FREE PRINTABLE

# Christmas Trivia Questions and Answers

Sixty questions in three levels so the whole family can play: easy ones for kids, traditions and carols for the family, and history and science for the grown-ups who think they know everything.

Ages 5 to adult · teams of 2 to 6 · US Letter

## Inside

- 20 kids questions (ages 5 and up).
- 20 family questions (ages 9 and up): traditions, carols, Christmas around the world.
- 20 hard questions: history, music and science.
- Host sheets with every answer, and a team answer sheet to copy.



Print at 100% ("actual size") on US Letter or A4. Free for home and single-classroom use.

# How to run Christmas trivia

Three ways to play, depending on who's at the table.

## Teams

Split into teams of two to six, mixing ages. Give each team an answer sheet. The host reads ten questions a round, teams write their answers, then swap sheets to mark. Three rounds, one per level, takes about 40 minutes.

## Mixed-age family

Ask each player a question at their own level: kids questions to the kids, hard ones to the grown-ups. A right answer is a point, and nobody gets stuck with a question they have no chance at.

## Car or dinner table

No paper needed: read from the host sheet and let anyone shout an answer. First right answer earns a point.

## Scoring

One point per right answer. In the hard round, give half a point for a close answer ("1860s" for 1870). The host's ruling is final.

# Christmas Trivia: Kids level

Host sheet: questions with answers. For ages 5 and up. Read the question out loud; little ones can answer with a grown-up's help.

1. What month is Christmas in?
   Answer: December
2. What do lots of families leave out for Santa on Christmas Eve?
   Answer: Cookies and milk (and often a carrot for the reindeer)
3. Which animals pull Santa's sleigh in the stories?
   Answer: Reindeer
4. Where does Santa live, according to the stories?
   Answer: The North Pole
5. What do you build out of snow and give a carrot nose?
   Answer: A snowman
6. How many points does a snowflake usually have?
   Answer: Six
7. What red-and-white striped candy is shaped like a hook?
   Answer: A candy cane
8. What do people hang by the fireplace for Santa to fill?
   Answer: Stockings
9. What is the day before Christmas called?
   Answer: Christmas Eve
10. What do we call a tree that stays green all winter?
    Answer: An evergreen
11. What kind of house can you make out of cookies and candy?
    Answer: A gingerbread house
12. What spice gives gingerbread its name?
    Answer: Ginger
13. What do you call a ring of evergreen branches hung on a door?
    Answer: A wreath
14. What green plant with red berries and spiky leaves is a Christmas decoration?
    Answer: Holly
15. What do we call the songs people sing at Christmas, sometimes door to door?
    Answer: Carols
16. Which season is it at Christmas in the United States?
    Answer: Winter

# Christmas Trivia: Kids level (continued)

17. What do you call a big sled pulled by animals?
    Answer: A sleigh

18. In the stories, how does Santa get into the house?
    Answer: Down the chimney

19. What do Santa's elves make in the stories?
    Answer: Toys

20. How many days are there in December?
    Answer: 31

# Christmas Trivia: Family level

Host sheet: questions with answers. For ages 9 and up, and the grown-ups. Traditions, carols and Christmas around the world.

1. In which country did the tradition of decorating a Christmas tree indoors begin?
   Answer: Germany
2. Which carol counts up to a partridge in a pear tree?
   Answer: The Twelve Days of Christmas
3. In that carol, what is given on the fifth day?
   Answer: Five gold rings
4. The poem that begins "'Twas the night before Christmas" was published in 1823. What is its real title?
   Answer: A Visit from St. Nicholas
5. How many reindeer are named in that 1823 poem?
   Answer: Eight
6. True or false: female reindeer grow antlers too.
   Answer: True. Reindeer are the only deer where both males and females usually grow antlers
7. Which red-leaved Christmas plant comes from Mexico?
   Answer: The poinsettia
8. The red parts of a poinsettia look like petals. What are they really?
   Answer: Leaves (called bracts)
9. What date is Boxing Day?
   Answer: December 26
10. "Feliz Navidad" means Merry Christmas in which language?
    Answer: Spanish
11. "Joyeux Noël" means Merry Christmas in which language?
    Answer: French
12. How do you say Merry Christmas in German?
    Answer: Frohe Weihnachten
13. What three gifts did the wise men bring, in the Christmas story?
    Answer: Gold, frankincense and myrrh
14. Which US state has a town called North Pole?
    Answer: Alaska
15. What season is it at Christmas in Australia?
    Answer: Summer
16. What is the four-week season leading up to Christmas called?
    Answer: Advent

# Christmas Trivia: Family level (continued)

17. What do reindeer mostly eat in winter?
    Answer: Lichen (sometimes called reindeer moss)

18. In North America, what do people usually call wild reindeer?
    Answer: Caribou

19. What is the shortest day of the year, around December 21 in the north, called?
    Answer: The winter solstice

20. Which country gives London a giant Christmas tree for Trafalgar Square every year?
    Answer: Norway

# Christmas Trivia: Hard level

Host sheet: questions with answers. For teens and adults who think they know Christmas. History, music and science.

1. In 1882, who put the first electric lights on a Christmas tree, while working with Thomas Edison?
   Answer: Edward H. Johnson
2. Which US president lit the first National Christmas Tree, in 1923?
   Answer: Calvin Coolidge
3. In what year did Christmas become a federal holiday in the United States?
   Answer: 1870
4. Who commissioned the first commercial Christmas card, in England in 1843?
   Answer: Sir Henry Cole
5. Which holiday song was played on a harmonica in space by the Gemini 6 crew in 1965?
   Answer: Jingle Bells
6. What is the total number of gifts given in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" if you add up every verse?
   Answer: 364
7. The poinsettia is named after Joel Poinsett. What was his job?
   Answer: The first US minister (ambassador) to Mexico
8. What do people in Mexico call the poinsettia?
   Answer: Flor de Nochebuena (Christmas Eve flower)
9. Frankincense and myrrh both come from what part of a tree?
   Answer: The sap (dried resin)
10. In "Xmas," the X stands for the first letter of Christ in which language?
    Answer: Greek (the letter chi)
11. The word "Noel" comes from a Latin word meaning what?
    Answer: Birth (natalis)
12. In what language was "Silent Night" first written?
    Answer: German ("Stille Nacht")
13. Which composer wrote "Messiah," with its famous Hallelujah chorus?
    Answer: George Frideric Handel
14. In which city did "The Nutcracker" ballet premiere in 1892?
    Answer: St. Petersburg, Russia
15. The Australian territory called Christmas Island is in which ocean?
    Answer: The Indian Ocean

# Christmas Trivia: Hard level (continued)

16. Which explorer named the Pacific island now called Kiritimati "Christmas Island" in 1777?
    Answer: Captain James Cook

17. At the North Pole, how many sunrises are there in a whole year?
    Answer: One

18. How much daylight does the North Pole get on the winter solstice?
    Answer: None. It's the middle of polar night

19. Is the magnetic North Pole in the same place as the geographic North Pole?
    Answer: No. The magnetic pole is in a different place, and it moves every year

20. Male reindeer usually drop their antlers in late fall. Which reindeer still have antlers on Christmas Eve?
    Answer: Mostly the females (and young reindeer)

# Trivia answer sheet

One per team. Write your team name, then an answer for each question the host reads.

Team name: _____

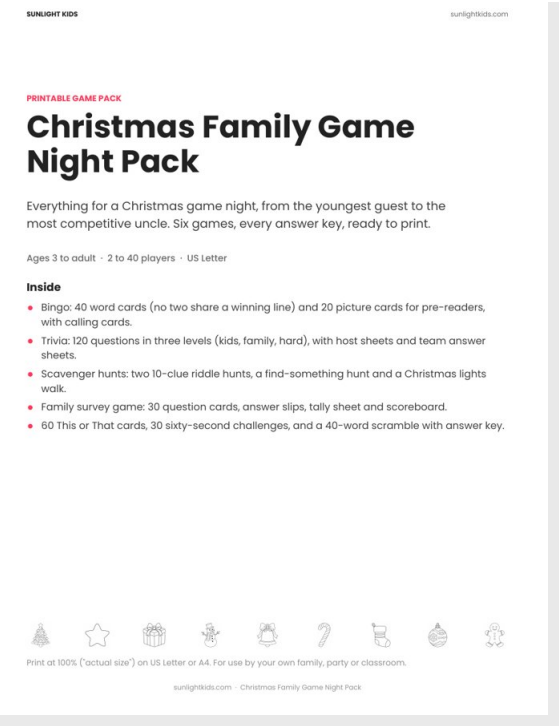
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**Score: _____ / 20**

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