

National Science Week Trivia

Science · Answer Key · 45 Questions

1. National Science Week is Australia's annual celebration of what?

- A) All things art and culture
- B) All things science and technology**
- C) All things history and heritage
- D) All things literature and language

2. What is the name of the astronaut who hit a golf ball on the Moon?

- A) Buzz Aldrin
- B) Neil Armstrong
- C) Alan Shepard**
- D) John Glenn

3. Which planet in the Solar System has a surface gravity closest to that of Earth?

- A) Mars
- B) Jupiter
- C) Saturn**
- D) Venus

4. What type of animal was the first living thing launched into space by humans?

- A) Dog**
- B) Monkey
- C) Cat
- D) Mouse

5. What was the name of the first living thing launched into space?

- A) Laika**
- B) Belka
- C) Strelka
- D) Ham

6. What is thought to be at the centre of most galaxies in the Universe?

- A) Supernova
- B) Supermassive black hole**
- C) Pulsar
- D) Planetary nebula

7. Apart from the Sun, what is the closest star to the Earth?

- A) Sirius
- B) Alpha Centauri
- C) Proxima Centauri**
- D) Betelgeuse

8. How long does it take light from the surface of the Sun to reach the Earth?

- A) 8 seconds
- B) 8 minutes**
- C) 8 hours
- D) 8 days

9. Eris, Haumea, Makemake and Ceres are all examples of what?

- A) Comets
- B) Asteroids
- C) Dwarf planets**
- D) Moons

10. According to stories from many Indigenous Australian groups, what animal can be seen in the dark patches of the Milky Way?

- A) Kangaroo
- B) Emu**
- C) Koala
- D) Dingo

11. The International Space Station orbits the Earth at a speed of nearly:

- A) 30 kilometres per hour
- B) 300 kilometres per hour
- C) 3000 kilometres per hour
- D) 30 000 kilometres per hour**

12. Who was the first person to observe a moon orbiting a planet other than the Earth?

- A) Isaac Newton
- B) Galileo Galilei**
- C) Johannes Kepler
- D) Nicolaus Copernicus

13. Where is the coldest place on Earth?

- A) Siberia
- B) Greenland
- C) Antarctica**
- D) Mount Everest

14. Which Australian state or territory has recorded the highest maximum daily temperature?

- A) New South Wales
- B) Victoria
- C) Western Australia**
- D) Queensland

15. What is the largest living organism on Earth?

- A) Blue whale
- B) Giant sequoia tree
- C) Honey fungus**
- D) Great Barrier Reef

16. What racquet sport has the fastest recorded hit?

- A) Tennis
- B) Badminton**
- C) Squash
- D) Table Tennis

17. Where is the smallest bone in the human body?

- A) Finger
- B) Toe
- C) Ear**
- D) Nose

18. Where is the largest muscle in the human body?

- A) Thigh
- B) Arm
- C) Back
- D) Buttocks**

19. What is the strongest known material?

- A) Diamond
- B) Graphene**
- C) Spider silk
- D) Steel

20. What is the hottest planet in the Solar System?

- A) Mercury
- B) Venus**
- C) Earth
- D) Mars

21. What is the deadliest animal on Earth?

- A) Shark
- B) Snake
- C) Mosquito**
- D) Lion

22. What was the loudest reported sound on Earth?

- A) A rocket launch
- B) A nuclear explosion
- C) The eruption of Mount Krakatoa**
- D) A thunderclap

23. Which of the following might you find communicating by doing a 'waggle dance'?

- A) Brolga
- B) Bee**
- C) Brown bear
- D) Beyoncé

24. True or false? The male platypus is venomous.

- A) True**
- B) False

25. What does a female spider wasp usually do with a captured huntsman spider?

- A) Eat it
- B) Use it for nest building
- C) Lay an egg inside it**
- D) Release it

26. What Australian national symbol could be described as featuring living things with the scientific names: Dromaius, Macropus and Acacia?

- A) Australian Coat of Arms**
- B) Australian Flag
- C) Great Seal of Australia
- D) Australian Parliament

27. In Australia, what animal is most likely to kill you?

- A) Snake
- B) Spider
- C) Shark
- D) Horse**

28. Why was the cane toad introduced to Australia?

A) To control pests in sugarcane crops

B) As a food source

C) For scientific research

D) To create a new pet species

29. What animal has the greatest recorded bite force?

A) Great White Shark

B) Hippopotamus

C) Saltwater crocodile

D) Tiger

30. The world's largest species of earthworm is native to a small area of Victoria. To the nearest metre, how long can these worms grow?

A) 1 metre

B) 2 metres

C) 3 metres

D) 5 metres

31. In addition to the senses of sight, smell, taste, touch and hearing, sharks have another sense. What can they detect?

A) Heat

B) Magnetic fields

C) Electrical fields

D) Infrared radiation

32. If a human's average heart rate is about 60-100 beats per minute, what is the heart rate of a hummingbird in flight?

A) 500 beats per minute

B) 800 beats per minute

C) 1200 beats per minute

D) 2000 beats per minute

33. Which of the following structures is NOT part of the human body?

A) Islets of Langerhans

B) Canal of Schlemm

C) Ampullae of Lorenzini

D) Bowman's capsule

34. What is the main organ of the body that would be treated by a nephrologist?

- A) Liver
- B) Kidney**
- C) Lungs
- D) Heart

35. Which of the following illnesses is not caused by a virus?

- A) Common cold
- B) Whooping cough**
- C) Polio
- D) Chicken pox

36. Name the three chemical elements that make up most of the human body.

- A) Carbon, Oxygen, Nitrogen
- B) Oxygen, Hydrogen, Carbon**
- C) Hydrogen, Nitrogen, Oxygen
- D) Carbon, Hydrogen, Nitrogen

37. If there are 270 bones in the body of a human at birth, how many bones are in the body of an adult human?

- A) 283
- B) 274
- C) 237
- D) 206**

38. What is a metatarsal?

- A) A type of cell
- B) A bone in the foot**
- C) A muscle in the arm
- D) A nerve in the leg

39. Allergic reactions are a response by what body system?

- A) Nervous system
- B) Endocrine system
- C) Immune system**
- D) Digestive system

40. To the nearest metre, what is the length of the adult human digestive tract?

- A) 4 metres
- B) 6 metres
- C) 9 metres**
- D) 12 metres

41. How many weeks does a human taste bud typically live?

- A) 1 week
- B) 2 weeks**
- C) 4 weeks
- D) 8 weeks

42. What is the medical term for low blood sugar?

- A) Hyperglycaemia
- B) Hypoglycaemia**
- C) Diabetes
- D) Anaemia

43. In molecular biology, what term is commonly used for the technology that utilises 'clusters of regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats'?

- A) PCR
- B) CRISPR**
- C) RNAi
- D) ELISA

44. The scanning tunnelling microscope kick started which field of tiny science?

- A) Genetics
- B) Astrophysics
- C) Nanoscience**
- D) Quantum mechanics

45. When tiny particles of gold, less than 100 nanometres in size, are suspended in water, what colour do they appear?

- A) Blue
- B) Green
- C) Red**
- D) Yellow