

General Knowledge Trivia Questions for Adults

Give your group a varied trivia round with clear answers, short explanations, and sources you can open.

Host guide / A4 / Adult trivia / 25–40 minutes

Read the guide privately first if this activity has hidden answers. Print single-sided at Actual size / 100%. Cut only sheets marked CARDS. Keep answer keys with the host.

What you need

- Printed question cards or a host screen
- Pens and score sheet
- A timer (optional)
- One host or a reader for each team

How to run it

1. Choose teams of two to five or play individually.
2. Read each prompt and allow 20–30 seconds for answers.
3. Award one point for a correct answer; accept equivalent wording.
4. Reveal the answer and read the concise explanation.
5. For a shorter round, select a balanced mix across at least six categories.
6. Keep the answer key with the host, separate from player-facing prompts.

A mixed round by design

The cards are distributed across several subjects so no one source or event dominates. Teams can contribute from different kinds of knowledge: everyday science, cultural history, sport rules, literature, and familiar arts. A host can mix the categories or play them as short themed rounds.

- Space and Earth science
- Geography and animals
- Food and food history
- Literature and printing
- Civic and social history
- Sports, music, and film

Keep the game social

Read each question aloud and let teams discuss before writing. Players may ask for a repeat, and spelling is not part of the scoring. The reveal explanations add a little context without turning the game into a lecture. If a question leads to a story from someone's life, pause the scorekeeping and let the group follow it.

- Use teams or play individually.

- For an easygoing gathering, remove the timer and scoring.
- Choose at least six categories for a shorter game.

Sources and accuracy

Every fact card links to a primary or authoritative institutional reference. Some topics are measured or classified in more than one way, so prompts avoid treating a disputed ranking as absolute. The river question explicitly signals that estimates differ. The suffrage explanation also notes that formal ratification did not remove all voting barriers.

- Answers are stable facts, not current records.
- Source links are for host checking and further reading.
- No question asks players to memorize long numeric constants.

CARDS / General Knowledge Trivia Questions for Adults

NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-001 / Space

Which planet in our solar system has the highest average surface temperature?

NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-002 / Space

What is the name of the galaxy that contains our solar system?

NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-003 / Earth science

About how much of Earth's surface is covered by ocean?

NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-004 / Space

What do astronomers mean by a "light-year"?

NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-005 / Geography

How many oceans do U.S. government sources commonly recognize as ocean basins?

NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-006 / Geography

Which ocean is the largest by area?

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NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-007 / Geography

For roughly two-thirds of its length, which river forms part of the United States–Mexico border?

NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-008 / Geography

Which major Arizona landform was carved by the Colorado River over geologic time?

NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-009 / Human biology

What is the largest organ of the human body?

NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-010 / Animals

What gives the American flamingo its pink coloring?

NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-011 / Marine biology

Are corals plants, rocks, or animals?

NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-012 / Food

Vanilla comes from what kind of plant?

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<p>NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-013 / Food history</p> <p>Where was maize first domesticated?</p>	<p>NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-014 / Food history</p> <p>Potatoes were first domesticated in which broad region of the Americas?</p>
<p>NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-015 / Literature</p> <p>How many plays are included in Shakespeare's First Folio?</p>	<p>NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-016 / Books and printing</p> <p>In what language is the Gutenberg Bible's text written?</p>
<p>NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-017 / Art and symbols</p> <p>Who designed the Olympic rings?</p>	<p>NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-018 / History</p> <p>How many amendments were first proposed when Congress sent the Bill of Rights to the states?</p>

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<p>NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-019 / Science and measurement</p> <p>What is the SI unit of electrical resistance?</p>	<p>NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-020 / History</p> <p>In which year was the 19th Amendment ratified?</p>
<p>NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-021 / Sports</p> <p>The first modern Olympic marathon took place at which Games?</p>	<p>NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-022 / Sports</p> <p>How many points is an American football touchdown worth under NFL rules?</p>
<p>NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-023 / Weather and science</p> <p>What weather instrument measures atmospheric pressure?</p>	<p>NC_TRIVIA_GENERAL-024 / Film</p> <p>Which film won Best Picture at the first Academy Awards?</p>

Host answer key

Keep this section separate from player cards. Accept equivalent wording where the meaning matches.

01. Venus.

Venus's dense atmosphere traps heat very effectively, making its surface hotter on average than Mercury's.

02. The Milky Way.

Our Sun and its planets are part of the Milky Way galaxy.

03. About 71 percent.

NASA describes the ocean as covering roughly 71 percent of Earth's surface.

04. The distance light travels in one year.

A light-year is a unit of distance, not a unit of time.

05. Five.

The global ocean is often divided into five named basins: Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, and Southern.

06. The Pacific Ocean.

The Pacific is the largest ocean basin and spans more area than all of Earth's land combined.

07. The Rio Grande.

The U.S. Geological Survey says the Rio Grande forms the United States–Mexico border for roughly two-thirds of its length.

08. The Grand Canyon.

The canyon's layered rocks and river incision record a long, complex geologic history; it did not form in a single event.

09. The skin.

The skin covers the body and performs protective and sensory roles; it is recognized as the largest organ.

10. Pigments in its food, including algae and shrimp.

Pigments from food are deposited in the feathers as they grow.

11. Animals.

A coral colony is made up of many tiny animals called polyps, although algae may live in partnership with some corals.

12. An orchid.

The familiar flavor comes from the cured fruit of a vanilla orchid, rather than from a tree nut or bean.

13. Mexico.

Archaeological and botanical evidence points to domestication in Mexico more than 8,000 years ago.

14. The Andes of South America.

Smithsonian material traces potato domestication to South America, likely the region of present-day Peru.

15. Thirty-six.

The 1623 First Folio was the first collected edition and preserves the complete text of 36 Shakespeare plays.

16. Latin.

The Gutenberg Bible is printed in the Latin Vulgate translation.

17. Pierre de Coubertin.

The Olympic symbol is based on a design created by movement founder Pierre de Coubertin.

18. Twelve.

Congress proposed 12 amendments in 1789; 10 were ratified by 1791 and became known as the Bill of Rights.

19. The ohm (Ω).

NIST identifies the ohm as the SI unit of electrical resistance and gives $1 \Omega = 1 \text{ V/A}$.

20. 1920.

The National Archives records ratification on August 18, 1920; the amendment barred denying voting rights on account of sex, though discriminatory barriers remained.

21. Athens 1896.

The inaugural modern Olympic marathon was run at the Athens 1896 Games.

22. Six points.

The NFL rulebook assigns six points to a touchdown; a team may then attempt a one- or two-point try.

23. A barometer.

NOAA's weather-station guide identifies a barometer as an instrument for measuring atmospheric pressure.

24. Wings.

The Academy identifies Wings as the first Best Picture winner at the 1929 ceremony.

Hosting questions

How many questions are in the set?

There are 24 original questions across multiple subjects.

Can I use this with a mixed-knowledge group?

Yes. The categories vary, and hosts can let teams discuss or skip any question.

Are the questions suitable for children?

This page is written for adult social gatherings; hosts should preview all material for their audience.

References

NASA Earth fact page gives surface coverage and basic planetary facts.

<https://science.nasa.gov/earth/facts/>

NASA's Moon overview supplies stable lunar facts.

<https://science.nasa.gov/moon/facts/>

NASA solar system overview identifies the Milky Way context and planetary order.

<https://science.nasa.gov/solar-system/solar-system-facts/>

NASA defines a light-year as a distance light travels in a year.

<https://science.nasa.gov/exoplanets/what-is-a-light-year/>

NASA identifies Venus as the hottest planet.

<https://science.nasa.gov/venus/venus-facts/>

NOAA explains the global ocean and five recognized basins.

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/howmanyoceans.html>

NOAA identifies the Pacific as largest and deepest basin.

<https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/ocean-fact/pacific-size/>

USGS describes Grand Canyon geology and river incision.

<https://www.usgs.gov/geology-and-ecology-of-national-parks/geology-grand-canyon-national-park>

NIH/NCBI chapter identifies skin as the body's largest organ.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK20361/>

Smithsonian National Zoo explains carotenoid pigments in flamingo food and plumage.

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/american-flamingo>

NOAA explains corals are animal polyps and describes symbiosis.

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/coralwaters.html>

Smithsonian object record identifies the vanilla orchid and its fruit.

https://www.si.edu/object/vanilla-planifolia%3Aofeo-sg_2007-0283A

Smithsonian Thanksgiving foodways page gives maize domestication in Mexico.

<https://www.si.edu/spotlight/thanksgiving/thanksgiving-foods>

Smithsonian account traces potato domestication to South America.

<https://www.si.edu/newsdesk/releases/let-s-talk-turkey-and-squash-potatoes-and-corn>

LOC record says the 1623 First Folio contains 36 plays.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2021666879>

LOC Bible collection says the Gutenberg Bible is in Latin.

<https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/bibles/the-gutenberg-bible.html>

IOC states Coubertin's design and Olympic symbol history.

<https://www.olympics.com/ioc/olympic-rings>

National Archives: twelve proposed amendments; ten ratified as Bill of Rights.

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/bill-of-rights>

National Archives: Jefferson drafted the Declaration for the committee.

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/declaration-of-independence>

National Archives gives 19th Amendment ratification date and caveat.

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/19th-amendment>

IOC history says first modern Olympic marathon was Athens 1896.

<https://www.olympics.com/ioc/news/the-inaugural-modern-olympic-marathon>

NFL scoring rule assigns six points to a touchdown.

<https://operations.nfl.com/media/gsaatbb/2023-rulebook.pdf>

LOC confirms composer and 1924 premiere of Rhapsody in Blue.

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/songs-of-america/articles-and-essays/articles-about-songs/rhapsody-in-blue/>

Academy ceremony record names Wings as first Best Picture winner.

<https://www.oscars.org/oscars/ceremonies/1929>

U.S. Geological Survey record says the Rio Grande forms the United States–Mexico border for roughly two-thirds of its length.

<https://www.usgs.gov/publications/social-political-and-institutional-setting-water-management-problems-río-grande>

NIST identifies the ohm (Ω) as the SI unit of electrical resistance.

<https://www.nist.gov/pml/owm/si-units-electric-current>

NOAA labels a barometer as an instrument for measuring atmospheric pressure.

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/dyw-weather-station.html>

Original AI-assisted resource with AI editorial review. Independent human playtesting and physical printing have not been completed. Answer, listen, or pass.