

Nursery Rhyme Pioneers and Innovations

Nursery Rhymes · Answer Key · 17 Questions

1. Which collection is widely considered the first attempt to systematically gather and publish nursery rhymes in England, predating Mother Goose collections?

- A) Gammer Gurton's Garland**
- B) Songs for the Nursery
- C) The Real Mother Goose
- D) The Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes

2. The rhyme 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star' is based on a poem. What was the original title of this French poem from which it was adapted?

- A) Ah! vous dirai-je, maman**
- B) Clair de Lune
- C) La Petite Étoile
- D) Le Poème des Astres

3. Before its association with the nursery rhyme 'Jack and Jill,' what was the primary historical context of the phrase 'Jack and Jill went up the hill'?

- A) A medieval allegory for royalty's rise and fall**
- B) A cautionary tale about climbing unsteady structures
- C) A riddle about water carriers
- D) A song to accompany a specific harvest dance

4. The popular rhyme 'Mary Had a Little Lamb' is based on a true story. In what American state did the event that inspired the rhyme purportedly take place?

- A) Massachusetts**
- B) New Hampshire
- C) Vermont
- D) Maine

5. The first known publication of the rhyme 'Humpty Dumpty' appeared in what form, suggesting it might have originated as something other than a simple children's verse?

- A) A riddle**
- B) A political satire
- C) A folk song about a cannon
- D) A jester's performance script

6. The rhyme 'Ring Around the Rosie' has several speculative origins. Which of these theories is considered the most historically plausible by many folklorists, linking it to actual historical events?

A) A reference to the Great Plague and associated symptoms

- B) A game played during medieval festivals
- C) A courtship ritual
- D) A protest song against taxation

7. The rhyme 'Old Mother Hubbard' was first published in the early 19th century. What was the initial perceived purpose of this rhyme beyond simple entertainment?

A) To teach children about household management

- B) As a critique of the established church
- C) To illustrate different types of animals
- D) To provide a simple vocabulary lesson

8. The rhyme 'Little Miss Muffet' is often attributed to a specific historical figure. Who is widely believed to be the inspiration for Miss Muffet, and why?

A) Dr. Nathaniel Brady, who studied spiders

B) Thomas Muffet, her father, who was an entomologist

- C) A governess named Patience
- D) The Duchess of Marlborough, a known arachnophobe

9. The rhyme 'Hickory Dickory Dock' has a curious potential origin. What innovation or discovery is it sometimes linked to, relating to timekeeping?

A) The invention of the pendulum clock

- B) The development of the sundial
- C) The standardization of the hour glass
- D) The discovery of atomic time

10. The rhyme 'Three Blind Mice' has a widely accepted historical context. Which monarch's reign is most commonly associated with the persecution of dissenters that might have inspired this rhyme?

A) Queen Mary I of England

- B) King Henry VIII of England
- C) Queen Elizabeth I of England
- D) King Charles I of England

11. The rhyme 'Baa, Baa, Black Sheep' is thought by some scholars to have an early connection to a specific economic system. What was this system?

A) Feudal taxation and wool production

- B) The early development of banking
- C) The guild system of craftsmanship
- D) The establishment of trade routes

12. The rhyme 'The Muffin Man' is believed to have originated in a specific geographical area known for a particular type of baked good. Which area is this?

A) Drury Lane, London

- B) Cheapside, London
- C) Covent Garden, London
- D) The Isle of Man

13. The rhyme 'Georgie Porgie' is often speculated to be a veiled reference to a historical figure. Which English monarch is most frequently cited as the potential subject?

A) King George IV

- B) King George I
- C) King George II
- D) King George III

14. The rhyme 'Jack Sprat' is sometimes interpreted as a commentary on a specific historical dietary trend or lack thereof. What was this trend?

A) The scarcity of fatty foods during times of famine

- B) The rise of vegetarianism
- C) The overconsumption of meat
- D) The introduction of new spices

15. The rhyme 'London Bridge Is Falling Down' is thought to have roots in early engineering challenges. What was a significant historical problem that London Bridge faced, contributing to its frequent need for repair?

A) Underlying unstable riverbed silt

- B) The force of strong tidal currents
- C) Lack of sufficient architectural planning
- D) Constant attacks from river pirates

16. The rhyme 'Polly Put the Kettle On' is a simple phrase, but its historical context might relate to a common domestic practice that became more widespread with a particular invention. What invention facilitated this?

A) The widespread availability of coal for fuel

- B) The invention of the stove
- C) The development of refined sugar
- D) The introduction of tea as a common beverage

17. The rhyme 'Little Bo-Peep' is believed by some to be a metaphor. What concept or historical event is it most plausibly interpreted as representing?

A) The loss of Catholic priests during the Reformation

- B) The depletion of sheep flocks due to disease
- C) The struggles of the agricultural revolution
- D) A folk tale about a shepherd's mistakes