Britain quiz

20 multiple-choice questions from The Great British Quiz Book by Megan Moran. Read each question and its four options out, and teams write down a letter. The host's answer sheet (with a fact to share for each answer) and a team answer sheet to print for every table come after the questions.

Britain

1. Which is the longest river in the United Kingdom? A) Thames B) Trent C) Severn D) Great Ouse
2. Which Scottish inventor demonstrated a working television system to an audience in London in 1926? A) John Logie Baird B) Guglielmo Marconi C) Alexander Graham Bell D) Charles Babbage
3. What is the highest mountain in the United Kingdom? A) Snowdon B) Scafell Pike C) Ben Macdui D) Ben Nevis
4. What is the national animal of Scotland? A) Red deer B) Unicorn C) Golden eagle D) Lion
5. Which was the last English king to die in battle? A) Harold II B) Richard III C) Charles I D) Henry V
6. The Bakewell pudding and the Bakewell tart take their name from a market town in which county? A) Yorkshire B) Lancashire C) Cornwall D) Derbyshire
7. What is the capital city of Wales? A) Cardiff B) Swansea C) Newport D) Wrexham
8. Strictly speaking, what does the name 'Big Ben' refer to? A) The clock tower B) The clock's four faces C) The great bell inside the tower D) The whole Palace of Westminster
9. The smaller 'bluestones' of Stonehenge are thought to have been brought from which hills in Wales? A) Brecon Beacons B) Cambrian Mountains C) Black Mountains D) Preseli Hills
10. Which plant is the national emblem of Scotland? A) Thistle B) Daffodil C) Rose D) Shamrock
11. Rugby football takes its name from a school in which English county? A) Leicestershire B) Warwickshire C) Oxfordshire D) Northamptonshire
12. What was the 'Penny Black', issued in Britain in 1840? A) The first British banknote B) The first coin to show a monarch C) The world's first adhesive postage stamp D) The first railway ticket
13. Which is the largest freshwater lake in Great Britain by surface area? A) Loch Ness B) Windermere C) Loch Lomond D) Loch Awe
14. In Cockney rhyming slang, what are your 'plates of meat'? A) Your feet B) Your hands C) Your teeth D) Your ears
15. Which British engineer invented the hovercraft, patenting his design in 1955? A) Frank Whittle B) Barnes Wallis C) Charles Babbage D) Christopher Cockerell
16. Which bridge, designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, spans the Avon Gorge in Bristol? A) Menai Suspension Bridge B) Clifton Suspension Bridge C) Forth Bridge D) Tower Bridge
17. In which city were The Beatles formed? A) Liverpool B) Manchester C) Birmingham D) London
18. The world's first underground railway opened in London in 1863. Which company ran it? A) District Railway B) City and South London Railway C) Central London Railway D) Metropolitan Railway
19. How many wives did King Henry VIII have? A) Four B) Five C) Six D) Eight

20. At which riverside meadow did King John agree to Magna Carta in 1215? A) Hastings B) Runnymede C) Windsor Castle D) Canterbury

Answer sheet

For the host. The facts in gray are extras to read out after each answer.

Britain

1. **C) Severn**
   The Severn runs about 354 km (220 miles), rising on Plynlimon in the Cambrian Mountains of Wales and flowing out into the Bristol Channel.

2. **A) John Logie Baird**
   Baird showed moving television pictures to members of the Royal Institution in a small room in Soho, London, on 26 January 1926.

3. **D) Ben Nevis**
   Ben Nevis, near Fort William, stands 1,345 m (4,413 ft) high, and its summit holds the ruins of a weather observatory that operated from 1883 to 1904.

4. **B) Unicorn**
   The unicorn has been a Scottish heraldic symbol for centuries and appears on the royal coat of arms alongside England's lion.

5. **B) Richard III**
   Richard III fell at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485, and his remains were rediscovered beneath a car park in Leicester in 2012.

6. **D) Derbyshire**
   The original Bakewell pudding, with its jam layer and rich egg-and-almond filling, is a different dessert from the more familiar iced Bakewell tart.

7. **A) Cardiff**
   Cardiff was only officially proclaimed the capital of Wales in 1955, making it one of Europe's youngest capital cities.

8. **C) The great bell inside the tower**
   Big Ben is the nickname of the Great Bell; the tower itself was renamed the Elizabeth Tower in 2012 to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee.

9. **D) Preseli Hills**
   Neolithic builders moved these stones more than 200 km (125 miles) to Salisbury Plain, though exactly how they managed it is still debated.

10. **A) Thistle**
    Legend says a Norse raider trod barefoot on a thistle and cried out in pain, warning the sleeping Scots of an attack.

11. **B) Warwickshire**
    Rugby School is in the town of Rugby, Warwickshire, where pupils played a version of football that allowed handling the ball in the early 1800s.

12. **C) The world's first adhesive postage stamp**
    The Penny Black showed a profile of the young Queen Victoria and paid for a letter weighing up to half an ounce (about 14 g).

13. **C) Loch Lomond**
    Loch Lomond covers about 71 km² (27.5 sq miles), but the far deeper Loch Ness holds a greater volume of water.

14. **A) Your feet**
    'Plates of meat' rhymes with 'feet', just as 'apples and pears' means stairs; often the rhyming word is dropped altogether.

15. **D) Christopher Cockerell**
    A prototype hovercraft, the SR.N1, crossed the English Channel in 1959, and Cockerell was later knighted for his invention.

16. **B) Clifton Suspension Bridge**
    The bridge finally opened in 1864, five years after Brunel's death, and was completed as a memorial to him.

17. A) Liverpool

Before finding worldwide fame, The Beatles played nearly 300 times at Liverpool's Cavern Club in the early 1960s.

18. D) Metropolitan Railway

The first line ran between Paddington and Farringdon, using steam locomotives in tunnels dug by the 'cut and cover' method beneath the streets.

19. C) Six

A popular rhyme helps recall their fates in order: divorced, beheaded, died; divorced, beheaded, survived.

20. B) Runnymede

Runnymede lies beside the River Thames in Surrey; King John agreed to the charter there in June 1215 to make peace with rebellious barons.

Team answer sheet

Print one for each team. 20 questions.

Team name _____

Britain

Total score _____ / 20

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