# VIRAL PUB TRIVIA MASTER NIGHT

*10 rounds · 520 questions · 1 legendary host*

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**Publication code: PP-CASHENGINE-TRIVIA-ZIP**

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NEXT ROUND

# POP CULTURE & 90S/2000S NOSTALGIA

# Which 1999 sci-fi movie popularised the cinematic bullet-time visual effect?

# The Matrix

*Directed by the Wachowskis, it used a green-screen ring of 120 cameras firing in micro-second succession.*

# What was the name of Ross Geller's pet white-headed capuchin monkey on 'Friends'?

# Marcel

*Marcel famously swallowed a Scrabble tile and loved the song 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight'.*

# Which toy introduced in 1996 triggered nationwide holiday riots across US department stores?

# Tickle Me Elmo

*Originally retailing for $28.99, secondary black-market resales reached over $1,500 that winter.*

# Which games console, launched in 1994, became the first in history to sell over 100 million units?

# The Sony PlayStation

*The original PlayStation passed 100 million sales in 2003 — a first for any games console.*

# In 'The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air', in which city was Will born and raised, according to the theme song?

# West Philadelphia

*The famous theme opens: 'In West Philadelphia, born and raised…'*

# Which 1997 film about an ocean liner became the highest-grossing movie of all time on its release?

# Titanic

*James Cameron's Titanic held the all-time box-office record until his own Avatar passed it in 2009.*

# What does 'www' stand for in a web address?

# World Wide Web

*The Web was invented by Tim Berners-Lee at CERN between 1989 and 1991.*

# Which boy band released the hit 'I Want It That Way' in 1999?

# The Backstreet Boys

*The song appears on 'Millennium', one of the best-selling albums of all time.*

# In the Pokémon anime, what was Ash Ketchum's very first Pokémon?

# Pikachu

*Ash overslept on his first day; Pikachu was the only starter Pokémon left.*

# Which handheld virtual-pet craze hatched from Japan in 1996?

# Tamagotchi

*Bandai's egg-shaped keychain pet sold tens of millions of units worldwide.*

# The coffee house Central Perk is the hangout in which sitcom?

# Friends

*Set in Manhattan, the series ran for ten seasons from 1994 to 2004.*

# Which 2001 film opened the screen trilogy of 'The Lord of the Rings'?

# The Fellowship of the Ring

*All three films were shot back-to-back in New Zealand under director Peter Jackson.*

# Which 1990 film stars Macaulay Culkin as a boy left behind at Christmas who defends his house with booby traps?

# Home Alone

*It became one of the highest-grossing comedies of all time and made Culkin a superstar at age ten.*

# What does the 'S' stand for in the console abbreviation 'SNES'?

# Super (Super Nintendo Entertainment System)

*The SNES launched in Japan in 1990 as the Super Famicom.*

# Which British girl group urged the world to 'spice up your life' in the 1990s?

# The Spice Girls

*Their 1996 debut single 'Wannabe' topped charts in 37 countries.*

# In 'The Lion King' (1994), what is the name of Simba's father?

# Mufasa

*Mufasa was voiced by James Earl Jones — who returned for the 2019 remake.*

# Which 1990 song by Los del Rio became a worldwide wedding-party dance craze?

# Macarena

*The song spent 14 weeks at number one in the US in 1996.*

# Which actor played the Terminator in 'Terminator 2: Judgment Day' (1991)?

# Arnold Schwarzenegger

*Schwarzenegger reportedly earned about $15 million for roughly 700 words of dialogue.*

# The Walkman and Discman portable music players were made by which company?

# Sony

*The original Walkman launched in Japan in 1979 and changed how the world listened to music.*

# Which cartoon family lives in the fictional town of Springfield?

# The Simpsons

*The show never officially confirms which US state its Springfield is in.*

# What was the name of Nintendo's handheld console released in 1989?

# Game Boy

*Its killer app was Tetris, bundled with the console in most markets.*

# Which 1996 film ends with Will Smith punching an alien and saying 'Welcome to Earth'?

# Independence Day

*It was the highest-grossing film of 1996 worldwide.*

# In 'Toy Story' (1995), what is the name of the cowboy doll voiced by Tom Hanks?

# Woody

*Woody's full name is Woody Pride, though it is never said in the first films.*

# Which early-90s TV series followed Agent Dale Cooper investigating the murder of Laura Palmer?

# Twin Peaks

*David Lynch's eerie series ran 1990-91 and returned for a revival in 2017.*

# What did the letters 'MTV' originally stand for when the channel launched in 1981?

# Music Television

*The first video aired was 'Video Killed the Radio Star' by The Buggles.*

# Which Canadian singer released the 1995 album 'Jagged Little Pill'?

# Alanis Morissette

*The album sold over 33 million copies, one of the best sellers ever by a female artist.*

# Beanie Babies, the 1990s plush craze, were filled with what instead of stuffing?

# Plastic pellets (beans)

*Creator Ty Warner deliberately under-stuffed them so they felt floppy and lifelike.*

# Which 1992 Disney film features a genie voiced by Robin Williams?

# Aladdin

*Williams improvised so much dialogue that hours of unused material were recorded.*

# The catchphrase 'Did I do that?' belongs to which nerdy 1990s sitcom character?

# Steve Urkel (Family Matters)

*Urkel was meant to appear in a single episode — he became the show's breakout star.*

# Which search giant was founded in 1998 by Larry Page and Sergey Brin?

# Google

*The name is a playful spelling of 'googol', the number 1 followed by 100 zeros.*

# Which 1999 horror hit was marketed as real found footage of three missing student filmmakers?

# The Blair Witch Project

*Made for roughly $60,000, it went on to gross nearly $250 million worldwide.*

# In 'Jurassic Park' (1993), the fictional Isla Nublar lies off the coast of which country?

# Costa Rica

*The island's name is Spanish for 'clouded island', for the mist around its peaks.*

# Which boy band featured Justin Timberlake before his solo career?

# NSYNC

*The band's name came from the last letters of the five members' first names.*

# Which furry robotic toy, launched in 1998, appeared to learn language as it 'grew up'?

# Furby

*Furby spoke its own language, 'Furbish', and slowly mixed in English words.*

# The line 'Show me the money!' comes from which 1996 Tom Cruise film?

# Jerry Maguire

*The line was shouted by Cuba Gooding Jr.'s character, footballer Rod Tidwell.*

# Which actress played the title role in TV's 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer' from 1997?

# Sarah Michelle Gellar

*Gellar did most of Buffy's taekwondo-based fight training herself.*

# Which 1989 Disney film, starring a mermaid named Ariel, revived the studio's animation fortunes?

# The Little Mermaid

*It kicked off the decade-long 'Disney Renaissance' of animated hits.*

# Which grunge band released 'Nevermind' in 1991, fronted by Kurt Cobain?

# Nirvana

*'Nevermind' knocked Michael Jackson off the top of the US album chart in January 1992.*

# Which video game plumber made his arcade debut in 1981's 'Donkey Kong'?

# Mario

*He was originally called 'Jumpman' and worked as a carpenter, not a plumber.*

# The 1994 film 'Pulp Fiction' was directed by whom?

# Quentin Tarantino

*Tarantino wrote the diner scenes while working in a video rental store years earlier.*

# Which Saturday-morning cartoon featured four turtles named after Renaissance artists?

# Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

*Leonardo, Michelangelo, Donatello and Raphael began in a gritty 1984 indie comic.*

# Which internet provider famously flooded mailboxes with free trial CDs throughout the 1990s?

# AOL (America Online)

*AOL later claimed about half of all CDs produced worldwide in the mid-90s carried its logo.*

# Which handheld console did Nintendo release in 2001 as the Game Boy line's successor?

# Game Boy Advance

*The Advance was backwards-compatible with the entire Game Boy library.*

# Who sang the 1995 hit 'Gangsta's Paradise', featured in the film 'Dangerous Minds'?

# Coolio

*The song samples Stevie Wonder's 1976 track 'Pastime Paradise'.*

# The catchphrase 'As if!' belongs to Cher in which 1995 teen film?

# Clueless

*The film is a loose modern retelling of Jane Austen's novel 'Emma'.*

# In 'Mrs. Doubtfire' (1993), Robin Williams disguises himself as what so he can see his children?

# A Scottish nanny and housekeeper

*Williams's full prosthetic makeup took about four hours to apply each day.*

# Which MTV countdown show, hosted by Carson Daly from Times Square from 1998, defined after-school TV?

# TRL (Total Request Live)

*At its peak, fans crowded Times Square hoping to glimpse pop stars through the studio windows.*

# The 1996 film 'Space Jam' paired Michael Jordan with which cartoon characters?

# The Looney Tunes

*Bugs Bunny and company recruited Jordan to save them from the Monstars.*

# Which 2000 reality TV show stranded contestants on an island to 'outwit, outplay, outlast'?

# Survivor

*The US version was based on a Swedish format called 'Expedition Robinson'.*

# The letters 'DVD' are most commonly expanded to what?

# Digital Versatile Disc

*It was also originally read as 'Digital Video Disc' — the Versatile name won out officially.*

# Which doll, launched in 1959, got her first Dreamhouse in 1962 and a blockbuster film in 2023?

# Barbie

*Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts, from the Mattel founders' daughter.*

NEXT ROUND

# BIZARRE HISTORY & TRUE CRIME FACTS

# In 1971, which notorious hijacker parachuted out of a Boeing 727 with $200,000 and was never found?

# D.B. Cooper

*The FAA subsequently mandated the installation of the aerodynamic 'Cooper Vane' on all 727s.*

# What famous poison leaves a distinct bitter almond scent in autopsy investigations?

# Cyanide

*Only roughly 40-50% of the population genetically possesses the ability to smell the almond odor.*

# In the 'Dancing Plague' of 1518 in Strasbourg, hundreds of people were struck by an urge to do what, for days on end?

# Dance

*Victims danced for weeks without resting; some reportedly died from exhaustion and heart attacks.*

**Which US president survived a 1912 assassination attempt partly because a folded speech and a steel glasses case in his breast pocket slowed the bullet?**

# Theodore Roosevelt

*Shot in Milwaukee, Roosevelt insisted on delivering his campaign speech before going to hospital.*

# The 'Great Emu War' of 1932 — a military operation against some 20,000 birds — took place in which country?

# Australia

*Soldiers were deployed in Western Australia; the emus evaded them so well the operation was abandoned.*

# The wreck of which famous liner was finally located in 1985, 73 years after she sank?

# RMS Titanic

*Robert Ballard's team found her about 370 miles off Newfoundland, nearly 3,800 metres down.*

# In 1962, Frank Morris and the Anglin brothers escaped from which island prison — and were never found?

# Alcatraz

*They fled on a raft made from raincoats. Whether they survived the bay remains unknown.*

# The Great Pyramid of Giza — the only Ancient Wonder still standing — was built by which civilisation?

# Ancient Egypt

*It was already ancient when the other six wonders were built, and it outlasted them all.*

# In 19th-century Britain, wealthy hosts held 'unwrapping parties' to unwrap what imported curiosity?

# Egyptian mummies

*Mummies were shipped to Europe and unwrapped as society entertainment — and even ground into paint pigment.*

**Outlaw Jesse James was shot dead in 1882 by which former associate, hoping to collect the reward?**

# Robert Ford

*Ford shot James in his own home in St. Joseph, Missouri — and was later branded a coward for it.*

# The 1908 Tunguska event flattened around 2,000 square kilometres of forest in which country?

# Russia

*The Siberian blast is believed to have been an asteroid or comet exploding in mid-air — no crater was found.*

# Which legendary con artist 'sold' the Eiffel Tower to scrap dealers — twice — in the 1920s?

# Victor Lustig

*Posing as a government official, Lustig convinced dealers the tower was being sold for scrap metal.*

# Which Roman emperor is said to have planned to make his favourite horse, Incitatus, a senator?

# Caligula

*Historians suspect the story was exaggerated by hostile writers — but the horse did get a marble stall.*

# In 1726, English hoaxer Mary Toft fooled doctors into believing she had given birth to what animals?

# Rabbits

*Toft confessed after a porter was caught smuggling a rabbit into her room.*

# The crew of which ship vanished in 1872, leaving the vessel drifting in the Atlantic with its cargo intact?

# The Mary Celeste

*The ship was found near the Azores with a lifeboat missing — and no one was ever found.*

**During the 1904 St. Louis Olympic marathon, runner Thomas Hicks was dosed mid-race with brandy, egg white and what dangerous poison?**

# Strychnine

*Strychnine was then believed to be a stimulant in tiny doses. Hicks won — and nearly died.*

# Which French monarch, builder of Versailles, was known as the Sun King?

# Louis XIV

*His 72-year reign is the longest of any verified monarch in European history.*

# The 'mystery cloud' that dimmed the sun and caused crop failures around 536 AD is now blamed on what?

# A massive volcanic eruption

*Ice-core evidence points to a huge eruption whose ash veil cooled the Northern Hemisphere for years.*

# Which unidentified murderer terrorised London's Whitechapel district in 1888?

# Jack the Ripper

*Five victims are generally attributed to the Ripper — the case remains officially unsolved.*

# In 1928, which Scotsman discovered penicillin by accident from a mould growing in his lab?

# Alexander Fleming

*The mould was Penicillium — its juice killed the bacteria on Fleming's culture plates.*

# The Voynich manuscript, a centuries-old book nobody can read, is written in what?

# An unknown, undeciphered script

*Carbon dating puts the vellum in the early 1400s; every codebreaker since has failed.*

# Which US state was an independent republic with its own president, Sam Houston, before joining the Union in 1845?

# Texas

*The Republic of Texas existed from 1836 to 1845, with its own currency and navy.*

# In 1977, Ohio State's Big Ear telescope received a famous 72-second radio burst known by what name?

# The Wow! signal

*Astronomer Jerry Ehman circled the printout and wrote 'Wow!' beside it — the source is still unknown.*

# Which queen of ancient Egypt was the last active ruler of the Ptolemaic Kingdom?

# Cleopatra VII

*Cleopatra spoke nine languages and was the only Ptolemaic ruler who learned Egyptian.*

# The 1883 eruption of which Indonesian volcano produced the loudest sound in recorded history?

# Krakatoa

*The blast was heard nearly 4,800 km away, and its ash lowered global temperatures for years.*

# The Salem witch trials of 1692-93 took place in what is now which US state?

# Massachusetts

*Twenty people were executed; Massachusetts formally apologised for the trials in 1957.*

# Which British king abdicated in 1936 in order to marry Wallis Simpson?

# Edward VIII

*He reigned just 326 days — one of the shortest reigns in British history.*

# The 'Piltdown Man', exposed as a fraud in 1953, was a faked specimen of what?

# A fossil human ancestor (a human skull combined with an orangutan's jaw)

*The hoax fooled much of the scientific establishment for over forty years.*

# In 1961, which Soviet cosmonaut became the first human in space?

# Yuri Gagarin

*His single orbit of Earth aboard Vostok 1 lasted 108 minutes.*

# Which civilisation built the mountain citadel of Machu Picchu?

# The Inca

*The site was never found by the Spanish and stayed unknown to the outside world until 1911.*

# The Great Fire of London in 1666 started in a bakery on which street?

# Pudding Lane

*The fire raged for four days and destroyed more than 13,000 houses.*

# Which 19th-century US president is the only one to have served two non-consecutive terms?

# Grover Cleveland

*Cleveland was both the 22nd and the 24th president.*

# In 1919, a flood of what food substance killed 21 people in Boston?

# Molasses (the Great Molasses Disaster)

*A storage tank burst and sent a wave of molasses up to 7.6 metres high through the streets.*

# The lost Roanoke Colony was planted on an island off the coast of which modern US state?

# North Carolina

*The only clue left behind was the word 'CROATOAN' carved into a post.*

# Which pharaoh's tomb did Howard Carter discover nearly intact in 1922?

# Tutankhamun

*The boy king's tomb held over 5,000 artefacts, including his famous gold mask.*

# Julius Caesar was assassinated on the Ides of which month in 44 BC?

# March

*The Ides of March — the 15th — became a byword for betrayal and doom.*

# At the bizarre 'Cadaver Synod' of 897 AD, the corpse of which church leader was put on trial?

# Pope Formosus

*His body was exhumed, dressed in papal robes and propped on a throne to answer charges.*

# Which British ocean liner, sunk by a U-boat in 1915, helped push the US toward entering World War I?

# RMS Lusitania

*Nearly 1,200 people died, including 128 Americans, when she sank in just 18 minutes.*

# In 1519, which Spanish conquistador marched into the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan?

# Hernan Cortes

*Within two years the Aztec Empire had fallen to Cortes and his Indigenous allies.*

# What was the name of the ship that carried the Pilgrims to Massachusetts in 1620?

# The Mayflower

*The ship carried 102 passengers and about 30 crew across the Atlantic in 66 days.*

# The Berlin Airlift of 1948-49 supplied which half of the divided city?

# West Berlin

*Allied planes landed up to every 30 seconds at the peak, delivering food and coal.*

# Which Viking explorer is credited with reaching North America around the year 1000?

# Leif Erikson

*His settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland was confirmed by archaeologists in the 1960s.*

# Outlaws Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were killed by police in which year?

# 1934

*Their ambush in Louisiana ended a two-year crime spree across the American Midwest and South.*

# The Rosetta Stone, the key to deciphering hieroglyphs, was found in which country?

# Egypt

*French soldiers rebuilding a fort near Rosetta uncovered it in 1799.*

# Which Chinese dynasty built most of the Great Wall that still stands today?

# The Ming dynasty

*The Ming rebuilt the wall in stone and brick during the 1300s-1600s.*

# In 1867, the United States purchased Alaska from which country?

# Russia

*Critics mocked the $7.2 million deal as 'Seward's Folly' — until gold and oil were found.*

# The first successful powered aeroplane flight in 1903 was made by which brothers?

# The Wright brothers

*Orville won the coin toss and flew first: 12 seconds and 36.5 metres at Kitty Hawk.*

# Which Chicago gangster was finally jailed in 1931 — not for murder, but for tax evasion?

# Al Capone

*The FBI's accountants built the case that sent 'Scarface' to Alcatraz.*

# The ancient Olympic Games were held in honour of which Greek god?

# Zeus

*A colossal gold-and-ivory statue of Zeus at Olympia was one of the Seven Wonders.*

# In 1974, farmers digging a well near Xi'an, China, accidentally uncovered what famous army?

# The Terracotta Army

*Thousands of life-size clay soldiers guard the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang.*

# In 1811-12, the most powerful earthquakes in recorded US history struck near New Madrid in which state?

# Missouri

*The quakes were so strong they reportedly made the Mississippi River appear to run backwards.*

NEXT ROUND

# MOVIES, TV SHOWS & STREAMING HITS

# Which actor played both Jack Dawson in 'Titanic' and Howard Hughes in 'The Aviator'?

# Leonardo DiCaprio

*DiCaprio finally won his first Oscar for 'The Revenant' in 2016.*

**Wakanda, the fictional high-tech African nation, is the homeland of which Marvel hero?**

# Black Panther

*Wakanda's wealth comes from vibranium, a fictional metal from a meteorite.*

# The Iron Throne is fought over by the houses of which TV series?

# Game of Thrones

*The throne is said to be forged from a thousand swords of surrendered enemies.*

# Who directed 'Jaws', 'E.T.' and 'Schindler's List'?

# Steven Spielberg

*Spielberg co-founded DreamWorks and is the highest-grossing director of all time.*

# In the 1939 film 'The Wizard of Oz', Dorothy's magical slippers are what colour? (They were silver in the book!)

# Ruby red

*The filmmakers changed them to ruby to show off the new Technicolor process.*

# Which Netflix series opens its deadly contest with a game of 'Red Light, Green Light'?

# Squid Game

*The South Korean series became Netflix's most-watched launch of its time in 2021.*

# In what year was the very first 'Star Wars' film released in cinemas?

# 1977

*It was re-titled 'Episode IV — A New Hope' only in later re-releases.*

# Which actress played Hermione Granger in the 'Harry Potter' films?

# Emma Watson

*Watson was cast at age nine, in her first professional acting role.*

# In 'Breaking Bad', by what name is Walter White known in the criminal underworld?

# Heisenberg

*He named himself after physicist Werner Heisenberg — of uncertainty-principle fame.*

# Olaf the snowman sings 'In Summer' in which animated film?

# Frozen

*The song is a joke: Olaf dreams of the one season that would melt him.*

# Which film is the highest-grossing of all time worldwide, not adjusted for inflation?

# Avatar (2009)

*Re-releases have pushed James Cameron's Avatar to roughly $2.9 billion worldwide.*

# The sitcom 'Parks and Recreation' is set in the fictional town of Pawnee — in which US state?

# Indiana

*Pawnee's fierce rival town in the show is the much wealthier Eagleton.*

# Which actor played Forrest Gump in the 1994 film?

# Tom Hanks

*Hanks won back-to-back Best Actor Oscars in 1994 and 1995 — for 'Philadelphia' and 'Forrest Gump'.*

# The US version of 'The Office' is set in which fictional paper company?

# Dunder Mifflin

*The show is set in Scranton, Pennsylvania — which embraced its fictional fame with real fan conventions.*

# Which 1972 film about the Corleone family is routinely ranked among the greatest movies ever made?

# The Godfather

*Marlon Brando stuffed his cheeks with cotton wool for the audition to get Don Corleone's bulldog jowls.*

# In 'The Shawshank Redemption', what was Andy Dufresne's profession before prison?

# Banker

*Andy uses his banking skills to launder the warden's money — and to plot his escape.*

# Which Netflix series features the alternate dimension called the Upside Down and a girl named Eleven?

# Stranger Things

*The show premiered in 2016 and turned Dungeons & Dragons into a mainstream craze again.*

# Who played the Joker in 'The Dark Knight' (2008) and won a posthumous Oscar for it?

# Heath Ledger

*Ledger kept a character diary and locked himself away for weeks to build the Joker's voice.*

# As a full series, 'The Simpsons' first aired in which year?

# 1989

*The family began as short cartoons on 'The Tracey Ullman Show' two years earlier.*

# Which film won the very first Academy Award for Best Picture in 1929?

# Wings

*The silent WWI epic is the only fully silent film ever to win the top Oscar.*

# In 'Friends', what is Joey Tribbiani's famous pick-up line?

# 'How you doin'?'

*Matt LeBlanc improvised the line's swagger — it became Joey's signature across ten seasons.*

# Who directed 'Psycho', 'Vertigo' and 'Rear Window'?

# Alfred Hitchcock

*Hitchcock was nominated for Best Director five times but never won a competitive Oscar.*

# The adventurer Indiana Jones is famously afraid of which animals?

# Snakes

*'Snakes. Why did it have to be snakes?' — the phobia was written into the character from the first film.*

# Which 2019 South Korean film became the first non-English-language winner of the Best Picture Oscar?

# Parasite

*Bong Joon Ho's thriller also won Best Director, Original Screenplay and International Feature.*

# Which creature bites off Frodo's finger at Mount Doom in 'The Return of the King'?

# Gollum

*Gollum then falls into the fire with the Ring — destroying it by accident, not heroism.*

# The sitcom 'Seinfeld' is famously described as a show about what?

# Nothing

*The pitch George makes inside the show — a show about nothing — mirrored the real series.*

# Which actress played Katniss Everdeen in 'The Hunger Games' films?

# Jennifer Lawrence

*Lawrence did her own archery training and performed most of Katniss's stunts.*

# In 'Back to the Future', what speed must the DeLorean reach to travel through time?

# 88 miles per hour

*The speed was chosen simply because it looked good on the digital speedometer prop.*

# Which HBO series about a New Jersey mob boss is often credited with starting TV's golden age?

# The Sopranos

*James Gandolfini's Tony Soprano redefined what a TV protagonist could be — a villain you root for.*

# The line 'May the Force be with you' comes from which film franchise?

# Star Wars

*The phrase was first delivered by General Dodonna before the Death Star assault.*

# Which film series follows spy Ethan Hunt and his Impossible Missions Force team?

# Mission: Impossible

*Tom Cruise famously performs many of the franchise's most dangerous stunts himself.*

# In 'Harry Potter', what is the name of the school of witchcraft and wizardry?

# Hogwarts

*Its full name: Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, hidden somewhere in Scotland.*

# Which 1999 film's twist ending reveals that Bruce Willis's character has been dead all along?

# The Sixth Sense

*M. Night Shyamalan hid the clues in plain sight — Willis's character is never seen touching anything.*

# Which actor played the liquid-metal T-1000 in 'Terminator 2: Judgment Day'?

# Robert Patrick

*Patrick trained to run at full sprint without breathing through his mouth, to look less human.*

# The Netflix series 'Wednesday' centres on a member of which fictional family?

# The Addams Family

*Jenna Ortega learned cello and fencing for the role — and choreographed the famous dance herself.*

# Which war film opens with the Normandy landings and a mission to find one paratrooper?

# Saving Private Ryan

*Veterans praised its opening 24 minutes as the most realistic battle footage ever filmed.*

# In 'The Lion King', what does the phrase 'Hakuna Matata' mean?

# No worries

*The Swahili phrase became one of Disney's most famous songs, written by Elton John and Tim Rice.*

# Which actress starred as Elle Woods in 'Legally Blonde'?

# Reese Witherspoon

*Witherspoon kept Elle's entire wardrobe after filming — all 77 costume changes.*

# In 'Doctor Who', the Doctor's time machine is called the what?

# The TARDIS

*TARDIS stands for Time And Relative Dimension In Space — and it is famously bigger on the inside.*

# Which 2008 Marvel film launched the Marvel Cinematic Universe?

# Iron Man

*Robert Downey Jr. improvised the final line — 'I am Iron Man' — changing Marvel's plans on the spot.*

# In 'E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial', what does E.T. famously want to do?

# Phone home

*The line 'E.T. phone home' ranks among the most quoted in cinema history.*

# Which film features Tyler Durden and an unnamed narrator who start an underground club?

# Fight Club

*The first rule of Fight Club is famous — the film flopped in cinemas, then became a cult phenomenon on DVD.*

# Which director made 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' and 'Moonrise Kingdom'?

# Wes Anderson

*Anderson's perfectly symmetrical shots are so distinctive the style has its own name among film students.*

# In 'The Wizard of Oz', what is Dorothy's little dog called?

# Toto

*Toto was played by a Cairn terrier named Terry, who appeared in 16 films.*

# Which TV series follows the Shelby crime family in post-WWI Birmingham?

# Peaky Blinders

*Cillian Murphy's Tommy Shelby made flat caps fashionable again a century later.*

# Which 2024 Pixar sequel became the highest-grossing animated film of all time?

# Inside Out 2

*It passed the 2019 'Lion King' remake with roughly $1.7 billion at the worldwide box office.*

# In 'Jaws', what is the name of the grizzled shark hunter played by Robert Shaw?

# Quint

*Shaw ad-libbed much of Quint's legendary USS Indianapolis monologue.*

# Which sitcom centres on physicists Sheldon, Leonard and their neighbour Penny?

# The Big Bang Theory

*The show ran 12 seasons and made 'Bazinga!' a global catchphrase.*

# The 1976 boxing film 'Rocky' is set in which US city?

# Philadelphia

*Sylvester Stallone wrote the script in three days and refused to sell it unless he could star.*

# Which actor played Captain Jack Sparrow in the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' films?

# Johnny Depp

*Depp based Sparrow's swaying walk on Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards.*

# In 'The Hunger Games', Katniss Everdeen volunteers from which district?

# District 12

*District 12 is Panem's impoverished coal-mining district, in the former Appalachians.*

NEXT ROUND

# MIND-BLOWING SCIENCE & SPACE ODDITIES

# How long does a photon take to travel from the center core of the Sun to its outer surface?

# Approx. 100,000 to 170,000 Years

*Dense plasma collisions force the light particle into a violent 'random walk' before it finally escapes.*

# Which creature has three hearts, blue hemocyanin blood, and doughnut-shaped brains?

# The Octopus

*Two hearts pump blood to the gills, while the third central heart stops beating when swimming.*

# Olympus Mons, the largest volcano in the solar system, towers over which planet?

# Mars

*Olympus Mons is about 22 km high — roughly two and a half times the height of Mount Everest.*

# Which planet is tilted so far that it effectively rotates on its side, at about 98 degrees?

# Uranus

*Astronomers believe an ancient collision with an Earth-sized body knocked Uranus sideways.*

# What is the chemical symbol for gold?

# Au

*The symbol comes from 'aurum', the Latin word for gold.*

# Which cells in your blood are responsible for carrying oxygen around the body?

# Red blood cells

*They get their colour from haemoglobin, the iron-containing protein that binds oxygen.*

# Who published the laws of motion and universal gravitation in the 1687 work 'Principia Mathematica'?

# Isaac Newton

*The Principia is considered one of the most important scientific books ever written.*

# Approximately how fast does light travel through a vacuum, in kilometres per second?

# About 300,000 km/s

*The exact figure is 299,792 km/s — nothing with mass can reach it.*

# Which organ of the human body produces the hormone insulin?

# The pancreas

*Insulin is made by the beta cells in the pancreatic islets of Langerhans.*

# What was the name of the first artificial satellite, launched into orbit in 1957?

# Sputnik 1

*The Soviet satellite's simple 'beep-beep' signal could be picked up by radios around the world.*

# About 78% of Earth's atmosphere consists of which gas?

# Nitrogen

*Oxygen makes up most of the rest, at about 21%.*

# Roughly how long does sunlight take to reach the Earth?

# About 8 minutes

*Eight minutes and twenty seconds on average — so we always see the Sun as it was, not as it is.*

# Which planet's day is longer than its year, taking 243 Earth days to spin once?

# Venus

*Venus rotates backwards and so slowly that one spin outlasts its 225-day trip around the Sun.*

# What is the chemical symbol for iron?

# Fe

*Fe comes from 'ferrum', the Latin word for iron.*

# What is H2O more commonly known as?

# Water

*Two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom — the most familiar molecule on Earth.*

# Which gas do plants absorb from the air to power photosynthesis?

# Carbon dioxide

*Plants trade it for oxygen — the gas exchange that keeps the air breathable.*

# What is the largest planet in our solar system?

# Jupiter

*More than 1,300 Earths could fit inside Jupiter.*

# How many bones are there in the adult human body?

# 206

*Babies are born with around 300 bones; many fuse together as we grow.*

# Who proposed evolution by natural selection in 'On the Origin of Species' (1859)?

# Charles Darwin

*Darwin delayed publishing for years, gathering evidence after his voyage on HMS Beagle.*

# What force keeps the planets in orbit around the Sun?

# Gravity

*The same force that drops your pen bends the path of entire planets.*

# Which metal is the most abundant in the Earth's crust?

# Aluminium

*Aluminium makes up about 8% of the crust — yet was once costlier than gold.*

# Which blood cells are the soldiers of the immune system, fighting infection?

# White blood cells

*They make up only about 1% of your blood, but a high count signals your body is fighting something.*

# The asteroid belt lies between the orbits of which two planets?

# Mars and Jupiter

*Despite the movies, the belt is mostly empty space — its total mass is less than the Moon's.*

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

# The Milky Way

*It holds at least 100 billion stars — and probably more than 200 billion.*

# Which element has the chemical symbol 'O'?

# Oxygen

*Oxygen is the third most abundant element in the universe, after hydrogen and helium.*

# Roughly how long does the International Space Station take to complete one orbit of Earth?

# About 90 minutes

*Its crew sees about 16 sunrises and sunsets every single day.*

# What is the tallest land animal in the world?

# The giraffe

*A giraffe's heart weighs around 11 kilograms to pump blood up that long neck.*

# Which organ of the human body is the largest?

# The skin

*An adult's skin weighs roughly 3.6 kilograms and covers about 2 square metres.*

# What do you call an animal that eats only plants?

# A herbivore

*Cows, horses and giant pandas are all herbivores — though pandas belong to the bear family.*

# Which planet is famous for its rings of ice and rock?

# Saturn

*The rings are billions of ice chunks — some as small as grains of sugar, some as big as houses.*

# What was the name of the first space station, launched into orbit in 1971?

# Salyut 1

*The Soviet station hosted one crew for 23 days before its tragic return flight.*

# Which subatomic particle carries a negative electric charge?

# The electron

*Electrons weigh about 1/1836th of a proton — they are almost pure nothing, yet run all of chemistry.*

# What is the chemical formula for common table salt?

# NaCl (sodium chloride)

*One sodium atom and one chlorine atom — two dangerous elements that make a kitchen essential.*

# Which bird is the fastest animal on Earth in a hunting dive?

# The peregrine falcon

*In a stoop it has been clocked at over 380 km/h — faster than a Formula 1 car.*

# How many legs does a spider have?

# Eight

*All spiders are arachnids — if it has six legs, it is an insect, not a spider.*

# What is the main gas that makes up the Sun?

# Hydrogen

*The Sun converts about 600 million tonnes of hydrogen into helium every second.*

# Which human sense is most strongly wired to memory, which is why smells trigger nostalgia?

# Smell (olfaction)

*Smell signals travel almost directly to the brain's memory and emotion centres.*

# Approximately how fast does sound travel through air at sea level?

# About 343 metres per second

*That is roughly 1,235 km/h — fast, but light beats it by a factor of nearly a million.*

# Which scientist's equation E = mc2 links energy and mass?

# Albert Einstein

*The equation appeared in 1905, Einstein's 'miracle year' of four revolutionary papers.*

# What do bees collect from flowers to make honey?

# Nectar

*A single jar of honey requires nectar from roughly two million flower visits.*

# Which is the only mammal capable of true powered flight?

# The bat

*There are over 1,400 bat species — about one in five of all mammal species.*

# What is the name of the process by which plants make food from sunlight?

# Photosynthesis

*Nearly all life on Earth runs on energy captured by this one chemical trick.*

# How many chambers does the human heart have?

# Four

*Two atria on top, two ventricles below — a double pump in a single organ.*

# Which dwarf planet was classed as the ninth planet until 2006?

# Pluto

*Pluto is smaller than Earth's Moon and takes 248 years to orbit the Sun once.*

# What is the hardest naturally occurring substance on Earth?

# Diamond

*Diamonds are pure carbon squeezed under enormous pressure deep underground.*

# Which mammal can live for over 200 years, making it the longest-lived of all?

# The bowhead whale

*Some bowheads alive today may carry 19th-century harpoon points in their blubber.*

# What is the pH of a neutral solution?

# 7

*The scale runs 0 to 14: below 7 is acid, above 7 is alkaline.*

# Which blood type is known as the universal donor type?

# O negative

*O-negative blood can be given to almost anyone in an emergency — its donors are always in demand.*

# The Great Red Spot is a centuries-old storm on which planet?

# Jupiter

*The storm is wider than Earth and has been raging for at least 190 years of observation.*

# How many eyes does a honeybee have?

# Five

*Two large compound eyes plus three tiny simple eyes, called ocelli, on top of its head.*

# What is the dense centre of an atom called?

# The nucleus

*The nucleus holds over 99.97% of the atom's mass in a speck a hundred-thousandth of its width.*

NEXT ROUND

# GEOGRAPHY & WORLD CAPITALS

# What is the only letter in the English alphabet that does NOT appear in any US state name?

# The Letter 'Q'

*Every other letter from A to Z appears at least once across all 50 states.*

GEOGRAPHY & WORLD CAPITALS · QUESTION 2 · 150 PTS

# What is the capital city of Australia?

# Canberra

*Canberra was purpose-built as a compromise between rivals Sydney and Melbourne.*

# According to the United Nations, which country became the most populous on Earth in 2023?

# India

*India overtook China in 2023, with a population passing 1.43 billion people.*

# The Danube flows through which capital city, famed as the home of the waltz?

# Vienna

*Vienna is one of four capitals on the Danube — the others are Bratislava, Budapest and Belgrade.*

# Which is the largest hot desert in the world?

# The Sahara

*At about 9.2 million square kilometres, the Sahara is almost the size of the entire United States.*

# Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, stands in which country?

# Tanzania

*Its highest point, Uhuru Peak, rises 5,895 metres above sea level.*

# Which country is also an entire continent by itself?

# Australia

*Australia is the world's smallest continent and its sixth-largest country.*

# What is the capital city of Canada?

# Ottawa

*Queen Victoria chose Ottawa in 1857, partly because it sat safely between Toronto and Montreal.*

# The Strait of Gibraltar separates southern Spain from which North African country?

# Morocco

*At its narrowest point the strait is only about 14 kilometres wide.*

# The Grand Canyon is carved into which US state?

# Arizona

*The canyon is about 446 kilometres long and up to 1,857 metres deep.*

**Reykjavik, the world's northernmost capital, belongs to which island nation?**

# Iceland

*Reykjavik runs almost entirely on geothermal and hydroelectric renewable energy.*

# Which river is traditionally considered the longest in the world, at about 6,650 km?

# The Nile

*The Amazon carries far more water, but the Nile is usually measured as the longest.*

# What is the capital of Japan?

# Tokyo

*Tokyo is the largest metropolitan economy in the world, home to over 37 million people in its metro area.*

# Which is the smallest country in the world?

# Vatican City

*At under half a square kilometre, it is smaller than many shopping malls — yet issues its own stamps and passports.*

# The Eiffel Tower stands in which city?

# Paris

*It was meant to be temporary, built for the 1889 World's Fair, and was nearly scrapped in 1909.*

# Which river flows through the centre of London?

# The River Thames

*The Thames is 346 km long and was once so polluted it was declared biologically dead in 1957.*

# Mount Everest lies on the border of Nepal and which other country?

# China (Tibet)

*Everest grows about 4 millimetres taller every year as tectonic plates keep colliding.*

# What is the capital of Brazil?

# Brasilia

*Brasilia was built from scratch in just 41 months and inaugurated in 1960.*

# Which country has the largest land area in the world?

# Russia

*Russia covers about one-eighth of the world's inhabited land and spans 11 time zones.*

# The Panama Canal connects which two oceans?

# The Atlantic and the Pacific

*Ships save a journey of some 13,000 km around South America by using the canal.*

# Which African country was formerly known as Abyssinia?

# Ethiopia

*Ethiopia is the only African country never formally colonised, and uses its own calendar with 13 months.*

# What is the longest river in South America?

# The Amazon

*The Amazon discharges more water than the next seven largest rivers combined.*

# Which US state is nicknamed the Sunshine State?

# Florida

*Florida was given the nickname officially in 1970 — and earns it with some 230 sunny days a year.*

# The Great Barrier Reef lies off the coast of which Australian state?

# Queensland

*The reef is the largest living structure on Earth — big enough to be seen from space.*

# What is the capital of Egypt?

# Cairo

*Cairo is the largest city of the Arab world and sits a short drive from the pyramids of Giza.*

# Kangaroos are native to which country?

# Australia

*There are roughly twice as many kangaroos in Australia as there are people.*

# Which is the largest ocean on Earth?

# The Pacific Ocean

*The Pacific covers more area than all of Earth's land combined.*

# The city of Istanbul straddles which two continents?

# Europe and Asia

*The Bosphorus Strait splits the city in two — you can breakfast in Asia and lunch in Europe.*

# What is the capital of Spain?

# Madrid

*Madrid is Europe's highest capital city, sitting about 650 metres above sea level.*

# Which is the coldest continent on Earth?

# Antarctica

*It holds about 70% of the planet's fresh water, locked up as ice.*

# Which capital city is home to the ancient Colosseum?

# Rome

*The Colosseum could hold around 50,000 spectators — and was sometimes flooded to stage sea battles.*

# Which country has more natural lakes than any other on Earth?

# Canada

*Estimates suggest Canada holds over 60% of the world's lakes.*

# What is the largest island in the world?

# Greenland

*Australia is bigger, but it counts as a continent — Greenland takes the island title.*

# Which US state is nicknamed the Lone Star State?

# Texas

*The lone star recalls Texas's decade as an independent republic, 1836 to 1845.*

# Angel Falls, the world's tallest waterfall, is located in which country?

# Venezuela

*The falls drop 979 metres — so high that much of the water evaporates before reaching the bottom.*

# What is the capital of Argentina?

# Buenos Aires

*Buenos Aires has more bookshops per person than any other city in the world.*

# Which European country is famously shaped like a boot?

# Italy

*The 'boot' kicks the triangular 'ball' of Sicily across the Mediterranean.*

# Mount Fuji is the highest mountain of which country?

# Japan

*Fuji last erupted in 1707 and is still classified as an active volcano.*

# The Strait of Malacca separates Malaysia from which large Indonesian island?

# Sumatra

*It is one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, carrying about a quarter of global traded goods.*

# What is the smallest US state by land area?

# Rhode Island

*You could fit Rhode Island inside Alaska more than 400 times over.*

# The Victoria Falls lie on which African river?

# The Zambezi

*The falls form the largest sheet of falling water in the world, over 1.7 km wide.*

# Cape Town is a major city of which country?

# South Africa

*South Africa has three capitals: Cape Town (legislative), Pretoria (executive) and Bloemfontein (judicial).*

# Which country has the longest coastline in the world?

# Canada

*Counting its Arctic islands, Canada's coastline runs over 200,000 kilometres.*

# What is the capital of New Zealand?

# Wellington

*Wellington is the world's southernmost capital city — and one of the windiest.*

# Which sea separates Europe from Africa?

# The Mediterranean Sea

*Its name comes from Latin for 'sea in the middle of the land'.*

# The Atacama, one of the driest deserts on Earth, lies mainly in which country?

# Chile

*Some parts of the Atacama went roughly 400 years without recorded rain.*

# Which island nation off Africa's southeast coast is famous for its lemurs?

# Madagascar

*About 90% of Madagascar's wildlife exists nowhere else on Earth.*

# What is the capital of South Korea?

# Seoul

*Nearly half of South Korea's population lives in the Seoul metropolitan area.*

# Which mountain range separates France from Spain?

# The Pyrenees

*The tiny country of Andorra sits entirely within the Pyrenees.*

# Lake Baikal, the deepest lake in the world, is in which country?

# Russia

*Baikal holds about a fifth of the world's fresh surface water — more than all the US Great Lakes combined.*

# Which country's flag features a red maple leaf?

# Canada

*The flag was adopted in 1965 after a famous nationwide design debate.*

NEXT ROUND

# MUSIC & AUDIO RIFFS

# Which band released the album 'Abbey Road' in 1969?

# The Beatles

*The cover photo of the zebra crossing was taken in about ten minutes outside EMI Studios.*

# How many keys are there on a standard modern piano?

# 88

*52 white keys and 36 black keys — a range of just over seven octaves.*

# Which deaf-in-old-age composer wrote the famous 'Moonlight Sonata'?

# Ludwig van Beethoven

*Beethoven never called it that — the nickname came from a critic writing after his death.*

# A 'luthier' is a craftsman who builds and repairs which instruments?

# Stringed instruments (violins, guitars and their family)

*The word comes from 'luth', French for lute.*

# Which singer is universally known as the 'Queen of Pop'?

# Madonna

*Madonna is the best-selling female recording artist of all time.*

# In 4/4 time, a whole note (semibreve) is held for how many beats?

# Four beats

*A whole note fills the entire bar in 4/4 — hence the name.*

# Chart-topping quartet ABBA came from which country?

# Sweden

*ABBA won Eurovision in 1974 with 'Waterloo', launching their global career.*

# What was Elvis Presley's famous Memphis mansion called?

# Graceland

*Graceland is one of the most visited houses in America, second only to the White House.*

# Rapper Eminem performs his angrier alter ego under what name?

# Slim Shady

*'The Slim Shady LP' of 1999 made Eminem a superstar — and thoroughly infamous.*

# How many strings does a standard acoustic or electric guitar have?

# Six

*The standard tuning, low to high, is E–A–D–G–B–E.*

# The tune of 'Happy Birthday' was first published in 1893 under what title?

# 'Good Morning to All'

*Sisters Patty and Mildred Hill wrote it as a classroom greeting song.*

**Before a concert, which orchestral instrument traditionally plays the note A for everyone to tune to?**

# The oboe

*The oboe's piercing tone cuts through the whole orchestra, making it easy to hear.*

# How many symphonies did Beethoven compose?

# Nine

*His Ninth, premiered when he was almost completely deaf, gave us the 'Ode to Joy'.*

# Which instrument has 47 strings and seven pedals in its full concert form?

# The harp

*Each pedal has three positions, letting one harp play in any key.*

# Who is universally known as the 'King of Rock and Roll'?

# Elvis Presley

*Presley had 18 US number-one singles and starred in 31 films.*

# Which singer released the album 'Thriller' in 1982?

# Michael Jackson

*'Thriller' remains the best-selling album of all time, with over 70 million copies sold.*

# What is the lowest-pitched instrument in a standard string quartet?

# The cello

*A string quartet is two violins, a viola and one cello.*

# The song 'Bohemian Rhapsody' is by which band?

# Queen

*Record executives said the nearly six-minute song would never get radio play. It topped the charts twice.*

# Which Italian composer wrote the violin concertos known as 'The Four Seasons'?

# Antonio Vivaldi

*Vivaldi wrote the concertos around 1720 and published them with matching sonnets about each season.*

# In 4/4 time, a half note (minim) lasts for how many beats?

# Two beats

*Exactly half of a whole note — the name gives it away.*

# The tango originated in the working-class districts of which capital city?

# Buenos Aires (Argentina)

*UNESCO lists the tango as part of the world's Intangible Cultural Heritage.*

# Which band recorded the 1973 album 'The Dark Side of the Moon'?

# Pink Floyd

*The album spent a record 900-plus weeks on the Billboard 200 chart.*

# What is a group of exactly eight musicians called?

# An octet

*Four is a quartet, five a quintet — Latin counting runs through chamber music.*

# Which pop superstar is known to her fans as 'Queen Bey'?

# Beyonce

*Beyonce is the most awarded artist in Grammy history, with over 30 wins.*

# The finale of Rossini's 'William Tell Overture' became famous as the theme of which TV hero?

# The Lone Ranger

*The galloping finale has signalled heroic horseback rides in cartoons ever since.*

# How many strings does a standard violin have?

# Four

*They are tuned in fifths: G, D, A and E.*

# Which German composer wrote the epic opera cycle 'The Ring of the Nibelung'?

# Richard Wagner

*The full Ring cycle runs about 15 hours across four operas.*

# What does 'a cappella' mean in music?

# Singing without instrumental accompaniment

*The Italian phrase means 'in the manner of the chapel'.*

# Which jazz trumpeter and singer was nicknamed 'Satchmo'?

# Louis Armstrong

*The nickname came from 'Satchel Mouth', shortened over his early career.*

# The Beatles were formed in which English city?

# Liverpool

*Before settling on The Beatles, the band played as The Quarrymen and The Silver Beetles.*

# Which instrument is traditionally nicknamed the 'king of instruments'?

# The organ (pipe organ)

*Mozart himself used the title — the largest pipe organs have over 30,000 pipes.*

# Who composed the ballet 'The Nutcracker'?

# Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

*Tchaikovsky disliked the score at first; it is now the most performed ballet in the world.*

# What word describes the words of a song, as opposed to its melody?

# Lyrics

*The word comes from the lyre, the instrument that accompanied sung poetry in ancient Greece.*

# Which singer's fanbase call themselves 'Swifties'?

# Taylor Swift

*Swift's Eras Tour became the highest-grossing concert tour of all time.*

# Which brass instrument changes pitch with a slide instead of valves?

# The trombone

*'Trombone' is Italian for 'large trumpet' — its slide gives it seven basic positions.*

# The opera 'Carmen' was written by which French composer?

# Georges Bizet

*Bizet died three months after the premiere, never knowing 'Carmen' would conquer the world.*

# Hip hop was born in the 1970s in which New York City borough?

# The Bronx

*DJ Kool Herc's 1973 back-to-school party in the Bronx is widely counted as hip hop's birthplace.*

# What do we call a slow, sentimental song, often about love?

# A ballad

*Ballads began as narrative folk songs sung for centuries before they were ever written down.*

# Which Mozart opera features the Queen of the Night and her famously high aria?

# The Magic Flute

*The Queen's aria reaches one of the highest notes in all opera — a top F.*

# How many musicians perform in a string quartet?

# Four

*Two violinists, one violist and one cellist — Haydn effectively invented the format.*

# Which American band sang the 1977 classic 'Hotel California'?

# Eagles

*'Hotel California' won the Grammy for Record of the Year in 1978.*

# The tempo marking 'allegro' instructs musicians to play how?

# Fast and brightly

*Allegro is Italian for 'cheerful' — the opposite end of the scale from the slow 'adagio'.*

# Which Caribbean country gave the world reggae and Bob Marley?

# Jamaica

*Reggae was added to UNESCO's cultural heritage list in 2018.*

# A 'duet' is a piece performed by how many musicians?

# Two

*Duet for two performers; a piece for two pianists at one piano is a special favourite of the form.*

# Which Polish-French composer is celebrated as the 'poet of the piano'?

# Frederic Chopin

*Chopin wrote almost exclusively for the piano — and transformed what the instrument could express.*

# Which large tuned drums, also called kettledrums, anchor the orchestra's percussion section?

# Timpani

*A timpanist tunes each drum with a pedal, mid-performance, by ear.*

# The 1985 charity supergroup USA for Africa recorded which single?

# We Are the World

*Written by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie, it raised over $60 million for famine relief.*

# Roughly how many symphonies did Mozart compose?

# Over 40 (41 are numbered)

*Mozart wrote his first symphony at eight years old and his last, the 'Jupiter', at 32.*

**The saxophone was invented in the 1840s by Adolphe Sax, a maker from which country?**

# Belgium

*Sax patented the saxophone in Paris in 1846, aiming to bridge brass and woodwind.*

# What genre of music is most associated with Nashville and Johnny Cash?

# Country music

*Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, founded in 1925, is the longest-running radio show in US history.*

# Which note value, also called a crotchet in British terms, gets one beat in 4/4?

# The quarter note

*Four quarter notes fill a 4/4 bar — hence the name.*

NEXT ROUND

# SPORTS & EPIC CHAMPIONS

# How often are the Summer Olympic Games held?

# Every four years

*The modern Games began in Athens in 1896; the four-year cycle is called an Olympiad.*

# Which national team has won the FIFA World Cup the most times?

# Brazil

*Brazil has five titles — 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994 and 2002 — and has played in every World Cup.*

# In tennis scoring, what is a score of zero points called?

# Love

*The term may come from the French 'l'oeuf' — the egg — describing the shape of a zero.*

# How many players from one basketball team are on the court at the same time?

# Five

*Five on court, with squads typically carrying up to twelve players on game day.*

# Which heavyweight champion, born Cassius Clay, called himself simply 'The Greatest'?

# Muhammad Ali

*Ali won the world heavyweight title three times across three different decades.*

# In golf, a score of one stroke under par on a hole is called what?

# A birdie

*Two under par is an eagle; one over par is a bogey.*

# Which swimmer is the most decorated Olympian in history, with 28 medals?

# Michael Phelps

*Phelps won 23 golds — more than most countries have managed in total.*

# The Super Bowl decides the champion of which American sports league?

# The NFL (National Football League)

*Super Bowl Sunday is one of the most-watched television events on Earth.*

# Excluding stoppage and extra time, a standard association football match lasts how long?

# 90 minutes

*Two halves of 45 minutes, with a 15-minute half-time break.*

# The sport of badminton is played over a net with what feathered projectile?

# A shuttlecock

*A shuttlecock's feathers come traditionally from the left wing of a goose.*

# Usain Bolt's 100 metres world record, set in Berlin in 2009, stands at what time?

# 9.58 seconds

*Bolt's record has survived more than a decade and a half of challengers.*

# Which bat-and-ball sport is played on a diamond with four bases?

# Baseball

*The four bases — home, first, second and third — form the diamond.*

# How many rings appear on the Olympic flag?

# Five

*The five rings represent the inhabited continents, and their colours appear in every national flag.*

# In which sport would a player perform a slam dunk?

# Basketball

*The dunk was banned in US college basketball from 1967 to 1976 — partly thanks to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's dominance.*

# Which country is credited with inventing golf, centred on St Andrews?

# Scotland

*Golf was so popular that Scotland's parliament banned it in 1457 for distracting men from archery practice.*

# To the nearest whole number, how many kilometres long is a marathon?

# 42 kilometres (42.195 km)

*The odd distance was standardised at the 1908 London Olympics so the race could finish at the royal box.*

# Which tennis tournament is played on grass at the All England Club?

# Wimbledon

*Wimbledon began in 1877 and still insists on a strict all-white dress code for players.*

# In American football, how many points is a touchdown worth?

# Six points

*Add the extra-point kick and a scoring drive usually yields seven.*

# Which heavyweight boxer was nicknamed 'Iron Mike'?

# Mike Tyson

*Tyson became the youngest heavyweight champion in history at just 20 years old.*

# Which nation won the very first FIFA World Cup in 1930?

# Uruguay

*Uruguay hosted and won the tournament, beating Argentina 4-2 in the final.*

# How many holes are played in a standard round of golf?

# 18

*The 18-hole standard also comes from St Andrews, whose course settled at 18 holes in 1764.*

# Which sport uses the terms 'strike' and 'spare'?

# Tenpin bowling

*A perfect game of 12 straight strikes scores exactly 300.*

# In ice hockey, what is the small rubber disc called?

# A puck

*Game pucks are frozen before matches to stop them bouncing on the ice.*

**Which gymnast, with multiple skills named after her, is widely considered the greatest of all time?**

# Simone Biles

*Biles has more World Championship medals than any gymnast in history, male or female.*

# The Tour de France traditionally finishes in which city?

# Paris (on the Champs-Elysees)

*The final stage has ended on the Champs-Elysees every year since 1975.*

# How many players does a rugby union team field at once?

# 15

*Fifteen a side, from the loosehead prop (number 1) to the fullback (number 15).*

**Karate developed on the island of Okinawa, part of which country?**

# Japan

*'Karate' means 'empty hand' — a fighting art built for the unarmed.*

# In darts, what is the highest possible score with three darts?

# 180

*Three triple-twenties — the commentator's famous cry of 'One hundred and eighty!'*

# In an Olympic individual medley, which stroke is swum first?

# Butterfly

*The medley order is butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle.*

# The Ashes is a historic cricket series between England and which country?

# Australia

*The rivalry began in 1882, named for a mock obituary of English cricket printed in a newspaper.*

# In baseball, a batter who strikes out has accumulated how many strikes?

# Three strikes

*'Three strikes and you're out' passed from baseball into everyday language — and US law.*

# Which two drivers share the record of seven Formula 1 world championships?

# Michael Schumacher and Lewis Hamilton

*Schumacher set the mark in 2004; Hamilton equalled it in 2020.*

**Japan's national sport features wrestlers, called rikishi, grappling in a clay ring called a dohyo. What is it?**

# Sumo wrestling

*Sumo's rituals — salt throwing, leg stomps — descend from ancient Shinto ceremonies.*

# How many players of one volleyball team are on the court at a time?

# Six

*Teams rotate clockwise every time they win back the serve.*

# Which chess piece is the only one that can jump over other pieces?

# The knight

*The knight's L-shaped leap makes it the trickiest piece for beginners to track.*

# The Stanley Cup is the championship trophy of which sport?

# Ice hockey (the NHL)

*Donated in 1893, the Stanley Cup is the oldest trophy still contested in North American pro sport.*

# How many events make up a decathlon?

# Ten

*Four runs, three jumps and three throws across two days decide the 'world's greatest athlete'.*

# The Olympic motto 'Citius, Altius, Fortius' translates into English as what?

# Faster, Higher, Stronger

*In 2021 the IOC added a fourth word: 'Communiter' — Together.*

# In snooker, how many points is the black ball worth?

# Seven

*The black is the most valuable ball; a maximum break totals 147 points.*

# What is the only sport to have been played on the Moon?

# Golf

*Apollo 14 astronaut Alan Shepard smuggled a club head aboard and hit two shots in 1971.*

# In which sport do athletes perform the 'Fosbury Flop'?

# High jump (athletics)

*Dick Fosbury's backwards technique, mocked in 1968, won Olympic gold and replaced every older style.*

# The America's Cup, first contested in 1851, is a trophy in which sport?

# Sailing (yachting)

*It is the oldest international trophy in world sport — older than the modern Olympics.*

# Taekwondo originates from which country?

# Korea

*Its name breaks down as 'the way of foot and fist'; it became an Olympic sport in 2000.*

# What colour jersey does the overall leader wear in the Tour de France?

# Yellow (the maillot jaune)

*The yellow jersey was introduced in 1919 so crowds could spot the leader easily.*

# How many players does a cricket team have on the field?

# Eleven

*All eleven field, but only two bat at a time — cricket's enduring oddity.*

# Curling matches are played on what surface?

# Ice

*Curlers sweep the ice to melt a microscopic layer, steering the 20-kilogram stone.*

# In boxing, what does the abbreviation 'KO' stand for?

# Knockout

*A technical knockout, TKO, is when the referee or corner stops the fight instead.*

# Which Grand Slam tennis tournament is played on clay courts at Roland Garros?

# The French Open

*Rafael Nadal won the title a staggering 14 times, earning the nickname 'King of Clay'.*

# A basketball hoop's rim has what diameter, in inches?

# 18 inches

*Exactly twice the diameter of the ball — which is why perfect shots can still rattle out.*

# Which country has won the most Olympic medals of all time?

# The United States

*The US total across Summer and Winter Games stands well beyond 2,900 medals.*

# Of fencing's three weapons — foil, sabre and epee — which is the heaviest?

# The epee

*The epee is also the only weapon with no right-of-way rules: first light wins the point.*

NEXT ROUND

# FOOD, DRINK & CULINARY SECRETS

# Which European nation officially consumes the most beer per capita in the entire world?

# Czech Republic (Czechia)

*Consuming over 180 liters per person annually, holding the global #1 spot for over 30 years.*

# The world's most expensive spice, saffron, is harvested from which flower?

# The crocus

*Saffron threads are the dried stigmas of Crocus sativus — it takes about 150 flowers for one gram.*

# What is the principal ingredient of a proper guacamole?

# Avocado

*Traditional Mexican guacamole adds lime, salt, onion, chilli and coriander to mashed avocado.*

# Which country drinks the most coffee per person in the world?

# Finland

*The average Finn drinks around four cups of coffee a day.*

# Tofu is made by curdling the milk of which bean?

# The soybean

*Tofu originated in China over 2,000 years ago and spread across Asia with Buddhism.*

**Green tea and black tea come from the same plant — what process makes black tea different?**

# Oxidation of the leaves

*Both come from Camellia sinensis; black tea leaves are fully oxidised, green tea leaves are not.*

# According to the proverb, eating one of which fruit 'a day' keeps the doctor away?

# An apple

*The saying began in 19th-century Wales: 'Eat an apple on going to bed…'*

**The ancestor of the croissant, the kipferl, comes from which country — France's famous pastry is an import!**

# Austria

*Viennese bakers made the kipferl for centuries before it was refined in Paris as the croissant.*

# True wasabi is a relative of which sharp-tasting Western condiment root?

# Horseradish

*Both are in the brassica family — most 'wasabi' outside Japan is actually dyed horseradish.*

# What is the maximum number of Michelin stars a single restaurant can hold?

# Three

*Michelin's own words: three stars mean 'exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey'.*

# A classic Ferrero Rocher chocolate wraps its wafer around which nut?

# A hazelnut

*Each Rocher contains a whole roasted hazelnut inside its chocolate shell.*

# Which Italian city is credited as the birthplace of modern pizza?

# Naples

*Neapolitan pizza is protected by UNESCO-listed traditional methods and an official association.*

# What is the main ingredient in hummus?

# Chickpeas

*Chickpeas, tahini, lemon and garlic — the Levant has argued over the perfect ratio for centuries.*

# Which famously pungent fruit is called the 'king of fruits' in Southeast Asia and banned in many hotels?

# Durian

*Its smell has been described as almonds, onions and gym socks — airlines ban it from cabins.*

# Sushi originates from which country?

# Japan

*Sushi began as a preservation method: fish fermented in rice, which was originally thrown away.*

# Eclairs and profiteroles are both made from which type of pastry?

# Choux pastry

*Choux relies on steam, not yeast, to puff its hollow shells.*

# Which country typically produces the most wine in the world by volume, trading the lead with France?

# Italy

*Italy and France swap first place depending on the harvest; Spain is usually third.*

# After water, what is the most widely consumed drink in the world?

# Tea

*All true teas — black, green, oolong, white — come from one plant: Camellia sinensis.*

# A 'sommelier' is a trained expert in what?

# Wine

*The word once meant the officer in charge of provisions and pack animals at a French court.*

# Which nut is the base of marzipan?

# Almonds

*Ground almonds and sugar — Lubeck and Toledo both claim to have perfected it.*

# What gives black pudding its dark colour and much of its protein?

# Blood (traditionally pig's blood)

*Versions of blood sausage exist on every continent, from Spanish morcilla to Korean sundae.*

# Which spice was once so valuable it was nicknamed 'black gold' and accepted as payment for rent?

# Black pepper

*Pepper was literally worth its weight in gold in medieval Europe — ransom demands were paid in it.*

# The Caesar salad was invented in the 1920s in which country?

# Mexico (in Tijuana, by Caesar Cardini)

*Italian immigrant Cardini improvised it on a busy 4th of July — it contains no anchovies in the original.*

# What is the star ingredient of a traditional Swiss fondue?

# Melted cheese

*Gruyere and Emmental, melted with white wine and eaten with bread on long forks.*

# The jam layer of a traditional Bakewell tart is made from which berry?

# Raspberry

*The tart comes from Bakewell in Derbyshire — legend says it began as a cook's happy mistake.*

# What does the Italian cooking term 'al dente' literally instruct?

# 'To the tooth' — pasta firm to the bite

*Properly al dente pasta keeps a tiny white core of uncooked starch at its centre.*

# The Mojito cocktail originates from which Caribbean country?

# Cuba

*Havana's mint-and-rum highball was a favourite of Ernest Hemingway — or so the bars of Havana insist.*

# Kimchi, the spicy fermented vegetable dish, comes from which country?

# Korea

*Traditional kimchi is buried in clay pots to ferment through the winter; there are over 200 varieties.*

# Sake, the Japanese rice wine, is brewed from which grain?

# Rice

*Sake rice is polished down — the finest grades mill away 50% or more of each grain.*

# As of recent records, which chilli pepper is officially the hottest in the world?

# Pepper X

*Pepper X, certified in 2023, averages about 2.69 million Scoville units — hotter than police pepper spray.*

# A 'baker's dozen' is how many items?

# 13

*Medieval bakers added a thirteenth loaf to avoid punishment for selling short weight.*

# Cavendish and Lady Finger are varieties of which fruit?

# Banana

*The Cavendish accounts for about half of all bananas grown on Earth.*

# Miso soup is built on miso, a paste fermented from which bean?

# Soybeans

*Miso ferments for months to years; the oldest styles are aged like fine cheese.*

# Which country drinks the most tea per person in the world?

# Turkey

*The average Turk drinks over 1,300 cups a year, served in tulip-shaped glasses.*

# Paella originates from which Spanish city and region?

# Valencia

*True Valenciana paella uses rabbit, chicken and green beans — never chorizo, Valencians insist.*

# Sauerkraut is made by fermenting which vegetable?

# Cabbage

*Finely shredded cabbage plus salt: lactic fermentation does the rest over several weeks.*

# Tequila is distilled from which desert plant?

# The blue agave

*By law, tequila must be made in designated Mexican regions, chiefly Jalisco.*

# A 'barista' crafts drinks in what kind of establishment?

# A coffee shop (espresso bar)

*'Barista' is Italian for bartender — in Italy, they serve both coffee and alcohol.*

# Which soft white cheese is traditional on a pizza Margherita?

# Mozzarella

*The Margherita's red, white and green mirror the Italian flag — tomato, mozzarella, basil.*

# What is the French term for a small appetiser, literally meaning 'outside the work'?

# Hors d'oeuvre

*It was served to workers and guests outside the main body of the meal — hence the name.*

# Prunes are the dried form of which fruit?

# Plums

*In 2000, US prunes were officially rebranded as 'dried plums' to shake off their stuffy image.*

**Kopi luwak, among the world's priciest coffees, is made from beans eaten and passed by which animal?**

# The Asian palm civet

*The beans ferment inside the civet, which producers claim mellows their bitterness.*

# Which herb is the essential green base of a classic pesto?

# Basil

*Pesto alla Genovese is protected by tradition: basil, pine nuts, Parmesan, garlic and olive oil.*

# Which country is the world's largest producer of bananas?

# India

*India grows over 30 million tonnes a year — though most are eaten at home, not exported.*

# Which spirit takes its signature flavour from juniper berries?

# Gin

*Juniper is the one botanical every gin must contain by law in most countries.*

**Tempura, the light batter-frying technique, was introduced to Japan by traders from which country?**

# Portugal

*Portuguese missionaries brought the technique in the 16th century — even the name echoes Latin 'tempora'.*

# What is the name of the Italian rice dish stirred slowly with stock until creamy?

# Risotto

*Carnaroli rice, 'the king of rices', is prized for risotto because it holds its bite.*

# Which vitamin are citrus fruits most famous for providing?

# Vitamin C

*British sailors were nicknamed 'limeys' for the citrus issued to prevent scurvy.*

# A traditional 'full English' breakfast features which cured pork, cut from the loin and back?

# Back bacon

*Unlike streaky American bacon, back bacon includes a meaty loin eye.*

# Sourdough bread gets its tang from fermentation by which organisms?

# Lactic acid bacteria and wild yeast

*A sourdough 'starter' is a living culture — some bakeries keep starters over a century old.*

# Which red grape is Bordeaux's most famous, blended classically with Merlot?

# Cabernet Sauvignon

*Cabernet Sauvignon is itself a natural cross of Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon Blanc.*

NEXT ROUND

# LITERATURE & MYTHOLOGICAL BEASTS

# Who wrote the 1813 novel 'Pride and Prejudice'?

# Jane Austen

*Austen published anonymously in her lifetime — the title page simply said 'By a Lady'.*

# In Greek myth, which Titan stole fire from the gods and gave it to humanity?

# Prometheus

*His punishment: to be chained to a rock while an eagle ate his ever-regenerating liver.*

# The witches' chant 'Double, double, toil and trouble' opens Act IV of which Shakespeare play?

# Macbeth

*Shakespeare's shortest tragedy is also surrounded by a real theatre superstition — 'the Scottish play'.*

# A mythical creature with the torso of a human and the body of a horse is called what?

# A centaur

*The wise centaur Chiron was tutor to Achilles and other Greek heroes.*

# In Norse mythology, the hammer Mjölnir belongs to which god of thunder?

# Thor

*Mjölnir was forged by the dwarf brothers Sindri and Brokkr.*

# Which great American novel opens with the line 'Call me Ishmael'?

# Moby-Dick

*Herman Melville's whaling epic of 1851 was a commercial flop in his lifetime.*

# In Egyptian mythology, the god Anubis has the head of which animal?

# A jackal

*Anubis presided over mummification and guided the dead to the afterlife.*

**The epic poems 'The Iliad' and 'The Odyssey' are traditionally attributed to which ancient Greek poet?**

# Homer

*Whether one man or many composed them is a mystery scholars still debate — the 'Homeric Question'.*

# Which Gorgon of Greek myth had living snakes in place of hair?

# Medusa

*Looking directly at Medusa turned viewers to stone; Perseus killed her using a mirrored shield.*

# Detective Sherlock Holmes lives at which famous (fictional) London address?

# 221B Baker Street

*The address did not exist when Conan Doyle wrote — the museum there now answers fan mail.*

# Which legendary bird cyclically rises, reborn, from its own ashes?

# The phoenix

*In Greek tradition the phoenix lived for centuries before burning and renewing itself.*

# Who wrote the landmark magical-realist novel 'One Hundred Years of Solitude'?

# Gabriel García Márquez

*The Colombian author's masterpiece helped win him the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1982.*

# Who wrote the tragedy 'Romeo and Juliet'?

# William Shakespeare

*Shakespeare based it on an Italian tale — his lovers are just 13 and 17 years old in the play.*

# In Greek myth, who flew too close to the sun on wings of feathers and wax?

# Icarus

*His father Daedalus built the wings and warned him about both the sun and the sea spray.*

# Which Dickens novel opens: 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times'?

# A Tale of Two Cities

*Set in London and Paris during the French Revolution, it is among the best-selling novels ever.*

# What is the name of the great lion in C.S. Lewis's Narnia books?

# Aslan

*'Aslan' is simply the Turkish word for lion.*

# In Norse mythology, what is the name of the immense world tree that connects the realms?

# Yggdrasil

*A dragon gnaws its roots while an eagle watches from its crown — the tree holds all worlds between.*

# Who wrote the 'Harry Potter' series?

# J.K. Rowling

*Rowling wrote the first book as a struggling single mother; twelve publishers rejected it.*

# Which Greek hero slew the Minotaur inside the Labyrinth of Crete?

# Theseus

*Ariadne's ball of thread let him retrace his steps out of the maze.*

# The dystopian novel '1984', with its watcher Big Brother, was written by whom?

# George Orwell

*Orwell wrote it in 1948 — swapping the last two digits gave him his grim future date.*

**In Egyptian myth, which goddess gathered and restored the body of her husband Osiris?**

# Isis

*Isis became the model of the devoted wife and mother across the ancient world.*

# Which author created the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot?

# Agatha Christie

*Poirot appeared in 33 novels — Christie grew to dislike him but kept him for the readers.*

# What is the popular nickname of the creature said to inhabit Scotland's Loch Ness?

# Nessie (the Loch Ness Monster)

*The loch is so deep and murky that all of England and Wales's lakes could fit inside it.*

# In Greek mythology, who is the goddess of wisdom and warfare, born from Zeus's head?

# Athena

*Athens took her name after she won the city with the gift of the olive tree.*

# Which 1818 novel tells of Victor, a scientist, and the Creature he assembles?

# Frankenstein

*Mary Shelley wrote it at 18, during a ghost-story contest with Lord Byron and her husband Percy.*

# The Hindu epic 'Mahabharata' contains which sacred dialogue between Arjuna and Krishna?

# The Bhagavad Gita

*The Gita's 700 verses are set on a battlefield, in the moments before the war begins.*

# Who wrote 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland'?

# Lewis Carroll

*Carroll — real name Charles Dodgson — was an Oxford mathematics lecturer.*

# The Roman god of war, Mars, corresponds to which Greek god?

# Ares

*The Greeks disliked chaotic Ares; Rome elevated Mars to father of Romulus and patron of soldiers.*

# Which Bronte sister wrote 'Jane Eyre'?

# Charlotte Bronte

*She published as 'Currer Bell' to hide that the author was a woman.*

# In 'Charlotte's Web', what kind of animal is Charlotte, who writes words to save a pig?

# A spider

*Her web-words — 'Some Pig', 'Terrific' — save Wilbur from the smokehouse.*

**In the original Greek story, Pandora opened not a box but what container, releasing the world's evils?**

# A jar (a pithos)

*A mistranslation by Erasmus turned the jar into a box — and the box stuck for 500 years.*

# Who wrote 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings'?

# J.R.R. Tolkien

*Tolkien began with one line, scribbled on an exam paper: 'In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit.'*

# Which legendary British king is said to have wielded the sword Excalibur?

# King Arthur

*In some tales Excalibur comes from the Lady of the Lake; in others, from the stone.*

# In Japanese folklore, the shape-shifting kitsune takes the form of which animal?

# A fox

*Kitsune grow extra tails as they age — the wisest are said to have nine.*

# Which American poet wrote the gothic classic 'The Raven' (1845)?

# Edgar Allan Poe

*Poe was paid just $9 for the poem that made him famous overnight.*

# Aphrodite, Greek goddess of love, has which Roman counterpart?

# Venus

*The planet Venus keeps her Roman name, as do all the planets — a Roman sweep of the sky.*

# In 'The Great Gatsby', who narrates the story of Jay Gatsby?

# Nick Carraway

*Nick is both insider and outsider — Gatsby's neighbour, cousin to Daisy, and the reader's conscience.*

# A mythical creature that is half human and half fish is called what?

# A mermaid (or merman)

*Sailors' mermaid sightings are now widely blamed on manatees and dugongs.*

**Ray Bradbury's dystopia about book-burning is named for the temperature at which paper burns. What is it?**

# Fahrenheit 451

*Bradbury wrote the novel on a rented typewriter in a library basement, for $9.80 in dimes.*

# In Norse myth, which shape-shifting trickster god is Thor's frequent companion?

# Loki

*Loki is by turns the gods' cleverest helper and the architect of their doom at Ragnarok.*

# Which ancient Greek storyteller is credited with fables like 'The Tortoise and the Hare'?

# Aesop

*Whether one man or a tradition, 'Aesop' has fronted talking-animal wisdom for 2,500 years.*

# The 1897 novel 'Dracula' was written by whom?

# Bram Stoker

*Stoker researched Transylvanian folklore for years — but never actually visited Romania.*

**In Egyptian mythology, the sun god travels the sky in a boat. What is his name?**

# Ra

*Each night Ra sailed the underworld and battled the serpent Apophis to rise again at dawn.*

# Which children's author wrote 'Matilda' and 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'?

# Roald Dahl

*Dahl wrote in a garden shed he called his 'Gipsy House hut', in pencil, on yellow legal pads.*

# What is the name of the one-eyed giant blinded by Odysseus and his men?

# Polyphemus (the Cyclops)

*Odysseus gave his name as 'Nobody' — so the giant's cries that 'Nobody' hurt him brought no help.*

# Who wrote the epic poem 'Paradise Lost'?

# John Milton

*Milton composed the entire epic blind, dictating verses to his daughters and assistants each morning.*

# In Arthurian legend, who was King Arthur's queen?

# Guinevere

*Her love affair with Lancelot is the crack that eventually shatters Camelot.*

# Which Russian author wrote the vast novel 'War and Peace'?

# Leo Tolstoy

*Tolstoy's wife Sophia copied out the manuscript by hand at least seven times.*

# The mythical city of gold hunted by Spanish conquistadors across South America was called what?

# El Dorado

*The legend began with a real ritual: a Muisca king covered in gold dust, bathing in Lake Guatavita.*

# Who wrote 'The Picture of Dorian Gray', his only novel?

# Oscar Wilde

*Wilde's wittiest lines were used against him as evidence at his trial in 1895.*

# In Greek myth, which hero was invulnerable everywhere except his heel?

# Achilles

*His mother Thetis dipped him in the River Styx — holding him, fatally, by that heel.*

NEXT ROUND

# THE ULTIMATE HIGH-STAKES LIGHTNING ROUND

THE ULTIMATE HIGH-STAKES LIGHTNING ROUND · QUESTION 1 · 300 PTS

# What is the smallest prime number of all?

# 2

*Two is also the only even prime number — every other even number divides by it.*

# The chemical symbol 'W' stands for which metal?

# Tungsten

*The W comes from its German name, Wolfram — which is why the symbol confuses everyone.*

# In which year did the Berlin Wall fall?

# 1989

*The wall fell on 9 November 1989, opening the way to German reunification the next year.*

# What is the official currency of Japan?

# The yen

*The yen was introduced in 1871 as part of Japan's Meiji-era modernisation.*

# Which post-impressionist painter famously severed part of his own ear in 1888?

# Vincent van Gogh

*Van Gogh sold almost nothing in his lifetime and died at just 37.*

# How many sides does a dodecagon have?

# 12

*A dodecagon: 'dodeca' means twelve in Greek.*

# In biology class terms, what organelle is nicknamed 'the powerhouse of the cell'?

# The mitochondria

*Mitochondria generate most of the cell's chemical energy, ATP.*

# The mysterious Bermuda Triangle lies in which ocean?

THE ULTIMATE HIGH-STAKES LIGHTNING ROUND · ANSWER 8

# The Atlantic Ocean

*Its rough corners are Miami, Bermuda and Puerto Rico.*

# The abbreviation DNA stands for what?

# Deoxyribonucleic acid

*Its double-helix structure was published by Watson and Crick in 1953, using Rosalind Franklin's data.*

# Which chess piece moves only along diagonals?

# The bishop

*Each bishop stays forever on the colour of square it started on.*

# What is the square root of 144?

THE ULTIMATE HIGH-STAKES LIGHTNING ROUND · ANSWER 11

# 12

*12 × 12 = 144 — one of the neatest perfect squares.*

# The vast majority of Brazil's 200+ million people speak which language?

# Portuguese

*Brazil is the largest Portuguese-speaking country in the world by far.*

**Three continents are crossed by the Equator. South America and Africa are two — which is the third?**

# Asia

*The Equator clips Indonesia and island nations of Oceania-Asia on its way around the planet.*

# Which metal is liquid at ordinary room temperature?

# Mercury

*Mercury melts at -39 C — old thermometers used its steady expansion to measure heat.*

# How many minutes are there in one full day?

THE ULTIMATE HIGH-STAKES LIGHTNING ROUND · ANSWER 15

# 1,440

*60 minutes x 24 hours. Spend them wisely — the lightning round is watching.*

# What is 15 percent of 200?

# 30

*Ten percent is 20, five percent is 10 — add them for a fast pub-quiz calculation.*

# Which gas makes up about 21% of the air you are breathing right now?

# Oxygen

*Nitrogen takes 78%; oxygen's 21% is the slice that keeps every fire and body burning.*

# Who painted the Mona Lisa?

# Leonardo da Vinci

*Leonardo carried the portrait with him for years, refining it until his death in 1519.*

# Including wisdom teeth, how many teeth does a typical adult human have?

# 32

*Eight incisors, four canines, eight premolars and twelve molars.*

# Which planet is known as the Red Planet?

# Mars

*Its colour comes from iron oxide — literal rust — across its dusty surface.*

# How many sides does a heptagon have?

# 7

*From the Greek 'hepta', seven — one more than a hexagon, one fewer than an octagon.*

# In which year did World War II end?

# 1945

*The war in Europe ended that May; Japan's formal surrender followed in September.*

# What is the chemical symbol for sodium?

# Na

*Na comes from 'natrium', sodium's Latin name — the same root as the word natron.*

# Which is the smallest and shallowest of the world's oceans?

# The Arctic Ocean

*Most of it sits under a floating cap of sea ice that grows and shrinks with the seasons.*

# How many legs does an insect have?

# Six

*Six legs is the defining trait of insects — spiders, with eight, are not insects.*

# Which flightless bird is the largest bird in the world?

# The ostrich

*An ostrich eye is bigger than its brain — and bigger than any other land animal's eye.*

# What does the abbreviation 'USB' stand for?

# Universal Serial Bus

*One of its designers joked the name was so dull it could only succeed on merit.*

# How many colours are traditionally counted in a rainbow?

# Seven

*Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet — Newton chose seven to match the musical scale.*

# The Great Wall, over 21,000 km of fortifications, was built across which country?

# China

*The wall is a network of many walls built by successive dynasties over 2,000 years.*

# How many grams are there in one kilogram?

THE ULTIMATE HIGH-STAKES LIGHTNING ROUND · ANSWER 30

# 1,000

*The kilogram was the last unit defined by a physical object — a platinum cylinder in Paris — until 2019.*

# Who wrote the tragedy 'Hamlet'?

# William Shakespeare

*Hamlet's 'To be, or not to be' soliloquy may be the most quoted speech in English drama.*

# What is the fastest land animal over short distances?

# The cheetah

*A cheetah can hit about 60-70 km/h in seconds — but only for a few hundred metres.*

# Which element, symbol Ca, is essential for bones and teeth?

# Calcium

*Calcium is the most abundant metal in the human body — about a kilogram of it in each adult.*

# What is the currency of the United Kingdom?

# Pound sterling

*The pound is the world's oldest currency still in use, dating back over 1,200 years.*

# Which instrument is used to measure temperature?

# A thermometer

*Galileo built an early version in the 1590s that measured air with floating glass bulbs.*

# The Gobi Desert spans the border of Mongolia and which other country?

# China

*The Gobi is a rain-shadow desert — the Himalayas block the moist air that might water it.*

# Which vitamin does the human body produce when skin is exposed to sunlight?

# Vitamin D

*Just 10-30 minutes of midday sun can cover a day's needs in summer at mid-latitudes.*

# Which river, at about 6,300 km, is the longest in Asia?

# The Yangtze

*A third of China's population lives in the Yangtze basin.*

# How many strings does a standard cello have?

# Four

*Tuned C, G, D and A — exactly one octave below the viola.*

# H2SO4 is the formula of which powerful acid?

# Sulfuric acid

*Known historically as 'oil of vitriol', it is among the most produced industrial chemicals on Earth.*

# Paper was invented in which ancient country?

# China

*Cai Lun standardised papermaking in 105 AD, using bark, rags and old fishing nets.*

# How many moons does the planet Mars have?

# Two (Phobos and Deimos)

*Both are lumpy, cratered little worlds — probably captured asteroids.*

# In the air humans exhale, which gas is still the most abundant?

# Nitrogen

*Exhaled air is still about 78% nitrogen — we only swap a little oxygen for carbon dioxide.*

# What is the smallest unit of life, the building block of every organism?

# The cell

*Your body holds roughly 37 trillion of them — and hosts about as many bacteria besides.*

# Which astronomer published the three laws of planetary motion in the early 1600s?

# Johannes Kepler

*Kepler derived his laws from Tycho Brahe's obsessively precise star charts.*

# How many time zones does Russia officially span today?

# 11

*Russia shrank from 11 zones to 9 in 2010, then restored 11 in 2014.*

# The ancient city of Petra, carved into rose-red cliffs, is in which modern country?

# Jordan

*Petra was the Nabataeans' capital and was 'lost' to the West until 1812.*

# Which type of blood vessel carries blood away from the heart?

# Arteries

*Remember it with 'A for Away' — veins bring blood back to the heart.*

# How many Nobel Prize categories are awarded in a typical year?

# Six

*Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, Peace — and Economics, added in 1968.*

**Which planet has the fastest winds in the solar system, gusting past 2,000 km/h?**

# Neptune

*Neptune radiates more heat than it receives from the Sun, powering its supersonic storms.*

# How many years are there in one millennium?

THE ULTIMATE HIGH-STAKES LIGHTNING ROUND · ANSWER 51

# 1,000

*Ten centuries, one hundred decades — and roughly forty human generations.*

TIE-BREAKERS

# FOR A LEVEL FINISH

TIE-BREAKER 1

# How many hearts does an octopus have?

TIE-BREAKER 1 · ANSWER

# Three

*Two pump blood to the gills; the main heart serves the rest of the body.*

TIE-BREAKER 2

# In what year was the very first iPhone released?

TIE-BREAKER 2 · ANSWER

# 2007

*Steve Jobs unveiled it in January 2007; it went on sale that June.*

TIE-BREAKER 3

**By the standard count used in most classrooms, how many continents are there on Earth?**

TIE-BREAKER 3 · ANSWER

# Seven

*Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Europe, North America, South America and Oceania/Australia.*

TIE-BREAKER 4

# At sea level, water boils at what temperature in Fahrenheit?

TIE-BREAKER 4 · ANSWER

# 212°F

*That is 100°C — the two fixed points Anders Celsius built his scale around.*

TIE-BREAKER 5

# How many players does a football (soccer) team field at one time?

TIE-BREAKER 5 · ANSWER

# Eleven

*Ten outfield players plus one goalkeeper.*

TIE-BREAKER 6

# Which planet is nicknamed the Morning Star?

TIE-BREAKER 6 · ANSWER

# Venus

*Venus shines so brightly near dawn and dusk that it earned the name in ancient times.*

TIE-BREAKER 7

# How many minutes are there in one full week?

TIE-BREAKER 7 · ANSWER

# 10,080

*60 minutes × 24 hours × 7 days = 10,080 minutes.*

TIE-BREAKER 8

# What is the largest mammal in the world?

TIE-BREAKER 8 · ANSWER

# The blue whale

*A blue whale's heart alone can weigh as much as a small car.*

TIE-BREAKER 9

# In what year did humans first walk on the Moon?

TIE-BREAKER 9 · ANSWER

# 1969

*Apollo 11 landed on 20 July 1969; Neil Armstrong stepped out first.*

TIE-BREAKER 10

# How many letters are there in the English alphabet?

## TIE-BREAKER 10 · ANSWER

# 26

*The shortest complete sentence using them all: 'The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.'*

# THAT'S THE NIGHT!

*Champions, collect your glory.*