

National Science Week Trivia

Science · Practice Test · 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