

Quiz

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1 Some questions

- (literature) How many syllables are there in a classical Shakespearean sonnet?
- (geography) Which countries does the equator pass through?
- (history) Which of these events came first?
 - The Norman Conquest or Genghis Khan invading as far as Crimea
 - the storming of the Bastille or the Boston tea party
 - the collapse of the Mayan civilisation or the fall of the Roman empire
 - the first Opium war or the US civil war
 - women's suffrage in Turkey or women's suffrage in Spain
 - the single continent of "Pangaea" starting to break up or Tyrannosaurus Rex walking the earth
- (maths) The Met Office, NASA and the NOAA all list the last five years as the hottest five years on record. Suppose there were no warming trend, and there were only 10 years of historical data. What is the probability of the last five years being coincidentally the hottest? (in reality, the Met Office et al. have data in a modern format since 1880).
- (religion) Which religion categorizes living creatures (animals and plants) by the number of senses they possess & forbids its lay members from eating living entities with more than two senses? (more than one if you are monk)
- (literature) How many of Shakespeare's plays feature a "Henry" in the title?

7. (vocabulary) (**) Find an example of a word with three consecutive vowels where the middle vowel has a diaeresis?
8. (current affairs) In 2018 who was paid the most, the best paid CEO of a public listed company, the best paid sportsperson or the best paid actor?
9. (maths) You can create a model of a Möbius strip by taking a strip of paper, putting one twist in it and joining the ends together (a stapler works well). If having done this, you take a pair of scissors, pierce the strip in the middle, and cut along the entire length (without touching either edge) until you get back to the original point, what are you left with?
10. (literature) For the first 25 Mr Men books (up to and including “Mr Impossible”), 17 of the eponymous characters are named after adjectives. List the others.
11. (geography) Which is the smaller: the shortest distance between Alaska and the closest point in the other 49 US states or the shortest distance between Puerto Rico and the 50 US states?
12. (astronomy) (**) Seen from the Sun’s north pole, the Earth rotates around the Sun in a counterclockwise direction. Which of the following rotate in the opposite, clockwise, direction?
 - (a) the Sun about its own axis
 - (b) the Earth about its own axis
 - (c) the Moon about the Earth
 - (d) the Moon about its own axis
 - (e) the 8 other planets around the Sun
 - (f) the 8 other planets around their own axes
13. (biology) If a mature deciduous tree weights 1 tonne, what is the net weight of CO_2 it has removed from the atmosphere (“sequestered”) in the course of its life?