

Christmas Trivia

Reindeer, carols, and holiday traditions from around the world. Twenty questions about everything...

Name / Team:

Score:

1 How many reindeer pull Santa's sleigh (including Rudolph)?

- A. Seven
- B. Eight
- C. Nine
- D. Twelve

2 What country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?

- A. England
- B. Germany
- C. Norway
- D. United States

3 In the classic film 'It's a Wonderful Life,' what is the main character's name?

- A. Bob Cratchit
- B. Ebenezer Scrooge
- C. George Bailey
- D. Clark Griswold

4 Which plant is traditionally hung in doorways for people to kiss beneath?

- A. Holly
- B. Poinsettia
- C. Mistletoe
- D. Ivy

5 What is the best-selling Christmas song of all time?

- A. Silent Night
- B. Jingle Bells
- C. White Christmas
- D. Last Christmas

6 In which country does the tradition of leaving shoes out for gifts originate?

- A. Netherlands
- B. Sweden
- C. Italy
- D. Spain

7 What classic Christmas ballet features a young girl, a nutcracker prince, and the Sugar Plum Fairy?

- A. Swan Lake
- B. The Nutcracker
- C. Sleeping Beauty
- D. Coppelia

8 Which US President was the first to put up a Christmas tree in the White House?

- A. George Washington
- B. Abraham Lincoln
- C. Franklin Pierce
- D. Theodore Roosevelt

9 In Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol,' how many ghosts visit Scrooge?

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. Four
- D. Five

10 What color was Santa Claus' suit before Coca-Cola popularized the red version?

- A. He was always red
- B. Blue
- C. Various colors including green, brown, and red
- D. White

11 What popular Christmas decoration is actually a parasitic plant that grows on trees?

- A. Holly
- B. Poinsettia
- C. Mistletoe
- D. Christmas cactus

12 Which country celebrates Christmas on December 25 with a traditional KFC dinner?

- A. South Korea
- B. Australia
- C. Japan
- D. China

Christmas Trivia

(continued)

13 What is the name of the Grinch's dog in 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'?

- A. Buddy
- B. Max
- C. Rex
- D. Spot

14 In what century did the tradition of sending Christmas cards begin?

- A. 17th century
- B. 18th century
- C. 19th century
- D. 20th century

15 What is Boxing Day, celebrated on December 26 in many countries?

- A. A day for boxing matches
- B. A day when servants received gifts (boxes) from ...
- C. A day for packing away Christmas decorations
- D. A day for returning unwanted gifts

16 How many gifts total are given in the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'?

- A. 78
- B. 144
- C. 364
- D. 12

17 What real historical figure inspired the legend of Santa Claus?

- A. Father Christmas
- B. St. Nicholas of Myra
- C. Kris Kringle
- D. Papa Noel

18 In Mexico, what is the name of the nine-night celebration leading up to Christmas?

- A. Día de los Muertos
- B. Las Posadas
- C. La Navidad
- D. Las Luminarias

19 What is the most popular Christmas tree variety sold in the United States?

- A. Douglas fir
- B. Blue spruce
- C. Fraser fir
- D. Scotch pine

20 What year was Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer created?

- A. 1920
- B. 1939
- C. 1949
- D. 1955

Christmas Trivia — Answer Key

1. C Nine

The original eight reindeer were named in the 1823 poem 'A Visit from St. Nicholas': Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen. Rudolph was added in 1939.

2. B Germany

The tradition of decorating evergreen trees for Christmas originated in Germany in the 16th century. It was popularized in England and America in the 19th century.

3. C George Bailey

George Bailey, played by Jimmy Stewart, is shown by an angel named Clarence what life would have been like without him. The 1946 film is considered one of the greatest ever made.

4. C Mistletoe

The mistletoe tradition dates back to ancient Norse mythology. The custom of kissing beneath it became popular in England in the 18th century.

5. C White Christmas

Bing Crosby's 'White Christmas' (1942) has sold over 50 million copies worldwide, making it the best-selling single of all time.

6. A Netherlands

Dutch children leave their shoes by the fireplace for Sinterklaas (St. Nicholas) to fill with treats. This tradition influenced the American custom of hanging stockings.

7. B The Nutcracker

The Nutcracker, composed by Tchaikovsky in 1892, has become the most performed ballet in the world during the Christmas season.

8. C Franklin Pierce

Franklin Pierce placed the first White House Christmas tree in 1856. The tradition has continued with every president since.

9. C Four

Four ghosts visit Scrooge: Jacob Marley's ghost, the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present, and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.

10. C Various colors including green, brown...

Before the 1930s Coca-Cola ads, Santa appeared in many colors including green, brown, blue, and red. Coca-Cola did not invent the red suit but helped standardize it.

11. C Mistletoe

Mistletoe is a parasitic plant that grows on the branches of other trees. Despite its parasitic nature, it has been associated with peace, love, and Christmas for centuries.

12. C Japan

In Japan, eating KFC for Christmas dinner became a tradition after a successful 1974 marketing campaign. Families now order weeks in advance.

13. B Max

Max is the Grinch's loyal dog who is forced to pull the sleigh disguised as a reindeer in Dr. Seuss's beloved 1957 story.

14. C 19th century

The first commercial Christmas card was created in 1843 in London by Sir Henry Cole. It was designed by John Callcott Horsley and about 1,000 were printed.

15. B A day when servants received gifts (b...

Boxing Day originated in the UK as the day when servants and tradespeople received gifts (Christmas boxes) from their employers. It is now a public holiday in many Commonwealth

16. C 364

The song features cumulative gift-giving: 12+22+30+... Adding all gifts across all twelve days totals 364 gifts.

17. B St. Nicholas of Myra

St. Nicholas was a 4th-century Christian bishop in Myra (modern-day Turkey) known for his generosity. His feast day on December 6 became associated with gift-giving.

18. B Las Posadas

Las Posadas is a nine-night celebration (December 16-24) reenacting Mary and Joseph's search for lodging in Bethlehem. It features processions, songs, and pinatas.

19. C Fraser fir

The Fraser fir is the most popular Christmas tree in America due to its strong branches, pleasant scent, and excellent needle retention.

20. B 1939

Rudolph was created by Robert L. May in 1939 as a coloring book for Montgomery Ward department stores. The famous song was written by May's brother-in-law Johnny Marks in 1949.