MEGAN MORAN QUIZZES

Christmas trivia quiz

20 multiple-choice questions from The Ultimate Christmas 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.

Christmas general knowledge

1. In most Western churches, how many Sundays are there in Advent? A) Three B) Five C) Four D) Seven
2. In which season does Christmas fall in Australia? A) Summer B) Autumn C) Winter D) Spring
3. Who composed the music for the ballet The Nutcracker? A) Mozart B) Beethoven C) Vivaldi D) Tchaikovsky
4. In which language is "Merry Christmas" said as "Mele Kalikimaka"? A) Maori B) Hawaiian C) Samoan D) Tagalog
5. In the 2003 film Elf, Buddy leaves the North Pole for which city to find his father? A) Chicago B) New York City C) Boston D) Los Angeles
6. The French Christmas dessert bûche de Noël is shaped like what? A) A star B) A bell C) A wreath D) A log
7. In Home Alone (1990), where is Kevin's family flying when they accidentally leave him behind? A) Paris B) London C) Rome D) Miami
8. In Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol, what is the name of Scrooge's late business partner, whose ghost visits him first? A) Bob Cratchit B) Mr. Fezziwig C) Jacob Marley D) Tiny Tim
9. In It's a Wonderful Life (1946), what is the name of the angel sent to help George Bailey? A) Gabriel B) Harold C) Albert D) Clarence
10. In Japan, which meal has become a popular Christmas tradition thanks to an advertising campaign from the 1970s? A) Fried chicken from KFC B) Burgers from McDonald's C) Pizza from Domino's D) Tacos from Taco Bell
11. In Icelandic folklore, how many mischievous Yule Lads visit children in the days before Christmas? A) Seven B) Nine C) Thirteen D) Twelve
12. In Italian tradition, the kindly witch La Befana delivers gifts on the night before which day? A) Christmas Day B) Epiphany C) New Year's Day D) St. Nicholas Day
13. On St. Lucia's Day in Sweden, what does the girl playing Lucia traditionally wear on her head? A) A crown of candles B) A wreath of holly C) A golden halo D) A star-shaped hat
14. Since 1947, which country has given London a large Christmas tree for Trafalgar Square each year? A) Sweden B) Denmark C) Finland D) Norway
15. The carol "Silent Night" was first performed on Christmas Eve 1818 in which present-day country? A) Germany B) Switzerland C) Austria D) Poland
16. In December 1965, which festive song became the first tune played on musical instruments in space? A) Silent Night B) Jingle Bells C) White Christmas D) Deck the Halls

17. The first commercial Christmas card, printed in London in 1843, is credited to which Englishman? A) Henry Cole B) Charles Dickens C) Prince Albert D) Isambard Kingdom Brunel
18. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was created in 1939 for a giveaway booklet from which US department store chain? A) Sears B) Macy's C) Montgomery Ward D) Woolworth's
19. Bing Crosby first sang "White Christmas" on screen in which 1942 film? A) White Christmas B) Going My Way C) Meet Me in St. Louis D) Holiday Inn
20. From 1659 to 1681, celebrating Christmas was against the law in which American colony? A) Virginia B) Massachusetts Bay Colony C) Maryland D) Pennsylvania

Answer sheet

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

Christmas general knowledge

1. **C) Four**
   Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, which is why many advent wreaths hold four candles, one lit each week.
2. **A) Summer**
   Because Australia is in the Southern Hemisphere, many families celebrate with barbecues, seafood or a trip to the beach.
3. **D) Tchaikovsky**
   The Nutcracker premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1892 and has since become a holiday staple for ballet companies worldwide.
4. **B) Hawaiian**
   The Hawaiian alphabet has no R or S sounds, so the English words were adapted to fit Hawaiian sounds.
5. **B) New York City**
   Buddy, played by Will Ferrell, was raised by elves after crawling into Santa's sack as a baby at an orphanage.
6. **D) A log**
   The rolled sponge cake recalls the old custom of burning a large Yule log in the hearth over the holidays.
7. **A) Paris**
   In the 1992 sequel the family heads to Miami, while Kevin ends up alone in New York City instead.
8. **C) Jacob Marley**
   Marley, Scrooge's late business partner, appears in heavy chains and warns that three more spirits will follow.
9. **D) Clarence**
   Clarence Odbody is an "Angel, Second Class" who is hoping to earn his wings by helping George.
10. **A) Fried chicken from KFC**
    After a 1974 campaign, a KFC bucket became a festive favorite in Japan, where many families order their Christmas meal weeks ahead.
11. **C) Thirteen**
    The Yule Lads arrive one per night from December 12, with names such as Spoon-Licker and Door-Slammer, leaving small gifts in shoes.
12. **B) Epiphany**
    La Befana flies on her broomstick on the night of January 5, leaving sweets for good children and, in jest, coal for naughty ones.
13. **A) A crown of candles**
    St. Lucia's Day falls on December 13; Lucia leads a procession in a white gown with a red sash, often serving saffron buns.
14. **D) Norway**
    The tree from Oslo is a thank-you for Britain's support of Norway during World War II.
15. **C) Austria**
    It premiered in Oberndorf, near Salzburg, with words by Joseph Mohr and a tune by Franz Xaver Gruber, accompanied on guitar.
16. **B) Jingle Bells**
    Gemini 6 astronauts Wally Schirra and Tom Stafford played it on a smuggled harmonica and bells; both instruments are now at the Smithsonian.
17. **A) Henry Cole**
    Henry Cole, who also helped found what became the Victoria and Albert Museum, commissioned artist John Callcott Horsley to design the card.

18. C) Montgomery Ward
Copywriter Robert L. May wrote the story; his brother-in-law Johnny Marks later turned it into the famous song.

19. D) Holiday Inn
Written by Irving Berlin, the song won the Academy Award for Best Original Song; the film White Christmas came later, in 1954.

20. B) Massachusetts Bay Colony
The Puritan-led colony fined anyone caught observing the holiday five shillings until the law was repealed in 1681.

Team answer sheet

Print one for each team. 20 questions.

Team name _____

Christmas general knowledge

Total score _____ / 20

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Score _____ / 20