

### 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. What is the smallest ocean (by area) in the world?

**Answer:** The Arctic Ocean. It is only about 1.5 times the size of the United States.

2. What color is absinthe?

**Answer:** Green. The spirit absinthe is also generally green, though some are clear.

3. In which province is the oldest church in Canada located?

**Answer:** Québec. It is the Cathedral-Basilica of Notre-Dame de Québec, located in Quebec City.

4. Which major tennis tournament did star athlete Serena Williams win while pregnant with her first child?

**Answer:** The Australian Open. It was her 23rd Grand Slam victory.

5. What island chain has also been called the Sandwich Islands?

**Answer:** Hawaii. This name was given to the islands by a foreign explorer, Captain James Cook, who arrived there in 1778.

6. In addition to a lion, what mythological creature does the coat of arms of Canada also feature?

**Answer:** A unicorn. The coat of arms also features the Canadian motto *A Mari Usque Ad Mare*, which translates to “from sea to sea.”



7. The world's longest coral reef is located off the coast of what nation?

**Answer:** Australia. The Great Barrier Reef is 1,429 miles (2,300 km) long and contains over 600 types of coral.

8. During what war did it become fashionable (and allowable) for U.S. women to wear shorts and shorter skirts?

**Answer:** World War II. Due to wartime fabric shortages, these fashions were more cost effective.

9. What color is historically associated with royalty?

**Answer:** Purple. The dye was historically very difficult and expensive to produce, so only the wealthy could afford purple clothing.



10. What music icon's sons are named Sean and Julian?

**Answer:** John Lennon. His sons say they remember him being a funny and goofy dad.

11. What movie series centers around Woody, Buzz, Bo Peep, and other playthings?

**Answer:** *Toy Story*. *Toy Story* (1995) was the first animated film nominated for an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay.

12. Micheline Bernardini modeled the first of what fashion item?

**Answer:** A bikini. The creator had trouble finding a model willing to wear such a controversial garment.

13. During what decade could women in the United States first legally get their own credit cards?

**Answer:** The 1970s. Congress passed the Equal Credit Opportunity Act in 1974.

14. Which of these movies was *not* directed by Alfred Hitchcock: *North by Northwest*, *Torn Curtain*, or *The Tenant*?

**Answer:** *The Tenant*. It was directed by Roman Polanski. Hitchcock directed more than 50 films over his long career.



15. What is the chemical symbol for lead?

**Answer:** *Pb*. The symbol comes from its Latin name, *plumbum*, which used to refer to any soft metal.

16. How many NBA Championships did Michael Jordan win when he played for the Chicago Bulls?

**Answer:** Six. He was also named the NBA's Most Valuable Player five times.

17. In what museum does Leonardo da Vinci's *La Gioconda* hang?

**Answer:** The Louvre. The painting is also known as the *Mona Lisa*.

18. In what film does John Travolta play Tony Manero?

**Answer:** *Saturday Night Fever*. Travolta danced for three hours a day to get in shape for the role.

19. What form of sweetener can never spoil?

**Answer:** Honey. Though its quality may decline after a year or so, it does not spoil as long as no outside moisture is added to it.

20. Work on which national landmark featuring four former presidents was completed in 1941?

**Answer:** Mount Rushmore. The project's history goes back to the 1920s, but funding and carving the monument took years.



21. Who won the very first FIFA World Cup in 1930?

**Answer:** Uruguay. The tournament had 13 participating nations.

22. In what year did the D-Day landings take place?

**Answer:** 1944. The operation took place on June 6 of that year, bringing together the forces of the Allied armies.

23. Introduced in the 1950s, what was the purpose of the Xerox 914 machine?

**Answer:** Paper copying. Created by Chester Carlson, it could make up to 100,000 copies per month.

24. Who is called the Father of Relativity?

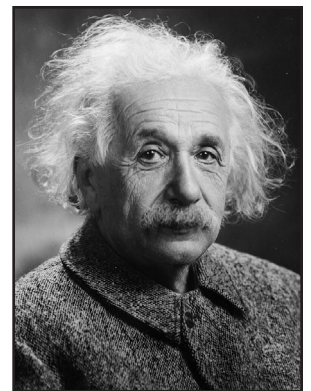
**Answer:** Albert Einstein. He is also known for his hypothesis on the particle nature of light.

25. What type of rock is formed from melted rock deep inside Earth?

**Answer:** Igneous. Examples of this type of rock include granite and obsidian.

26. What is the famous flagship of the pirate Edward Teach (Blackbeard)?

**Answer:** *The Queen Anne's Revenge*. A shipwreck discovered in 1996 is believed to be the remains of this famous ship.



27. How many eyes does a honeybee have?

**Answer:** Five. They have two large compound eyes and three ocelli eyes, which are simple, light-detecting organs.

28. Name two of the three scientists who won the Nobel Prize in 1962 for their discovery of the DNA double helix.

**Answer:** James Watson, Francis Crick, and Maurice Wilkins. Their work built on early discoveries about DNA from scientist Friedrich Miescher. It was later revealed that chemist Rosalind Franklin deserves accolades for her groundbreaking contributions to the work as well.

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**Answer:** Test-tube baby (baby born through IVF). She was born on July 25, 1978, in England.

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**Answer:** Giraffe. These infrasonic sounds are produced between 1.5 hertz and 20 hertz, below the range of human hearing.

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Absinthe



Québec, Canada



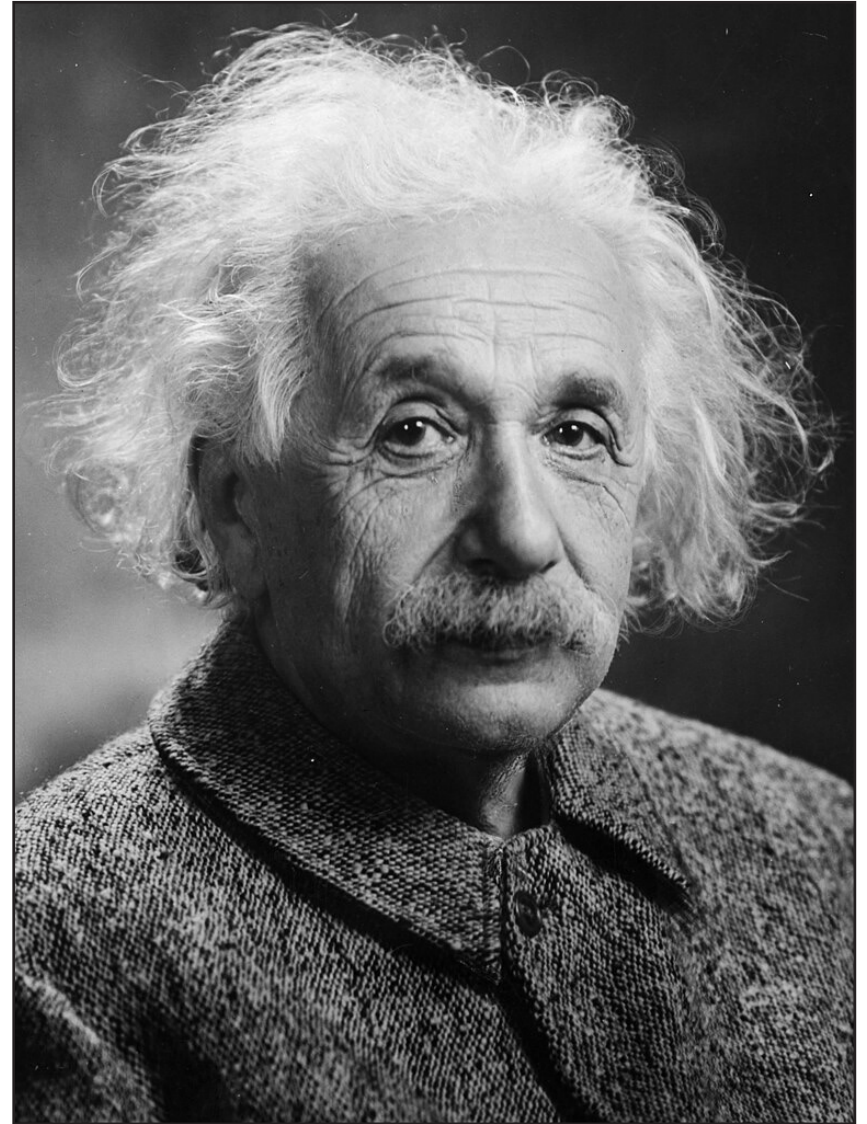
Purple



*The Tenant*



Honey



Albert Einstein

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(Questions Only)

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