa was born in 1910. Both strove to improve the lives of the poor.

22. What collection of lakes in New York is named for a body part?

Answer: Finger Lakes. They are in the west-central part of upstate New York. Mapmakers thought the pattern of lakes resembled fingers, hence the name.

23. What invention did Alexander Graham Bell continue developing while in Canada?

Answer: The telephone. Graham and his family moved from Scotland to Brantford, Ontario, in 1870. Bell later spent time working with the deaf in Massachusetts and Connecticut. When he returned to Canada, he continued his experiments with sound and invented the telephone.

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Answer: Nine. The average length of a nine-inning baseball game is roughly between two and a half and three hours. The introduction of the pitch clock helps keep the game pace moving.

25. What kind of retriever is the most popular breed of dog in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom?

Answer: Labrador retriever. This playful and active breed is also most popular in Australia and New Zealand.



26. What is the capital of Sweden?

Answer: Stockholm. It is also Sweden's most populous city.

27. What four-letter fruit is high in potassium?

Answer: Kiwi. Bananas and papaya are also high in potassium.

28. What famous novel contains the line "He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream and he had gone eighty-four days now without taking a fish"?

Answer: *The Old Man and the Sea*. It is the first line in the Ernest Hemingway novel.

29. What bandleader composed the songs “Mood Indigo” and “Sophisticated Lady”?

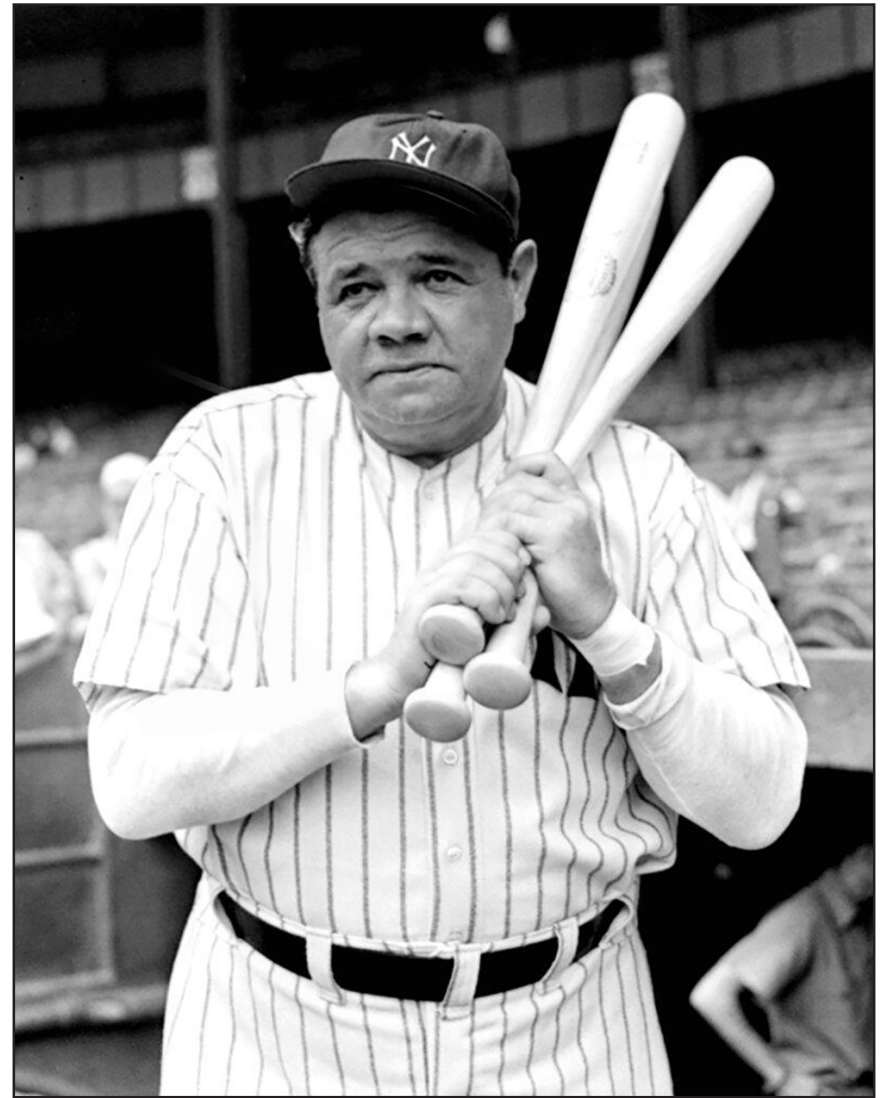
Answer: Duke Ellington. His musical career spanned 50 years.

30. Which is larger: a coyote or a wolf?

Answer: A wolf. An adult wolf can weigh around 90 pounds. An adult coyote weighs around 40 to 50 pounds.



Barbra Streisand



Babe Ruth



Humphrey Bogart



Mickey Rooney



Wok



Labrador Retriever

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(Questions Only)

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