

INVENTIONS AND SCIENTISTS TRIVIA QUIZ



(www.TriviaChamp.com)

1> Born in Nice, France, what British physicist and chemist discovered that water is made up of "dephlogisticated air" (oxygen) and "phlogiston" (hydrogen)?

- a. Isaac Newton
- b. Henry Cavendish
- c. Humphrey Davy
- d. Michael Faraday

2> An "algorithm" was named for Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi, an Arab scholar in what field?

- a. Philosophy
- b. Anatomy
- c. Mathematics
- d. Music

3> On March 10, 1876, what was the first complete sentence ever transmitted by telephone?

- a. Watson, come here. I want to see you.
- b. Testing, testing. One-two-three.
- c. What hath God wrought?
- d. Stop calling me. I don't want to change providers.

4> John Deere, who founded the company named for him, developed which of these inventions, which he first tested in 1837, on Lewis Crandall's farm near Grand Detour, Illinois?

- a. Electric lawnmower
- b. Steel plowshare
- c. Barbed wire fencing
- d. Automatic rifle

5> Christian Schonbein was playing with nitric and sulfuric acids in his wife's kitchen. He spilled some chemicals and used his wife's apron to clean up the mess. What happened when he tried to dry the apron out over her oven?

- a. It exploded
- b. It became denim
- c. It tasted good
- d. It could speak three languages

6> After accepting a 1938 Nobel Prize, what Italian fled to the US with his Jewish wife, rather than return to his increasingly anti-Semitic homeland?

- a. Guglielmo Marconi
- b. Giuseppe Verdi
- c. Enrico Fermi
- d. Umberto Eco

7> Surely you're joking! Who is shown playing bongos on the cover of a book of his physics lectures?

- a. Freeman Dyson
- b. Richard Feynman
- c. Carl Sagan
- d. Stephen Hawking

8> In 1851, Jean Foucault created a stir by hanging something from the dome of the Pantheon in Paris. What?

- a. A list of his demands
- b. A pendulum
- c. Jean Foucault
- d. A new lamp

9> What Paris-born German engine inventor mysteriously fell off a steamer en route to London in 1913?

- a. Carl Benz
- b. Rudolf Diesel
- c. Henry Bessemer
- d. Gottlieb Daimler

10> He discovered boron, figured out the anesthetic effects of laughing gas, proved that diamonds are made of carbon and invented the miner's lamp. Who was he?

- a. Benjamin Franklin
- b. Thomas Edison
- c. Humphry Davy
- d. Isaac Newton

11> Who compiled the first trigonometric table, discovered precession and compiled the first star catalogue?

- a. Hero of Alexandria
- b. Hipparchus
- c. Euclid
- d. Pythagoras

12> In 1862, what future inventor started publishing a weekly called the Grand Trunk Herald, which he printed from his own lab in one of the freight cars?

- a. Thomas Edison
- b. Samuel Morse
- c. Samuel Colt
- d. Eli Whitney

13> After Hitler came to power, Albert Einstein got a job at the Institute for Advanced Study and moved to what college town?

- a. Princeton, New Jersey
- b. Palo Alto, California
- c. South Bend, Indiana
- d. Cambridge, Massachusetts

14> After the Battle of Syracuse in the Second Punic War, as the story goes, a Roman soldier killed this catapult inventor after the latter complained that the soldier was disturbing his diagrams in the sand. Who was this famous Greek?

- a. Archimedes
- b. Pliny the Elder
- c. Pindar

d. Diogenes

15> Expressing his objection to quantum physics, who said, "God does not play dice," to which Neils Bohr apparently replied, "Stop telling God what to do"?

- a. Isaac Newton
- b. Albert Einstein
- c. Ernest Rutherford
- d. Enrico Fermi

Answers:

1> Henry Cavendish - Cavendish was terrified of women and as a result, communicated with his female servants using notes.

2> Mathematics - During the twelfth century, translations of his work on numerals introduced the decimal positional number system to the Western world.

3> Watson, come here. I want to see you. - Bell spoke the famous sentence On March 10, 1876.

4> Steel plowshare - In 2012, John Deere was listed as 97th in the Fortune 500 America's ranking.

5> It exploded - Christian was a professor at the University of Basel from 1828 until his death in 1868.

6> Enrico Fermi - He received the Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on induced radioactivity.

7> Richard Feynman - For contributions to quantum electrodynamics, Feynman, along with Julian Schwinger and Sin-Itiro Tomonaga received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1965.

8> A pendulum - Jean is credited with naming the gyroscope.

9> Rudolf Diesel - Rudolf invented the Diesel engine.

10> Humphry Davy - Humphry invented the Davy lamp in 1815, which allowed miners to go about their work safely in the presence of flammable gases.

11> Hipparchus - Hipparchus is considered to be the founder of trigonometry.

12> Thomas Edison - Among many inventions, Edison invented the phonograph, the motion picture camera and the electric light bulb.

13> Princeton, New Jersey - Albert is best known for developing the general theory of relativity.

14> Archimedes - Archimedes was a Greek inventor, mathematician, engineer, physicist, and astronomer.

15> Albert Einstein - Albert was awarded the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics for his services to theoretical physics.

