MEGAN MORAN QUIZZES

Multiple choice general knowledge quiz

20 multiple-choice questions from Quiz Night! The General Knowledge 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.

General Knowledge

1. What is the chemical symbol for gold? A) Ag B) Gd C) Go D) Au
2. What is the capital city of Australia? A) Sydney B) Canberra C) Melbourne D) Perth
3. Who painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City? A) Leonardo da Vinci B) Raphael C) Michelangelo D) Donatello
4. In tennis, which word is used for a score of zero? A) Love B) Nil C) Duck D) Zip
5. How many hearts does an octopus have? A) One B) Three C) Two D) Eight
6. What is the collective noun for a group of crows? A) A parliament B) A pride C) A gaggle D) A murder
7. What is the longest bone in the human body? A) Tibia B) Humerus C) Femur D) Fibula
8. Which city hosted the first modern Olympic Games in 1896? A) Athens B) Paris C) London D) Rome
9. In which year did the Great Fire of London break out? A) 1666 B) 1566 C) 1766 D) 1606
10. Which of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World stood in the Egyptian city of Alexandria? A) The Colossus B) The Hanging Gardens C) The Temple of Artemis D) The Lighthouse (Pharos)
11. Which planet spins tipped over on its side, with an axis tilted about 98 degrees? A) Neptune B) Uranus C) Saturn D) Jupiter
12. In which athletics event would you perform a "Fosbury Flop"? A) Pole vault B) Long jump C) High jump D) Triple jump
13. The historic city of Timbuktu is in which country? A) Niger B) Chad C) Morocco D) Mali
14. What does a philatelist collect? A) Coins B) Stamps C) Butterflies D) Postcards
15. What color is the skin underneath a polar bear's fur? A) Black B) White C) Pink D) Yellow
16. Which of these is a true berry in the botanical sense? A) Strawberry B) Raspberry C) Banana D) Blackberry
17. Which letter of the alphabet does not appear in the name of any US state? A) J B) Z C) Q D) X
18. The word "robot" was introduced to the world in a 1920 play written in which language? A) Russian B) German C) Polish D) Czech
19. Velcro was invented after a Swiss engineer noticed the burrs of which plant clinging to his dog's fur? A) Burdock B) Thistle C) Nettle D) Clover
20. Which food gets its name from the Nahuatl (Aztec) word "ahuacatl"? A) Banana B) Avocado C) Potato D) Pineapple

Answer sheet

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

General Knowledge

1. **D) Au**
   The symbol Au comes from aurum, the Latin word for gold; Ag, for silver, comes from the Latin argentum.
2. **B) Canberra**
   Canberra was purpose-built as a compromise after rivals Sydney and Melbourne both wanted to be the capital.
3. **C) Michelangelo**
   Michelangelo painted the ceiling between 1508 and 1512, even though he thought of himself mainly as a sculptor.
4. **A) Love**
   So a game score of 15–0 is called "fifteen–love"; a duck, by contrast, is a score of zero for a batter in cricket.
5. **B) Three**
   Two hearts pump blood through the gills and a third pumps it around the rest of the body; their blood is blue.
6. **D) A murder**
   A parliament is a group of owls, a pride is a group of lions and a gaggle is a group of geese.
7. **C) Femur**
   The femur, or thigh bone, is also one of the strongest bones in the body.
8. **A) Athens**
   Greece was chosen as host to honor the ancient Olympic Games, which were held at Olympia.
9. **A) 1666**
   The fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane in September 1666 and burned for several days, destroying much of the medieval city.
10. **D) The Lighthouse (Pharos)**
    The Lighthouse of Alexandria stood on the island of Pharos, and "pharos" became the root of the word for lighthouse in several languages.
11. **B) Uranus**
    Because of its extreme tilt, each pole of Uranus spends about 42 Earth years in continuous sunlight, then about 42 in darkness.
12. **C) High jump**
    American Dick Fosbury won Olympic gold at Mexico City in 1968 by going over the bar backward, a style now used by almost all high jumpers.
13. **D) Mali**
    Timbuktu was a major center of trade and Islamic scholarship, famous for its mud-brick mosques and ancient manuscripts.
14. **B) Stamps**
    Coin collectors are numismatists, and people who collect postcards are called deltiologists.
15. **A) Black**
    The fur looks white because its translucent hairs scatter light, while the dark skin underneath helps absorb warmth from the sun.
16. **C) Banana**
    Botanically, bananas, tomatoes and grapes are berries, while strawberries, raspberries and blackberries are not.
17. **C) Q**
    J appears in New Jersey, Z in Arizona and X in Texas and New Mexico, but no state name contains a Q.
18. **D) Czech**
    Karel Capek's play R.U.R. used the word, which his brother Josef suggested; it comes from "robota", meaning forced labor.

19. A) Burdock

George de Mestral studied the tiny hooks on burdock burrs under a microscope and named his invention from the French velours and crochet.

20. B) Avocado

Spanish speakers adapted ahuacatl into aguacate, which English speakers then turned into avocado.

Team answer sheet

Print one for each team. 20 questions.

Team name _____

General Knowledge

Total score _____ / 20

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