

Sample IN THE KNOW Questions

1. This slang term, an example of reduplication, was coined by New Orleans rap family Cash Money Millionaires. What is this expression for the sound made when various pieces of jewelry jingle?

ANSWER. Bling bling

2. Its national shield has a picture of an animal called a vicuna. This country has 80% of the world's alpacas (which are like vicunas). Name this nation bordering Colombia and Chile and whose capital is Lima.

Ans. Peru

3. Identify the 2-word Spanish surname the NFL's Chad Johnson legally adopted in honor of his jersey number, 8-5.

Answer: Ocho Cinco

4. Identify the politician whose first name means "the blessed one" in Swahili.

Answer: Barack (Obama)

5. What is the length (in feet) of one edge of a cube with volume of 27?

ANSWER: 3 (feet)

6. Introduced in 1998, it now reigns at No. 1 over its rivals Equal and Sweet 'N Low. Equal's manufacturer Monsanto sued it for misleading advertising based on the slogan "Made from sugar, so it tastes like sugar." Name this top-selling artificial sweetener.

Ans. Splenda

7. What's the first name of Bella's baby in novel *Breaking Dawn*?

ANSWER: **Renesmee** "Nessie" Charlie Cullen

8. If a prism has a quadrilateral for a base, how many lateral faces does it have?

ANSWER: 4

9. What position did Ron play on Gryffindor's Q team?

ANSWER: Keeper

10. What girl, now a ghost, was killed by the Basilisk?

ANSWER: Moaning Myrtle

11. Five new comets were discovered with the IRAS telescope, making its observations in which part of the electromagnetic spectrum? Hint: night vision goggles work in the same spectrum.

Ans. Infrared

12. Name this literary character who resembles a lanky scarecrow and who is chased off by a Headless Horseman in Washington Irving's "Legend of Sleepy Hollow".

ANSWER: Ichabod Crane

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13. Name North Korea's supreme military commander

ANSWER: Kim Jong il

14. THREE ANSWERS REQUIRED. In 2005 this "cursed" 1919 contract was bought at auction for a staggering \$996,000 by a die-hard baseball fan. This 1919 contract shipped what player from what team to what other team.

Ans. Babe Ruth, from the Boston Red Sox to the New York Yankees

15. The U.S. and Brazil lead all other countries in numbers of Christians, each with over 100 million. In third place, with about 100 million, is what North American country?

Ans. Mexico

15. This two-word expression derives from what the British used to bind bundles of official paperwork in the 17th century. Identify this "colorful" phrase, meaning unnecessary bureaucracy and regulation.

Ans. Red tape

16. Name the vitamin linked with sunlight now shown to be quite important to health as people having low levels have a 26% higher risk of death than those with high levels.

Answer: Vitamin D.

17. Consider the graph of $2X^2 + 2Y^2 = 72$. How many Y intercepts are there?

Ans. 2

18. What was the name of the lion cub in Disney's movie The Lion King?

ANSWER: Simba.

19. Its most common isotope has a half-life of four billion years. Its atomic mass is about two hundred thirty-eight, though that number is slightly lower when it is enriched for use in nuclear power plants. Name this element with atomic number 92.

ANSWER: Uranium

20. Identify the state where 9 black "Scottsboro Boys" were arrested for rape in 1931. This is also the state where the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* is set. Its largest city is Birmingham and its capital is Montgomery.

Answer: Alabama (by 1948, all but one had been freed).

21. At a recent Video Music Awards event, who prevented whom from giving an acceptance speech?

ANSWER: Kanye West prevented Taylor Swift

Sample IN THE KNOW Questions

COMMON BONDS

Each of the three is a type of what?

1. Dictatorship, monarchy, republic.

Ans. Government

2. Scalene, equilateral, isosceles.

Ans. Triangle

3. Physical, political, topographic.

Ans. Map

4. Angora, Siamese, Persian.

Ans. Cat

5. Leukemia, lymphoma, prostate.

Ans. Cancer

WOMEN LEADERS

What countries had these female heads of state?

1. Golda Meir

Ans. Israel

2. Indira Gandhi

Ans. India

3. Isabel Peron

Ans. Argentina

5. Benazir Bhutto

Ans. Pakistan

Chemistry

Nucleic acids are long chainlike molecules that contain genetic information. **(DNA)** is the molecule that makes up our genes. What does DNA stand for?

ANSWER: Deoxyribonucleic acid

Sample IN THE KNOW Questions

Nonfiction

His scientific writings include works on thunder and balloons; he wrote a very successful autobiography that includes a list of thirteen virtues that he tried to follow throughout his adult life. Name this American founding father who wrote *Poor Richard's Almanack*.

ANSWER: (Benjamin) Franklin

Pop Music

Which rock band's albums include *Get Your Wings*, *Toys in the Attic*, and *Get A Grip?* Their hit songs include *Dream On*, *Sweet Emotion*, and *Jaded*. Their lead singer was named Steven Tallarico, but he shortened his last name to Tyler.

ANSWER: Aerosmith

U.S. HISTORY Identify the West Point "goat" (as in a derogatory term for a person) of 1861, that is, the cadet who finished last in his class that year, and who, in this case, died at Little Big Horn in Montana in 1876.

Answer: George Armstrong Custer.

SPORTS: Michael Phelps broke whose American record of 7 golds in the 1972 Munich Olympics when Phelps went 8 for 8 in winning gold medals in swimming.

Answer: Mark Spitz.

MYTH. 2 answers req. He fell in love with his own reflection, and thus did not notice the nymph who fell in love with him. He turned into a flower; she became nothing but a voice.

Answer: Narcissus and Echo

U.S. HISTORY Which scientist, a refugee from Germany, wrote President Roosevelt the famous letter of August 2, 1939, that set in motion the development of the atomic bomb?

Answer: Albert Einstein.