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CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2021

It's the season when we gather with family and friends to enjoy the warmth of good company, festive food and drink. And what better way to spend that time together than with a quiz.

We've put together a bumper collection of questions for you to test your brain power with. There are 8 rounds altogether, covering multiple subjects. All answers are on the final page.



If you enjoy the quiz, then please consider making a donation to support our work at:
wcrf-uk.org/christmasquiz



Traditional thinking

This is a festive-related set of quiz questions about Christmas customs around the world.



1. Which country provides the Christmas tree that's displayed in London's Trafalgar Square every winter? The tree is a token of gratitude for the support Britain gave during World War II.
2. In Armenia, the traditional Christmas meal is fried fish, lettuce and which other green vegetable?
3. In Caracas, Venezuela, people head to church on Christmas Eve wearing what unusual item of clothing?
4. In the UK, we're used to seeing the poinsettia plant decorating our houses at Christmas time. But in which country does the poinsettia traditionally grow?
5. In Poland, locals traditionally eat a 12-dish meat-free dinner on Christmas Eve – each dish represents one of the 12 apostles. The feast usually kicks off with a soup called barszcz, which is made from which vegetable?
6. We watch a lot of TV at Christmas, and special episodes of our favourite shows have become a tradition. In 1996, a festive episode of which TV comedy became the most watched Christmas programme of all time, pulling in 24.35m viewers?
7. In Oaxaca, Mexico, there's an annual event on 23 December, where prizes are given for the best scenes carved from oversized versions of which vegetable?
8. In which country would you traditionally drink a sort of mulled wine called Glögg at Christmas?
9. On Christmas Eve, Italian families take part in what kind of feast?
The feast of: A) Eight Eggs B) Seven Fishes C) Six Meats
10. In which African country would you traditionally eat malva pudding at Christmas?
A) South Africa B) Morocco C) Liberia
11. The recipe for which traditional element of a British and American Christmas meal was first published in the 1796 edition of American Cookery by Amelia Simmons?
12. On 5 December, the Dutch celebrate the feast of Sinterklaas, one of the sources of the popular Christmas icon of Santa Claus. When the festivities begin in December, Sinterklaas traditionally arrives in a boat from which other European country?
13. In Finland, which item of food is it lucky to find in your porridge on Christmas morning?
A) A bay leaf B) A peanut C) An almond
14. What do Ukrainians hang on their tree, as part of the Christmas tradition?
A) A squirrel B) A spider's web C) A straw hut
15. What unusual food is traditionally eaten at Christmas in Japan?
A) Eel B) doughnuts C) Fried chicken



Movie taglines



It's not only the movie titles that tend to be memorable, often the taglines are just as catchy. So here's your challenge. Just identify the famous film from the tagline (we've put its year of release in brackets as a clue).

1. In space no-one can hear you scream. (1979)
2. The strangest story ever conceived by man. (1933)
3. Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire. (1993)
4. He is afraid. He is alone. He is three million light years from home. (1982)
5. See it before you go swimming. (1975)
6. On every street in every city, there's a nobody who dreams of being a somebody. (1976)
7. A man went looking for America and couldn't find it anywhere. (1969)
8. It's a deadly game of 'tag' and Cary Grant is 'it'. (1959)
9. There are 3.7 trillion fish in the ocean. They're looking for one. (2003)
10. Five good reasons to stay single. (1994)
11. Never let your friends tie you to the tracks. (1994)
12. Here's the fools who dream. (2016)
13. He's having the day of his life... over and over again. (1993)
14. It takes leadership to confront a nation's fear. It takes friendship to conquer your own. When God couldn't save the King, the Queen turned to someone who could. (2010)
15. Bring him home. Help is only 140 million miles away. (2015)





Art and literature



A mixture of cultural questions to have a go at.

1. In 2008, which novel was named the Booker of Bookers to celebrate 40 years of the prestigious prize?
2. The sculptor Barbara Hepworth has a museum in her name in her Yorkshire town of birth. Which town?
3. How many lines are there in a sonnet?
4. Who were Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell better known as?
5. If you look at the list of stories, which of these places did Asterix not visit: Belgium, Corsica, Ireland, Spain?
6. Listed among the Smithsonian's 'Life list of 28 places to see before you die', Fallingwater is a house built partially over a waterfall in Pennsylvania, USA. Which famous architect designed the house?
7. What was the first James Bond novel to be published by Ian Fleming?
8. In which city would you find the Prado gallery?
9. Who is the author of 31 Dream Street, Thirtynothing and Ralph's Party?
10. Which famous English artist painted 'Ulysses Deriding Polyphemus', 'The Battle of Trafalgar' and 'Eruption of Vesuvius'?
11. The novels 'War and Peace', 'The Master and Margarita', 'Lolita', and 'Crime and Punishment' were all written by authors from which country?
12. In 2010, the Chinese artist Ai Weiwei filled the interior of Tate Modern's Turbine Hall with millions of what item, providing the name of his art installation?
13. In the trilogy His Dark Materials, which book precedes The Subtle Knife and The Amber Spyglass?
14. In which country was Frida Kahlo born?
15. You almost definitely know that Mrs Tiggywinkle is a hedgehog in Beatrix Potter's stories. But what sort of animal is Jeremy Fisher?





Take a letter **ABC**

All the answers to these questions have a one-letter answer.

1. What is the Roman numeral for 500?
2. In Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, what letter must Hester wear on her dress?
3. Desmond Llewellyn, John Cleese and Ben Whishaw have all played which character in a long-running film franchise on screen?
4. What letter represents potassium on the periodic table of chemical elements?
5. Will Smith plays what agent in the *Men In Black* film series?
6. Thiamine, riboflavin and niacin are all different types of which vitamin?
7. The actor who played BA Baracus in the cult 80s TV series *The A Team* goes by the name of Mr 'what'?
8. In chess, when recording games using algebraic notation, what letter is used to represent the knight?
9. The major Romantic poet Percy Shelley used what letter as a pen name?
10. What was the first perfume to be endorsed by singer Mariah Carey?
11. What is the name of the science-fiction franchise created by Kenneth Johnson? So far, it's consisted of three separate TV series between 1983 and 2011, more than 15 novels and a video game.
12. What is the name of the Scottish river that begins in the north-west of the Monadh Liath, to the south-east of Loch Ness, running for about 10km, before flowing into Loch Mhòr?
13. What is the name of Kylie Minogue's tenth studio album, released in 2007 and including the songs 'Wow' and 'In my arms'?
14. Which letter is used to denote both the speed of sound and the speed of light in a vacuum?
15. Which letter is used in the United Kingdom to denote a film that is suitable for all audiences aged four years or over?





Time and place



These questions should do a good job of testing your history and geography knowledge!

- 1.** In which town would you find the most easterly point of the UK?
- 2.** Name the only country that ends with the letter Q
- 3.** Which country had the world's first female prime minister in 1960?
- 4.** In which country is the famous city of Timbuktu?
- 5.** In 1909, the engineer Louis Blériot became famous for achieving what feat?
- 6.** Which country has the longest coastline in the world?
- 7.** In 1961, the Bay Of Pigs invasion was an unsuccessful attempt by the USA to invade which country?
- 8.** In which ocean would you find the island nations of Mauritius, the Seychelles and the Maldives?
- 9.** Named after the second German president, what was the name of the airship that crashed and exploded in New Jersey in May 1937?
- 10.** The Nile and the Amazon are the world's two longest rivers. Found in Asia, what is the third longest?
- 11.** In 1915, Cecil Chubb was sent to an auction by his wife to buy some dining chairs. Instead, he bought which prehistoric monument?
- 12.** Fray Bentos tinned meat pies became a popular item in supermarkets in the 20th century. Fray Bentos is actually a port, found in which South American country?
- 13.** In the 13th century, Henry III received what unusual gift from King Haakon IV of Norway? He kept this gift in the Tower of London, where it lived alongside monkeys, lions and leopards.
- 14.** In the name Washington DC, what does the DC stand for?
- 15.** Who was assassinated at Birla House, India on 30 January 1948?





Wonderful world



A round of questions on science and nature facts.

- 1.** In which modern-day country was the physicist and chemist Marie Curie born?
- 2.** How many wings does a mosquito have?
- 3.** Which is the largest internal organ in the human body?
- 4.** What is the collective name for a group of owls?
- 5.** What part of a human body is the mandible?
- 6.** At what speed does light travel?
- 7.** What is the largest moon of Saturn called?
- 8.** Percy Spencer invented which time saving kitchen appliance?
- 9.** What is the name of the light sensitive panel of cells at the rear of the eye?
- 10.** How many hearts do octopuses have?
- 11.** On the periodic table, what symbol stands for silver?
- 12.** How many ribs do you have?
- 13.** Which is the most sensitive of the senses?
- 14.** What is the soft spot on a baby's head known as?
- 15.** In computing, what does the abbreviation HTML stand for?





What's in a name?



This is a general knowledge round, but based on the names of things, people or places.

- 1.** Which modern city was previously called Byzantium and Constantinople?
- 2.** How are the inert gases, such as argon, radon, krypton and xenon now known?
- 3.** In 1898, 'Brad's Drink' was changed to what globally-known brand name?
- 4.** Which world-famous, chart-topping pop act – who have recently made a comeback – originally called themselves Festfolk?
- 5.** Which African country was originally called Upper Volta?
- 6.** What name is shared by a member of the Monkees and the musician behind Ziggy Stardust?
- 7.** How is the writer Theodore Geisel better known to millions (particularly children) worldwide?
- 8.** What is the more common name for Mount Godwin Austen?
- 9.** The Irish singer and rock musician Paul Hewson is better known by what four-letter name?
- 10.** In America savoury recipes often call for 'cilantro'. What ingredient would you add to your cooking if you were in the UK?
- 11.** One of Australia's most recognisable landmarks, what is the native Aboriginal word now also used for Ayers Rock?
- 12.** Which internet search engine was originally called 'Jerry and David's Guide to the World Wide Web'?
- 13.** In 2019, Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta became the first woman to win an Oscar, a Golden Globe, a BAFTA and a Grammy in the same year for her work on A Star Is Born. How is she better known?
- 14.** The British-Irish author David John Cornwell died in December 2020 aged 89. How was he better known to fans of his books?
- 15.** Which British city was previously known as Eboracum, Eofofwic and Jorvic, before settling on the name by which we now know it?





Four of a kind

Each question has four clues that all have a common theme. All you have to do is name the common theme. For example, if the clues were Wilson, Thatcher, Asquith and May, the answer would be British Prime Ministers.

1. Matthew Wall; Lauren Price; Ben Maher; Kate French
2. Carter; Fowler; Mitchell; Moon
3. Chemin Vert; Les Halles; Mirabeau; Robespierre
4. Osprey; Anya; Desiree; Charlotte
5. American curl; Cymric; Havana Brown, Russian Blue
6. Caslon; Bookman; Rockwell; Trebuchet
7. U Thant; Kofi Annan; Dag Hammerskjöld; Perez de Cuellar
8. Calgary; Nagano; Turin; Sarajevo
9. Athens; Verona; Windsor; Venice
10. Smith; Baker; Whittaker; Tennant
11. Clio; Terpsichore; Calliope; Thalia
12. Basic; python; java; groovy
13. Central; Southern; Granada; Thames
14. Hunt, Millais, Rossetti, Stephens
15. Aconcagua, Elbrus, Kosciuszko, Denali



ANSWERS

Round 1: Traditional thinking

1. Norway 2. Spinach 3. Rollerskates (weird, but true!) 4. Mexico 5. Beetroot 6. Only Fools And Horses 7. Radishes (It's called Noche de Rabanos and has been held since 1897.) 8. Sweden 9. **B**) The Feast Of Seven Fishes 10. **A**) South Africa 11. Cranberry sauce 12. Spain 13. **C**) An almond. In ancient times, it meant the finder would be the first to get married. 14. **B**) A spider's web. It's all down to an old folk story. 15. **C**) Fried chicken. It's all down to an advert back in 1974, for a famous fast-food fried chicken restaurant.

Round 2: Movie taglines

1. Alien 2. King Kong 3. Schindler's List 4. ET 5. Jaws 6. Taxi Driver 7. Easy Rider 8. North By Northwest 9. Finding Nemo 10. Four Weddings and A Funeral 11. Trainspotting 12. LaLa Land 13. Groundhog Day 14. The King's Speech 15. The Martian

Round 3: Art and literature

1. Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children 2. Wakefield 3. 14 4. Bronte sisters 5. Ireland 6. Frank Lloyd Wright 7. Casino Royale 8. Madrid 9. Lisa Jewell 10. JMW Turner 11. Russia 12. Sunflower seeds 13. Northern Lights 14. Mexico 15. A frog

Round 4: Take a letter

1. D 2. A 3. Q 4. K 5. J 6. B 7. T 8. N (the K is used for the king) 9. S 10. M 11. V 12. E 13. X 14. C 15. U

Round 5: Time and place

1. Lowestoft (Ness Point) 2. Iraq 3. Sri Lanka 4. Mali 5. First person to make an airplane flight across the English Channel 6. Canada 7. Cuba 8. Indian Ocean 9. Hindenburg 10. Yangtze 11. Stonehenge 12. Uruguay 13. A polar bear 14. District of Columbia 15. Mahatma Gandhi

Round 6: Wonderful world

1. Poland 2. Two 3. Liver 4. Parliament 5. The lower jawbone 6. 186,000 miles per second/ 300,000km per second 7. Titan 8. The microwave oven 9. Retina 10. Three 11. Ag 12. 24 13. Smell 14. Fontanelle 15. Hypertext mark-up language

Round 7: What's in a name?

1. Istanbul 2. Noble gases 3. Pepsi Cola 4. ABBA 5. Burkina Faso 6. David Jones (it was Bowie's birth name) 7. Dr Seuss 8. K2 9. Bono 10. Coriander 11. Uluru 12. Yahoo! 13. Lady Gaga 14. John Le Carré 15. York

Round 8: Four of a kind

1. Team GB gold medallists at Tokyo 2020 2. Families in EastEnders 3. Paris Metro stations 4. Types of potato 5. Breeds of cat 6. Fonts or typefaces 7. Former General Secretaries of the United Nations 8. Host cities of the Winter Olympics 9. Places featured in titles of Shakespeare plays 10. Surnames of actors who've played Dr Who 11. Greek muses 12. Computer programming languages 13. Former ITV franchises 14. Founding members of the Pre-Raphaelites Brotherhood art movement 15. Tallest mountains on their continent (South America/Europe/Oceania/North America)

We hope you enjoyed the questions! If you haven't already, please consider making a donation to help fund our vital research into cancer prevention.

Visit wcrf-uk.org/christmasquiz and leave us a gift today