



Random Trivia

January 2022

1.

What type of sweater gets its name because it resembles a tortoise's neck coming in and out of its shell?

The turtleneck

The tubular collar style can be loose- or close-fitting, with varying lengths. Longer lengths allow the wearer to either fold over or scrunch the collar.



2.

What big-band leader and “King of the Clarinet” initially gained fame with Cole Porter’s “Begin the Beguine”?

Artie Shaw

Shaw was the first white bandleader to hire a person of color as lead vocalist—
Billie Holiday.

3.

There are three different falls at Niagara: American Falls, Bridal Veil Falls, and what?

Horseshoe Falls

The largest of the falls, Horseshoe Falls is located on the international border, while American Falls and Bridal Veil Falls are in the United States.



4.

What insurance company
uses the tagline “You’re in
Good Hands”?

Allstate

The slogan has been used since the early 1950s. The daughter of general sales manager David W. Ellis had become very sick, and his wife reassured him that she was in good hands with the doctors. He then pitched “You’re in Good Hands with Allstate” to the company.

5.

What mathematic theorem beginning with P uses the equation $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$?

Hint: The right triangle.

The Pythagorean theorem (*pih-THAG-uh-REE-uhn THEE-ruhm*)

While the equation has often been attributed to the Greek mathematician and philosopher Pythagoras, several Babylonian tablets have been discovered that appear to prove that the Babylonians were using the same geometry to survey land measurements over 1,000 years before Pythagoras.

6.

**What kitchen utensil is
used to hand whip air
into eggs?**

A whisk

The earliest whisks consisted of twigs bundled together, while the wire whisk was invented in the early 1800s.



7.

Which is the term for the attraction of similar molecules uniting to form a mass: adhesion, cohesion, or convection?

Cohesion

An example of this is the way liquid mercury or water droplets pool together.

8.

What vaudeville
comediienne portrayed
Baby Snooks on *The Baby
Snooks Show*?

Fanny Brice

The show first aired as *Post Toasties Time* in 1944, but it was not long before they changed the name. Brice created Baby Snooks well before the radio show, using the character as early as 1934 in her vaudeville act.

9.

Which is an example of karst topography: sinkholes, mountains, or glaciers? **Hint: Great Blue Hole, Belize.**

Sinkholes

Karst topography is usually characterized by sinkholes, caverns, and underground rivers. The largest sinkhole in the world, known in English as Heavenly Pit, can be found in China. It is more than 2,171 feet deep (662 meters) and 1,729 feet wide (527 meters) with vertical sides.



10.

How many pigs are in
the nursery rhyme
“This Little Piggy”?

Five

Each piggy refers to a toe on a child's foot.

11.

**Brazilian author Paulo
Coelho shot to fame after
publishing what novel
in 1987?**

The Alchemist

With translations in 56 different languages, it was the most translated book by a living author as of 2021.

12.

The pancreas is essential to the digestive system and what other body system?

The endocrine system

This body system is responsible for regulating hormones via several glands throughout the body. The pancreas is the largest gland in the body and produces the hormone insulin.

13.

What is the name of the largest national park in Canada? **Hint:** The first two words are another name for timber and another name for bison.

Wood Buffalo National Park

Located in northern Alberta and southern Northwest Territories, the park is 27,841 square miles. Along with the wood bison, it is home to Earth's last natural nesting grounds for whooping cranes.

14.

In what movie does
Marilyn Monroe say,
“Story of my life. I’m tired
of getting the fuzzy end of
the lollipop”?

Some Like It Hot

Monroe's character, Sugar Cane Kowalczyk, says this to Josephine, played by Tony Curtis, who is disguised as a woman when they meet on the train.

15.

What kind of clock is considered the most accurate at keeping time?

The atomic clock

Much like the swinging pendulum of a grandfather clock, an atomic clock measures atoms' oscillation or sway.

16.

**Redback, trap door,
mouse, and funnel-web
are all what kind of animal
found in Australia?**

Spiders

These spiders are some of the most venomous arachnids in the world.



17.

Who was the first deaf and blind person to earn a bachelor's degree? **Hint:**

Her first teacher was
Anne Sullivan.

Helen Keller

Keller was 24 years old when she received a bachelor of arts degree from Radcliff College of Harvard University. She graduated with honors.

18.

What European country
beginning with *L* borders
Belgium, France,
and Germany?

Luxembourg

The country has three official languages: French, German, and Luxembourgish.

19.

**What company sells Ivory
Soap, Crest, and Tide?**

Proctor & Gamble

The company started selling candles and soap and gradually expanded the product line into a wide range of consumer goods.

20.

What do the initials *p.s.* stand for when found at the end of a letter or memo?

Postscript

It comes from the Latin *postscriptum*, which translates to “written after.” In the age of computers and the ease of editing documents, this is used more for effect.

21.

From what language does
flamingo originate?

Portuguese (or Spanish)

Both use *flamengo*, which translates to “flame-colored.”

22.

What type of structure has pillars or posts that support a flat, open-rafter roof to provide partial shade: pergola, shed, or gazebo?

Pergola

A pergola can be attached to another structure, or it can stand alone. Vines or other climbing plants can be grown on pergolas, but this is not its intended purpose.



23.

What famous entertainer would close every performance by saying, “Good night, Mrs. Calabash, wherever you are”?

Jimmy Durante

Although he was often asked about the identity of Mrs. Calabash, Durante kept it a mystery.

24.

What is the smallest mammal in the world: the American shrew mole, the bumblebee bat, or the African pygmy mouse?

The bumblebee bat

Also known as Kitti's hog-nosed bat, this tiny creature measures only an inch long and weighs two grams.

25.

What comic strip is the first to have its characters age in real time and is titled after the town the comic is set in?

Gasoline Alley

Created by Frank King and debuted in the *Chicago Tribune* in 1918, *Gasoline Alley* has been in circulation for 103 years and counting.

26.

According to Emily Post, there are three principles of etiquette. The first two are consideration and respect. What is the third?

Honesty

These three qualities are the backbone of all the manners used for appropriate social behavior.

27.

What document was signed in 1215 and set a precedent for civil liberty?

Magna Carta

The barons of England forced King John to sign the document, which contained 63 rules the monarchy was to enforce.

The Magna Carta became an example for future constitutions providing fundamental rights for all people.



28.

**What is purposely placed
on structures to draw
lightning to them?**

Lightning rod (or lightning attractor)

The rod draws the lightning to hit it instead of the structure. The attractor is made of conductive material that attaches to a wire, allowing the lightning to disperse safely into the ground.

29.

What South American country is the only country in the world to be named after a tree? **Hint:** It is also the name of a nut.

Brazil

In the 1500s, the country was named Vera Cruz. However, other countries began identifying the nation with the Brazilwood tree that was harvested there, so they changed the name to Brazil.

30.

What tossing toy got its name from a pie baking company in Bridgeport, Connecticut?

Frisbee

The Frisbie Pie Company sold pies to several colleges in New England. After eating the pies, the students would turn the tin pie plates upside-down and throw them back and forth to each other, and the idea for the Frisbee was born.





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