

### 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](#).



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### Trivia Questions and Answers

1. Which playwright is known for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*?

**Answer:** Tennessee Williams. Williams' own father was the inspiration for Big Daddy's character in the play.

2. Who holds the Guinness World Record for the most career goals in soccer?

**Answer:** Pelé. The record-setting 1,279 goals were scored across 1,363 games.

3. What creature is featured on the Welsh flag?

**Answer:** A dragon. Adopted in 1959, the flag features a white-and-green background behind a fiery red dragon that has been a symbol of the country since the 1400s.

4. Which U.S. national park is known for its geysers, including one called Old Faithful?

**Answer:** Yellowstone. The incredible park has over 10,000 hydrothermal features, including geysers and hot springs.

5. Nelson Mandela, the politician and social activist, was born in what nation?

**Answer:** South Africa. Among his accomplishments was a Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.



6. What candy bar has used slogans like “Don’t let hunger happen to you” and “You’re not you when you’re hungry”?

**Answer:** Snickers. According to the brand’s website, the first Snickers bars were sold in Chicago in 1930 for five cents apiece.

7. The oldest tools ever discovered are made from what material?

**Answer:** Stone. Scientists suspect some of these ancient stone tools may predate humans.

8. In which Canadian province is Vancouver located?

**Answer:** British Columbia. Vancouver is one of the most populous cities in Canada and was inhabited by several First Nations groups before European traders arrived.



9. Carolyn Keene, a pen name used by several authors, wrote which series of children’s mystery novels?

**Answer:** The *Nancy Drew* novels. The first person to use the pen name was Mildred Wirt Benson.

10. What is the green pigment produced in plant leaves called?

**Answer:** Chlorophyll. Chlorophyll absorbs red and blue light, making the leaves appear green.

11. What is the national animal of Australia: koala, kangaroo, or platypus?

**Answer:** The kangaroo. *Kangaroo* comes from the Guugu Yimithirr (GOO-goo YIM-uh-thar) word *gangurru* (GAN-ga-roo).

12. In what modern-day country is Machu Picchu located?

**Answer:** Peru. These Inca ruins were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983.

13. Which part of the human body has 26 bones, including the talus and calcaneus?

**Answer:** The foot. The foot also has 30 joints and many muscles, tendons, and ligaments.

14. What does the French word *ennui* (aan-WEE) mean?

**Answer:** “Boredom” or “dissatisfaction.” The word is one example of a French term often borrowed in the English language.

15. Where were the popular *Lord of the Rings* movies of the early 2000s filmed?

**Answer:** New Zealand. Some of the filming locations have been turned into permanent tourist attractions.

16. Which artist painted *Girl with a Pearl Earring*?

**Answer:** Vermeer. The Dutch artist is also known for *The Art of Painting* and *The Milkmaid*.



17. What is the hottest planet in our solar system?

**Answer:** Venus. The reason for the high temperature is Venus' thick atmosphere, which employs a greenhouse effect and keeps much of the planet's heat trapped.

18. What is the capital city of the Bahamas?

**Answer:** Nassau. The city was established in the 17th century and was originally known as Charles Towne.



19. Which ocean creature has three hearts, blue blood, and eight limbs?

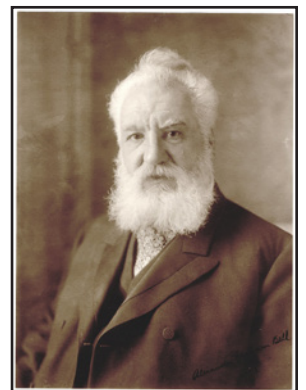
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**Answer:** Orange. The color, which is associated with William of Orange, was banned in the 1700s in an attempt to prevent rebellion.

21. What famous inventor of the telephone was born in Scotland and spent a significant portion of his life in Canada?

**Answer:** Alexander Graham Bell. Bell first moved to Canada in 1870 and lived there for much of his adult life.



22. The Shinto holidays Seijin Shiki (*SAY-jun shkee*) and Shichigosan (*SHEE-go-sahn*) are celebrated primarily in what nation?

**Answer:** Japan. Seijin Shiki, or Adults' Day, is a festival of thanksgiving for those ages 20 and older, while Shichigosan celebrates children who are seven, five, and three years old.

23. What type of weather is called *uragano* (*ooh-ruh-GAH-no*) in Italian: a hurricane, a tsunami, or a tornado?

**Answer:** A hurricane. Many people aren't aware that the Mediterranean gets hurricanes because it happens so rarely.

24. What country has the most native plant species?

**Answer:** Brazil. Home to the Amazon rainforest as well as swamps and forests, Brazil has more than 34,000 species of plants.

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**Answer:** Doctors. The oath is commonly taken by physicians while in medical school, though not all schools require it.

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**Answer:** : Greece. The flaky spinach pie was invented as a handheld food that could easily be carried by farmworkers in the fields.

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**Answer:** George. George Herman Ruth Jr. was born in Baltimore in 1895.

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**Answer:** Abigail Adams. She and husband John Adams were the first president and first lady to reside in the White House. Her son John Quincy Adams was inaugurated in 1825.

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Tennessee Williams



Geyser

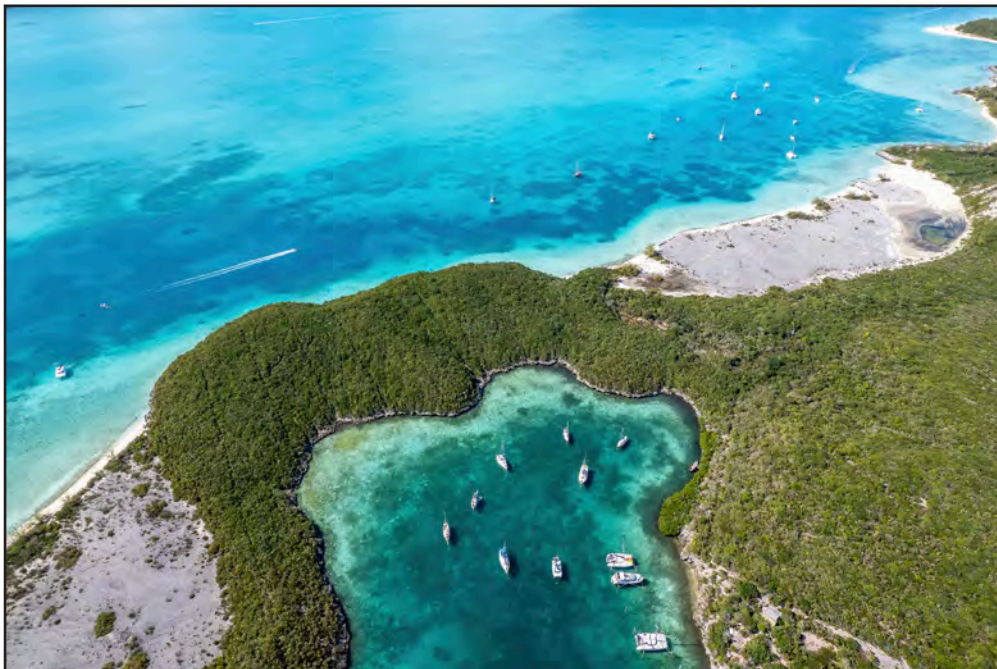




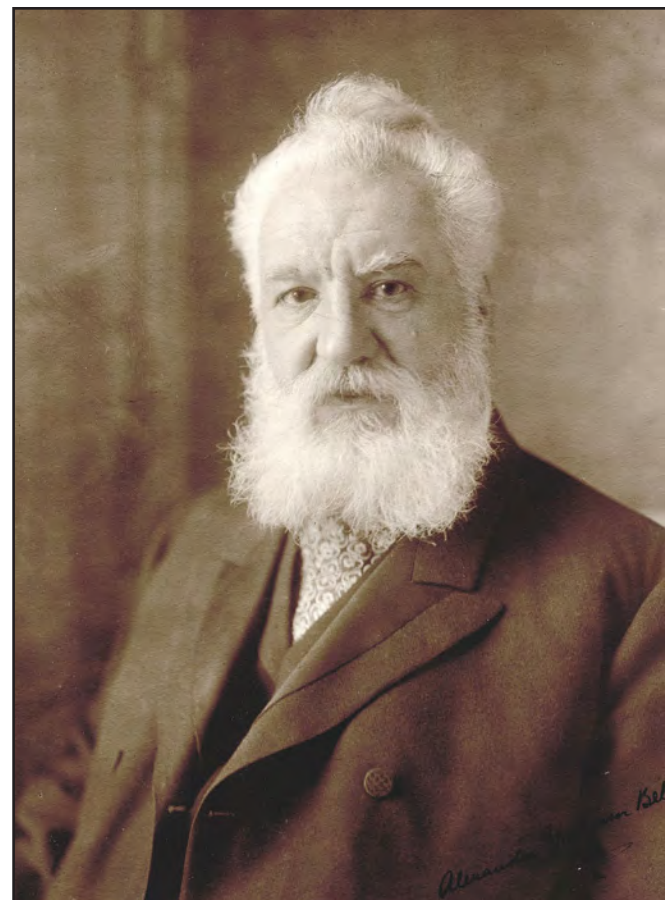
Vancouver, B.C.



Girl with the Pearl Earring



Bahamas



Alexander Graham Bell

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(Questions Only)

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