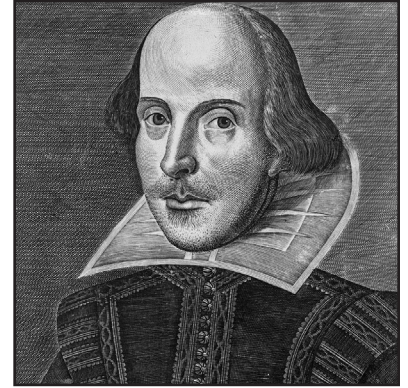


Category Trivia

We have chosen six categories with six questions in each category. The categories are: Marbles, Jacks, Pick-Up Sticks, Tiddlywinks, Jumping Games, and Spinning Toys.

There are several activity possibilities:

- Read and discuss the trivia questions and answers below. Print this [picture page](#) to pass around during the activity. Also, check out the links for additional information to bring to the activity.
- Post the trivia on your bulletin board using a [special sign](#). Simply type in one or more of the trivia questions below.
- Print [fill-in-the-blank copies of the questions \(without the answers\)](#) to hand out for independent activities. Also available are the [questions with the answers](#).



Trivia Questions and Answers

Marbles

1. Which of these is not a type of marble used for play: aggie, cat's eye, sheep's wool, or clam broth?

Answer: Sheep's wool. Clam broth is one of the most popular marbles for collectors due to its contrasting milky-white and swirling colors.

2. *Twelfth Night*, a play by what early playwright, mentions marbles?

Answer: William Shakespeare. In ancient Egypt, marbles was played using stone or polished nuts.

3. During what century were glass marbles first produced?

Answer: The 19th century. The story goes that glassmakers used leftover bits to create marbles for their children.

4. What is a marble used for in a can of spray paint?

Answer: As a mixing ball. The marbles in cans of spray paint are made from metal or ceramic material. Marbles are also important in some air and water filtration methods, so they are not just for kids.



5. What ancient civilization in the Mediterranean used clay balls for marbles?

Answer: The Romans. Clay replaced nuts and was then replaced with stone from German quarries.

6. From what material are “aggies” created?

Answer: Agate. The stone was quarried in Germany and exported worldwide. It was the most popular stone marble.

Jacks

7. Traditional forms of the game of jacks include play with animal bones as well as what plant-growing small items?

Answer: Seeds. Egyptian children sometimes used apricot seeds, while early versions of the game in Eastern Europe traditionally used cleaned bones.

8. How many prongs are on a typical jack in the modern version of the game?

Answer: Six. Modern jacks are often made of plastic or lightweight metal.



9. Which of these items is *not* a typical game piece for playing jacks: rubber or wooden ball, jacks, or game board?

Answer: Game board. Most versions of the game involve bouncing a ball and picking up jacks before the ball bounces.

10. In what area of the world is a similar game played with bags of rice, sand, or beans?

Answer: East Asia. Japanese and Chinese versions of jacks involve tossing a bag of grain and picking up others while it is aloft.

11. Which of these is another name used globally for jacks: Cinco Marias, Statues, or Skippyroo Kangaroo?

Answer: Cinco Marias. This version of jacks is played in Brazil and uses five stones or beanbags in place of the spiky jacks we know.

12. True or false: Ancient Greeks depicted games of jacks on pottery?

Answer: True. Ancient jars show pictures of players enjoying this age-old game.

Pick-Up Sticks

13. Which game is similar to pick-up sticks: pogo, Mikado, or Jenga?

Answer: Mikado. Both games of skill involve releasing sticks into a random pile and picking them up one by one.

14. On what continent did the modern version of pick-up sticks (called spillikins) originate?



Answer: Europe. Played with reeds or straw, the best-known version of spillikins originated in the 18th century.

15. How are the sticks set up in the beginning of the game?

Answer: Held vertically in a bundle and then released (not thrown). The goal is to create a dense, random pile that makes it challenging to retrieve the sticks.

16. True or false? Sticks used in Mikado have assigned point values.

Answer: True. The harder a stick is to retrieve, the more points it is worth, ranging from 10 to 50 points.

17. What nursery rhyme is believed to be the origin of the name *pick-up sticks*?

Answer: "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe." The counting rhyme includes the words "five, six, pick-up sticks."

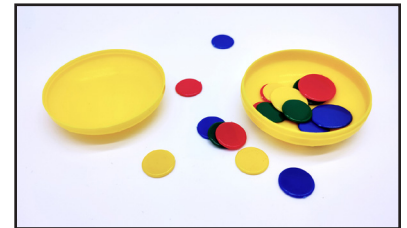
18. What were Mikado sticks originally used for in 12th-century China: fire starting or fortune telling?

Answer: Fortune telling. The scattering of the sticks was used to make predictions and "read destiny."

Tiddlywinks

19. Which of these is *not* a real term in the game tiddlywinks: *winker*, *squidger*, *bobble*, or *squop*?

Answer: Bobble. The game is played by winkers, who use a large disk called a squidger to click smaller colored disks called winks. Squopping is covering one wink with another.



20. True or false? Prestigious learning institution MIT was once known for its fiercely competitive tiddlywinks players.

Answer: True. The school has a history of serious winking. Though there are no longer any active clubs, MIT alumni continue to compete and keep the tradition alive.

21. Approximately how many tiddlywinks patents have there been since the 1880s: 25, 80, or 300?

Answer: 80. Although the game is fairly simple, regional names and differences in gameplay lend variety.

22. What famed Irish author refers to tiddlywinks in his 1922 novel *Ulysses*?

Answer: James Joyce. He must have been a tiddlywink enthusiast, because the game is referenced again in Joyce's later work *Finnegan's Wake*.

23. In which European country is tiddlywinks called *flohspiel*, with some variations played with a wooden shoe?

Answer: Germany. An additional German variation of tiddlywinks in Germany involves playing with candy wrappers from the Ritter Sport chocolate company.

24. During which decade of the 1800s did tiddlywinks become a craze worldwide and was patented in the United States?

Answer: The 1890s. The craze began when the game's early name, *Tiddledy Winks*, fell into the public domain.

Jumping Games

25. A French variation of hopscotch, called *escargot* due to its spiral shape, is named for what creature?

Answer: Snail. The spiral shape invites players to jump inward to a central resting space and back out again.

26. In the English version of hopscotch, what part of the diagram is the "scotch"?

Answer: The lines (scratches). The players must therefore hop over the scotches, meaning they may not jump on the lines.

27. What jumping game often involves chanted rhymes, like "Cinderella, dressed in yellow, went upstairs to kiss a fellow"?

Answer: Jump rope. The jumping rhymes help players keep rhythm. The game became popular in the early 1900s.



28. What jump rope game is played with two alternating ropes?

Answer: Double Dutch. This variation dates back at least to Dutch settlers in America in the 1600s.

29. Which of these is *not* an international name for hopscotch: *rayuela*, *mondo*, or *lupi*?

Answer: Lupi. *Lupi* is an Italian variation of tag; its name translates to "wolves."

30. What East Asian country may have had the earliest origins of jump rope, which was played during its New Year festivities?

Answer: China. Although there is little written history of the sport's early days, its earliest known roots are in 17th-century China.

Spinning Games

31. What small twirling toy has variations such as a teetotum, dreidel, and whip-tops?

Answer: (Spinning) tops. One special spinning top, the dreidel, is an important part of Hanukkah celebrations.

32. What type of spinning toy did Donald F. Duncan help popularize in the United States after purchasing the rights from its inventor?



Answer: Yo-yo. Duncan, the owner of Duncan Toys Company, successfully marketed staged nationwide contests for yo-yo tricks to popularize the game.

33. True or false? Peg tops are spun by pulling a string.

Answer: True. These unique tops use a string wound around the top's body to propel it in a spinning motion.

34. What type of oak seed can be used as a natural top, due to its conical shape?

Answer: Acorn. Evidence of ancient spinning tops indicates that it was invented many times around the world, by many cultures.

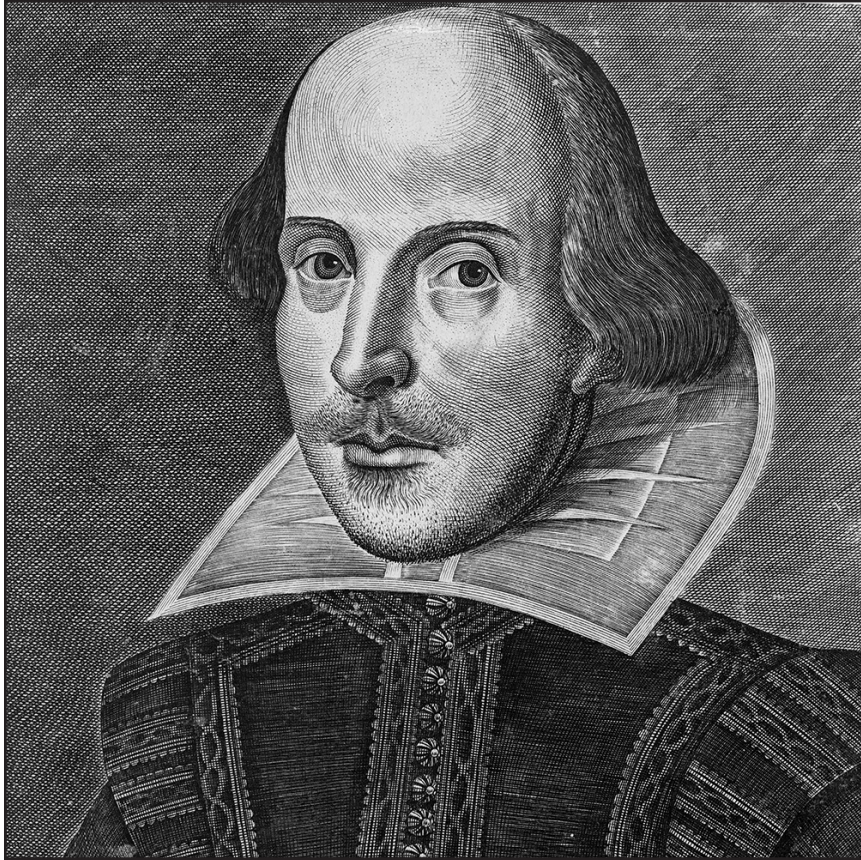


35. What was a yo-yo used for aboard the space shuttle *Discovery* in 1985?

Answer: Scientific experiments. The crew used a yo-yo to investigate microgravity; it is still a part of many outer space toy experiments.

36. The yo-yo was introduced to the United States by a young businessman from what country?

Answer: The Philippines. Businessman Pedro Flores opened a yo-yo company in California in 1928. The word *yo-yo* is a Filipino word for “come-come” or “come and go.”



William Shakespeare



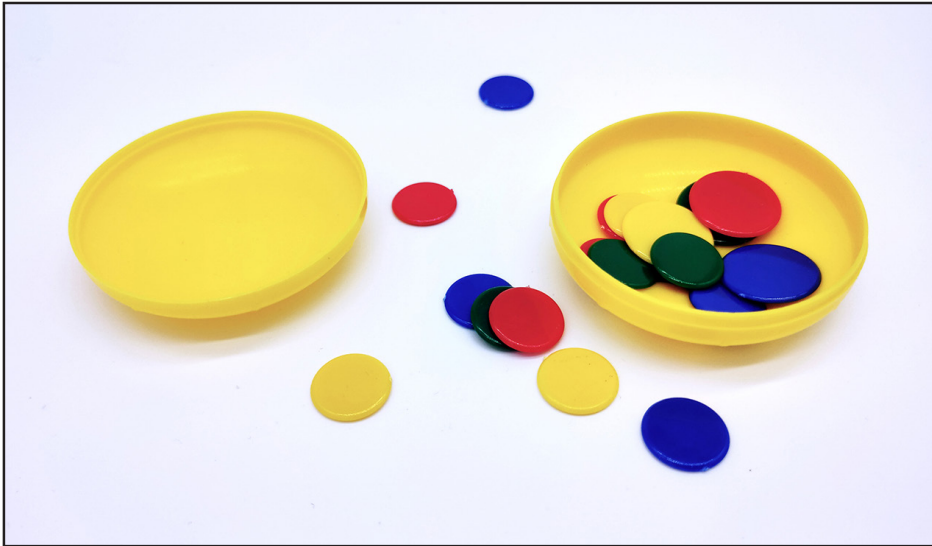
Spray Paint



Jacks



Mikado



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Jump Rope



(Spinning) Top



Acorn

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(Questions Only)

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