

Nursery Rhyme Origins and History

Nursery Rhymes · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. In the nursery rhyme 'Sing a Song of Sixpence', how many blackbirds are baked in the pie?

- A) Four
- B) Twelve
- C) Twenty-four**
- D) Thirty

2. The nursery rhyme 'Little Boy Blue' is believed to refer to which historical figure, known as the 'Cardinal' who lived during the reign of Henry VIII?

- A) Thomas Wolsey**
- B) Thomas Cranmer
- C) Thomas More
- D) Thomas Cromwell

3. In which year was the first known printed version of 'Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary' published in 'Tommy Thumb's Pretty Song Book'?

- A) 1724
- B) 1744**
- C) 1764
- D) 1784

4. The rhyme 'London Bridge is Falling Down' is often theorized to be related to the destruction of the bridge in 1014 by which Norse king?

- A) Harald Hardrada
- B) Sweyn Forkbeard
- C) Olaf II of Norway**
- D) Canute the Great

5. In the original version of 'Three Blind Mice', published in 1805 by Thomas Ravenscroft, what are the mice said to have done?

- A) Stolen the cheese
- B) Eaten the wheat
- C) Run after the farmer's wife**
- D) Lost their tails

6. How many shillings did the 'crooked man' walk along his 'crooked stile' according to the rhyme?

- A) One
- B) Six**
- C) Ten
- D) Twelve

7. 'Humpty Dumpty' appeared as a riddle in the 1810 edition of 'Gammer Gurton's Garland', but historically, what was the name of the siege engine used during the English Civil War that shares this name?

- A) The Great Tortoise
- B) The Colchester Humpty**
- C) The Royal Mortar
- D) The Siege Tower

8. In the rhyme 'One, Two, Buckle My Shoe', what action corresponds to the number nine?

- A) Pick up sticks
- B) Lay them straight
- C) A hen laid**
- D) Shout out loud

9. The rhyme 'Rock-a-bye Baby' was first printed in which collection in 1765?

- A) Mother Goose's Melody**
- B) The Nursery Garland
- C) Original Mother Goose
- D) A Little Pretty Pocket-Book

10. The character 'Georgie Porgie' in the 19th-century rhyme is historically alleged to be a satire of which Prince Regent?

- A) George IV**
- B) George III
- C) George II
- D) William IV