

The Classic

General knowledge for any crowd

- **Round 1:** Planet Earth & Beyond (10 questions)
- **Round 2:** People & the Past (10 questions)
- **Round 3:** A Bit of Everything (10 questions)
- **Tiebreaker:** closest number wins

Free forever for quiz hosts

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Round 1 Planet Earth & Beyond

1 Why did the Galápagos Islands develop such a high number of endemic species?

- A. Lack of predators
- B. Geographic isolation
- C. Abundant freshwater
- D. Extreme volcanic heat

B: Geographic isolation GEOGRAPHY

Read aloud: The archipelago sits about 1,000 km off South America, and roughly 97 percent of its reptiles live nowhere else.

2 Which capital city was built to replace Lagos in 1991?

- A. Lusaka
- B. Abuja
- C. Gaborone
- D. Dodoma

B: Abuja CAPITAL CITIES

Read aloud: Japanese architect Kenzo Tange helped detail the master plan, and the city rose beside Aso Rock, a 400 metre monolith.

3 Which European nation flies the vertical blue, white, and red Tricolore flag?

- A. Sweden
- B. France
- C. Spain
- D. Portugal

B: France WORLD FLAGS

Read aloud: The French Tricolore inspired many modern flags after the 1789 Revolution, including those of Italy and Ireland.

4 Why did Mariner 9 find Mars completely obscured in 1971?

- A. Thick carbon dioxide clouds
- B. A planetwide dust storm
- C. Instruments failing from cold
- D. A sudden solar eclipse

B: A planetwide dust storm MARS

Read aloud: When Mariner 9 reached Mars in 1971, a planet-wide dust storm hid the entire surface, forcing the probe to wait weeks for the skies to finally clear.

5 How long does light take to travel across the Milky Way?

- A. 10,000,000 years
- B. 100,000 years
- C. 1,000 years
- D. 50,000 years

B: 100,000 years ASTRONOMY

Read aloud: Our Sun sits about 26,000 light years out from the galactic centre and needs roughly 230 million years to complete one lap.

6 What is the formal name of the current North Star?

- A. Alpha Centauri
- B. Vega
- C. Polaris
- D. Sirius

C: Polaris ASTRONOMY

Read aloud: Astronomers also label it Alpha Ursae Minoris, but the IAU signed off on Polaris as the star's official proper name in 2016.

7 Why does the official Olympic flag display five interlocking colored rings?

- A. To represent the five inhabited continents
- B. To represent the five days of ancient games
- C. To represent the five core athletic virtues
- D. To represent the five permanent host nations

A: To represent the five inhabited continents WORLD FLAGS

Read aloud: Designer Pierre de Coubertin chose the colors because at least one appeared on every national flag in 1913.

8 Why did dinosaurs thrive across the entire planet during the Mesozoic?

- A. Lack of polar ice
- B. Constant volcanic activity
- C. A single joined landmass
- D. Abundant rainfall everywhere

C: A single joined landmass DINOSAURS

Read aloud: A 2022 study found lake ice in the Triassic Arctic and argued dinosaurs did well up there precisely because they were already insulated.

9 What is the informal term for the spiked tail of a Stegosaurus?

- A. Osteoderm
- B. Casque
- C. Thagomizer
- D. Quill

C: Thagomizer DINOSAURS

Read aloud: The term thagomizer was coined in a 1982 Far Side comic strip by Gary Larson and was later adopted by professional paleontologists.

10 Which city became the capital of unified Italy in 1871?

- A. Venice
- B. Rome
- C. Turin
- D. Florence

B: Rome CAPITAL CITIES

Read aloud: Turin came first in 1861 and Florence took over in 1865; the final move followed the breach at Porta Pia in September 1870.

Round 2 People & the Past

11 When did the Soviet Union officially dissolve into 15 independent republics?

- A. 1991
- B. 1990
- C. 1995
- D. 1992

A: 1991 COLD WAR

Read aloud: Mikhail Gorbachev resigned as president on Christmas Day 1991, and the Soviet flag atop the Kremlin was lowered that evening.

12 What natural disaster finally destroyed the Lighthouse of Alexandria?

- A. Fire
- B. Earthquakes
- C. Erosion
- D. Lightning

B: Earthquakes SEVEN WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

Read aloud: A tremor in 956 sheared about 20 metres off the top, and by 1349 the traveller Ibn Battuta found the ruin impossible to enter.

13 What chemical element fueled the Hiroshima bomb during World War II?

- A. thorium
- B. beryllium
- C. hydrogen
- D. uranium

D: uranium WORLD WAR II

Read aloud: Little Boy, dropped on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945, was a gun-type weapon that drew its blast from the fission of uranium-235.

14 Which Roman goddess represents the highest, most abstract concept of divine peace?

- A. Concordia
- B. Pax
- C. Justitia
- D. Fortuna

B: Pax ROMAN GODS

Read aloud: The Senate voted her the Ara Pacis in 13 BC to mark Augustus returning from Spain and Gaul, and consecrated the altar on 30 January 9 BC.

15 What was the early modern term for the study of nature?

- A. scholasticism
- B. natural philosophy
- C. theology
- D. hermeticism

B: natural philosophy HISTORY

Read aloud: William Whewell coined the word scientist only in 1833, which is why Newton called his great book the mathematical principles of it.

16 Which 1787 foundational document establishing the American government did Benjamin Franklin sign?

- A. Magna Carta
- B. United States Constitution
- C. Gettysburg Address
- D. Articles of Confederation

B: United States Constitution BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Read aloud: At age 81, Franklin was the oldest delegate at the Constitutional Convention, weeping with emotion as he signed the final draft.

17 How did radiocarbon dating transform the study of ancient history?

- A. It restored faded historical paintings
- B. It determined exact causes of death
- C. It mapped buried ancient structures
- D. It dated objects without written records**

D: It dated objects without written records HISTORY

Read aloud: Willard Libby won the 1960 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discovering that the decay rate of carbon-14 acts as an internal atomic clock.

18 What was the secret police force of Nazi Germany called?

- A. Gestapo**
- B. KGB
- C. Abwehr
- D. Stasi

A: Gestapo WORLD WAR II

Read aloud: Gestapo is short for Geheime Staatspolizei, secret state police, and from late 1936 it operated with no judicial oversight at all.

19 Who was the first leader of the Soviet Union born after the 1917 Russian Revolution?

- A. Joseph Stalin
- B. Leonid Brezhnev
- C. Konstantin Chernenko
- D. Mikhail Gorbachev**

D: Mikhail Gorbachev COLD WAR

Read aloud: Every Soviet leader before him was born under the Tsars; Gorbachev, born in 1931, was the first shaped entirely by the Soviet era itself.

20 How did the Karageorgevics claim the Serbian throne?

- A. Signing a trade deal
- B. Leading the First Uprising**
- C. Winning a popular election
- D. Winning a horse race

B: Leading the First Uprising EUROPEAN ROYAL HOUSES

Read aloud: The family name comes from Karadjordje, Black George, the Ottomans' nickname for its founder; his grandson Peter I took the crown in 1903.

Round 3 A Bit of Everything

21 What symbol is traditionally lit at Olympia to begin the Olympic relay?

- A. A giant bonfire
- B. The sacred oil
- C. A golden candle
- D. The Olympic flame

D: The Olympic flame OLYMPIC GAMES

Read aloud: It is kindled from the sun with a parabolic mirror at the Temple of Hera, and the whole relay tradition dates only from the 1936 Berlin Games.

22 What is the official Latin motto of the Olympic Games?

- A. Veni, Vidi, Vici
- B. E Pluribus Unum
- C. Citius, Altius, Fortius
- D. Carpe Diem

C: Citius, Altius, Fortius OLYMPIC GAMES

Read aloud: Dominican priest Henri Didon coined the three words at a school sports day in 1891, and in 2021 the IOC added a fourth, Communiter.

23 What ancient alphabet inspired the geometric symbol used in the Bluetooth logo?

- A. Roman numerals
- B. Phoenician letters
- C. Nordic runes
- D. Egyptian hieroglyphs

C: Nordic runes BRAND LOGOS

Read aloud: Younger Futhark trimmed the older 24 rune alphabet down to 16 signs, and the logo fuses two of them into a single bind rune.

24 In 7 Wonders, why do players give their cards to opponents?

- A. Scientific progress tracks
- B. Resource trading phase
- C. Hand limit rules
- D. Card drafting mechanic

D: Card drafting mechanic BOARD GAMES

Read aloud: Antoine Bauza's 2010 design deals seven cards each Age, but only six get played: the last card in every hand is discarded.

25 Which world currency is the oldest still in continuous use today?

- A. Japanese yen
- B. Swiss franc
- C. Russian ruble
- D. British pound sterling

D: British pound sterling WORLD CURRENCIES

Read aloud: Sterling has been minted since Anglo-Saxon times, yet the pound only split into 100 pence on Decimal Day, 15 February 1971.

26 Carolyn Davidson designed the iconic logo for which athletic footwear brand?

- A. Nike
- B. Fila
- C. Adidas
- D. New Balance

A: Nike BRAND LOGOS

Read aloud: Phil Knight's verdict was "Well, I don't love it, but it will grow on me." In 1983 he thanked her with a gold ring and 500 shares of stock.

27 Why can some lactose-intolerant people safely eat aged hard cheeses?

- A. Salt neutralizes the sugars
- B. High fat content masks it
- C. Bacteria digest the sugars
- D. The rind absorbs sugars

C: Bacteria digest the sugars CHEESE

Read aloud: In Parmigiano Reggiano the starter bacteria turn all the lactose into lactic acid within about 48 hours of the wheel being made.

28 What material gives Gustav Klimt's The Kiss its shimmering appearance?

- A. Crushed pyrite
- B. Gold leaf
- C. Silk threads
- D. Polished brass

B: Gold leaf FAMOUS PAINTINGS

Read aloud: Austria's culture ministry bought the picture straight out of the 1908 Vienna Kunstschau for 25,000 crowns; it still hangs in the Belvedere.

29 What is the most widely spoken language in the world?

- A. Portuguese
- B. English
- C. Spanish
- D. Arabic

B: English GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Read aloud: English tops 1.5 billion speakers, but only about a quarter are native. Mandarin Chinese leads on first-language speakers.

30 Why does the Indian rupee symbol feature horizontal lines?

- A. It signifies a rising sun
- B. It stands for two sacred rivers
- C. It represents a balance beam
- D. It symbolizes the mathematical equality sign

D: It symbolizes the mathematical equality sign WORLD CURRENCIES

Read aloud: D. Udaya Kumar's design beat about 3,300 public entries and blends the Devanagari letter ra with a Latin R; India approved it on 15 July 2010.

Team Answer Sheet

Team name: _____

1	_____	2	_____
3	_____	4	_____
5	_____	6	_____
7	_____	8	_____
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11	_____	12	_____
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29	_____	30	_____



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1v1 trivia duels on any topic you can think of. Scan to play while you wait for the scores.

Tiebreaker

In kilometers, how long is the Great Wall of China including all of its branches?

Answer: About 21,196 km

Read aloud: China's official 2012 survey measured every wall section ever built, which is why the number is far larger than the popular 6,000 km figure.



Between rounds: settle it in a duel

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