

Ecological Trivia of Playing Cards

Card Games · Practice Test · 15 Questions

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