

# Ecological Trivia of Playing Cards

Card Games · Answer Key · 15 Questions

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**1. Which animal's hair was historically utilized in the brushes used for hand-painting traditional Japanese Hanafuda cards, chosen for its stiffness and durability?**

- A) Badger
- B) Wild Boar**
- C) Horse
- D) Otter

**2. Early 19th-century card decks manufactured in France often utilized pasteboard made from recycled rags; which invasive plant species was commonly processed into pulp for cheaper, lower-quality card manufacturing in the 20th century?**

- A) Kudzu**
- B) Water Hyacinth
- C) Bamboo
- D) Phragmites

**3. In the card game 'Pig', players must touch their nose when they have a set; which physical feature of the domestic pig (*Sus scrofa domesticus*) is biologically adapted for rooting in soil?**

- A) Prehensile snout
- B) Cartilaginous snout disc**
- C) Tactile vibrissae
- D) Tusked mandible

**4. The 'King of Hearts' is often called the 'Suicide King' due to a printing error obscuring a sword; in nature, which species of bird is known for a defensive display that can be misinterpreted as self-harming behavior?**

- A) Killdeer**
- B) Great Crested Grebe
- C) Peregrine Falcon
- D) Ostrich

**5. In the game 'Go Fish', the objective involves sets; which marine organism is biologically incapable of blinking due to the lack of eyelids, a trait often cited in card-playing metaphors?**

- A) Green Sea Turtle
- B) Great White Shark
- C) Clownfish**
- D) Giant Squid

**6. Standard playing cards are often coated with a varnish derived from shellac; which insect secretes the resinous substance that is processed to create this natural finish?**

**A) Laccifer lacca**

B) Apis mellifera

C) Bombyx mori

D) Drosophila melanogaster

**7. In the card game 'War', the highest card wins; which bird species is known for engaging in the most intense territorial 'warfare' or aggressive posturing during mating rituals?**

**A) Sage Grouse**

B) Emperor Penguin

C) Peregrine Falcon

D) Common Raven

**8. Many historical card backs featured intricate patterns inspired by the 'acanthus' leaf; which botanical family does the Acanthus plant belong to?**

**A) Acanthaceae**

B) Rosaceae

C) Lamiaceae

D) Asteraceae

**9. The term 'Birdcage' is sometimes used to describe a defensive strategy in card games; which raptor species is known for its extreme aerial maneuvers to capture prey in mid-flight?**

A) Osprey

B) Golden Eagle

C) Northern Goshawk

**D) Peregrine Falcon**

**10. In 'Bridge', a 'dummy' hand is laid face up; which animal is often used in medical research to study 'dummy' or placebo responses due to its complex social hierarchy?**

**A) Rhesus Macaque**

B) Common Marmoset

C) Capuchin Monkey

D) Chimpanzee

**11. Some antique playing cards used pigments derived from 'cochineal'; which organism produces this red dye?**

**A) Dactylopius coccus beetle**

B) Hibiscus flower

C) Crocus sativus stigma

D) Porphyra seaweed

**12. In the game 'Cheat', players must not be caught; which cephalopod uses chromatophores to effectively 'cheat' its predators by changing color to blend into the environment?**

A) Giant Pacific Octopus

B) Nautilus

**C) Common Cuttlefish**

D) Vampire Squid

**13. The term 'Fish' in card games often refers to an inexperienced player; which species of fish possesses an 'esca' to lure prey, mimicking an active hunting strategy?**

**A) Anglerfish**

B) Barracuda

C) Lionfish

D) Swordfish

**14. Card decks are traditionally kept in a 'tuck box'; which mammal constructs a similarly enclosed, protective 'lodge' or structure in wetland environments?**

**A) Beaver**

B) Muskrat

C) River Otter

D) Platypus

**15. The 'Joker' card is often associated with the 'trickster' archetype; which animal is biologically recognized as the most prolific 'trickster' or problem-solver in the corvid family?**

**A) New Caledonian Crow**

B) Common Magpie

C) Blue Jay

D) Common Raven