

# 12 Days of Christmas Quiz – Questions

## A Partridge in a Pear Tree

1. Why is a partridge in a pear tree extremely unlikely?
2. How many calories are there in an average pear?
3. What is a group of partridges called?
4. The pear shares its biological classification with the pear and which other fruit?
5. How many eggs does the partridge lay in one clutch?
6. Which country is the world's leading producer of pears?

## Two Turtle Doves

1. Rose DeWitt Bukater and Jack Dawson are a fictional couple in which film?
2. The chemistry shared by one scientific couple led to them both being awarded Nobel prizes at the start of the 20th century. Who are they?
3. William III and Mary II reigned jointly as King and Queen, but Mary II wasn't the first Queen Regnant to co-reign with her husband. Which other royal couple reigned jointly over England?
4. Which Shakespearean character fell in love with a donkey-headed man through being enchanted by a love potion?
5. "Reader, I married him." Which literary couple does this line refer to?
6. Which musical couple sang "I Got You Babe" together?

## Three French Hens

1. Who won the French Open tennis singles title an amazing six times over a period of eight years?
2. Which of the following events is the US equivalent to a UK "hen night"?
  - a. Baby Shower
  - b. Bridal Shower
  - c. Bachelorette party
  - d. Sweet Sixteen Party
3. What do you call a female chicken under one year of age?
4. How many chickens do you have to have in order to have a real flock?
5. On which annual date is the French public holiday called Bastille Day?
6. What is France's national animal?

## Four Calling Birds

1. When did Queen Victoria make her first telephone call?
  - a. 1873
  - b. 1878
  - c. 1883
  - d. 1888
2. When was the first mobile phone used in the UK?
3. In which film could you reach Morgan Freeman on 776-2323?
4. Generally what were the old early 20th century telephones made of?
5. What is **Frigensophobia**?
6. When were the first iconic red telephone boxes first seen in the UK?

## Five Gold Rings

1. Where does the gold come from that is used to make most of the British Royal Family's wedding rings?
2. To 'ring the changes' means 'to vary the manner or performance of an action that is often repeated' (Collins English Dictionary). What is the origin of the phrase?
3. If you Ring out the old, ring in the new... What are you doing?
4. Wedding rings can be traced back to which ancient culture?
5. Whose ring is purported to have given rise to the Star of David?
6. Where in the UK was Tolken reported to have used as inspiration for his stories, including the Lord of the rings?

## Six Geese A-Laying (and other traditional Christmas foods)

1. Which well-loved Christmas tale includes a great feast – and a turkey replacing a humble goose?
2. Why were mince pies originally oval or oblong?
3. Which fish is traditionally eaten in Poland on Christmas Eve?
4. Which traditional accompaniments to turkey are called "sausages in kilts" in some parts of Scotland?
5. Which vegetables had crosses cut into the base to let the devil out? (Or to help the woody bits cook through)
6. Which member of the allium family is combined with sage for a traditional accompaniment to turkey?

### Seven Swans A-Swimming (and other water birds)

1. "Swans can break your arm with their wings, you know!" – true or false?
2. Which small white bird, related to the heron, has become a common sight in the UK in the last 10 years?
3. Which bird with a curved beak is the symbol of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds?
4. What is Swan Upping?
5. What is the country of origin of the black headed geese with a white 'chinstrap' often seen in the UK?
6. Which ducks make a sound likened to Frankie Howerd, supply small fluffy feathers for bed coverings and are associated with St Cuthbert?

### Eight Maids A-Milking

1. Mozzarella cheese is traditionally made from the milk of which animal?
2. According to the song, what was the name of Benny Hill's fastest milkman in the west?
3. Which country is the world's largest producer of milk?
4. When did The Express Dairy Company in England begin glass bottle production?
5. Besides milk, what other food has lots of calcium?
6. What is the name of the French chemist and biologist who invented pasteurisation.

### Nine Ladies Dancing

1. Which pro dancer from Strictly Come Dancing is the only one to have been on the show since it started?
2. Which ballet features the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy?
3. Which dancer was described in a screen test as follows: "Can't sing. Can't act. Balding. Dances a little."
4. How many foot positions are there in ballet?
5. Which two dances are words used in the phonetic alphabet?
6. Who danced with an umbrella in a downpour in the film 'Singing in the Rain'?

### Ten Lords A-Leaping

1. What are the "Ten Lords a-leaping" in the song understood to represent?
2. Which British Lord poet died in Greece?
3. "The Lord of the Rings" was written as a sequel to which book?
4. In which year was Lord's Cricket Ground established?
5. In the Bible, how often is the year of "the Lord's release" (the cancellation of debts)?
6. What song was George Harrison convicted of "subconsciously plagiarising" when he composed his Number One, "My Sweet Lord"?

### Eleven Pipers Piping

1. Where is the National Piping Centre?
2. The traditional bagpipe of Azerbaijan is called the tulum. What feature of the tulum makes it different from most other bagpipes?
3. What is the religious symbolism of 11 Pipers piping?
4. Where did the Musette de Cour (court bag) first start appearing?
5. When were bagpipes first used in Scotland? (Century will do)
6. Name the four main parts of a Scottish Bagpipe.

### Twelve Drummers Drumming

1. In a standard drum kit, such as used by most pop music bands, which type of drum is usually played with a foot pedal?
2. Who played drums for The Beatles?
3. Keith Moon was the drummer for which English band?
4. In an orchestra, how many drums are in a standard set of timpani (kettledrums)?
5. Which family of singers, featured in a musical by Rogers and Hammerstein II, recorded the Carol of the Drum (The Little Drummer Boy) in 1951.
6. What is the name of the song which provided US singer Jim Reeves with his only UK number 1 hit - albeit posthumously – in 1966, and which remained in the UK Singles chart for 25 weeks.