

12 Days of Christmas Quiz – Answers

A Partridge in a Pear Tree

1. Partridges are ground dwellers and nesters.
2. 100
3. A bevy, brace, covey, juggling or warren.
4. The quince.
5. On average 16-18; can reach 22.
6. China

Two turtle doves

1. Titanic
2. Pierre and Marie Curie
3. Mary I and Philip of Spain
4. Titania
5. Jane Eyre and Mr Rochester
6. Sonny and Cher

Three French Hens

1. Bjorn Borg
2. (c) Bachelorette party
3. A pullet
4. 3
5. 14th July
6. A Rooster (specifically The Gallic Rooster)

Four Calling Birds

1. On 14th January 1878, Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated the telephone for the first time to Queen Victoria at her rural retreat at Osborne House in East Cowes. He made the UK's first publicly-witnessed long distance calls, calling Cowes, Southampton and London.
2. Britain's first official call on a mobile (following a beta test in London) was made on 1 January 1985 by 24-year-old Michael Harrison, son of Vodafone chairman Sir Ernest Harrison. Michael slipped out of the family New Year's Eve party in Surrey and drove to Parliament Square in Westminster with a Vodafone Transportable VT1 phone, also known as Nokia's Mobira Talkman. After Big Ben had struck 12 to ring in the new year, Harrison junior dialled home and greeted his father, "Hi Dad, it's Mike. Happy New Year. This is the first ever call on a UK mobile network.
3. The makers of 2003 film Bruce Almighty used 776-2323 as a telephone number for God (played by Morgan Freeman).
4. Bakelite

5. Frigensophobia is the fear that using your mobile is damaging your brain.
6. The first standard public telephone kiosk introduced by the United Kingdom Post Office was produced in concrete in 1921 and was designated K1 (Kiosk No.1). This design was not of the same family as the familiar red telephone boxes. As of 2020, there are seven K1 boxes in existence, all of which have been listed at Grade II by Historic England, with two still located on British streets. The first is situated in Trinity Market in Kingston-upon-Hull, and the other in Bembridge High Street, Isle of Wight.

Five Gold Rings

1. Wales. Some members of the British Royal Family have used pure Welsh gold to create their wedding rings, since 1923. This tradition was founded by The Queen Mother, then Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, on her marriage to the Duke of York on 26th April, 1923. Other members of the Royal Family that have had Welsh gold wedding rings include:
 - 1947 Queen Elizabeth II marriage to Prince Phillip
 - 1960 Princess Margaret's marriage
 - 1973 Princess Anne's marriage
 - 1981 Prince Charles's marriage to Princess Diana
 - 2005 Prince Charles's marriage to Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall
 - 2011 Prince William's marriage to Catherine Middleton
 - 2018 Prince Harry's marriage to Meghan Markle
2. Ringing church bells, Tennyson's 1850 poem "Ring Out, Wild Bells" makes reference to the custom in the second stanza:

"Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true."
3. It was a tradition (in England) for the church bells to ring as midnight on New Year's Eve approached. The bells would ring a mournful tolling, as when marking someone's death, then switch to a more joyful pealing when the new year arrived.

4. The Egyptians. Relics dating to 6,000 years ago, including papyrus scrolls, are evidence of the exchange of braided rings of hemp or reeds between spouses. Ancient Egypt considered the circle to be a symbol of eternity, and the ring served to signify the perpetual love of the spouses. This was also the origin of the custom of wearing the wedding ring on the ring finger of the left hand, because the ancient Egyptians believed that this finger enclosed a special vein that was connected directly to the heart, denominated in Latin the "Vena amoris".
5. Solomon. The Seal of Solomon (or Ring of Solomon; Arabic: خاتم سليمان Khātam Sulaymān) is the signet ring attributed to King Solomon in medieval Jewish tradition and in Islamic and Western occultism. It was often depicted in either a pentagram or hexagram shape; the latter also known as the Star of David in Jewish tradition. This ring variously gave Solomon the power to command demons, jinn (genies) and spirits, or to speak with animals. Due to the proverbial wisdom of Solomon, his signet ring, or its supposed design, it came to be seen as an amulet or talisman, or a symbol or character in medieval and Renaissance-era magic, occultism, and alchemy.
6. Mosley, Birmingham. J. R. R. Tolkien lived near Mosley Bog in Birmingham, as a child, and acknowledged the site as inspiration for the ancient forests in his books *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*. Nearby Sarehole Mill and the surrounding area on the River Cole is said to have been inspiration for Tolkien's writings.

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

1. "It was a Turkey! He never could have stood upon his legs, that bird. He would have snapped 'em short off in a minute, like sticks of sealing-wax." (A Christmas Carol)
2. The shape represented the manger and the pastry top was often shaped like a swaddled baby
3. Carp
4. Pigs in blankets
5. Brussels sprouts
6. Onion

Seven Swans A-Swimming (and other water birds)

1. False. Calculations say that the lightness of the bones, specially evolved for flying with a hollow/spongy structure, means that impact would not be great enough.
2. Little Egret
3. Avocet
4. The annual catching, checking and marking of birds that belong to the Queen on the Thames.
5. Canada
6. Eider Duck

Eight Maids A-Milking

1. Buffalo
2. Ernie
3. India
4. 1880
5. Cheese
6. Louis Pasteur

Nine Ladies Dancing

1. Anton du Beke
2. The Nutcracker
3. Fred Astaire
4. 5
5. Foxtrot and Tango
6. Gene Kelly

Ten Lords A-Leaping

1. The ten commandments.
2. Byron.
3. The Hobbit.
4. 1814.
5. Every 7 years. (Deuteronomy 15:1-2).
6. "He's so fine."

Eleven Pipers Piping

1. Glasgow
2. It is droneless.
3. It refers to the eleven faithful apostles.
4. France
5. 1400
6. Bag, blowpipe, chanter, drone.

Twelve Drummers Drumming

1. The Bass Drum
2. Ringo Starr
3. The Who
4. 4
5. The Von Trapp Family Singers
6. Distant Drums