

Advanced Christmas Trivia

To play, divide into two teams (could be men vs. women).

Each team rotates picking a category: Music, Bible, Literature/Movies/Theater, History, Miscellaneous (Categories may be passed out on paper, computer projected on TV or written on large tablet or white board. Or, questioner may rotate categories in order.)

First responder raises hand and gives answer. If answer is incorrect, other team gets an opportunity to confer and answer correctly. Limit attempts to answer to 6-8.

One point per correct answer. Team with most points wins.

Music

1. Jesus is “risen with healing” where? (“in his wings,” “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”)
2. Who looked out at the snow on the Feast of Steven? (“Good King Wenceslas”)
3. Composing what immensely popular Christmas music helped this musician avoid debtor’s prison? (Handel’s Messiah)
4. When was “White Christmas” written? (1942)
5. In the song “Twelve Days of Christmas,” what is given on the 7th day? (swans a-swimming)
6. In what country did Silent Night originate? (Austria)
7. What popular holiday song was written during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis and was a plea for peace? (Do you hear what I hear?) Hint: Bing Crosby/Andy Williams covers; Lyric: “Said the king to the people everywhere, Listen to what I say, Pray for peace people everywhere.”

Bible

1. In what way does the Christmas story include murder? (the slaughter of the innocents—any child in the Bethlehem area under 2 yrs of age whom Herod ordered killed)
2. Besides “being born in Bethlehem,” what is one OT prophecy fulfilled in the Christmas story? (Messiah would be born from the line of David. Born of a virgin. Slaughter of the innocents (Jer 31:15); Messiah would be called out of Egypt. (*Hosea 11:1*); Num 24:17-one day a king of Israel will rise like a star;
3. Which of these Christmas Story events is not in chronological order? Gabriel announces Jesus’ birth, Caesar Augustus’ decree, Joseph and Mary travel to be registered in Bethlehem, Mary gives birth to Jesus, angels appear to shepherds, shepherds find Jesus in a manger, Mary and Joseph go to Jerusalem to offer a temple sacrifice for their firstborn son, the magi follow the star to find Jesus, Herod orders all baby boys 2 and under in Bethlehem to be slaughtered, Joseph and Mary flee to Egypt. (None. The magi arrive after the family has evidently returned from Jerusalem and found a **house** to live in. (**Matthew 2:11** And going into the **house** they saw the **child** with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.)
4. What three women are mentioned in Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus? (Tamar, Bathsheba, Ruth)
5. In Luke’s words, how many angels appeared to the shepherds? (a multitude)
6. According to the Bible, how many wisemen came to worship Jesus? (It doesn’t say. It mentions 3 gifts: gold frankincense and myrrh—probably the source of the church tradition of 3 wisemen.)
7. What Hebrew prophet may have given the wisemen the idea to look for Jesus? (They came from the East and studied the signs of the stars. Prime candidate: Babylon. Daniel probably shared with the other court magi the prophecies of the future Jewish Messiah and his teachings may have been preserved.)

8. According to Simeon's prophecy, what 2 things was the child Jesus appointed for? (for the rising and falling of many and for a sign that will be opposed)

Literature/movies/theater

From *A Christmas Carol*...

- 1...What was Scrooge's first name? (Ebenezer)
- 2...In the Muppet's version who played Scrooge? (Michael Caine)
- 3...Dickens' original version ends with what famous line? (God bless us every one.)
4. In "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" what biological issue makes the Grinch so mean? (Heart 2 sizes too small)
5. What was the name of the little girl in most versions of the Nutcracker? (Clara)
6. In what country was it first performed? (Russia)
7. In which author's novel is it "always winter but never Christmas"? (C.S. Lewis, *The Chronicles of Narnia, The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*)

History

1. In what modern-day country was Saint Nicholas born? (Turkey; St. Nicholas was a Greek bishop who lived in the 4th century and was famous for his generosity and gift giving.)
2. What was the nativity inspiration for candy canes? (Shepherd's crooks)
3. Why do some foreign countries celebrate Christmas with gift giving on Jan 6th? (The Feast of Epiphany and the arrival of the 3 wisemen who brought gifts)
4. Who created the first electric light Christmas display? (Thomas Edison to promote his new invention of the light bulb)
5. What country is the Poinsettia native to? (Mexico)
6. On September 21, 1897, the New York Sun wrote its famous reply to a young girl's question about the existence of Santa Claus. What was the little girl's name? (Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus)
7. The Christmas tree originated in Germany, but what monarchs introduced it into our cultural history? (Prince Albert (who was German) gave it as a gift to his wife, Queen Victoria. It immediately became hugely popular.)

Miscellaneous

1. What traditional Christmas decoration is actually a parasitic plant? (mistletoe)
2. In what decade did Coca-Cola start using Santa Claus in advertisements? (20's)
3. How tall, plus or minus 25 feet, was the tallest cut American Christmas tree? (221 feet, used in a mall)
4. How do Mexicans celebrate the Christmas Posadas? (Like Mary and Joseph, they go from house to house asking if there is room in the inn)
5. After red and green, what are the two most famous Christmas colors? (Silver and gold)
6. Eggnog is usually mixed with what adult beverage? (Rum, Bourbon or Brandy)
7. What is the most popular main dish served at Christmas? (spiral-cut ham)