

HARDEST 50 CHRISTMAS TRIVIA QUESTIONS

50 questions / Questions, then the answer key

1. When Parliament abolished Christmas in 1647, which recurring day did it give workers as a replacement holiday?

2. Which Italian painter saw Halley's Comet in 1301, painted it as the Star of Bethlehem, and later had a space probe named after him?

3. Santa Claus, Indiana, had to drop its first choice of name because the state already had a post office by that name. The townspeople only had to swap one word. What was the original name?

4. Which sunny place features in the opening verse dropped from 'White Christmas'?

5. Christmas Seals, the charity stickers the American Lung Association still sends out, were dreamed up in 1903 by a postal clerk in which country?

6. What large former retail outlet commissioned and published Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?

7. Czech folklore makes a deal: fast all day on Christmas Eve and that evening you'll see what golden animal?

8. Which author narrates A Christmas Story and appears as the man sending Ralphie and Randy to the back of the Santa line?

9. How much money does Della have at the start of O. Henry's The Gift of the Magi?

10. Which queen is credited with serving the first gingerbread men, shaped to look like foreign dignitaries and people at her court?

11. In 2010, two men reportedly tried to steal the giant Christmas straw goat in Gävle, Sweden. What vehicle did they plan to use?

12. The first royal Christmas broadcast, by King George V on the radio in 1932, was written by which famous author?

13. After seeing a new star in 1604, which astronomer worked out a planetary conjunction in 7 BC and linked it to the Star of Bethlehem?

14. What was the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" originally titled?

15. For what kind of party did Frank Loesser write 'Baby, It's Cold Outside' in 1944?

16. Erwin Perzy came up with his snow globe by accident around 1900. What was he trying to make better at the time?

17. Finland's Santa Claus is called Joulupukki. What does that name literally mean?

18. The singer who recorded 'Baby, It's Cold Outside' with Zooey Deschanel for Elf also voices which character in the film?

19. Which folk singer voices Sam the Snowman in the 1964 Rudolph TV special?

20. Many Italian-American families eat a big Christmas Eve seafood dinner called the Feast of the Seven Fishes. What is the meal usually called in Italy?

21. In Caracas, how did people traditionally travel to early-morning Mass in the days before Christmas?

22. Under which president was the first known White House Christmas tree put up in 1889?

23. What entrepreneur is credited with being the first to dress up as Santa in his department store and starting the tradition of department store / mall Santas?

24. Maryland's former state song, "Maryland, My Maryland," uses the tune of which Christmas carol?

25. When Godey's Lady's Book copied the British royal family's Christmas tree picture in 1850, what did it erase from Prince Albert's face?

26. In what country on the European mainland do children traditionally get gifts from St. Basil on January 1st?

27. The leg lamp in A Christmas Story was inspired by an advertisement for which soda brand?

28. The man who invented the machine that put the crook in candy canes, back in the 1950s, had a day job that had nothing to do with candy. What was it?

29. Which Hollywood star's Christmas Day 1899 birthday was long dismissed as a Warner Bros. invention, until a newspaper birth notice backed it up?

30. Before becoming tied up with Christmas what was Yule?

31. The Ukrainian song behind 'Carol of the Bells' describes which bird flying into a house?

32. What plant based Christmas tradition did servants in England popularize?

33. In what European country might you find money under the table cloth when you sit down to eat the traditional Christmas Eve supper Wigilia?

34. The boozy Christmas eggnog recipe credited to George Washington says to leave it somewhere cool for several days. What two-word instruction comes last?

35. In what century is the spelling "Xmas" first recorded in writing?

36. In 1839, the first known US performance of 'Silent Night' took place in New York's Trinity Church cemetery, in front of whose memorial?

37. What animal parts were the first artificial Christmas trees made from?

38. What Southeast Asian country boasts the longest holiday season starting with decorations and carols as early as September and celebrations that sometimes last well into January?

39. Which president presided over the first National Christmas Tree lighting on the Ellipse in 1923?

40. Before it became the tune of 'Good King Wenceslas', the melody belonged to a carol about which season?

41. In what Central American country might you find yourself kicking off the holiday season by burning the devil on December 7th while sweeping your house?

42. The French word “Noel” is often used around Christmas, but what was its original meaning in Latin?

43. Which bridge was Lee Mendelson crossing when he heard the Vince Guaraldi recording that led him to choose Guaraldi for Peanuts?

44. Among Christians who lived in the East, when was Christmas originally celebrated?

45. What was the original title for The Little Drummer Boy?

46. What popular holiday song was written during the Cuban missile crisis and was a plea for peace?

47. What was the original title for the popular Christmas song Silver Bells, written by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans?

48. Before Mariah Carey's 'All I Want for Christmas Is You' hit No. 1 in 2019, only one Christmas song had ever topped the Billboard Hot 100, back in 1958. Which one?

49. How were the writer of the story Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and the writer of the song Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer related?

50. What jaunty Christmas carol written in 1739 is now sung to music Mendelssohn wrote to commemorate the printing press?

ANSWER KEY

1. The second Tuesday of every month
2. Giotto (Giotto di Bondone)
3. Santa Fe
4. Beverly Hills (Los Angeles)
5. Denmark
6. Montgomery Ward
7. A golden pig (accept pig)
8. Jean Shepherd
9. \$1.87
10. Queen Elizabeth I
11. A helicopter
12. Rudyard Kipling
13. Johannes Kepler (accept Kepler; not Galileo)
14. Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas (now usually called A Visit from St. Nicholas)
15. A housewarming party
16. A light (a brighter lamp for operating rooms)
17. Christmas goat
18. Leon the Snowman (accept Leon or the snowman)
19. Burl Ives
20. La vigilia (the eve; accept the vigil)
21. On roller skates
22. Benjamin Harrison
23. James Edgar
24. O Tannenbaum (O Christmas Tree)
25. His mustache (accept moustache)
26. Greece
27. Nehi (accept Nehi Soda or knee-high)
28. A priest (accept Catholic priest or clergyman)
29. Humphrey Bogart
30. A pagan midwinter festival
31. A swallow
32. Kissing under the mistletoe

- 33. Poland
- 34. Taste frequently (accept taste it often)
- 35. The 18th century (1721)
- 36. Alexander Hamilton's
- 37. Goose feathers painted green
- 38. The Philippines
- 39. Calvin Coolidge
- 40. Spring
- 41. Guatemala
- 42. Birth
- 43. The Golden Gate Bridge
- 44. January 6th
- 45. Carol of the Drum
- 46. Do You Hear What I Hear?
- 47. Tinkle Bells
- 48. The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late), by the Chipmunks and David Seville (accept either title)
- 49. They were brothers-in-law
- 50. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing